

# Writing & Publishing Your Family History

*The Basics*

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

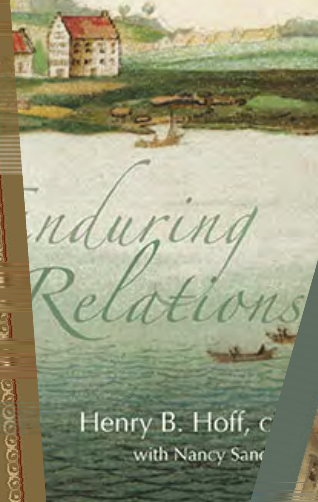
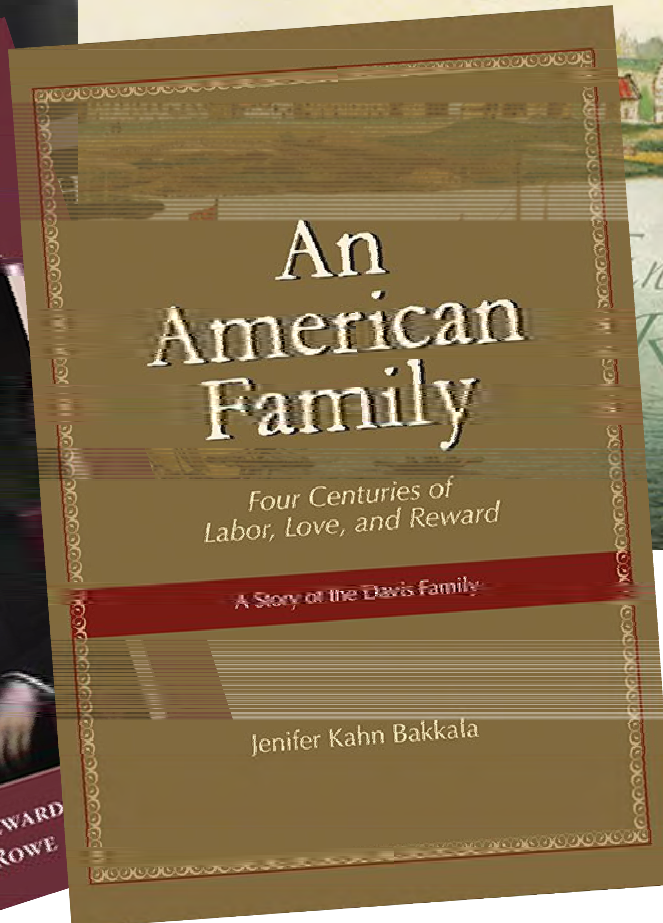
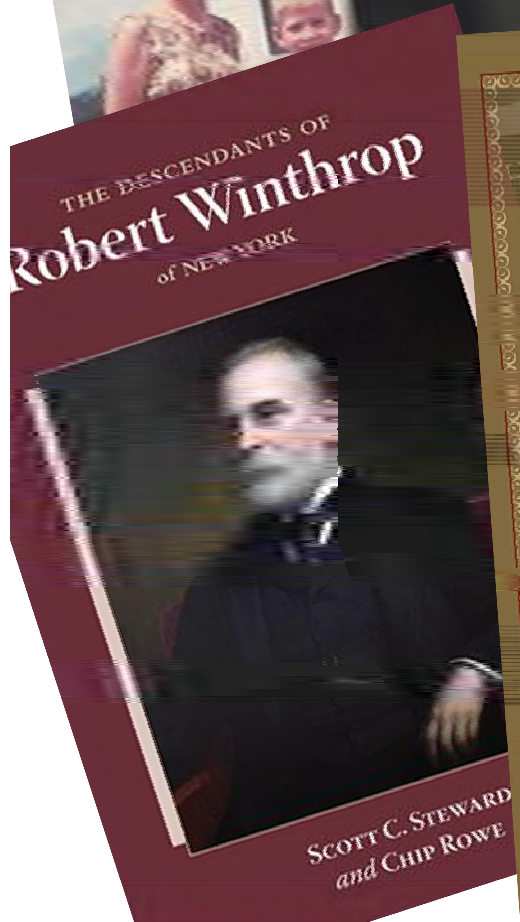
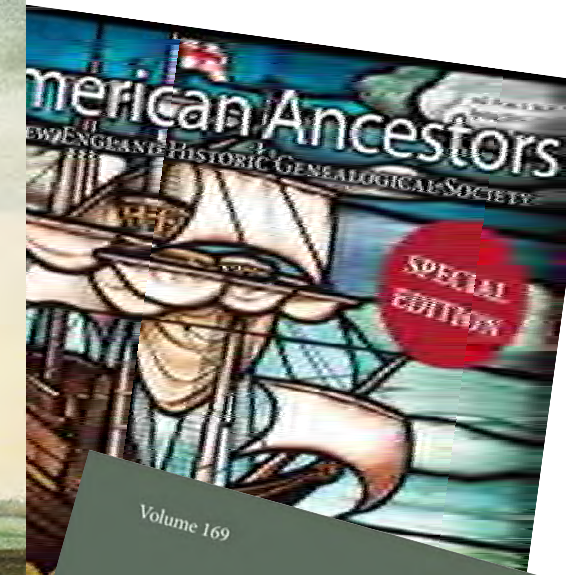
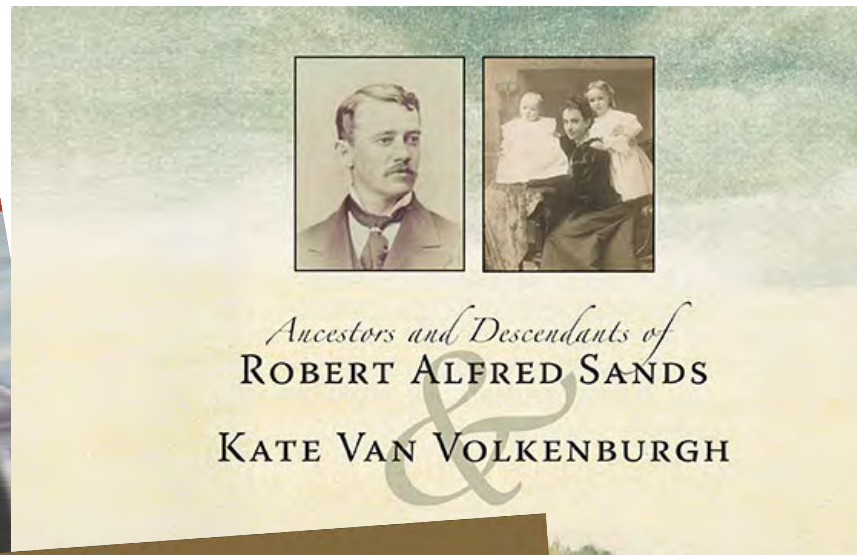
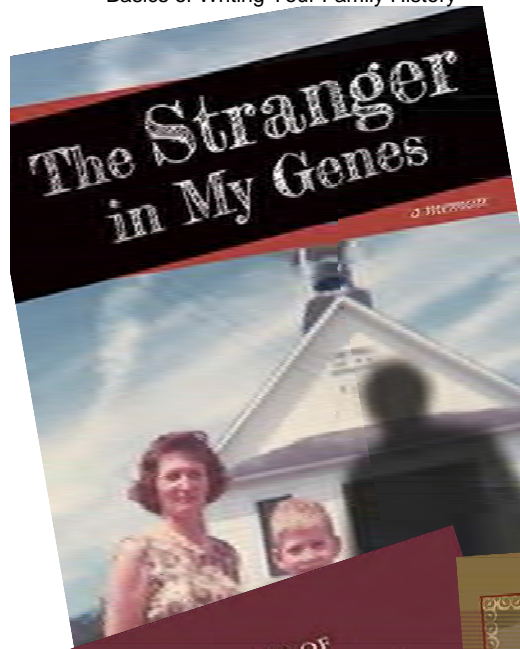


**American Ancestors®**  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Ten Steps

- 1 – Shift mental gears
- 2 – Consider your audience and time frame
- 3 – Choose a genealogical format
- 4 – Define your scope and make a TOC
- 5 – Write and cite!
- 6 – Review, revise, repeat
- 7 – Add images
- 8 – Index
- 9 – Design
- 10 – Print or publish





# What makes an engaging family history?

Details about  
people, places,  
events

Historic and  
geographic  
context

Photos, charts,  
and other  
images

Clear, focused  
writing



# PLANNING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY



# Shift mental gears

**BEGINNING**



**MIDDLE**



**END**



# Analyze your goals



Audience



Time frame



Materials

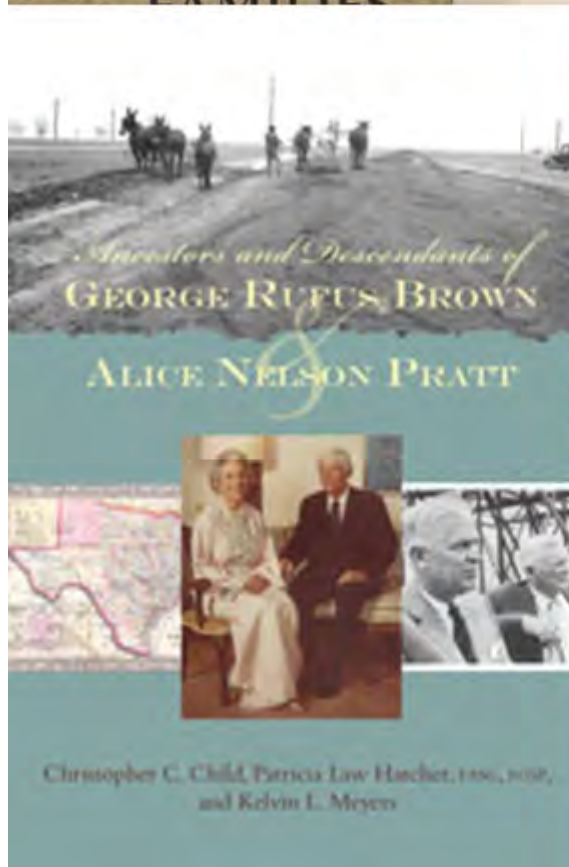
# Select a format

- Descendancy format (*Register* style)
- *Ahnentafel* (ancestor table)
- Biographical dictionaries
- Less formal family histories
- Transcribed and annotated diaries or letters
- Magazine or journal articles
- Family history blog, website, or other online publication

Tip

Look at other  
publications  
as models



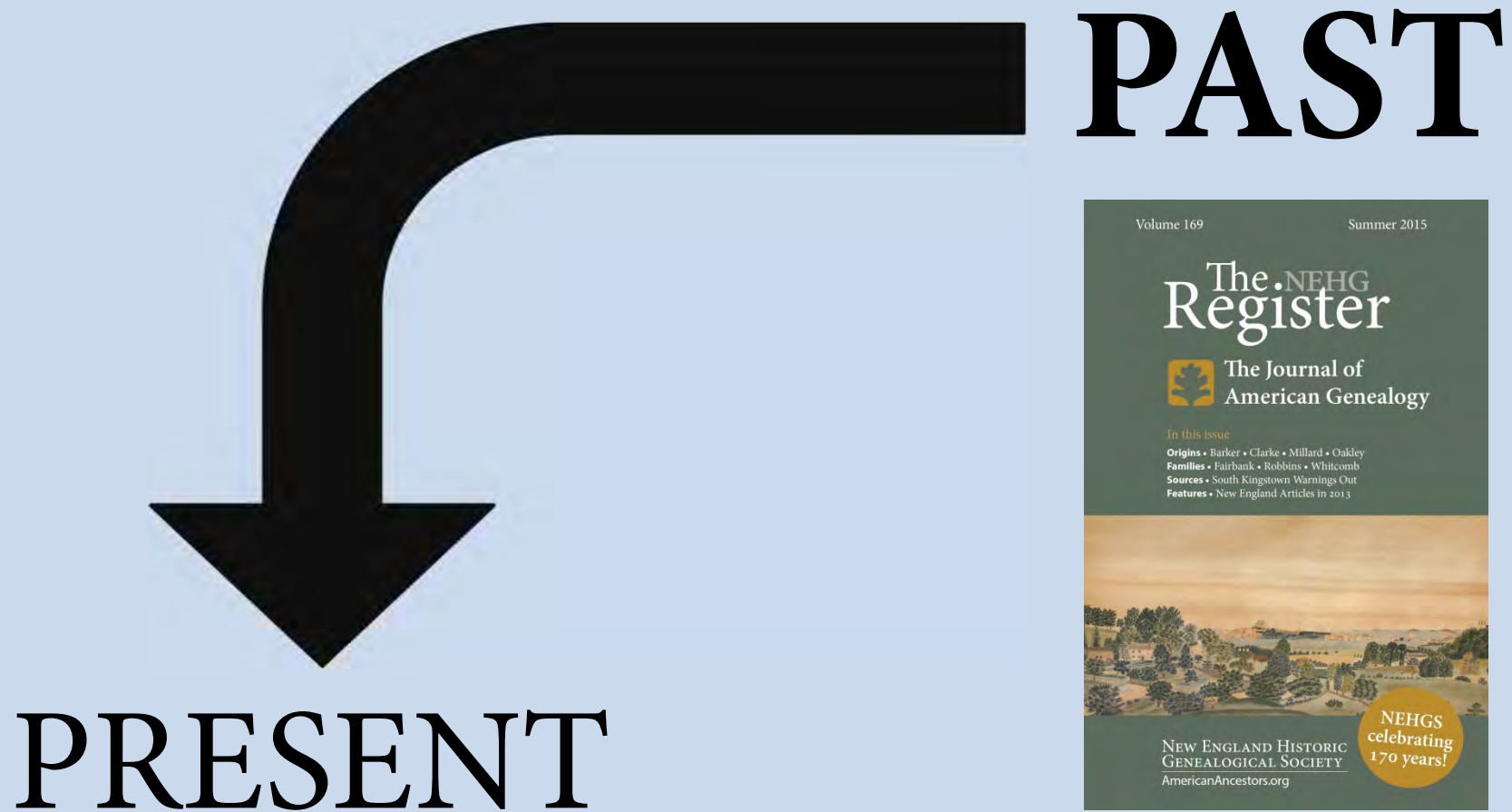




# Standard genealogical formats

- *Register* style  
(descendancy format)
- *Ahnentafel*  
(ancestor table)

# *Register* (descendancy) style



## Main person and spouse(s)

- full names
- vital statistics, with dates and places

## Children

- full names
- vital statistics
- abbreviated format
- identification numbers for any child who will be treated in full

## Register example

### MORGAN FAMILY

#### FIRST GENERATION

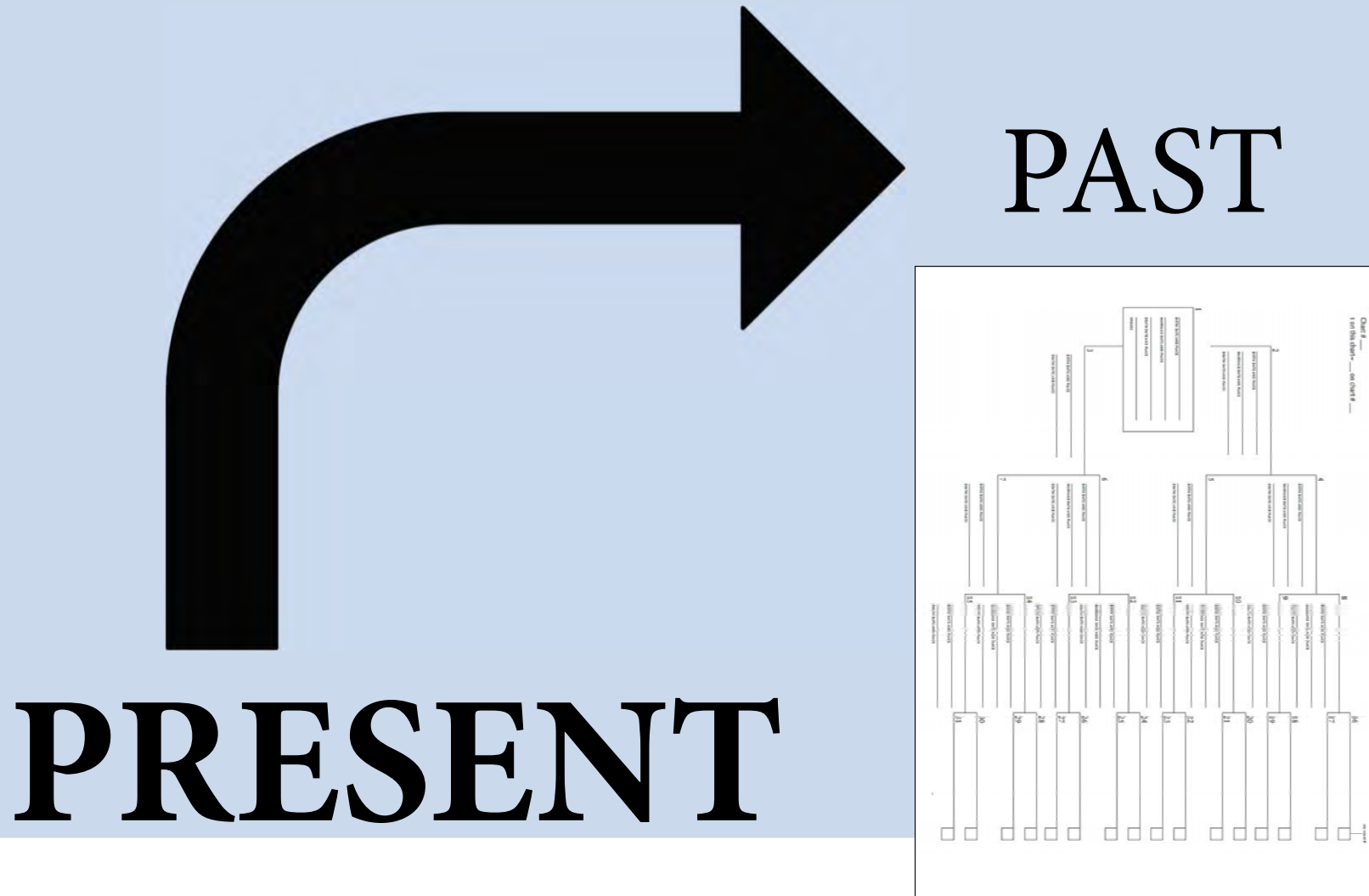
1. **HENRY<sup>1</sup> MORGAN** was born possibly at Thenglenogg, Monmouthshire, Wales, 24 September 1820, son of \_\_\_\_\_ and Mary (\_\_\_\_\_) Morgan. He died at Lewis Township, Cass County, Iowa, 7 July 1885.<sup>1</sup> He married at Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, 11 May 1845, **WINIFRED CATHERINE JONES**. She was born at Thenglenogg, 29 December 1821. She died at Lewis Township, 9 December 1904.<sup>2</sup>

After moving from Wisconsin to Cass Township, Cass County, Henry Morgan, in addition to buying farmland, set up the Morgan Livery Stable with a delivery barn in the old town of Lewis next to a hotel. Several sons were most likely engaged in the operation of this stable.<sup>3</sup>

Children of Henry and Winifred Catherine (Jones) Morgan:<sup>4</sup>

- 2 i. **WILLIAM HENRY<sup>2</sup> MORGAN**, b. Dodgeville, Iowa Co., Wisc., 3 April 1846; m. **NANCY ANN PICKERELL**.<sup>5</sup>
- 3 ii. **JOHN SAMUEL MORGAN**, b. Dodgeville, 20 Feb. 1848; m. **SARAH JANE CLARK**.<sup>6</sup>
- 4 iii. **JOSEPH R. MORGAN**, b. Fennimore, Grant Co., Wisc., 30 June 1850; m. **FLORENCE A. STONER**.<sup>7</sup>
- iv. **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MORGAN**, b. Fennimore, 18 April. 1852; d. Canton, Dakota Territory, 24 June 1876, of drowning; bur. Oakwood Cemetery, Lewis, Cass County, Iowa. At the age of 24, Benjamin accidentally drowned in the Little Sioux River in the Canton Territory of Dakota. No one knows why he went to the Dakota Territory. His brother Joe brought his body back to Lewis, Iowa, for burial.<sup>8</sup>
- 5 v. **GEORGE OLIN MORGAN**, b. Fennimore, 18 Sept. 1855; m. **ELIZABETH BLACK**.<sup>9</sup>
- 6 vi. **ALBERT BARNES MORGAN**, b. Watterstown, Grant Co., Wisc., 24 Sept. 1858; m. **ELLIE MARIAH "ELLA" GRAHAM**.<sup>10</sup>
- 7 vii. **LUCINDA AMENDA MORGAN**, b. Watterstown, 8 July 1861; m. **MARK M. BYRNE**.<sup>11</sup>

# *Ahnentafel* (ancestor table)





## Couple

- full names
- vital statistics, with dates and places

## Ahnentafel example

3948. **THOMAS HUCKINS** was born circa 1617 and died at sea, being “cast away,” 9 November 1679. He married first at Barnstable, Massachusetts, 1642, Mary Wells, who died in 1648. He married second at Barnstable, 3 November 1648,

3949. **ROSE (\_\_\_\_) HILYER**, who was born circa 1616 and died in 1687.<sup>422</sup>

→ 3950. **JOHN CHIPMAN** was born at Brinspittle [Bryanspuddle], Dorset, circa 1620, and died at Sandwich, Massachusetts, 7 April 1708, aged 87 years. He married second, circa 1685, Ruth (Sargeant) (Winslow) Bourne, who was born at Charlestown, Massachusetts, 25 October 1642 and died at Sandwich, 4 October 1713, widow of Jonathan Winslow of Marshfield, Massachusetts, and the Rev. Richard Bourne of Sandwich. John married first at Rocky Nook, then a part of Plymouth but now in Kingston, Massachusetts, circa 1646,

→ 3951. **HOPE HOWLAND**, who was born at Plymouth 30 August 1629 and died at Barnstable, Massachusetts, 8 January 1683/84, at 54 years of age.

John arrived at Plymouth in May 1637, when 16 years of age, with his older cousin, Richard Derby, serving as Richard’s servant. He worked in Plymouth as a carpenter until 1642, when he apparently returned to Dorset, perhaps to comply with the law requiring all men to swear fidelity to the king in the Protestation Returns of 1641–42, in order to protect their rights to inherit property there. He soon returned to Plymouth. By 1649 John and Hope had moved to Barnstable. They owned eight acres of land, bounded on the north by the County Road (now Route 6A), on the east by the road to Hyannis, on the south by the commons, and on the west by the homestead of George Lewis Sr. About 1659, the Chipmans moved to the Great Marshes (West Barnstable, near the Sandwich line). He served Barnstable both as representative to the Colonial Court and as selectman. After his second marriage, he moved to Sandwich. He died testate. Hope is buried at Lothrop Hill Cemetery in Barnstable. John and his second wife are buried in the Bourne lot at the Old Town Cemetery in Sandwich.<sup>423</sup>

3952–4031. \_\_\_\_.

4032. **HENRY GREEN** was born circa 1619–22 (age about 30 in 1652, about 40 in 1659, and about 54 in 1673), and died at Hampton, New Hampshire, 5 August 1700, aged above 80 years. He married second at Hampton, 10 March 1690/91, Mary (Hussey) Page, who died 21 January 1733, widow of Thomas Page. (She married third Capt. Henry Dow.) Henry Green married first,

4033. **MARY \_\_\_\_**, who died at Hampton 26 April 1690.

Henry first appears at Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1642 but he had settled in Hampton by May 1644, when he owned land there. By 1653 he had settled on the south side of the

# The format is your friend.

The format will guide you as you enter information.

Write:

- generation by generation
- family group by family group



# **Make an Outline**

## **table of contents • title**



Tip

Start small!





The Descendants of  
**JUDGE JOHN LOWELL**  
of Newburyport, Massachusetts

SCOTT C. STEWARD  
CHRISTOPHER C. CHILD

## *The Descendants of Judge John Lowell of Newburyport, Massachusetts*

Four Generations of the Lowle Family in  
England

The First Generation in America

Second Generation

Third Generation

Fourth Generation

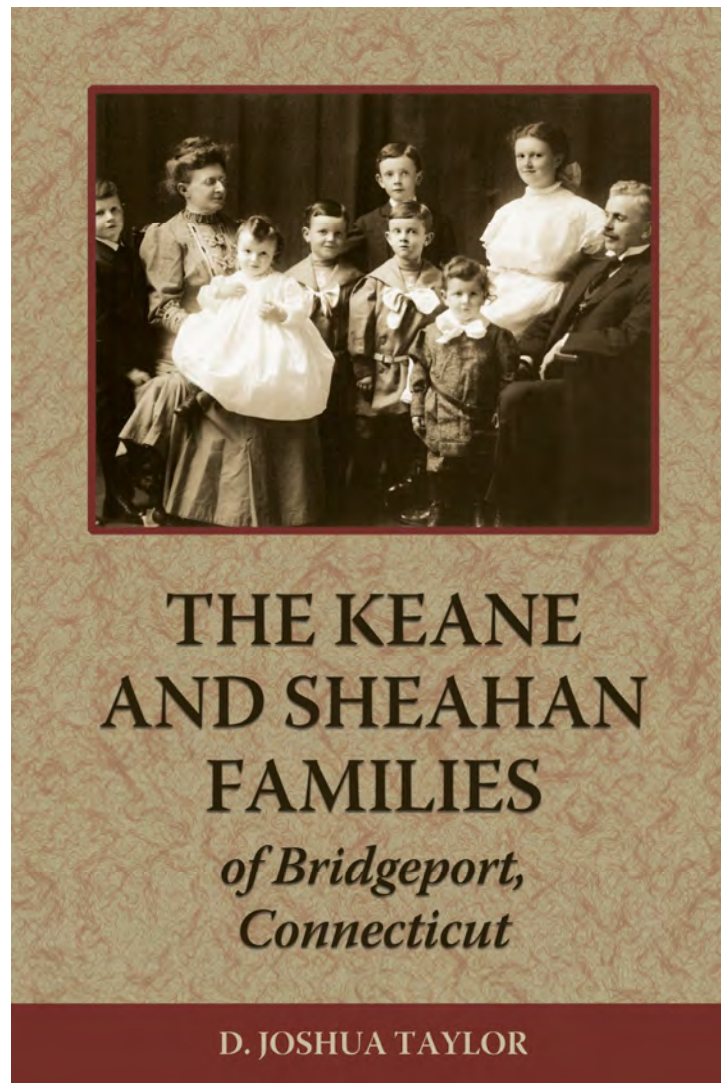
Fifth Generation

Sixth Generation . . .

. . . Fourteenth Generation

Index

### Example 1



## Example 2

*Preface*

*Acknowledgments*

*About the Format of This Book*

Part I: The Keane Family in Ireland

*Chapter 1*

On the Coast of Ireland: The Keane Family  
of Kilcloher, Kilballyowen Parish, County Clare

*Chapter 2*

Tracing the Keane Family in Ireland: Gleanings  
of the Family's Origins and Ancestry

Part II: The Keane Family in the United States

*Chapter 3*

Settling at Sandy Hook: The Keane Family of Sandy  
Hook in Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut

*Chapter 4*

Beginnings in Bridgeport: John F. Keane & Co.  
and the John Francis Keane, Sr., Family

*Chapter 5*

The Lamp of Learning: The Keane Family's  
Work Ethic and Tradition of Education

Part III: Descendants of Daniel and Margaret (Keane) Keane

Appendix I

The Geary/Sheahan Families

Appendix II

Conversation with Children of John  
and Victoire (Le Caron) Keane

# Book parts

## Front matter

- About the Format of This Book
- Acknowledgments
- Dedication
- Foreword
- Introduction
- Prologue
- Preface
- Key to Abbreviations

## End matter

- Appendices
- Bibliography
- Glossary
- Epilogue
- Documents
- Credits
- About the Authors
- Key to Short References in Notes



Tip

Decide what to omit

# Gather Materials



# Materials

## Genealogical Data

- Family group sheets
- Descendancy (pedigree) charts
- Data in online trees or genealogical software
- Copies of records

## Photos/Images

- Photo albums
- Scans of records
- Downloaded images

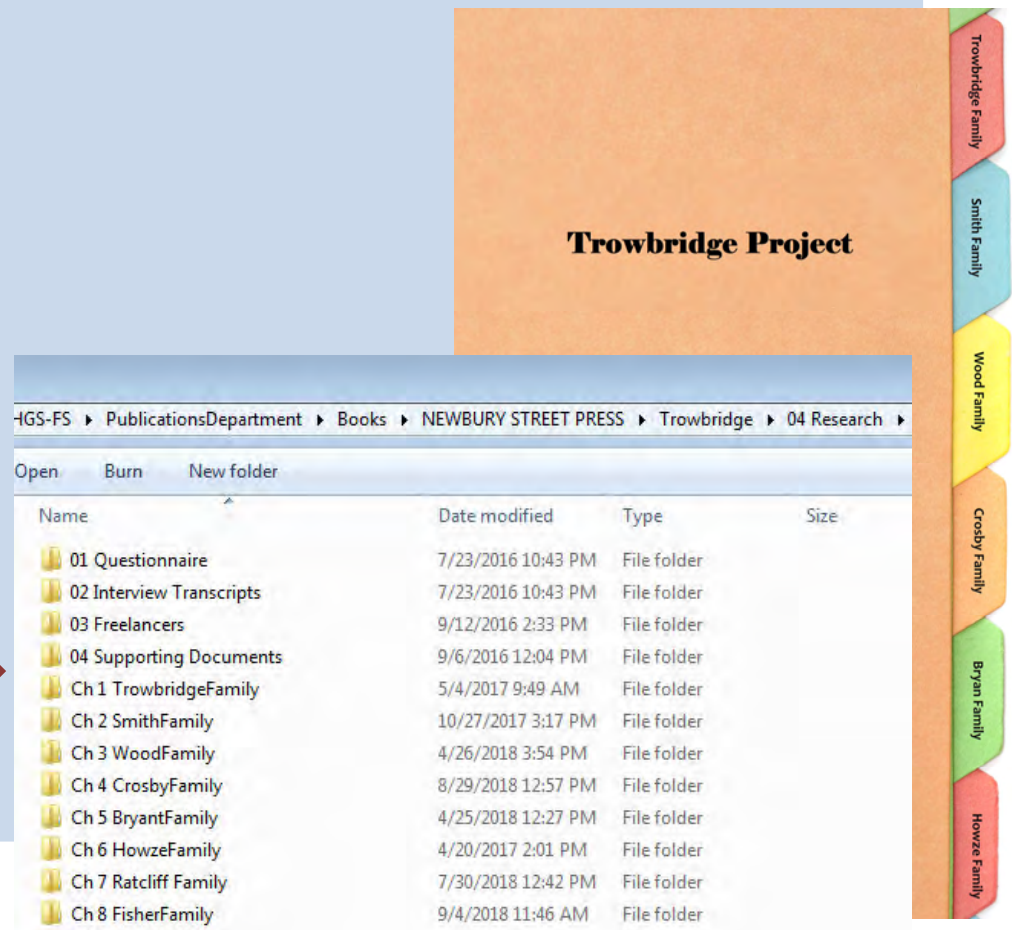
## Stories & Other Materials

- Earlier family histories
- Letters, diaries
- Newspaper articles
- Interviews, questionnaires
- Etc.



# Organize

- Align file structure – match physical and electronic to table of contents
  - By surname
  - By generation
  - Chronological
  - Thematical
  - By record type etc.





# THE WRITING PROCESS



# Software considerations

- Shareability
- Support of footnotes and endnotes
- Automatic-numbering capabilities
- Permits tracking of changes
- Availability of templates / Layout capabilities / compatibility with other layout programs
- Index-tagging capabilities

Microsoft Word Template for *Register* Style

**Main Text**

The first paragraph under a heading is set flush left. The Word style is "Normal."

Subsequent paragraphs are indented. The Word style is "Body Text Indent."

Here is another paragraph styled with "Body Text Indent." To learn more about how to write content into *Register* format, see the forthcoming *NEHGS Guide to Genealogical Writing*.<sup>1</sup>

This file contains all the "styles" you need for creating a basic Register-style document.

For extracted material, usually something that will be five lines of text or more, you might want to use this "Quotation" style, which indents left and right and puts the extract in a smaller typeface. Don't use quotation marks.

**Writing a Family Sketch Using Styles**

1. FIRSTNAME LASTNAME, usually in small caps, in "Main Person" character style. If you select the name and click "Main Person," the style will be applied. The entire paragraph, though, is "Normal."

Additional information about the person: "Body Text Indent."

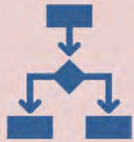
Children of Main Person and Spouse of Main Person is in the "Kids Intro" style.

- i. FIRST CHILD. For this list, we are using "Kids" style; the child's name is in "Child Name" character style. The point size is smaller. You would put relevant vital statistics here.
- ii. SECOND CHILD. The lower-case Roman numerals are automatically set to align on the right.

## Microsoft Word



# Adding genealogical content



Enter data following the chosen format.



Add the key events in the subjects' lives.



Consistency leads to clarity!

## Vital data

**FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA** was born in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891. He died in Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, **JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.**

# Adding narrative



Just start typing.



Later, reread and look for patterns.



Include only what is of interest; omit information that the reader can easily find elsewhere.



# How to add the narrative



Chronologically



Thematically



One topic per paragraph

# Biographical : What kind of information?

- Education
- Military service
- Occupations
- Places of residence
- Religious affiliations
- Personal details

86

*Descendants of Dr. Nathaniel Saltonstall of Haverhill*

## Dr. Nathaniel<sup>6</sup> Saltonstall

*Born at Haverhill, Massachusetts 10 February 1746/47*

*Died there 15 May 1815*

*Married at Haverhill 21 November 1780, Anna White*

THE ELDEST SON of his father's third marriage, Dr. Nathaniel Saltonstall became the head of the Saltonstall family in Essex County before his fortieth birthday. Unlike his half-brother Colonel Richard<sup>6</sup> Saltonstall (1732–1785) or his youngest brother, Leverett<sup>6</sup> Saltonstall (1754–1782), Dr. Saltonstall did not favor the Loyalists, but neither was he notably keen in support of the rebel cause: "wholly unambitious of public life," he was "Diffident and fond of retirement."<sup>1</sup>

The financial disarray occasioned by his father's death did not keep Nathaniel from being educated at the Boston Latin School—where he lived with his mother's older brother, Middlecott Cooke—and then at Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1766. He qualified as a doctor in the years before the Revolution: "The mildness of his manners and kindness of his disposition excited the confidence of his patients, and gained their strong attachment. He was remarkable for his humane and even assiduous attendance on the poor, consoling them by his cheerful visits and his supplies of medicine and other necessities, without any hopes of remuneration."<sup>2</sup>

Nathaniel inherited the Cooke mansion on State Street in Boston in 1771; instead of moving into the city from Haverhill

# Biographical: Where to look

## Published sources

- Census data
- Ship's registers/immigration records
- Wills and probate
- Deeds/land records
- Obituaries/gravestone inscriptions
- Newspaper articles
- Books/family histories

## Unpublished sources

- Diaries
- Letters
- Family stories
- Questionnaires
- Interviews

48

Sunday, Feb. 17, 1918

Smashed up by our artillery. Over the second hill we came to a hot battle. The bullets sang right into the park, and the man in front of me was killed as he went over, so we went around another hill without further accident. We reached our objective, wire was down, so we turned as we came back. It was now afternoon, it began to rain again. Hungry, but we had to the artillery and supply worked, or rather staggered a futile effort at road and at last another company us. My shoes were wet.

49

Monday, Feb. 18, 1918

Over the second hill we came to a hot battle. The bullets sang right into the park, and the man in front of me was killed as he went over, so we went around another hill without further accident. We reached our objective, wire was down, so we turned as we came back. It was now afternoon, it began to rain again. Hungry, but we had to the artillery and supply worked, or rather staggered a futile effort at road and at last another company us. My shoes were wet.



## More of the story

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of “old age” at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1966, at the Englewood Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married, at New Orleans, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.

Partanna parish  
records

After the First World War ended, Frank again travelled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin,

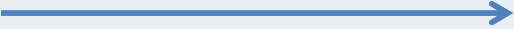
Passenger list

Minina. The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Family stories;  
newspaper articles

# Review and supplement

# Timeline

1891	1901	1906	1914 1918	1920	1925	1926	1927	1942	1961	1969	1982
Frank Taormina born	Frank emigrates	Josephine Accardo born	WWI	Frank emigrates again	Uddo & Taormina company forms	Frank & Josephine marry	Progresso forms	Progresso moves to NJ	Frank retires	Progresso sold	Frank dies
 <p>1890-1920 Emigration of over 4 million Italians to USA</p>											

# Noting ideas

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of “old age” at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in St. Bernard, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.

After the First World War ended, Frank again travelled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, Rosario Taormina. The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

**Comment [KH1]:** How would this trip have differed from his first trip to America with his parents in 1901?

**Comment [KH2]:** If the destination was New Orleans, how did Frank end up dying in Florida but buried in New Jersey?

**Comment [KH3]:** Research the company – especially its beginnings and how it changed hands



# Context :

## What kind of information?

- Historical events/eras/background
- Geography
- Cultural and religious beliefs/practices
- Descriptions
- And more . . .

Degory Priest arrived in Plymouth on the *Mayflower*, while his wife and daughters remained in Leiden. Bradford wrote of Priest [and others] that “All these dyed soon after their arrival, in the general sickness that befell. But Digerie Priest had his wife and children sent hither afterwards, she being Mr. Allerton’s sister.”

Sarah and her third husband, with her two daughters by Priest, arrived on the *Anne* in 1623.

The Pilgrims debarked the *Mayflower* at Plimoth Plantation in November 1620, and almost immediately were taken ill. By April 1621, nearly half of the original 102 passengers had died. Among those who perished were Degory Priest and Mary (Norris) Allerton, wife of Isaac Allerton (see ALLERTON FAMILY) and sister of Degory’s wife. (See “That which was most sad and lamentable’ at Plimoth Plantation.”)

# Tip

Don't write about big topics that  
are beyond the scope of your  
family history.

(Please don't try to explain the American Revolution.)



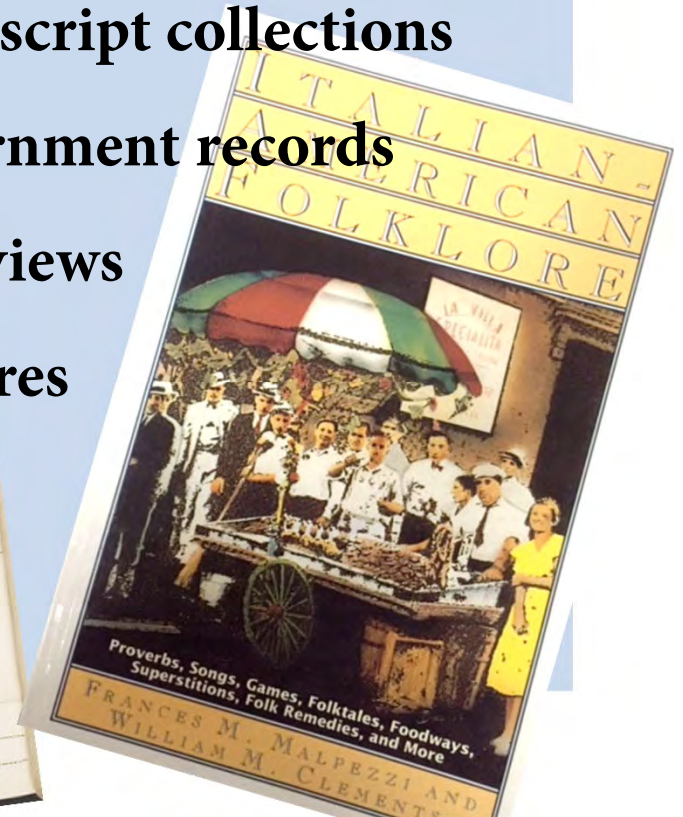
# Where to obtain background info for your narrative

## Published sources

- Histories
- Timelines
- Maps/Gazetteers
- Websites/Publications by/about subject matter
- News

## Unpublished sources

- Manuscript collections
- Government records
- Interviews
- Lectures



# Story in context

After the First World War ended, Frank again traveled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. **Italian immigration to American had just begun to taper off after the arrival of 4 million of Frank's countrymen.** As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, Rosario Taormina. **So many Sicilians like them had settled there that the French Quarter was nicknamed “Little Palermo.”** The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Journal article about Italian immigration

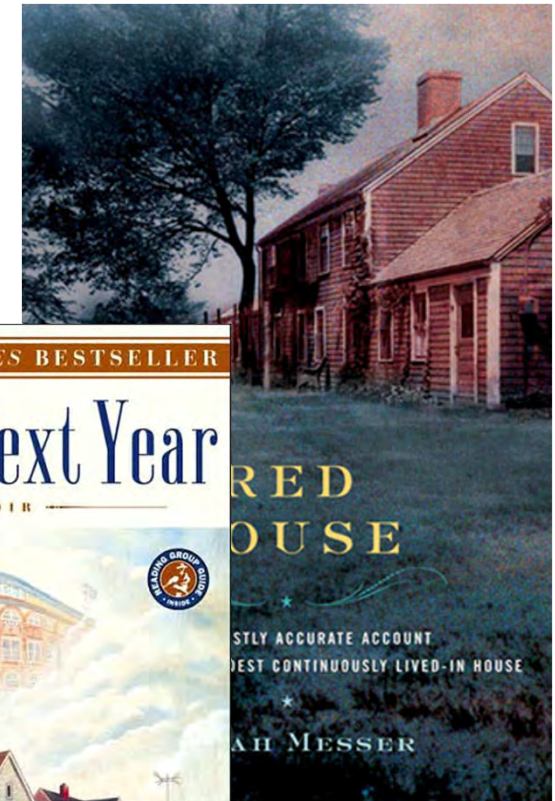
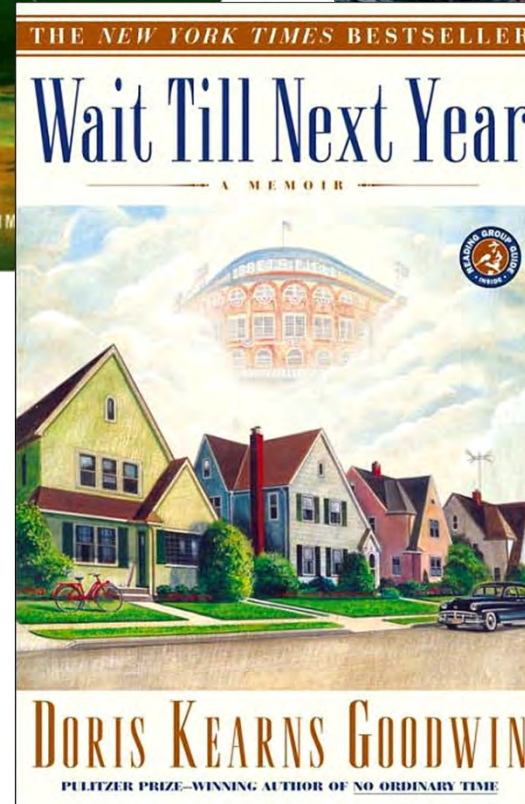
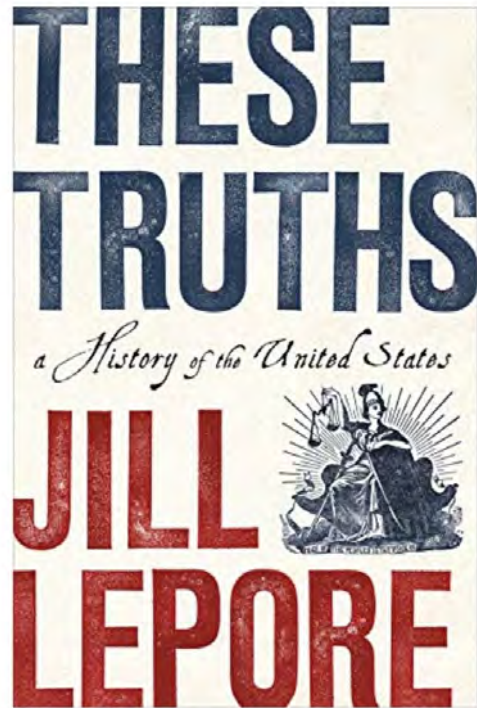
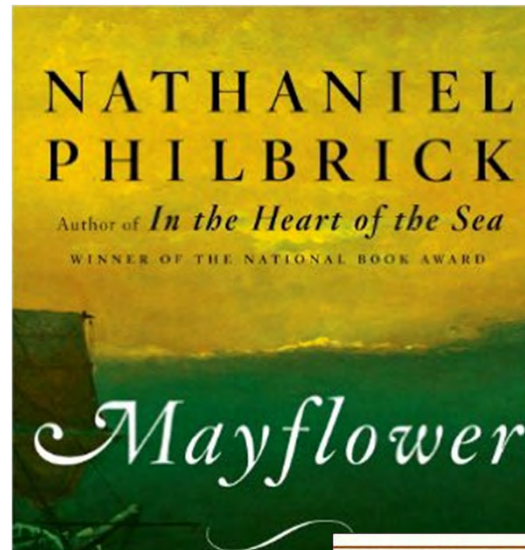
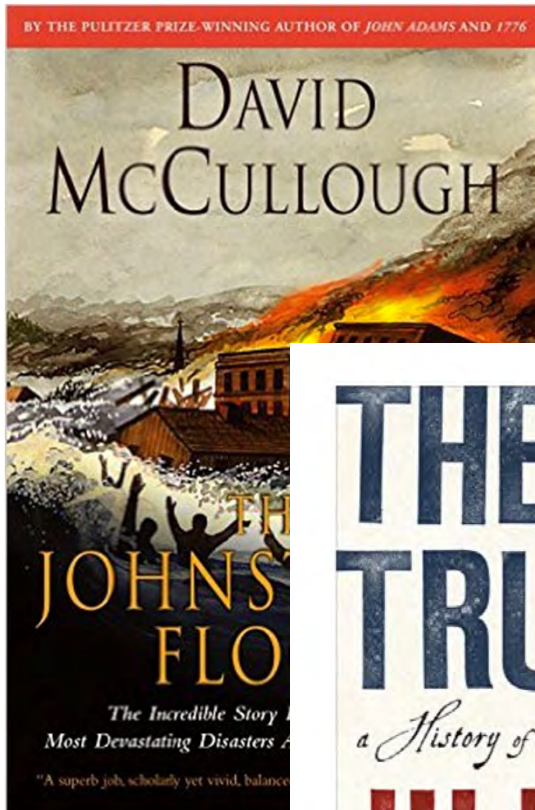
New Orleans website



Tip

Read historical  
nonfiction







Tip

Just get it all down.

# Document your facts

- Cite as you write!
- Give sources for everything—footnoting at the end of the relevant sentence, or the end of the paragraph—or giving a list of references.
- Let your audience determine the formality of your citation style.



# Review and revise

# Editing: why, when, who?

## **Why?**

- Automatic spell checker is not enough.
- No one can write perfectly the first time through.
- You've written over a period of years.

## **When?**

- You have a draft of some or all chapters.
- You have put the document in a different format.
- You've had a break from writing.

## **Who?**

- You, because you know your content better than anyone else.
- Someone else, because you are too close to what you know better than anyone else.



Tip

Read your text aloud

# PUTTING IT TOGETHER





# DIY or get help?

Step	You	Someone else*
1 - Write	✓	
2 - Edit your manuscript	✓	and ✓
3 - Select illustrations	✓	
4 - Scan, crop, and edit images	✓	✓
5 - Design and lay out pages	✓	✓
6 - Proofread pages	✓	✓
7 - Create front matter	✓	✓
8 - Design a cover	✓	✓
9 - Index		✓
10 - Print	✓ (booklet/binder)	✓ (book)
11 - Distribute your work	✓	✓

\* Friend or family member, freelance editor or designer, or publishing service

# Incorporating narrative into genealogy



Insert after birth-death-marriage info, **within** a genealogical sketch.



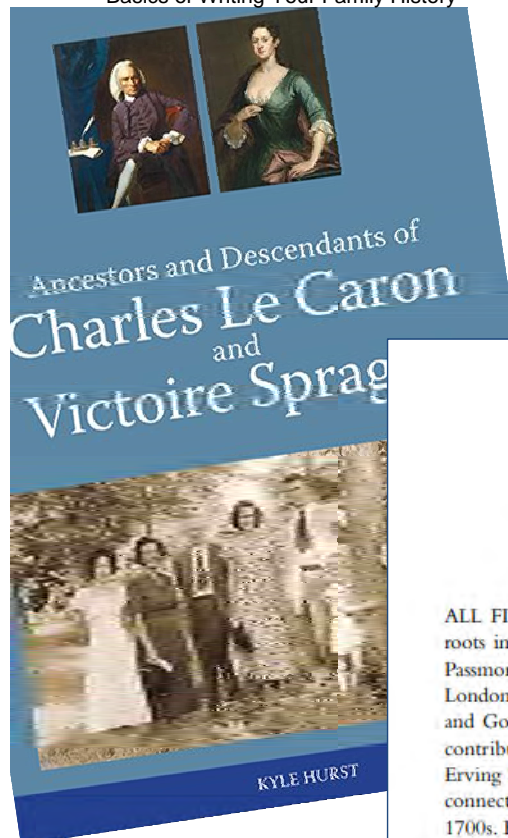
Include narrative chapters **before** and/or **after** the genealogical presentation.



Insert narrative or explanatory information in **features** / sidebars / boxed inserts.



Provide transcriptions of wills, interviews, or letters in one or more **appendixes**.



## CHAPTER ONE

### BUILDING AND HOLDING A NATION TOGETHER

ALL FIVE ANCESTRAL FAMILIES discussed in this book have deep roots in England. Charles Le Caron's paternal ancestors—the Beach and Passmore families—primarily remained in that country and lived in London during the early 1800s. Victoire (Sprague) Le Caron's Sprague and Goddard ancestors left England for New England in the 1600s and contributed in many ways to the development of the new nation. Victoire's Erving family, which married into the Goddard family, maintained strong connections with both England and its former colonies throughout the 1700s. Eventually, one member of the Beach family came to the United States under an assumed name to fight during the Civil War, inspired by the Union cause. Descendants of these combined families have continued to play important roles in American life and history, in times of both conflict and peace.

#### In Pursuit of a New Nation

The Sprague, Goddard, and Erving families had markedly different experiences during the Revolutionary era. The Goddards, with a background in military and civic service, supported the Patriots; the Sprague family focused on training physicians during this pivotal time, investing in the next generation of those practicing medicine; and members of the Erving family, who were engaged in commerce and trade in Boston, were variously Patriots and Loyalists.



John Erving II, Bath, 1806.

2. **JOHN<sup>2</sup> ERVING** (*John*<sup>1</sup>) was born in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 26 January 1727/8.<sup>1564</sup> He died in Bath, Somerset, England, 17 June 1816, and was buried at St. Swithin at Walcot in Bath, 22 July 1816.<sup>1565</sup> He married at King's Chapel in Boston, 18 April 1754, **MARIA CATHARINA SHIRLEY**, daughter of Gov. William and Frances (Barker) Shirley.<sup>1566</sup> She was baptized in Wivelsfield, Sussex, England, 4 March 1729.<sup>1567</sup> She died in Bath, March 1816, and was buried at St. Swithin at Walcot, 12 March 1816.<sup>1568</sup>

#### Half a Century in Boston

In 1754, John married Maria Catharina Shirley, daughter of Gov. William Shirley. (See William Shirley.) Maria's father described John as "a young gentleman of extreme good character, and for whose fidelity and honor in his dealings I can be answerable, of some capital, and eldest son to a merchant of the largest fortune of any one in Boston."<sup>1569</sup> He gave them pew 4 in King's Chapel as a wedding gift.<sup>1570</sup> Portraits of the newlyweds are held at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut.<sup>1571</sup>

John, like his father, was a successful Boston merchant, landowner, and landlord.<sup>1572</sup> He had a shop (selling things like indigo) on King Street throughout the latter half of the 1750s but advertised for it to be let in 1763. His first land purchase, bought from his father in 1760, consisted of a small piece of land (less than 3,000 square feet but with a well, pump, bricks, and stone) on Kilby Street (then Mackerel Lane). There he had a shop where he sold pork, flour, and other goods. Because John, a Loyalist, left the country after the Revolutionary War, he was considered an absentee owner and this land on Kilby Street was sold at auction in 1787.<sup>1573</sup>

John's accounts tracked his dealings with renters and debtors. In the 1760s, John Cooper rented a house and shop from him and paid in cash, notes, and "repairs to the house you Live in." From at least 1766 to 1775, Mrs. Anna Ruler paid her rent in cash. In 1785, John made a list of bonds he held and interest made from them. The total came to £10,188 with another £3,797 in interest.<sup>1574</sup>

Almost a century later, Samuel Adams Drake described John's house in Boston:

The mansion of Robert Treat Paine . . . was at the west corner of Milk and Federal Streets. The house, a brick one, fronted on Milk Street, and appeared in its latter days guiltless of paint. It was a large, two story, gambrel-roof structure, with gardens

Narrative chapters and within sketches



## WILLIAM FRANCIS MEEHAN, N° 12

An inspector for the U.S. Customs office in New York City, William Francis Meehan also served in the military for five years. On March 5, 1906 he enlisted with the 69th Infantry, Company D, and was honorably discharged April 3, 1911.

The 69th Infantry — sometimes called the “Fighting Sixty-Ninth” — is part of the New York Army National Guard. The unit’s lineage dates to the 1840s and the Irish revolutionary movement in New York City. After the unsuccessful Young Irelander Rebellion in Ireland in 1848, a group of Irish patriots in New York started to gather independent military companies. By the end of 1849, the First Irish Regiment had been acknowledged by the state; in 1850 mustered into the New York State Militia as the 9th Regiment. Over the

next few years, additional Irish regiments were formed and, in 1858, consolidated as the 69th Infantry.<sup>1</sup>

With the Gaelic battle cry of *Faugh an Beallach* (“clear the way”), the Sixty-Ninth fought in a number of battles during the American Civil War, including Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. It has been involved in every major war since the Civil War and is still active.

Although the unit’s revolutionary beginnings were a distant past when William Meehan enlisted with the regiment in 1906, his involvement with them shows both a level of American patriotism and a pride in his Irish heritage.



William F. Meehan, ca. 1906.

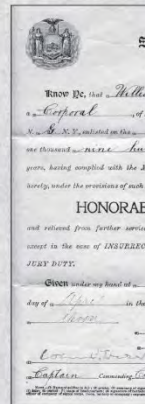


William F. Meehan in the 69th Regiment, second man from the right, ca. 1908.



Wedding announcement of Lillian Margaret Downing and William Francis Meehan.

Right: 288 Rivendale Ave., Yonkers, New York, home of William F. and Lillian Meehan from 1915 to at least 1925. By the 1930 US Census, the family was living on S. 7th Ave. Photo by Ann (Carter) Alexander.



## SEVENTH GENERATION

128. THADDEUS CARTER was born at Wallingford, New Haven County, Connecticut, 8 April 1735. He married Lucy Andrews. Thaddeus and his family moved to Litchfield, Connecticut prior to 1783.<sup>114</sup>

129. LUCY ANDREWS was born ca. 1744.<sup>115</sup>

Children of Thaddeus and Lucy (Andrews) Carter, born at Wallingford, (order unknown):<sup>116</sup>

- 64 i. Samuel Carter, b. 8 Aug. 1764.
- ii. Noah Andrews Carter, b. 1777; d. Barkhamstead, Litchfield Co., Conn., 31 May 1830; m. Lydia Gaylord, daughter of Joseph.
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ Carter, b. 27 Dec. \_\_\_\_\_.
- iv. Mehtabel Carter, b. 29 Aug. \_\_\_\_\_.

130. AARON STODDARD was born at Litchfield, Litchfield County, Connecticut, 15 July 1739. He died at New York City, New York, 12 January 1777. He married first, Ann Kilbourn. He married second, Philena \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>117</sup>

131. ANN KILBOURN was born at Litchfield 2 July 1743.<sup>118</sup>

Children of Aaron and Ann (Kilbourn) Stoddard:<sup>119</sup>

- i. Ruth Stoddard; d. Litchfield, June 1795; m. 1788, James Tryon.
  - ii. Sarah Stoddard, m. Ephraim Spencer.
  - iii. Lydia Stoddard, m. Abner Gilbert.
  - 65 iv. Anna “Diana” Stoddard, b. ca. 1768.
- Children of Aaron and Philena (\_\_\_\_\_) Stoddard:
- v. David Stoddard, b. Litchfield, 15 Nov. 1773; d. Groton, Tomkins Co., N.Y.; m. 1793, Dorcas Kent.
  - vi. Sibyl Stoddard.
  - vii. Mary Stoddard, b. Litchfield, 10 Jan. 1777; m. Herman Stone.

132–135. \_\_\_\_\_.

136. HENRY COONS was born between 1745 and 1750. He died in Fayette County, Kentucky, between 5 June 1821, when his will was written, and August 1823, when the will was recorded. He married Mary Ann \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>120</sup>

137. MARY ANN \_\_\_\_\_.

Children of Henry and Mary Ann (\_\_\_\_\_) Coons:<sup>121</sup>

- i. Samuel Coons.
- ii. John Coons, d. before 5 June 1821.
- 68 iii. Joshua Coons, b. 10 Oct. 1781.
- iv. James Coons.
- v. Martin Coons.

Map showing the military movements of the Battle of Fort Washington at the northern end of Manhattan. Claude Joseph Sauthier, 1777. Courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library.

## THADDEUS CARTER, N° 128

Thaddeus Carter was listed under Captain Hall’s Company, New York Regiment, in 1755, during the French and Indian Wars.<sup>1</sup> In 1775 during the American Revolution, Thaddeus Carter served in Captain Isaac Cook’s Company — a unit made up of minutemen from Wallingford, Connecticut. In September 1775, the regiment was engaged in operations along Lake George and Lake Champlain. They helped in the siege of St. John’s and were stationed in Montreal.<sup>2</sup>

## AARON STODDARD, N° 130

Aaron Stoddard enlisted in 1776 in the Continental Army under the command of Captain Bezaleel Beebe.<sup>1</sup> He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Fort Washington in New York on 16 November 1776 and confined at a sugar house in Manhattan. (During the war, sugar houses throughout New York City were used by British forces as makeshift prisons.) More than 2,600 prisoners were taken by the British after the battle, and over the following months, more than 1,900 would die.<sup>2</sup> Aaron perished in January 1777. Only six of his company survived the poor conditions.<sup>3</sup>



# Narrative then genealogy



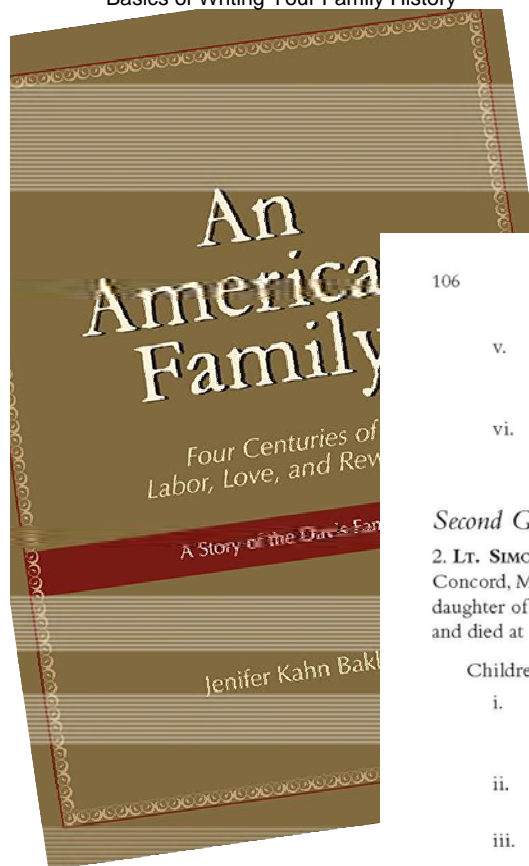
# Incorporating genealogy into narrative



Make the main body of your text a narrative and include the genealogy — *Register* style or AT — as end matter.



Provide genealogical information in chart form.



106

*An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love,*

- v. SAMUEL DAVIS, b. probably Mass. about 1639/40; d. 1720; m. (1) Mass. 11 Jan. 1665, MARY MEDDOWES, d. 30 Oct. 1710; m. (2) at C Oct. 1711, RUTH TAYLOR, d. 6 Aug. 1720.<sup>644</sup>
- vi. RUTH DAVIS, bp. Barnstable 25 March 1644;<sup>645</sup> m. Concord 3 STEPHEN HALL of Concord.<sup>646</sup>

### Second Generation

2. LT. SIMON<sup>2</sup> DAVIS (*Dolor*<sup>2</sup>) was born probably in Massachusetts in 1636 a Concord, Massachusetts 14 June 1713. He married 12 December 1660, MARY daughter of James and Eleanor (\_\_\_\_\_) Blood of Concord. She was born 12 and died at Concord, probably 1717/18.<sup>647</sup>

Children of Simon<sup>2</sup> and Mary (Blood) Davis, all born at Concord:

- i. SIMON<sup>3</sup> DAVIS, b. 12 Oct. 1661; m. (1) Concord 14 Feb. 1688/89, J WOODHOUSE, daughter of Henry Woodhouse of Concord; m. (2) 19 Oct. 1714, MARY WOOD.<sup>648</sup>
- ii. MARY DAVIS, b. 3 Oct. 1663; m. Concord 28 May 1691, DEI WHEELER of Stow.<sup>649</sup>
- iii. SARA DAVIS, b. 11 March 1665/66; m. Concord 13 Nov. 1695 WHEELER of Concord.<sup>650</sup>
- 3 iv. JAMES DAVIS, b. 19 Jan. 1667/68; m. Concord 4 March 1700 SMEDLEY.<sup>651</sup>
- v. ELEN(ER) DAVIS, b. 22 Oct. 1672; m. Concord 14 May 1695 HUNT.<sup>652</sup>
- vi. EBENEZER DAVIS, b. 1 June 1676; m. (1) DINAH \_\_\_\_; m. (2) possi DANFORTH, b. 23 Dec. 1676, d. 15 Oct. 1751, daughter of Capt Danforth, m. (1) WILLIAM FRENCH of Billerica, Mass.<sup>653</sup>
- vii. HANNAH DAVIS, b. 1 April 1679; m. Concord 1 April 1701 BLOOD.<sup>654</sup>



## CHAPTER 2

### FIGHTING AND FARMING

#### Simon Davis and the Struggles of the Early Settlers

*[H]e being of lively spirit encouraged the soldiers within the house to fire upon the Indians . . . with these like words, that 'God is with us, and fights for us, and will deliver us'*<sup>655</sup>

—Captain Thomas Wheeler, describing Simon Davis in the attack at Brookfield, 1675

Over time, as Dolor Davis, his wives, and their peers advanced in years, the mission that they had begun was handed off to their descendants. It became the charge of their children, and their grandchildren in turn, to assert the dominance of the position that the first immigrants had worked so tirelessly to establish. This was no easy task, for even as the colonial way of life began to find the security of established routines, it also was constantly and viscerally threatened. The first immigrants' children, coming of age in the 1660s and '70s, found their most urgent and growing threat to be their Native American neighbors, with whom they were now competing for ever-scarcer land and resources.

Conflicts between Indians and settlers became increasingly violent, and many colonists lost their lives and property, as did many more Indians. The town of Concord, home to Dolor and Margery's son Simon, was unlike many towns across Massachusetts, in that it was never destroyed by this violence. It suffered on behalf of its neighbors, however: the increasing threat of personal loss and also the uncertainty that the colonies would continue to exert a forward momentum was probably a daily distraction for Simon, his siblings, and their contemporaries.

Although Barnstable seemed to represent a "true home," for Dolor and Margery, their relatively brief sojourn in Concord served to establish that community as the "true home" for Simon. Simon had arrived in Concord as a teenager, and he would remain there for the rest of his life.



## JOURNEY TO AMERICA

It is true that the Italian and Polish peasant may not be accustomed to better things at home and might not be happier in better surroundings nor know how to use them; but it is a bad introduction to our life to treat him like an animal when he is coming to us. He ought to be made to feel immediately, that the standard of living in America is higher than it is abroad, and that life on the higher plane begins on board of ship.<sup>12</sup>

Like one-quarter of Italian immigrants, Antonio Montrone, his wife, Carmina, and his brother-in-law, Ernesto De Christofaro, shipped out from Naples.<sup>13</sup> Their ship, like seven of ten ships departing from European ports, docked at the Port of New York. Making the journey six years after his sister, at seventeen Ernesto took the S.S. *Napoli* from Naples to New York to meet up with their brother, Domenico De Christofaro.<sup>14</sup> The De Christofaro siblings likely shared similar experiences from port to port.

Emigrants in those days were a kind of cargo. The shipping lines had to create manifests of passengers, pay taxes on each passenger, and even foot the bill for those sent back from America. To ensure the fewest number of deportees, the shipping lines

established certain departure procedures. Before even issuing someone a passport, Italian officials would perform a background check; former criminals would be unable to emigrate, as they were risks for deportation. In accordance with the U.S. quarantine law of 1893, would-be emigrants had to spend at least five days quarantined at a "pest house" near the port before departing. There, they took antiseptic baths and had their scalps thoroughly washed with a mixture of chemicals designed to disinfect and delouse them. Then, after they had received medical examinations and vaccinations, they were escorted to their ships.

Restrictions established by the Italian and U.S. governments and the steamship companies required that U.S. Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service doctors check potential emigrants for known contagious and infectious diseases.<sup>15</sup> In 1906 alone, nearly 6 percent were turned away at Naples before departure.<sup>16</sup>

### "THIRD CLASS. ALL THE WAY DOWN"

"We took a trunk," remembered a woman who emigrated as a bride from Naples in 1924. "Some clothes of mine and [my husband's]. And we take a suitcase, that's all. We took the train from Cosenza to Naples. I never was in Naples. I never was in anyplace. It was dirty, Naples. I didn't like it. Then we take the boat. We had a little cabin. Third

### ❖ Italian Emigration Law ❖

The 1911 Report of the Immigration Commission summarized Italian Emigration Law as follows:

"The Italian law aims to protect emigrants during the different stages through which they pass from the time of leaving their native village or town until they reach their destination in a foreign country and after landing there.

"The law and regulations provide that in all centers of emigration there must be an unpaid committee consisting of various officials and others, which committee is bound to give the emigrant all information about the country to which he intends to go, and the conditions on which he can be admitted. It helps the emigrant in getting a passport, gives him information concerning steamers, the cost of tickets, etc. On the journey to an Italian port the emigrant is very often guided and directed by the same committee. If the number of emigrants is considerable, the steamship company will supply an agent to take charge of them from the home town to the port.

"The law directs that emigrants on arriving at Naples, Genoa, Messina, or Palermo

shall go to some hotel authorized by the bureau of emigration. This authorization is only given to the best houses, and they are continually under the inspection of a doctor appointed by the prefetto at each port. Lodging and food from the day before sailing are paid for by the steamship companies. With us, however, this is considered as a temporary provision, because when funds are available the Government will provide homes or hotels for emigrants at the ports of Naples, Genoa, and Palermo. These are to be large hotels, with everything necessary for the emigrant.

The protection of emigrants on board ship is entrusted to the commissario regio, a surgeon of the navy medical corps, who must accompany each ship carrying Italian emigrants from Italian ports, and whose salary and expenses must be paid by the steamship companies. This officer acts as an emigrant inspector during the voyage, and it is his duty to see that the quantity and quality of food provided is in accordance with law. He also has to take note of the hygienic conditions of the ship during the voyage and receive all complaints made by emigrants. In the matter of complaints he attempts to adjust difficulties

with the captain of the ship; otherwise he transmits the complaint

to the Italian consul at the port of landing or to the proper official in Italy upon his return. If the complaint is well founded and involves a violation of our law, the steamship company is liable to a fine.

"The third and last phase through which the emigrant passes is just when he lands, and it is a time when he needs the special protection which is provided by article 12 of our law in the following terms:

In all foreign states to which Italian emigration turns with preference the foreign office shall, after coming to an understanding with the local governments, institute bureaus for the protection and information of and supply of labor to emigrants. The foreign office shall, in accordance with by-law, appoint traveling inspectors in trans-oceanic countries. Officers of the consular service can be appointed to these berths. Such inspectors shall keep the chief commissioner posted with the conditions of Italian emigrants in such countries, whose desires or necessities they shall transmit to the commissioner.

"These are the phases through which the emigrant passes as contemplated by our

### Italian Emigration Law, continued

law: First, in the town where he resides and from which he intends to go abroad; then in the large ports, where the inspectors go aboard the steamer to ascertain that it is in the condition required by law, because otherwise the emigrants can not leave on the steamer. Very often telegrams are sent to the commissariato stating that the provisions of a particular steamer are not sufficient or that the hospital lacks certain supplies. Then we have to telegraph that the steamer can not start until the conditions of the law have been complied with.

"The new law requires that each adult emigrant must pay a tax of 8 lire (\$1.60).

"The law prescribes only four ports of emigration: Naples, Genoa, Palermo, and Messina. From other ports there is no emigration. If people want to emigrate to America, they must go through these ports.

"There is a special article in the Italian emigration law which prohibits sending an emigrant to a country unless the emigrant can comply with the conditions of the laws of the country to which he seeks to go. Therefore when an emigrant is rejected at a foreign port the responsibility falls upon the steamship company and the emigrant

is entitled to be reimbursed and to receive an indemnity for the journey he has made. So there are lots of lawsuits against the steamship companies, and very often a company is condemned to pay a large indemnity to an emigrant rejected by the United States. It is a matter of law, and the steamship company is presumed to know the law. We fine the steamship company if through negligence or for some other reason they allow people to start who are not in condition to be admitted at ports of destination. In each Province we have an arbitration commission, which has the right to examine those cases. Every emigrant rejected by the United States has a right to submit his complaint to this commission, which examines the case and gives its decision, and in a proper case fines the steamship company. The law speaks very clearly on that point. It says:

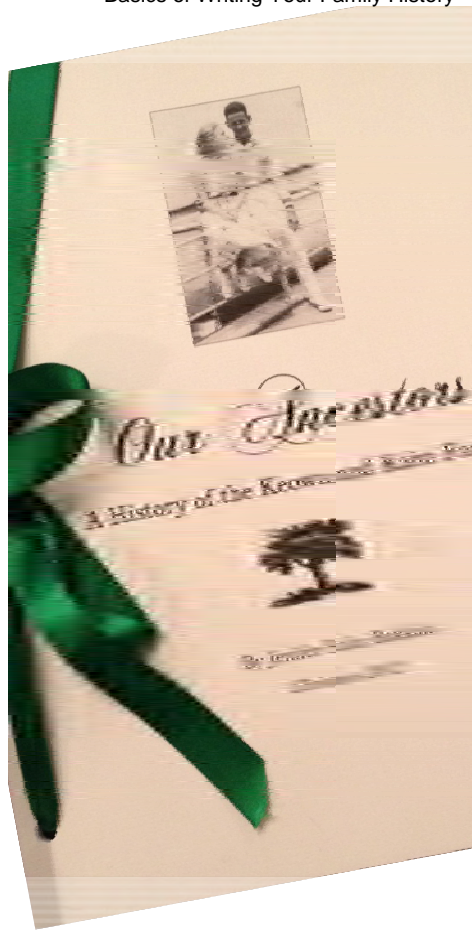
Art. 24. The carrier is responsible for damages toward the emigrant who may have been refused landing at a port of destination because of provision of foreign laws on immigration, when the emigrant can prove that the carrier was aware before his sailing of the circumstances which determined such refusal.

"The emigrant who is returned may make a claim before the arbitration commission without expense to him, and in many cases, besides the passage money, the carrier has to pay all the loss of wages for the thirty or forty days that the man has been on his journey.

"Our constitution does not permit us to deprive the people of the right to emigrate, but we want the movement to be natural. Article 17 of our law prevents such artificial movements. It states very clearly that Carriers and their representatives are forbidden from persuading people to emigrate. In accordance with article 416 of the Penal Code, whoever shall, by poster, circular, or guide concerning emigration, publish wittingly false news on emigration or diffuse in the Kingdom news or information of such a nature printed abroad, shall be punished with imprisonment up to six months and with a fine of 1,000 lire. The circulars and advertisements, of whatever nature they may be, made by the carrier, shall indicate the gross and net registered tonnage and the speed of the steamer, the date of sailing, the ports called at; en route, and the duration of the entire voyage."

## Thematic narrative





Alma (Aylsworth) and David S. Kahn

### Alan's Father's Ancestors: The Aylsworths and the Kahns

It is not clear whether the marriage of Alan's paternal grandparents, Alma and David Kahn was a topic of controversy. The wedding, which took place on November 1887, probably in Baltimore, Maryland, was between a young woman from a family of Methodists and a young man who was Jewish. Alma later became the parents of Laurence Kahn, Alan's father.

Alma Alida Aylsworth had been born on 3 October 1866, probably in Frontenac County, Ontario, Canada, the sixth and youngest child of John and Bowen Aylsworth. Two of her siblings, King Job and Mary, reached the age of 4.

Her ancestry on her father's side stretches back to the earliest days of the United States. It includes two Mayflower passengers. Alma's great-great grandfather, Robert Kahn, fought for the British throne during the American Revolution, and in the late 1770s, Loyalists brought their families to settle in southern Ontario, where generations later Alma was born almost 100 years later (See "Alma's Ancestors").

Alma's parents, Mary Jane Hunter and Bowen McGillivray Aylsworth, both died on 22 February 1848 by the Rev. George Brynon, a Methodist Minister. At

48

Howard's mother, Ann McMahon, had been born in about 1846, and grew up in the Trappe District. She was the daughter of Rebecca Merrick and Solomon McMahon, who were married sometime before 1835. "Annie" had four older brothers: William, Solomon, and twins John and Mathias.

Her younger sister Henrietta was born when Annie was about 5 years old.

Her father was a farmer.

Howard's parents James and Ann were presumably married sometime before about 1869, when their daughter Cora was born.

### Did Howard LeCompte Really Marry Two Sisters?

Not quite.

Howard LeCompte first married Clara Belle Little in about 1891. They had three children: Cora and James; and Beatrice, who later became the mother of Alan LeCompte Kahn.



"Aunt Florrie" and her step-granddaughter, Barbara May Kahn.

Clara Belle had grown up in a large household, which included her parents, several siblings, and also her widowed aunt, Mary Lavinia, who had been married to one of Clara's uncles. Mary Lavinia had two children: Millard, and Mary Flora. "Florrie" was around Clara's age, and although they were cousins, it might have seemed as if they were sisters. They grew up in the same household from a very young age, and since Florrie's mother worked as a tailor, it is likely that Clara's mother cared for her often.

Both girls grew up, and Clara eventually married Howard LeCompte, while Florrie remained with her family. In 1910, these households were just two doors away from each other on Reisterstown Road in Baltimore. When Clara became ill, sometime in her late 30s, family stories say that Florrie served as a nurse for her cousin.

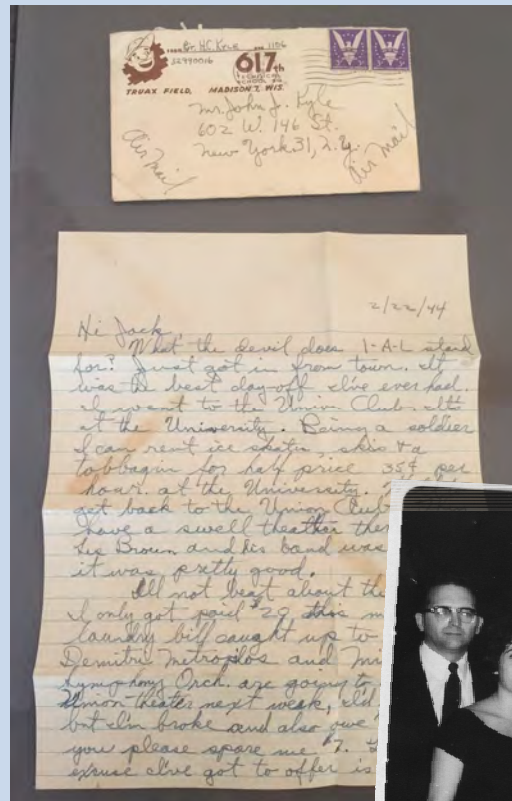
After Clara's death, Howard and Florrie married. Howard's grandchildren called her "Aunt Florrie," which may have perpetuated the sister myth. Mary Flora was actually their step-grandmother, as well as their first cousin twice removed.

45

Ancestry written as narrative

# Adding images

- ✓ People
- ✓ Places
- ✓ Things



Slender, medium, or stout (which)?

Color of hair? *Black*

Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?

*Loss of left eye*

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own

# Where to find images

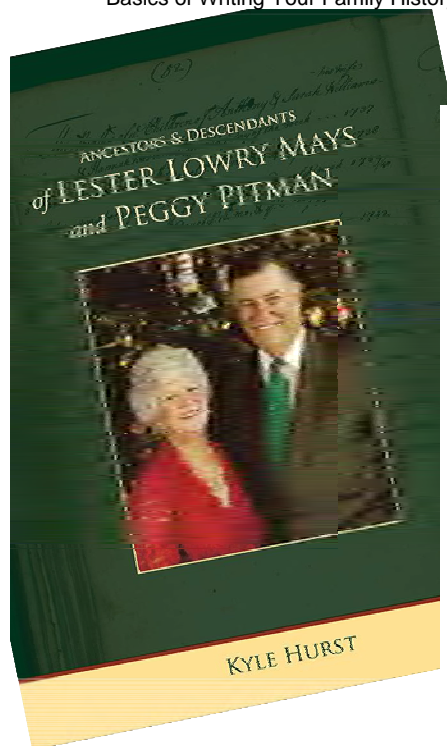
- Family papers, diaries, letters
- Family photo albums: yours and other relatives'
- Books and periodicals
- Libraries, historical societies, other repositories
- Online image portals
- General Internet image searches (e.g., Google; Bing)



# Tip

Be aware of copyright  
and ownership.

*Do not download and use images  
without appropriate permission.*



## SECOND GENERATION

4. **LESTER THOMAS MAYS** was born in Alabama, 15 November 1908. He died as a result of a car accident at Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, 10 January 1946, and was buried at Hillcrest Mausoleum, Dallas, 14 January 1946. He married after receiving a marriage license in September 1930, **MARY VIRGINIA LOWRY**.<sup>15</sup>

5. **MARY VIRGINIA "GAMMY" LOWRY** was born at Bridgeport, Wise County, Texas, 17 March 1908, and died at Dallas 30 November 1991. She married second at University Park Methodist Church, Dallas, 4 December 1949, **Ralph U. Maddox**, born in Louisiana 27 April 1907 and died of myocardial infarction at Dallas 19 July 1982.<sup>16</sup>

Lester Thomas Mays at the time of his death was the vice president of Sheffield Sted Company of Texas at Dallas. "He was past president of the Trinity Heights Dads Club, past vice-president and director of the North Dallas-Park Cities Kiwanis Club, a member of the Dallas Athletic Club, the Highland Park Masonic Lodge and the University Park Methodist Church."<sup>17</sup>



Above: Lester Thomas Mays (No. 4) with his twin brother Chester.



Far left: Lester Thomas Mays and Mary Virginia Lowry (Nos. 4 and 5).  
Left: Mary Virginia Lowry (No. 5).



6. **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN "GRANDDADDY" PITMAN JR.** was born at Chadron, Dawes County, Nebraska, 27 May 1898. After suffering from acute myelocytic leukemia for over two years, he died of septicemia at Alamo Heights, Bexar County, Texas, 29 January 1979, and was entombed at Sunset Memorial Park Mausoleum, San

endants of Lester Lowry Mays and Peggy Pitman

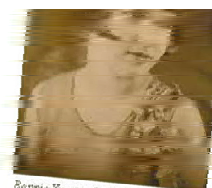


...Bexar County, 31 January 1979. He married at ...  
s, 11 March 1929. **BONNIE YVONNE GUNSTREAM**, ...  
... 1929. She married second at ...  
... 1949. She married second at ...  
... 1949. She married second at ...

**IF YVONNE "GRAND REBO" GUNSTREAM** was born at Leesville, Vernon, Louisiana, 29 December 1908. She died at San Antonio 5 June 1966 and was entombed at Sunset Memorial Park Mausoleum 7 June 1966.<sup>18</sup> She married at Warren, Warren County, Pennsylvania, 8 October 1964. **Edward John** who was born in Maryland 5 July 1901 and died at San Antonio 26 June 1964 was the son of Edward T. and Genevieve (Ryan) Shell.<sup>19</sup>

in Franklin Pitman Jr. attended the University of Nebraska before enlisting in the American Expeditionary Force 18 September 1917. Upon his release from military 8 July 1919, Benjamin finished law school as a member of the class and of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity at the University of Washington. Afterward, Benjamin became an investment banker in Texas, and by 1948 was president of Pitman and Company, an investment firm at San Antonio. In his obituary, he was "a member of the Christ Episcopal Church, World War I member of the San Antonio Country Club, The Kiwanis Club, Country Associates and the Order of the Alamo; President of Pitman and Company; past Chairman of the Selection Army; past president of International Mining Corporation; past president of YUEA Consolidated Gold Fields."<sup>20</sup>

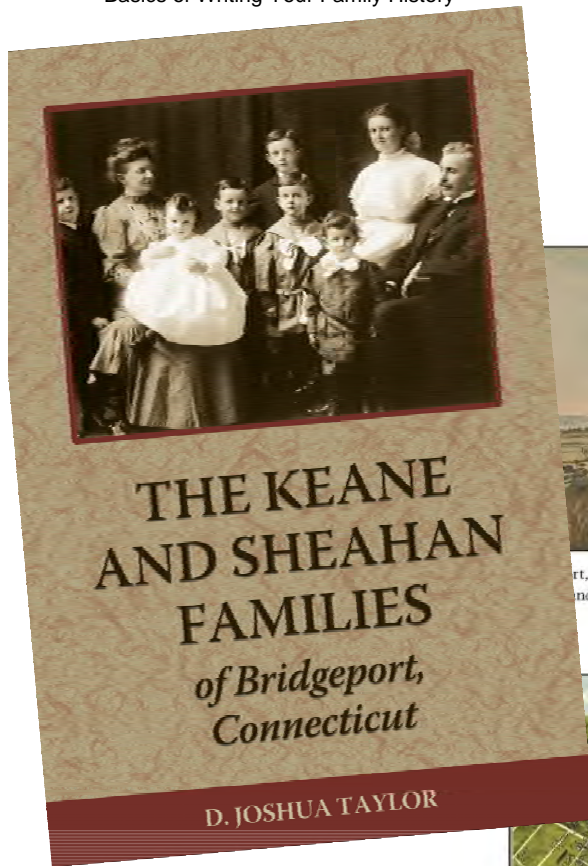
**Bonnie Yvonne Gunstream** attended Orange High School at Orange, Orange County, Texas before entering the College of Industrial Arts and Sciences (CIA) (now Texas Woman's University) at Denton, Denton County, Texas, in September 1926. As a married woman, Bonnie had many interests, like competing in several tournaments, participating in the Live Oak Garden Club, and acting as a "pressing over" for the San Antonio Little Theatre. At the time of her death, she was also a member of the Christ Episcopal Church and a founding member of the Charity Ball Association.<sup>21</sup>



Bonnie Yvonne Gunstream (No. 7)

Photos integrated





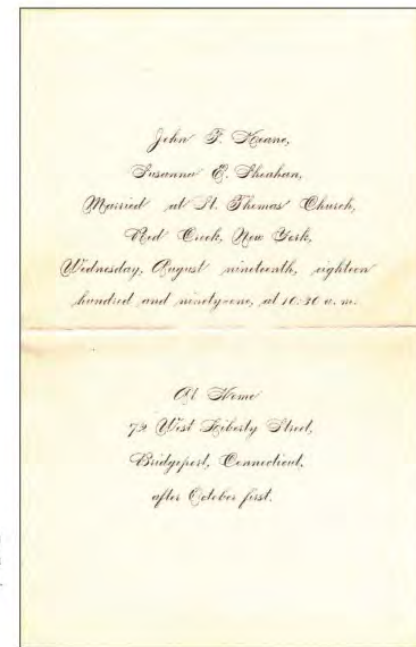
Bridgeport, Connecticut, from "Old Mill Hill" in 1882, shortly before the Keanes arrived and.



Bird's-eye view of Bridgeport in 1875.



Sepia stereograph of Perkins School for the Blind, South Boston (Dorchester Heights), Massachusetts, ca. 1878, about the time Susan Sheahan entered as a student.



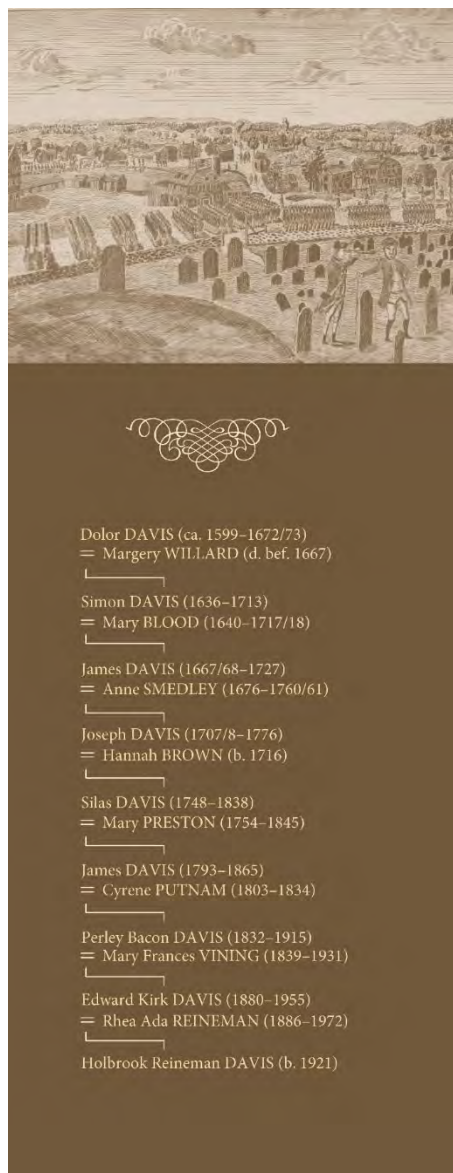
John and Susan (Sheahan) Keane's wedding invitation and at-home card, 1891.

Photo insert



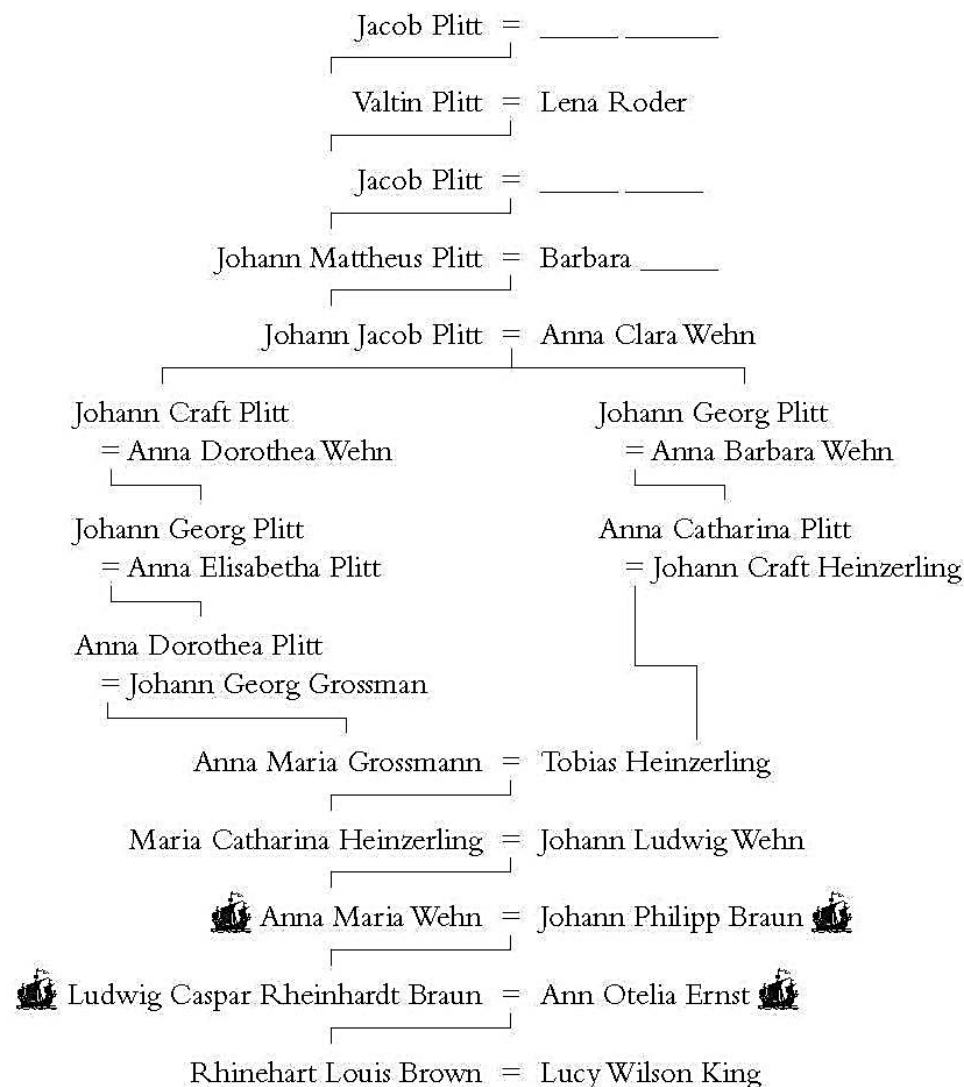
Tip

Include charts.



## Charts

### [[JACOB] PLITT ANCESTRY OF RHINEHART LOUIS BROWN





Tip

You *must* have an  
index!



# Design: why, when, who?

## **Why?**

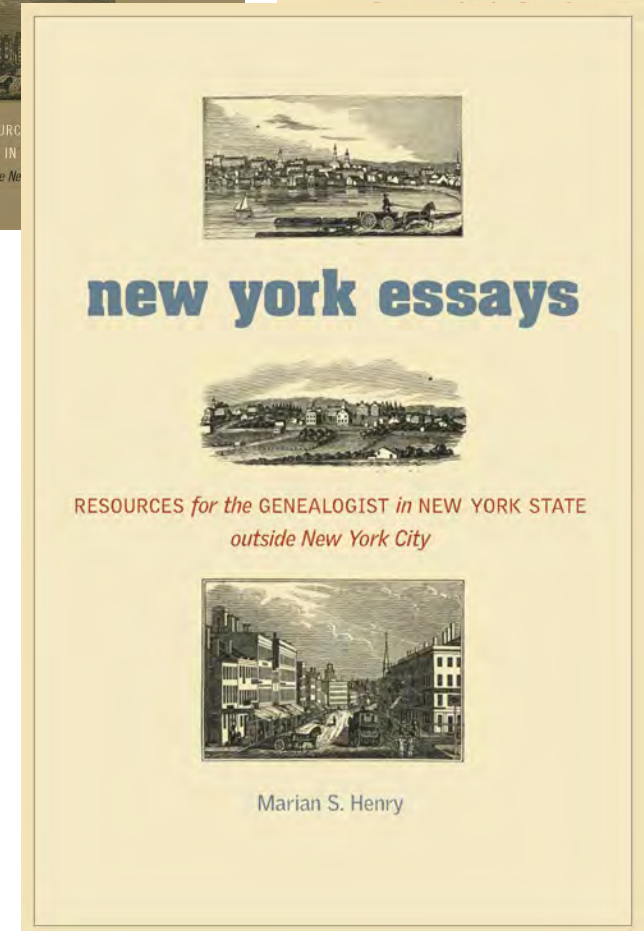
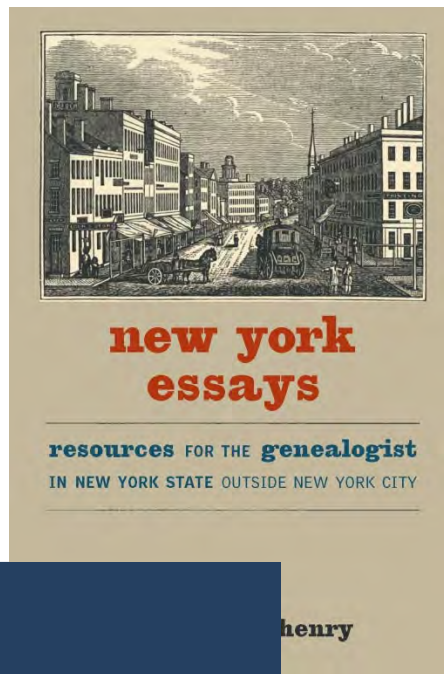
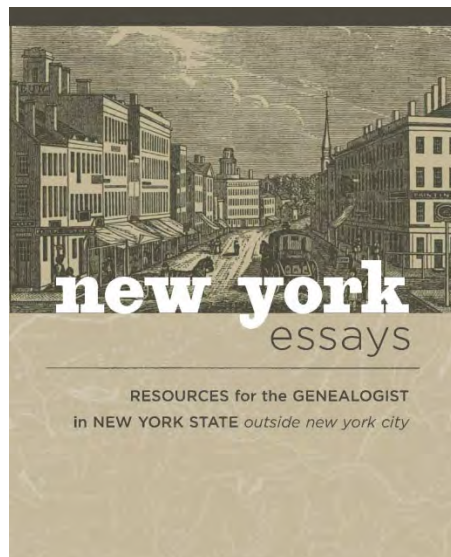
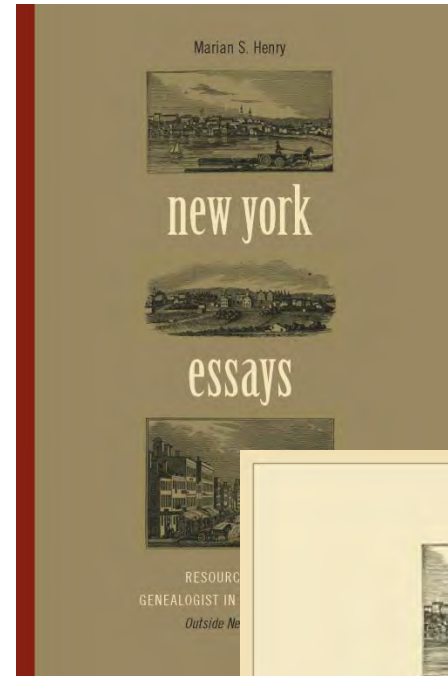
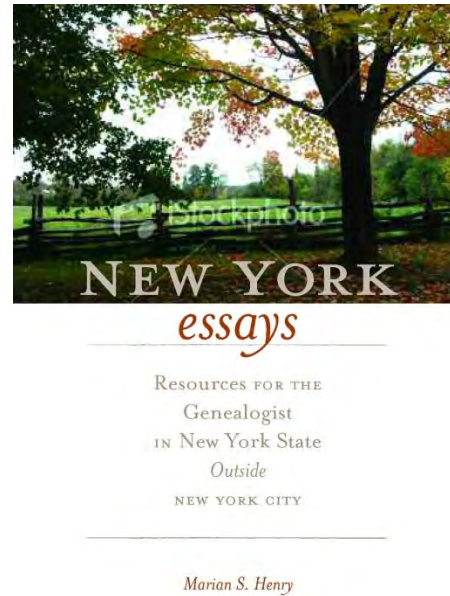
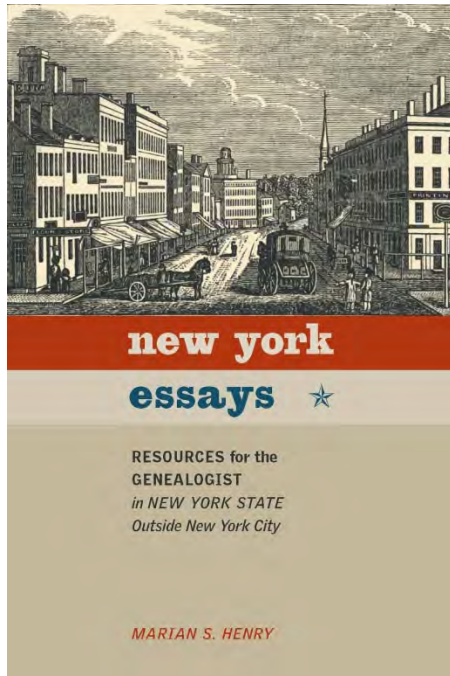
- Design helps clarify structure.
- Font must be easily readable.
- Margins must be adequate.

## **When?**

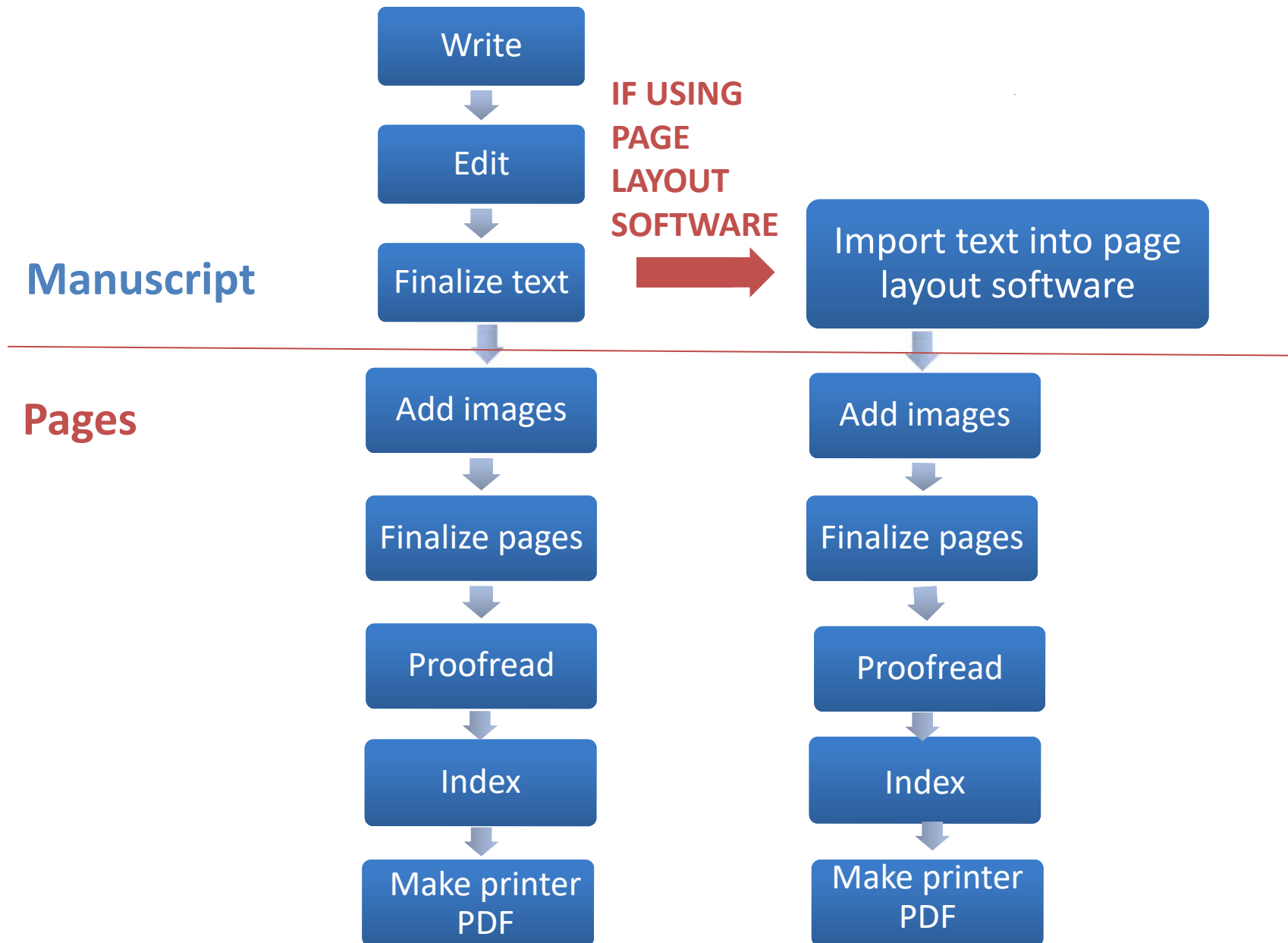
- Your manuscript is edited and complete.
- All images are in hand.

## **Who?**

- You, if you are feeling creative
- Designer or publisher



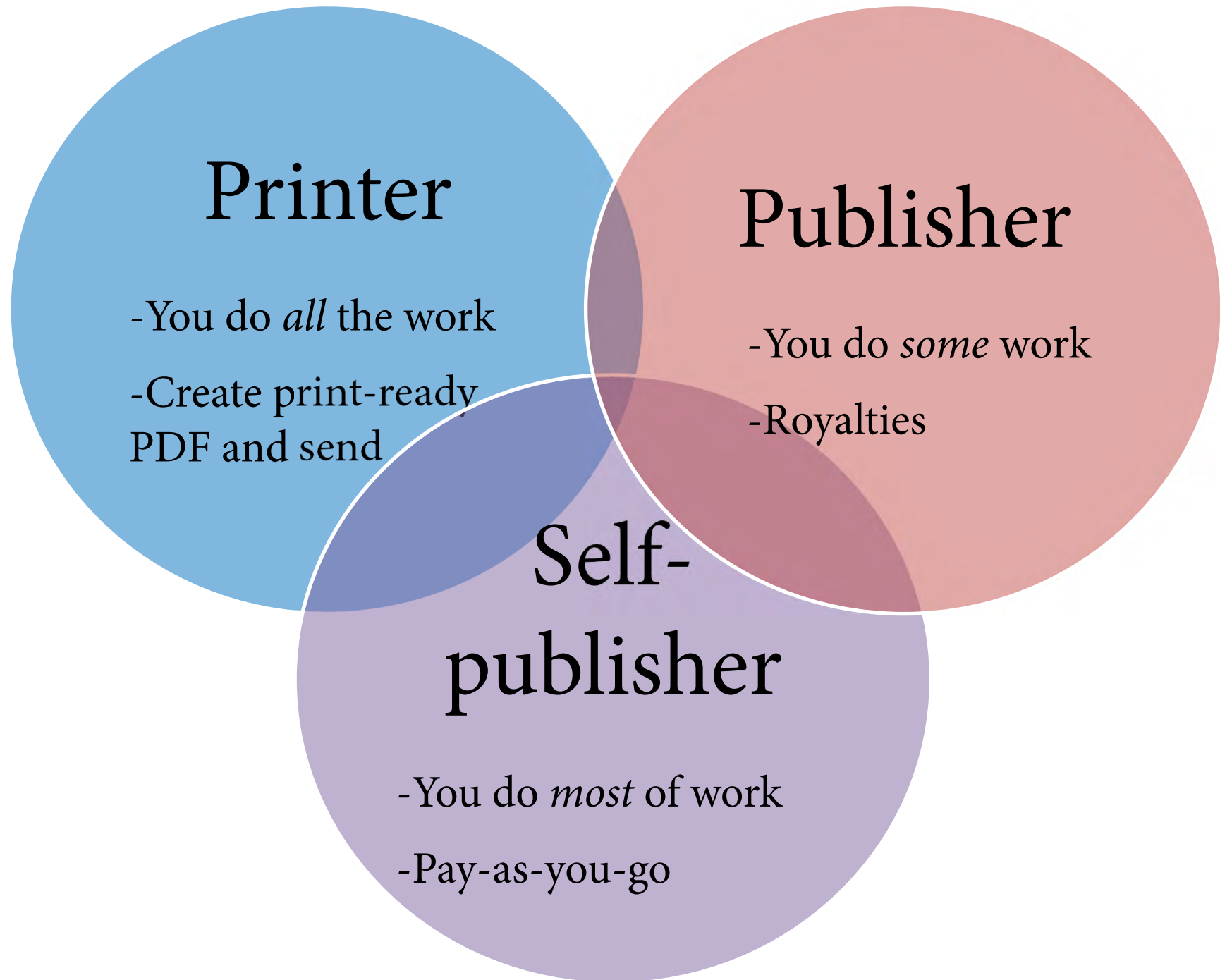
Cover design process





## **Possible ways to print**

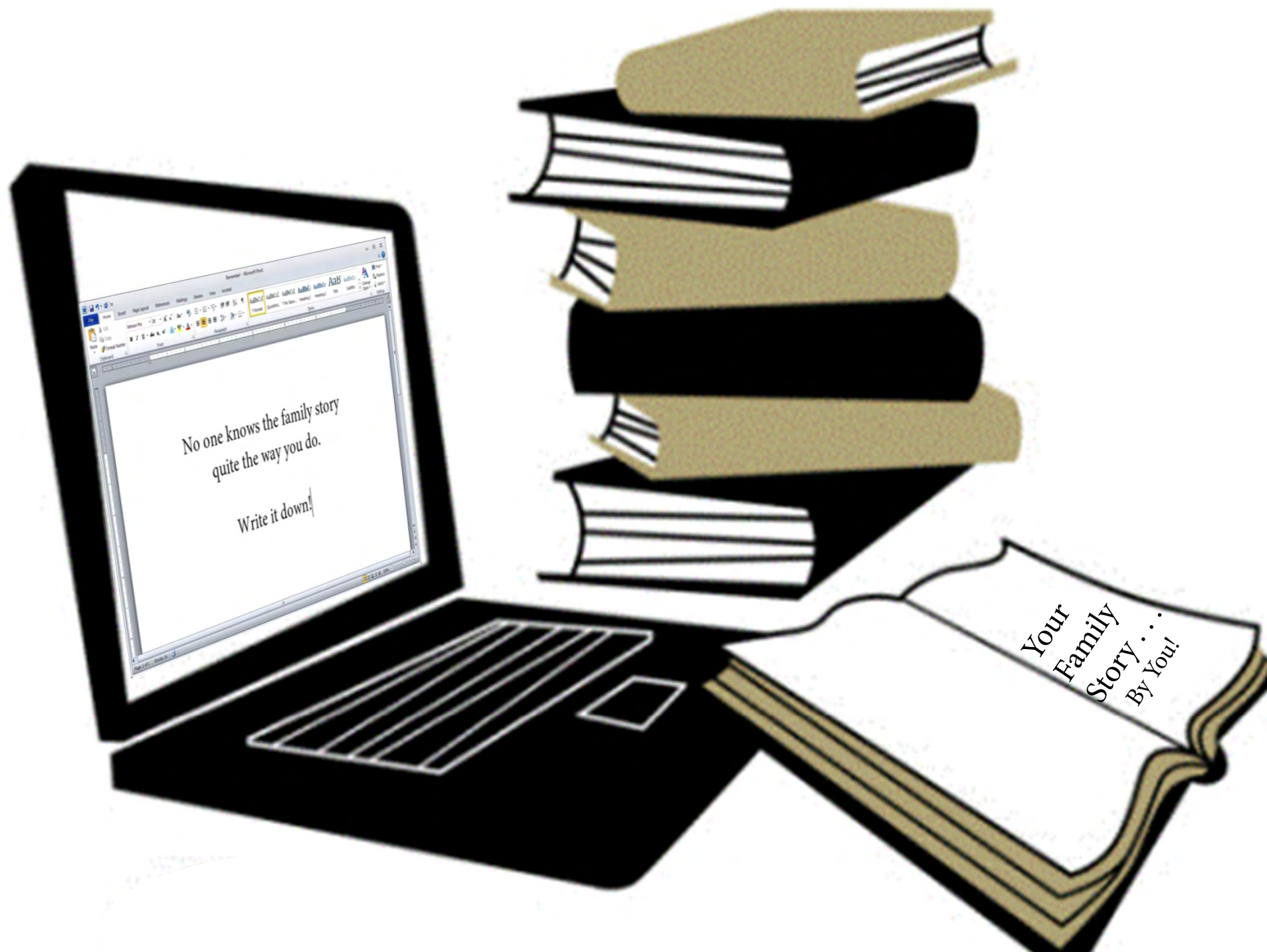
- At home, on an inkjet or laser printer
- At a local copy shop
- At a commercial printer
- Via an online service (Shutterfly, Blurb, Snapfish, SmugMug; Lulu, CreateSpace, iUniverse, etc.)
- By working with a publisher or publishing service



# Review

- 1 – Shift mental gears
- 2 – Consider your audience and time frame
- 3 – Choose a genealogical format
- 4 – Define your scope and make a TOC
- 5 – Write and cite!
- 6 – Review, revise, repeat
- 7 – Add images
- 8 – Index
- 9 – Design
- 10 – Print or publish





A large audience is seated in a conference hall, facing a stage. The audience is seen from behind, filling the lower two-thirds of the frame. The stage is at the far end, with a large presentation screen displaying a slide. The room has a high ceiling with recessed lighting. The overall image has a blue tint.

# THANK YOU!

[AmericanAncestors.org/Education](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Education)



The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website. The header includes the logo, navigation links (Search, Events, Membership, Give, Publications, Expert Help, Tools, Signature Projects, Activities & Initiatives), and a user account section. The main content area features an article titled "Writing & Publishing Your Family History" by Penny Stratton, Publishing Director. The article includes an introduction about the importance of writing family history. Below the text is a video player for "Ten Steps to Writing and Publishing Your Family History" by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, presented by Penny Stratton in January 2014. The video player includes a play button, a "Watch later" button, and a "Share" button. The video title is also displayed on the right side of the player.

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Search Events Membership Give Publications Expert Help Tools Signature Projects Activities & Initiatives

Writing & Publishing Your Family History

By Penny Stratton, Publishing Director

### Introduction

Why is it important to write your family history? Think about the legacy you will be leaving if you write and publish your own family research: not only a legacy for current and future family members, but an important resource for current and future genealogical researchers. If you've been researching your family for any significant length of time, probably no one knows your family story like you do. The ease and affordability of digital printing give you all the more reason to write and publish! This subject guide provides information, tips, and resources for the basic steps of writing and publishing your family history.

Ten Steps to Writing and Publishing Your Family History

Watch later Share

## Ten Steps for Writing & Publishing Your Family History

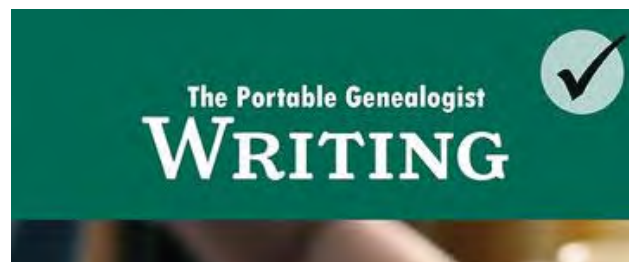
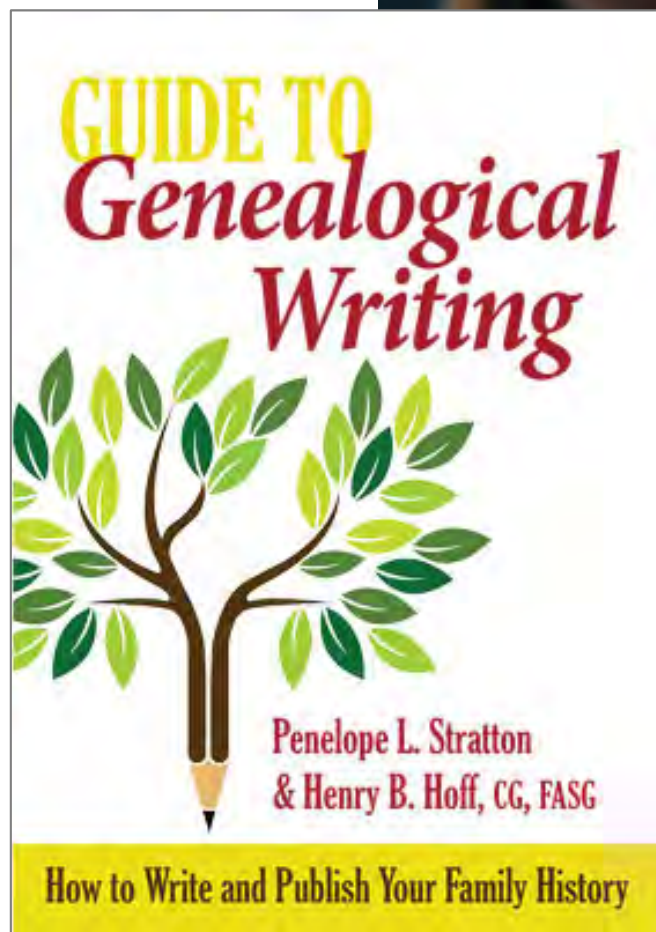
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
AmericanAncestors.org  
January, 2014

Watch on YouTube

Ten Steps to Writing & Publishing Your Family History  
Live broadcast: Jan. 29, 2014  
Presented by: Penny Stratton

AmericanAncestors.org





### THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 1

#### Building a Genealogical Sketch

*By Penny Stratton, Publications Expert at NEHGS*

**Introduction**  
Genealogical writing typically follows a prescribed format for a particular person or family presented in a prescribed way to turn your family history research into a "genealogist" will help you assemble a genealogist you write up a family group.

The basics are the same whether you are presenting a family format (Register style), beginning with an ancestor in time, or at an ancestor table (Ahnentafel), begin tracing direct lines back to the earliest known ancestor. If you are precise, clear, and consistent, your reader will be able to follow your research findings.

### THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 2

#### Genealogical Numbering

*By Penny Stratton, Publications Expert at NEHGS*

**Introduction**  
Genealogical writing uses a variety of numbering systems to help organize material and make your research findings accessible to the reader. Whether you are using a family or ancestry, adding a list of children, you should use the Portable Genealogist will help you determine how to formulate your reference notes.

**TOPICS**

- Ancestor table numbering
- Register-style numbering
- Automatic numbering in Microsoft Word
- Generational numbering

### THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 3

#### Editorial Stylesheet

*By Penny Stratton, Publications Expert at NEHGS*

**Introduction**  
There are many conventions for the presentation of genealogical information. It's important to be consistent in how you present your research, refer to certain places and people, and implement your overall style.

Whether you are writing in an *ahnentafel* or *Register-style* format, this Portable Genealogist will help guide your writing and decision-making regarding abbreviations, punctuation, and the like.

**Style by Element**  
Depending on the format you choose (*ahnentafel* main text, biography or narrative, children lists—outlined below with published examples of each Building a Genealogical Sketch.

**Main Text & Biography**  
Note: The below conventions should be followed

Convention	Example
Order of date, born-died-married	
Born/baptized/died/buried at a village, town, or city	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
Born/baptized/died/buried in a county or state if the town is not known	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
Married in a cemetery	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
Do not repeat country or state for a town that has already been named in a sketch	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
In the bio, use only the first name, except when full name is stated in records <<what does this mean?>>	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862

**Children's List**  
Note: The below conventions regarding children

Convention	Example
Delete country and state if a town is mentioned again	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
Give date and year with and if place and date the same	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
Use & in if day of birth is not known	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
Denote twins with (twins)	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862
If child is carried forward in a main sketch, give only birth and death info	16 Jan 1801, 10 Sep 1861, 15 Mar 1862

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 4

#### Reference Notes

*By Kyle Hurst, Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press*

**Introduction**  
Citations—notes that tell your readers the sources of your information—are an important part of every genealogy and family history, regardless of whether you think your primary audience will be family members or members of the genealogical community. This Portable Genealogist will help you determine how to formulate your reference notes.

**Basic Guidelines**

1. Include a citation for every statement of fact that is not commonly known.
2. Include enough information for your readers to find your source. Then be sure to indicate where you found the data or information—and also how to access it, if it's online.

**Placement of Citations**  
Decide how frequently to place reference notes in the text. One approach is to put a number after each fact; another is to put the note number at the end of a sentence or paragraph. If you do the latter, combining several sources into one note, make sure you indicate which fact comes from which source.

You can create either **footnotes** or **endnotes**. Footnotes appear at the bottom of each page, and endnotes appear at the end of the chapter or at the end of the book. Footnotes offer ease of reference but pose layout problems and can make a page look intimidating. Endnotes offer more flexibility with layout but require the reader to hunt for a note.

**Citation Styles**  
The first time you cite a particular source, give the complete reference for the source, including publication information, date, and relevant volume, edition, and page numbers. Below are the key elements for a book citation. (See the top of page 2 for a sample article citation.)

**Books**

Martin E. Hollick, *New Englanders in the 1600s: Expanded Edition* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 125.

Author (last name first) | Title followed by subtitle, if applicable, in italics; Capitalize important words | Location within parentheses (City: Publisher, year). When the city is well known, you can omit the state.

Subsequently, you can create a shortened note, an abbreviated version of the full note, making sure to give such details as page number. Example:

Hollick, *New Englanders in the 1600s*, 125.

If you do use short forms—for books as well as your other sources—it is helpful also to provide a bibliography for your readers (not covered in this Portable Genealogist).

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# QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**

*[research@nehgs.org](mailto:research@nehgs.org)*

**Chat with a Genealogist**

*[AmericanAncestors.org/chat](https://AmericanAncestors.org/chat)*



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