Researching American Indian Ancestors, 5 Nov 2019
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Introduction

Preliminary steps - same as any family history
1. Obtain documents for parent, grandparent, great-parent in the line of interest
   a. Vital records such as birth, death, marriage
   b. Newspaper articles such as obituaries
   c. Examples
2. Find family members in U.S. census
   a. Ages or approximate birth year
   b. Birthplaces
   c. Sometimes listed as '1/2', 'HB', mulatto, colored, or white (not consistent)
   d. Examples: 1880, 1900-1930
3. Interview family members, including old photos
   a. Name variations, locations, etc.
4. Learn local history of the area where ancestor lived
5. Find out what tribes lived in the area and research history of the tribes
   a. Some were moved elsewhere such as 'Trail of Tears;' Indian schools

Basic resource information (also check library or online search)
1. 'Indian Tribes of North America,' John R. Swanton, Bureau of American Ethnology
   Book pages imaged @ Hathi Trust or find in a library
   https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015015025854;view=1up;seq=17
2. *FamilySearch* Wiki https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/American_Indian_Tribes_by_State

Background
1. 573 federally recognized tribes, also state recognized tribes (some may be both)
   http://www.ncsl.org/research/state-tribal-institute/list-of-federal-and-state-recognized-tribes.aspx
2. Reservations map with #key https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/American_Indian_Reservations

About lists
1. Most tribes manage their own tibal rolls and enrollment rules, not the government
   a. Tribal rolls are confidential
2. Some tribes used various government lists as basis for enrollment, some did not
   a. Example: To be eligible, ancestor's name must appear on a specific list
3. Some lists were created for specific purposes such as for a one-time payment
4. Not just 'one list' or 'roll,' examples:
   a. Dawes Roll, applicable to Five Civilized Tribes
      • Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek and Seminole
   b. Durant Roll, census 1907-1910, payments in Mackinac area
   c. Indian Census Schedules 1885-1940
      • Not all tribes; not all years

Dawes Roll, Five Civilized Tribes, examples
1. *Fold3.com* > Non-military records > search or browse https://www.fold3.com/
   Free at Family History Center, part of 'All Access' subscription *Ancestry.com,* or subscribe
2. *FamilySearch.org* > name search free (links to images on *Fold3.com*, availability per above)
   https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1852353
3. *Ancestry.com* > Search tab> Card Catalog > 'civilized tribes' (in keyword) > 'Search'
   https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog/# > search by keyword or title (if known)
   Free 'Library Edition' Family History Center, or at a library or subscribe

Researching American Indian Ancestors, continued

<u>Durant Roll</u>, example
    1.   http://www.mifamilyhistory.org/mimack/native_american/miller/durant.asp

<u>Indian Census Schedules 1885-1940</u> - Jurisdictions and categories
    1.   National Archives list, M595: http://www.archives.gov/research/microfilm/m595.pdf
    2.   Areas managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) 'agencies' changed over time
    3.   Multiple tribes grouped together, but not the same people
- Examples: Government categorized people in areas such as 'pueblo' or 'fish eating people'

    4.   Alphabetical listing by Tribe
    5.   Alphabetical listing by Agency/Film #
    6.   Indian 'census' not the same as U.S. census
       a.   Listings varied:
- Alphabetical
- By camps, villages
- 'Roll calls' (meeting day)
- Non-residents

       b.   Taken every year or frequent intervals
       c.   Numbers:
- Census number
  - o   Current year and previous
  - o   Relationships, such as S123 means 'son of 123'
- Allocation numbers, receiving payments
- Allotment number
  - o   after 1912 for those with land allotments
  - o   also relationships, per above
  - o   Info also BLM website (link next page): names and locations of original allottees

       d.   Note: information not the same for all lists

<u>Case Studies</u>
    1.   Documenting family of an Indian Chief
      a. 1900 U.S. census, 'Special Inquiries' - Indian names, tribal information
      b. 1925 Indian census, Allotment numbers
    2.   'Was my grandmother American Indian?'
      a. No family tradition of Native American heritage
      b. Name variation, found on Indian census and other records
      c. National Archives archival collection/study of social history
      d. Not 'enrolled' (died before establishment of the tribal roll)
    3.   'Was my father Penobscot?'
      a. Family tradition of Native American heritage
      b. Tribe had early European contact, i.e. tribal members on city directories
      c. Not on Indian Schedules (not under BIA jurisdiction)
      d. Exhaustive search of records including census
      e. Study of local history
      f. DNA test results negative for Native American ancestry

<u>Native American and Ethnicity</u>
Monterey County Genealogy Society
Nov. 7, 2019, 7 p.m.
Family History Center - 1024 Noche Buena, Seaside

Some Helpful Websites *indicates important sources

AccessGenealogy, Native American > links by state
https://accessgenealogy.com/native/the-indian-tribes-of-north-america.htm

'American Indian Project' at *FamilyTreeDNA* (project requires upload of family tree, GEDcom)
https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/american-indian/about/background

Ancestry.com, databases (free @ Family History Center/some libraries or subscribe)
https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog/# > 'Card Catalog' > enter tribe name, keywords

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Schools
https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/bia-guide/schools

Bureau of Land Management, 'General Land Office Records,' free database re. allotments
https://glorecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx > search by name or allotment number

DNA Explained, Blog by Roberta Estes
https://dna-explained.com/2012/12/18/proving-native-american-ancestry-using-dna/

FamilySearch (must register for free account) 'Catalog,' free databases, some digital images
https://familysearch.org/catalog-search > search by keyword/location > 'Indian census,' tribe name
Example: 'Oklahoma Applications for Enrollment to the Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914'
https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1852353, searchable index, images on *Fold3.com*

FamilySearch, Indian reservations https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/American_Indian_Reservations

FamilySearch Wiki https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/American_Indian_Tribes_by_State

Fold3.com, database/digital images (free @ Family History Center or subscribe)
https://www.fold3.com/ Browse > 'Non-military Records' > Publication > Native American Collection

'Genetic history of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas,' *Wikipedia* article
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_history_of_indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas

National Archives, 'American Indians in the Federal Decennial Census, 1790-1930' (reference article)
http://www.archives.gov/research/census/native-americans/1790-1930.html

National Archives, 'Final Rolls' Five Civilized Tribes, reference article
http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/dawes/index.html

*National Archives, List of Microfilm of Indian Census Rolls 1885-1940, M595 (tribe or agency/reel)
https://www.archives.gov/research/microfilm/m595.pdf

National Archives, Regional Centers (textual record collections)
Locations: https://www.archives.gov/locations/ i.e. San Bruno email: Sanbruno.reference@nara.gov
Search catalog: https://catalog.archives.gov/

National Archives, 'Researching American Indians and Alaska Natives' (reference article)
http://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans/research-individual.html

Some Locality Specific Resources

National Archives, Regional Center at San Bruno, finding aids, textual records
https://www.archives.gov/san-francisco/finding-aids/holdings-guide-03.html scroll to 'RG75'

New York State Archives, free, digital images, search objects/series by keyword
http://digitalcollections.archives.nysed.gov/

University of Oklahoma, 'Western History Collections, Indian-Pioneer Papers,' interviews, database
https://digital.libraries.ou.edu/whc/pioneer/

University of Washington, 'Digital Collections' some photos, 'American Indians of Pacific Northwest'
http://content.lib.washington.edu/aipnw/index.html