Assignment Sheet 2: RESEARCHING FAMILY HISTORY

REQUIRED READING (available on electronic reserve)
“Historical Perspective on the Family” and “The Language of Family History” (together) by Mintz and Kellogg
“An Overview of the American Family” by Hawes and Nybakken and “Regulating the American Family” by Steven Mintz (together)
“The History of the Family and the History of Sexuality” by Estelle B. Friedman
“Women and the Family Economy in the Early Republic” by Susan Branson

SECOND WEEKLY REPORT SHEET
1. Any thoughts, suggestions, and/or questions inspired by the second class meeting.
2. For the essays by Mintz, Friedman, and Branson, summarize BRIEFLY in your own words the main points and thesis, as well as your evaluation of its strengths and/or weaknesses. For all of the readings combined, indicate any thoughts and/or questions you have, including any terms you want us to discuss and any ideas they inspired about how to do your own research and analysis for this class.
3. How would you define “family/ies” and what other terms and definitions do you find most useful for thinking about the history of family life?
4. What methodological and theoretical approaches to family history (and, if you wish, the history of sexuality) seem to you to be the most useful and convincing and why?
5. The names, authors, and publication date of the two books you plan to review, one by a nonprofessional historian (review due February 6) and one by a professional historian (review due February 20).
6. Any new thoughts you have about your final paper and any reading or other work you did in connection to it.
7. Anything else you think I should know.