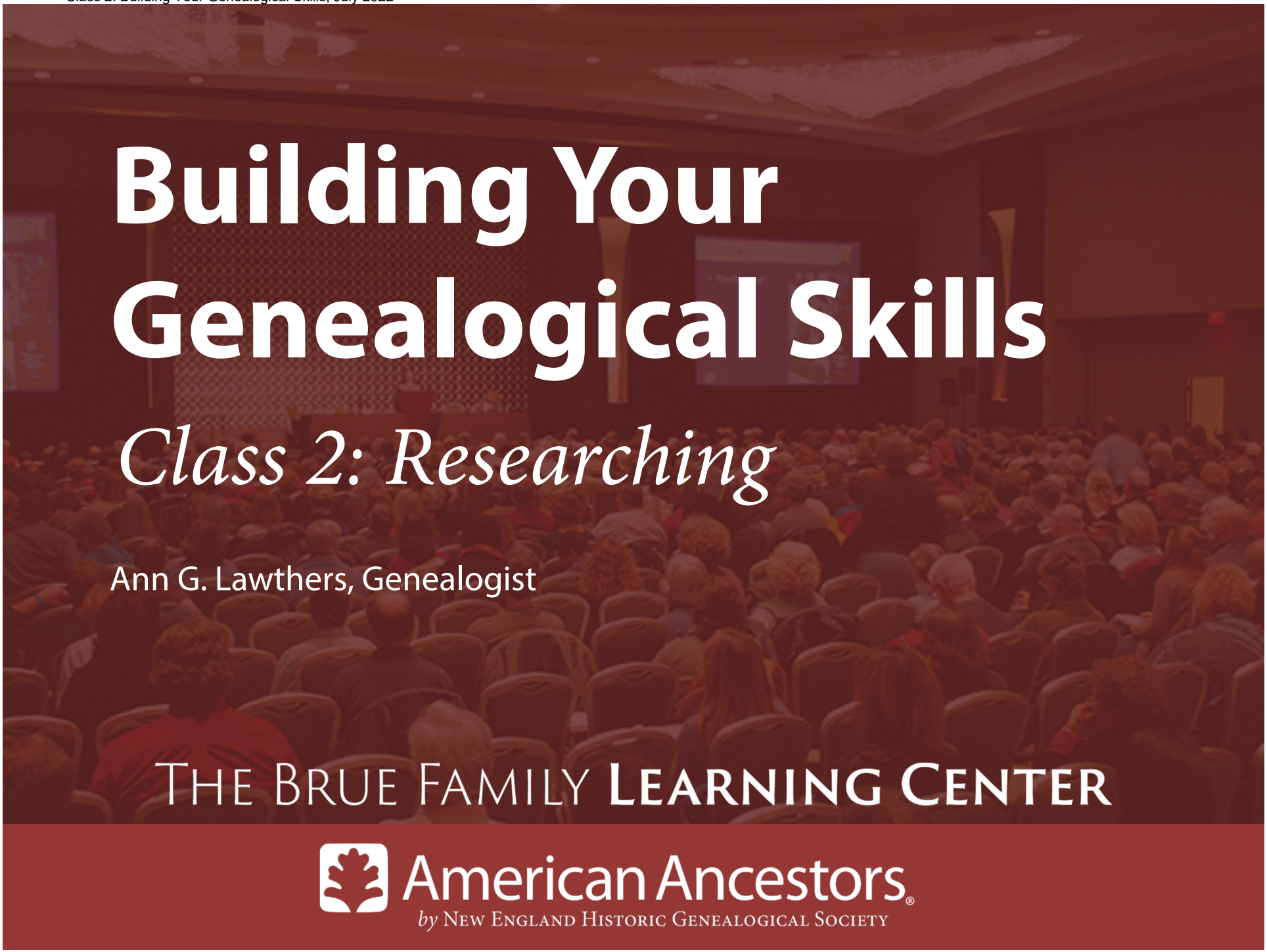

Building Your Genealogical Skills

Class 2: Researching

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

American Ancestors
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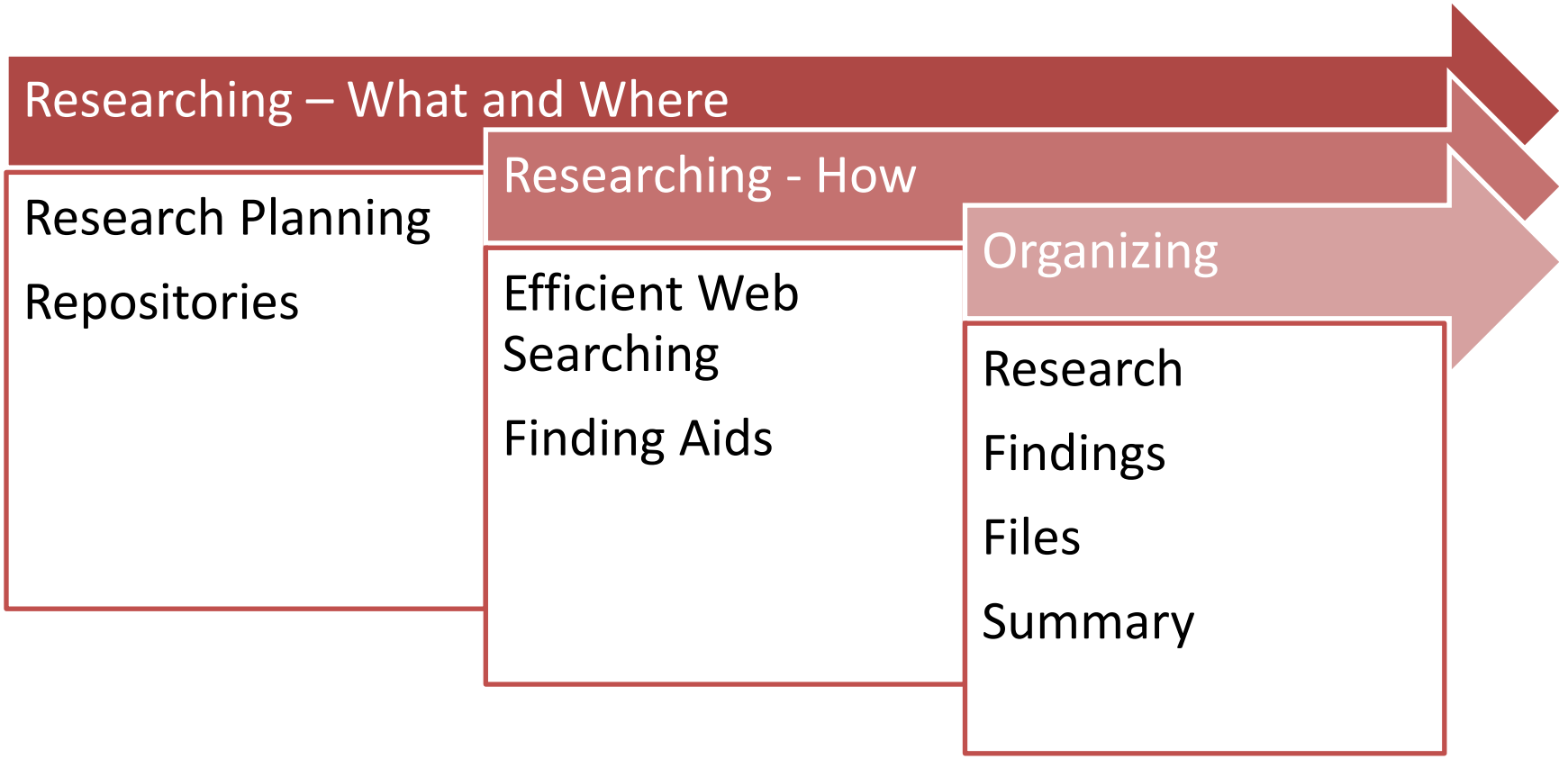
Session #2 Roadmap



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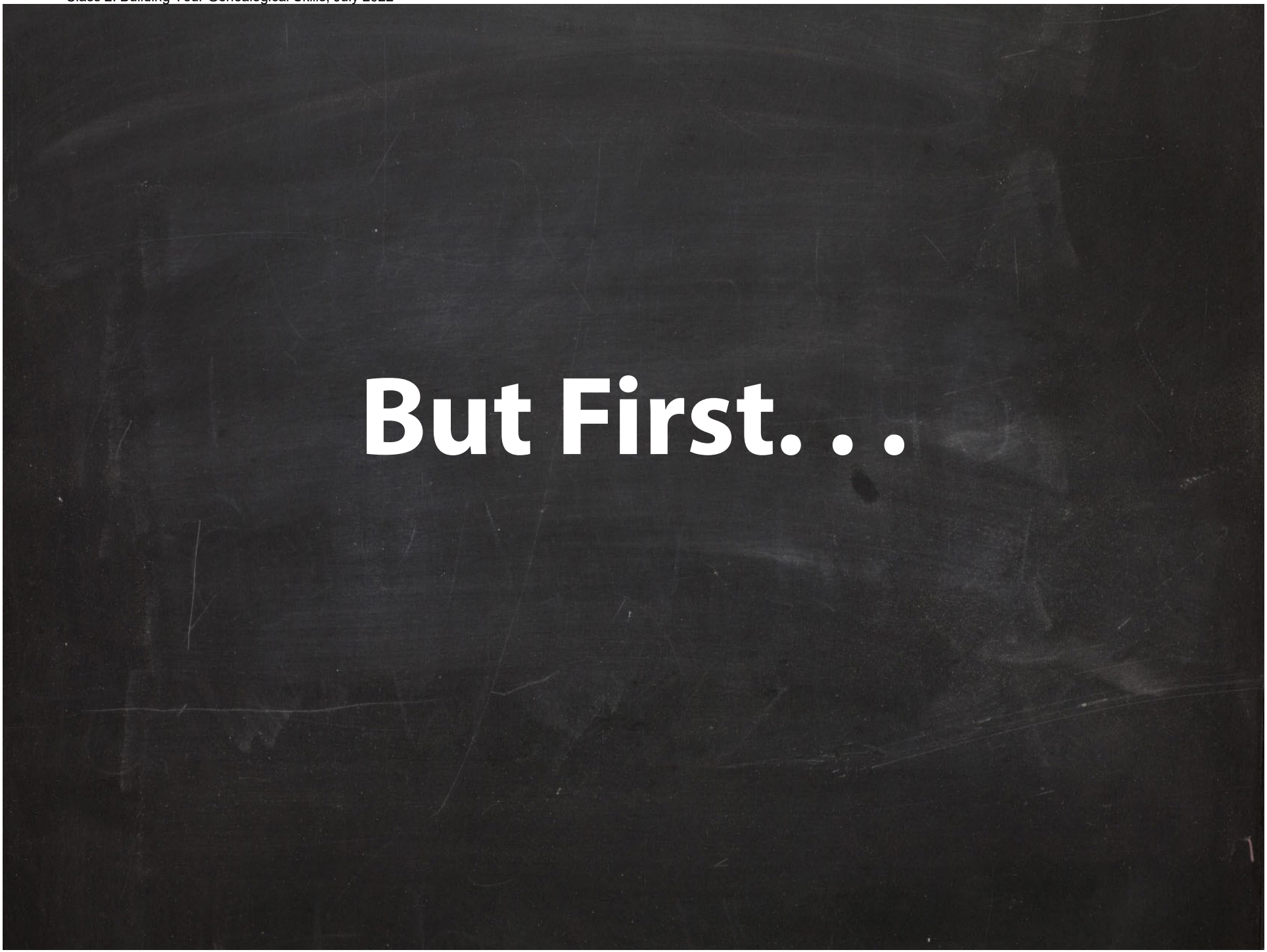

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Homework Review

Research Question	Records Needed to Answer	Repository

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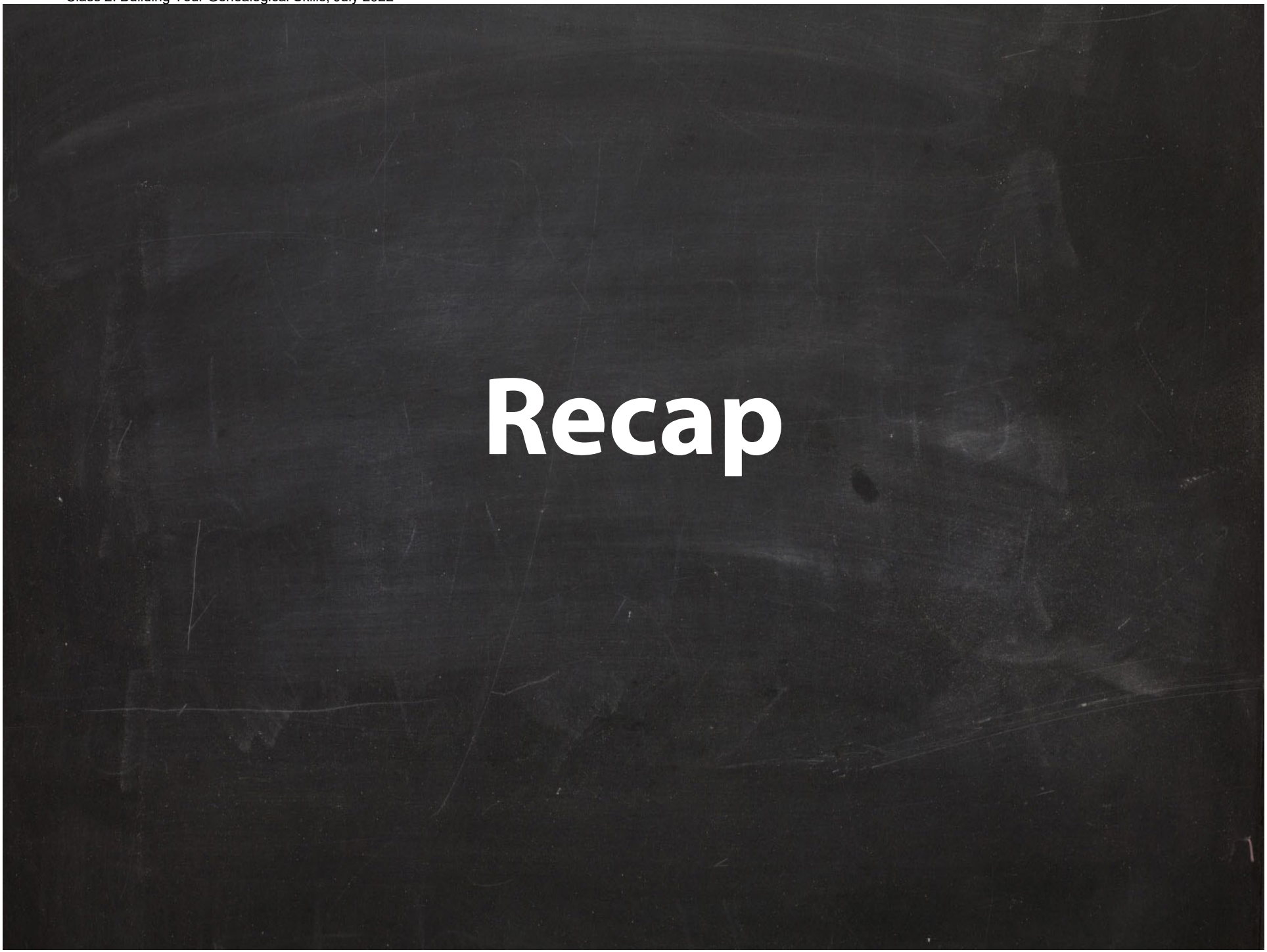

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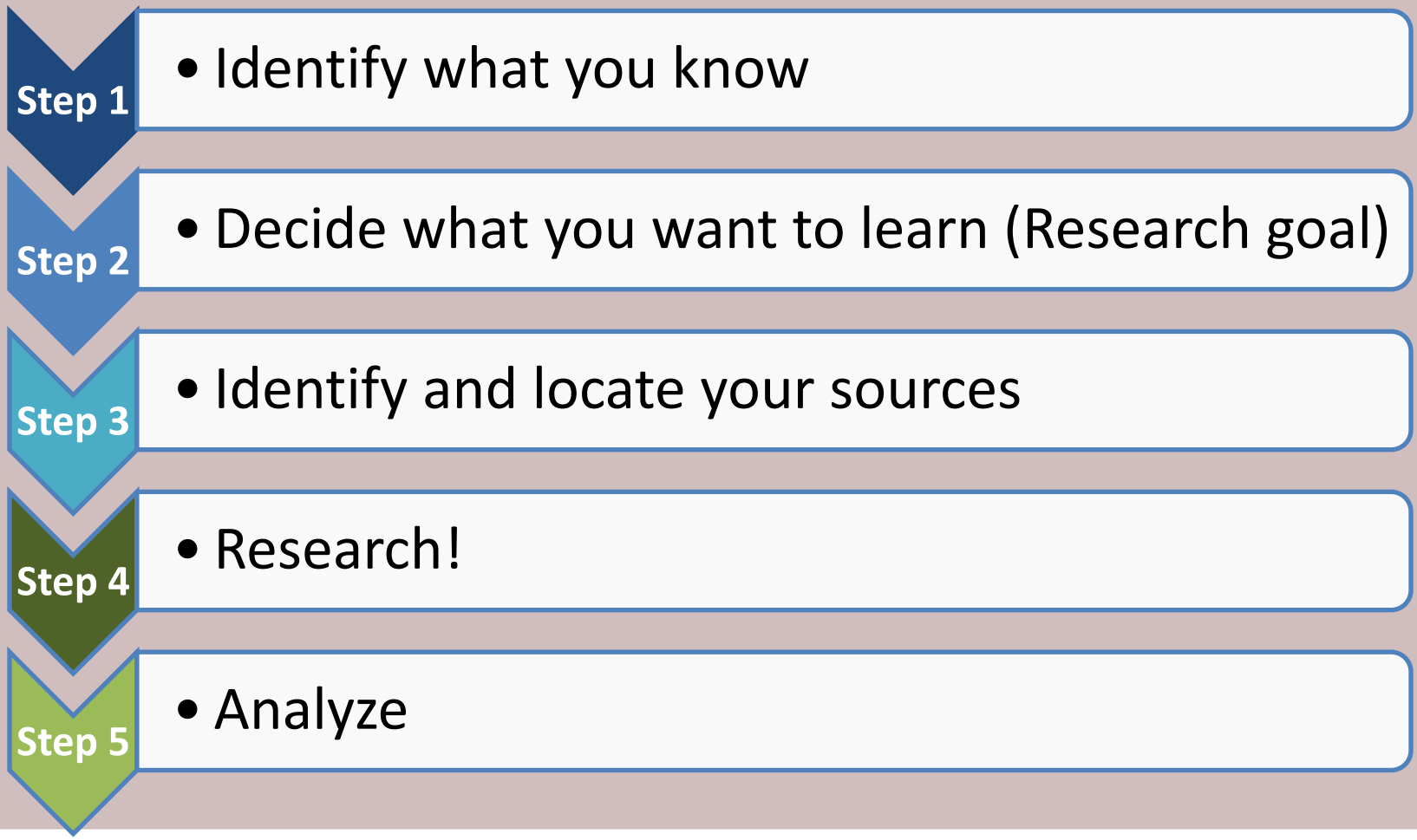
Steps for Researching Your Family



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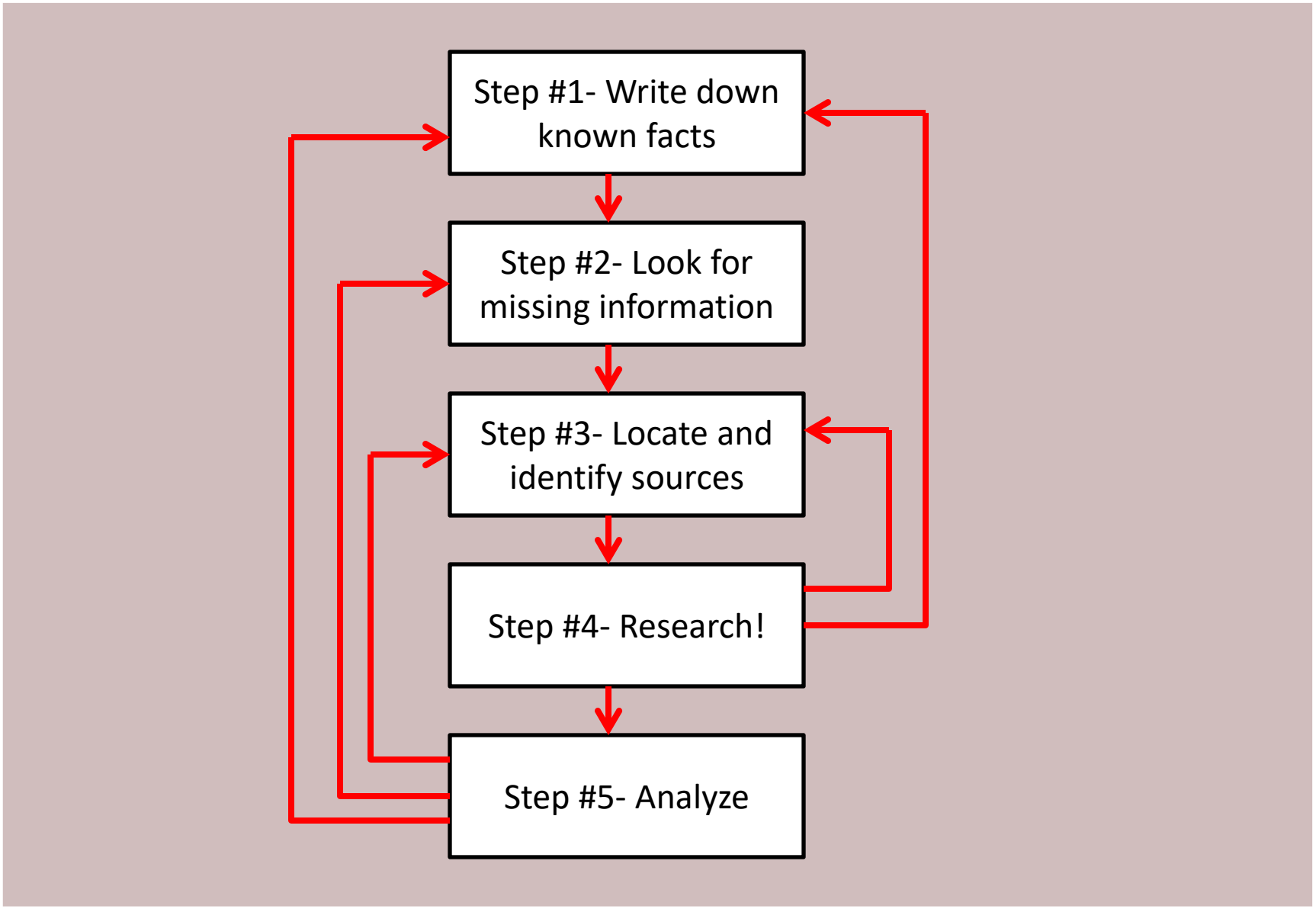

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This Class - Focus on Step 4: Research!

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Step 4: Research!

- Is more than "searching"
- What: Make a plan to begin answering your questions
- Where: Online and other repositories
- How: General principles
  - Consult multiple sources
  - Gather as many records as possible about a family or individual that you can find
  - Track your work! (Research log)

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Make a Plan

Step 1
- What do you want to learn? (Goal)

Step 2
- What do you already know?

Step 3
- Do your background homework

Step 4
- Create your plan

Step 5
- Execute and fine tune your plan

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Step 1: Creating Good Research Questions

- Make the question specific, answerable, realistic, timely
- Include name, place and date in the question
- Focus on genealogical questions, e.g.:
  - Identity
  - Kinship
  - Events
- Focus on a person

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Sample Question

- Who are the parents of Elizabeth Harris who married Martin Powell in Manchester Vermont in 1778?
- Name (s)
- Place
- Date

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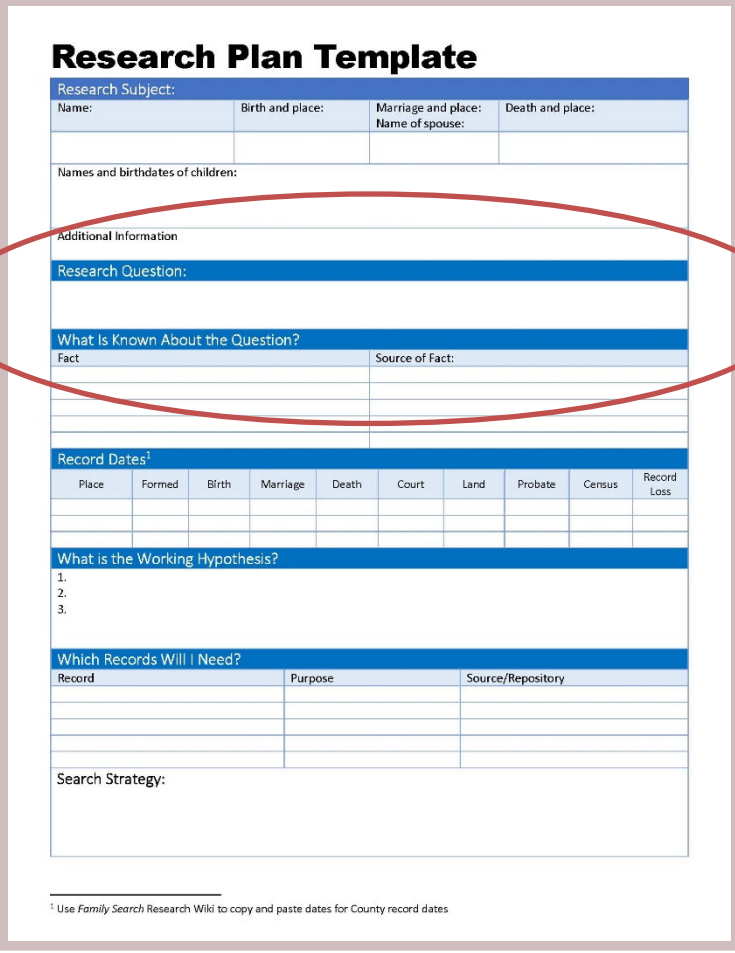
Research Plan Template

- Research subject
- ✓ Research question
- What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- Record dates – for reference
- Working hypotheses
- Which records will I need
- Search strategy



Research Plan Template

Research Subject:			
Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:

Names and birthdates of children:

Additional Information

Research Question:

What Is Known About the Question?

Fact	Source of Fact:

Record Dates[1]

Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss

What is the Working Hypothesis?

1.
2.
3.

Which Records Will I Need?

Record	Purpose	Source/Repository

Search Strategy:

[1] Use *Family Search* Research Wiki to copy and paste dates for County record dates

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Step 2: What Do You Already Know?

- About Subject
  - Identify the *Where* and the *When* for your subject
    - Helpful to list vital events – with *place*
    - Name of spouse(s)
    - Names and dob(s) for children
- About the Question
  - Not just what you know, but HOW you know it
  - Focus on what is relevant to the Research Question

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What is Known About Subject?

Research Subject:			
Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:
Elizabeth Harris	Ca 1738, place unknown	1 Mar 1778, Manchester, Vermont Martin Powell	Unknown
Names and birthdates of children: Silas b. ca 1779 – Manchester, VT Electa b. ca 1781 – Manchester, VT Sarah b. ca 1782 – Manchester, VT			
Additional Information			

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What is Known About the Question?

Research Question:
Who are the parents of Elizabeth Harris?

What Is Known About the Question?	
Fact	Source of Fact:
Her husband, Martin Powell was born in Amenia, NY	Find a Grave
Martin's first wife was Rhoda Thompson who died in 1777 in Manchester, VT	Vermont Vital Records
Rhoda may have married Martin in Amenia, NY	Ancestry tree

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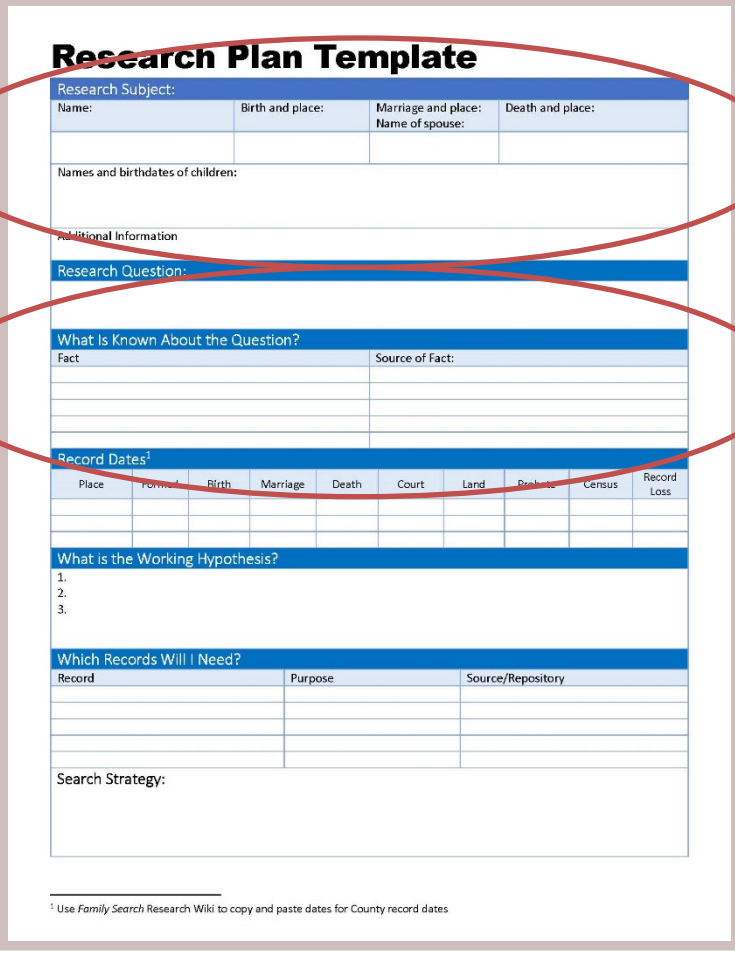
Research Plan Template

- ✓ Research subject
- • Research question
- ✓ What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- • Record dates – for reference
- • Working hypotheses
- • Which records will I need
- • Search strategy



Research Plan Template

Research Subject:			
Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:

Names and birthdates of children:

Additional Information

Research Question:

What Is Known About the Question?

Fact	Source of Fact:

Record Dates[1]

Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss

What is the Working Hypothesis?

1.
2.
3.

Which Records Will I Need?

Record	Purpose	Source/Repository

Search Strategy:

[1] Use *Family Search* Research Wiki to copy and paste dates for County record dates

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Step 3: Background Homework

- Learn about the place and time
- Learn about the geography (get a map)
- What do we think happened? (Hypothesis)
- Which records are most likely to have the answer?
- Where are those records? Which repositories?

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Learning About a Place

- Date community was founded
- Dates of earliest records
- Any record loss issues

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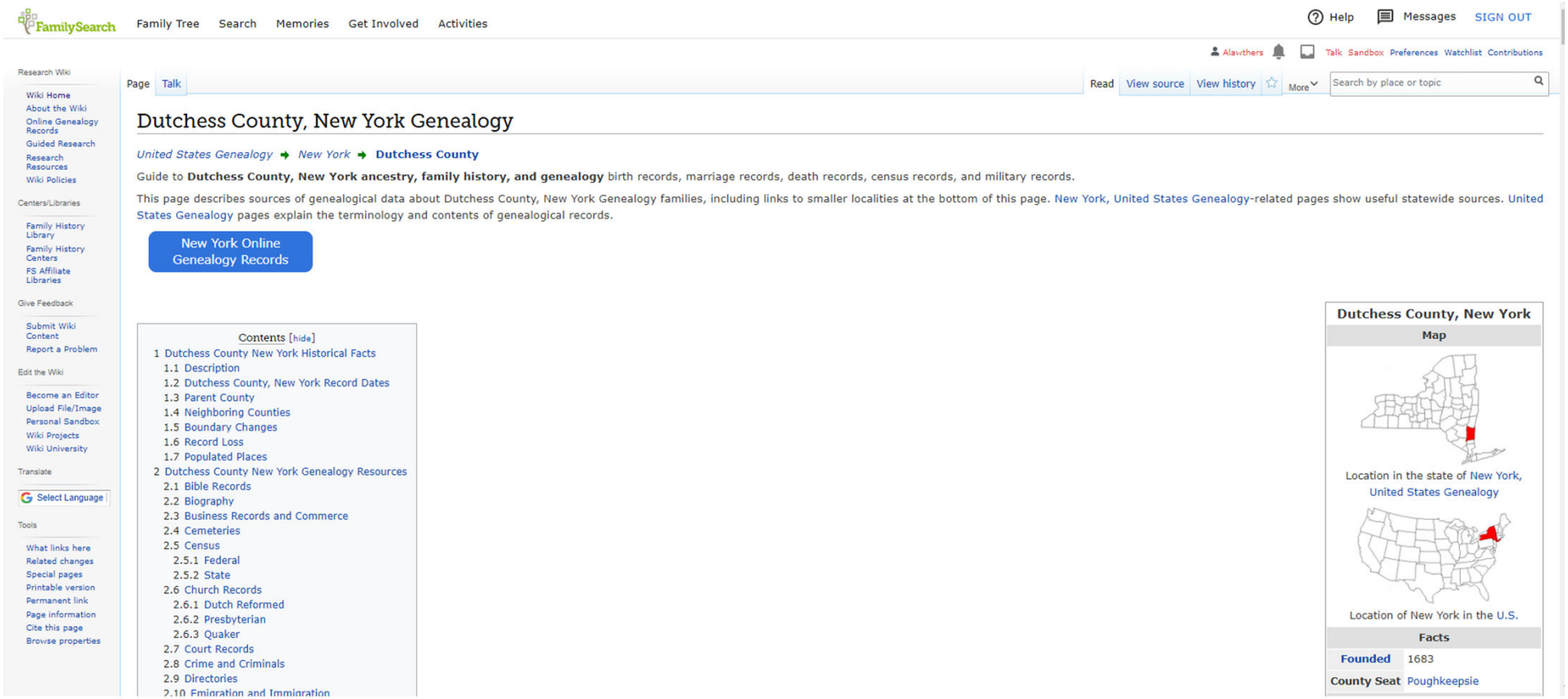
Finding Records Dates



Dutchess County, NY Wiki

Bennington County, Vermont Record Dates [edit | edit source]

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records[2]						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
at town creation	at town creation	at town creation	1861	1782	1778	1790
*Statewide registration for births and deaths began in 1857. General compliance year is unknown.						

Contents [hide]

1 Description
2 Bennington County, Vermont Record Dates
3 County Courthouse
4 Quick Facts
  4.1 Parent County
  4.2 Boundary Changes
  4.3 Record Loss

Record Loss [edit | edit source]

There is no known history of courthouse disasters in this county.

Bennington County, Vermont

Map

Location in the state of Vermont, United States Genealogy

Facts

Founded	February 11, 1779
County Seat	Bennington

Bennington County, VT

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Dutchess County New York Historical Facts [edit | edit source]

Description [edit | edit source]

The County was named for Mary of Modena, Duchess of York - the term Dutchess is an archaic form of the word duchess. The

Dutchess County, New York Record Dates [edit | edit source]

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records[2]						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
1880	1908	1880	1730	1718	1752	1663

*Statewide registration for births and deaths started in 1880. General compliance for bi

Contents [hide]

1 Dutchess County New York Historical Facts
- 1.1 Description
- 1.2 Dutchess County, New York Record Dates
- 1.3 Parent County
- 1.4 Neighboring Counties
- 1.5 Boundary Changes
- 1.6 Record Loss
- 1.7 Populated Places

Record Loss [edit | edit source]

The county courthouse in Poughkeepsie was burned in an 1806 fire. No public records were destroyed.[4]

Dutchess County, New York

Map

Location in the state of New York, United States Genealogy

Location of New York in the U.S.

Facts	
Founded	1683
County Seat	Poughkeepsie

Dutchess County, NY

Record Dates									
Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss
Bennington, VT	1779	at town creation	at town creation	at town creation	1861	1782	1778	1790	None
Dutchess, NY	1663	1880	1908	1880	1730	1718	1752	1663	None

Dates in template

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Hypothesis Example

What is the Working Hypothesis?
1. Elizabeth Harris was a widow in Manchester, Vermont, when she married Martin Powell in 1778
2. Elizabeth Harris was a spinster when she married Martin Powell

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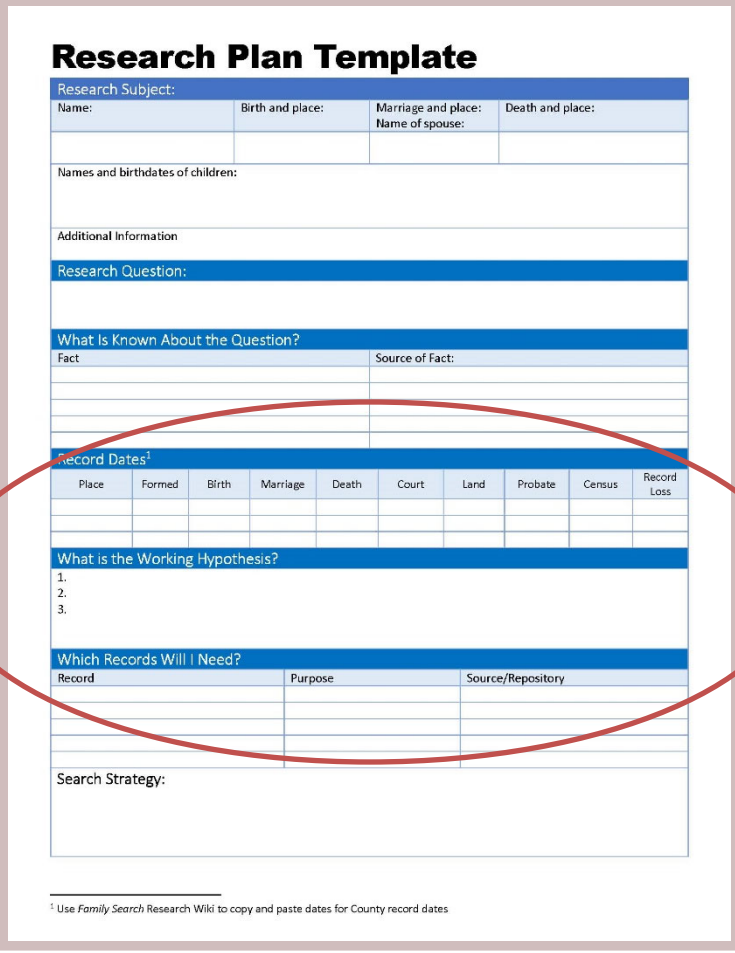
Research Plan Template

- Research subject
- Research question
- What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- ✓ Record dates – for reference
- ✓ Working hypotheses
- Which records will I need
- Search strategy



Research Plan Template

Research Subject:			
Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:
Names and birthdates of children:			
Additional Information			

Research Question:

What Is Known About the Question?	
Fact	Source of Fact:

Record Dates[1]

Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss

What is the Working Hypothesis?
1. 2. 3.

Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository

Search Strategy:

[1] Use *Family Search* Research Wiki to copy and paste dates for County record dates

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Which Records (Basic)

Which Records Will I Need?

Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Marriage records of Manchester Vermont	First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	FamilySearch.org, AmericanAncestors.org or Ancestry.com
Vital records of Amenia, NY	First marriage or any mention of Harris family	FamilySearch.org, AmericanAncestors.org or Ancestry.com
Town history of Manchester, VT	Any mention of the Harris family	HathiTrust.org or local historical society

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Which Records (Advanced)

Which Records Will I Need?

Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Card index to vital statistics in the early land and town records books, Manchester Vermont	First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/664510?availability=Family%20History%20Library
Vital records, 1749-1786 of Amenia, NY	First marriage or any mention of Harris family	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/380341?availability=Family%20History%20Library
John S. Pettibone, "Early History of Manchester," Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society 1930 Vol 1 (4), page 158	Any mention of the Harris family	https://vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/EarlyHistoryOfManchester.pdf

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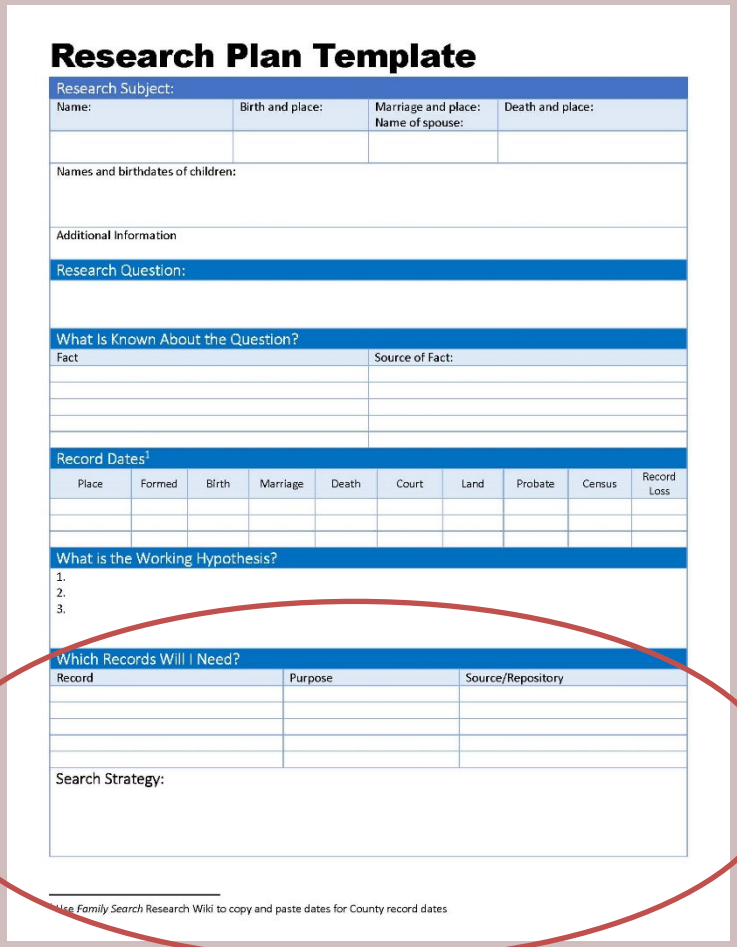
Research Plan Template

- Research subject
- Research question
- What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- Record dates – for reference
- Working hypotheses
- ✓ Which records will I need
- ✓ Search strategy



Research Plan Template

Research Subject:			
Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:
Names and birthdates of children:			
Additional Information			

Research Question:

What Is Known About the Question?	
Fact	Source of Fact:

Record Dates[1]									
Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss

What is the Working Hypothesis?
1. 2. 3.

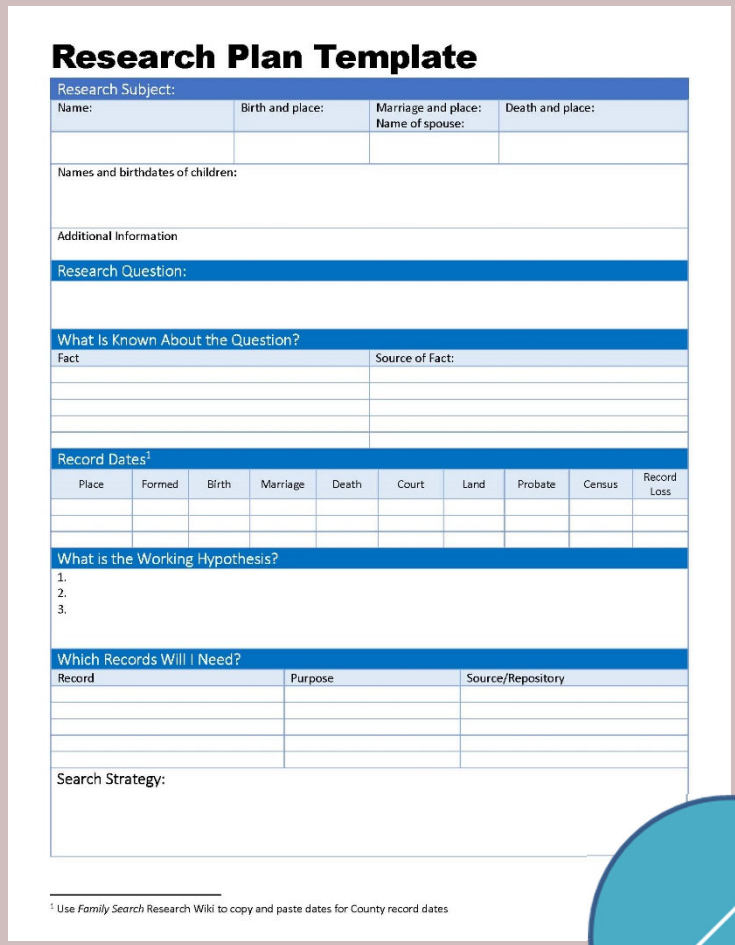
Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository

Search Strategy:

[1] Use *Family Search* Research Wiki to copy and paste dates for County record dates

Put it Together

- ✓ Research subject
- ✓ Research question
- ✓ What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- ✓ Record dates – for reference
- ✓ Working hypotheses
- ✓ Which records will I need
- ✓ Search strategy



Research Plan Template

Research Subject:			
Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:
Names and birthdates of children:			
Additional Information			

Research Question:

What Is Known About the Question?	
Fact	Source of Fact:

Record Dates[1]

Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss

What is the Working Hypothesis?
1. 2. 3.

Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository

Search Strategy:

[1] Use *Family Search* Research Wiki to copy and paste dates for County record dates

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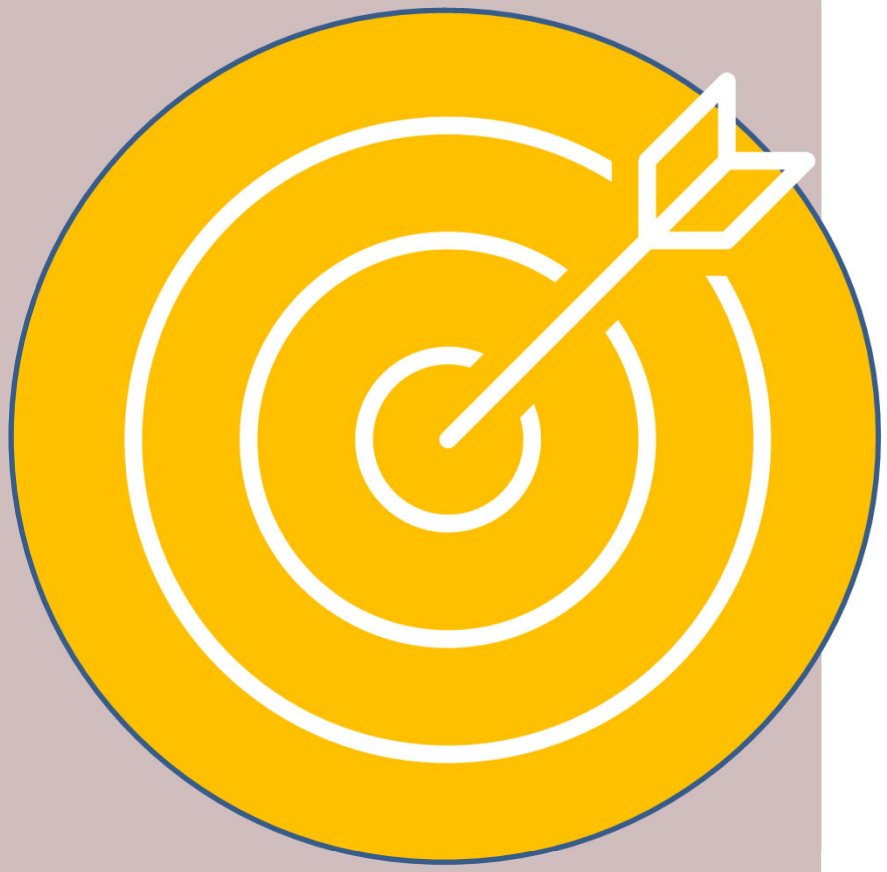
Keep a Research Log

- Keeps track of what you have searched and what you have found
  - Write down search strings
- Prevents rework
- Record negative findings
- Cites sources
- Can be a roadmap for the research process



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Research Log

Repository: _____ **Date:** _____

Source Information (title, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)	**Call Number** (film number, URL, etc.)	**Objective**	**Results**

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What to Fill In Before Viewing a Record

- Person/Place/Event focus of search
- Date
- **Source/Repository** – e.g. Ancestry: 1870 census – New Albany, Indiana
- Call Number (if any)
- **Objective** - write the person or event you seek for **each** search so you will later know whether you need to search the same source again for a different person or event.

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Person

Research Log

~~Repository:~~ Elizabeth Harris Date:

Source Information (title, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)	Call Number (film number, URL, etc.)	Objective	Results
Card index to vital statistics in the early land and town records books, Manchester, Vermont	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/664510?availability=Family%20History%20Library	First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	Null
Vital records, 1749-1786 of Amenia, NY	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/380341?availability=Family%20History%20Library	First marriage or any mention of Harris family	Null
John S. Pettibone, "Early History of Manchester," Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society 1930 Vol 1 (4), page 158	https://vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/EarlyHistoryOfManchester.pdf	Any mention of the Harris family	Bingo - Elizabeth Harris was sister of Esquire Powel's second wife was the widow of Joseph Harris and sister to Isaac Whelpley. Captain Isaac Burton married her daughter, Rachel Harris.

Bingo - "Esquire Powel's second wife was the widow of Joseph Harris and sister to Isaac Whelpley. Captain Isaac Burton married her daughter, Rachel Harris."

Research Log in Process

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Where: Repositories

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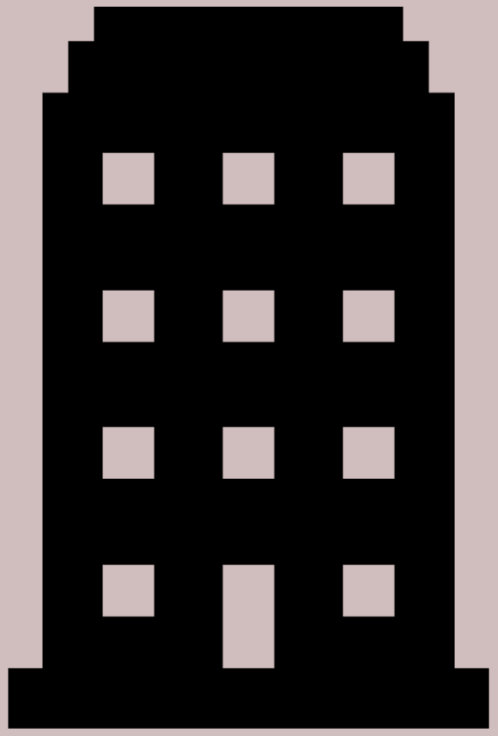
Types of Repositories

Brick and Mortar



Online

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Selected Types of Brick-and-Mortar Repositories

- Your house!
- Federal and State Archives
- Town or City Halls
- Local Historical Societies
- Public or Private Libraries
- College or University Archives
- Lineage Societies
- Genealogical Societies
- Regional Museums

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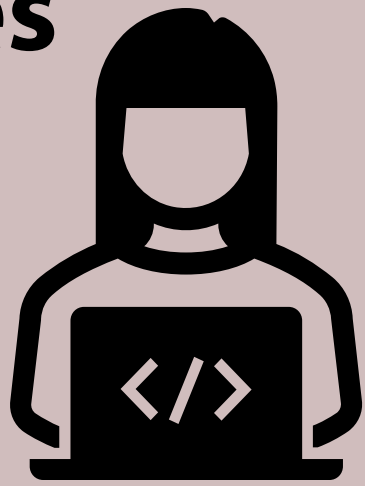
Online Repositories



- "Big 3" general genealogy websites
  - *Ancestry.com* ($)
  - *FamilySearch.org* (free)
  - *AmericanAncestors.org* ($, guest option)
- Location-specific websites
  - Archives of a particular state, county, or city, e.g., Washington State Digital Archives, Missouri Digital Heritage, Baton Rouge Digital Archive
  - Also applies to other countries, e.g., IrishGenealogy.ie
- Record-specific websites
  - Fold3.com (military records)

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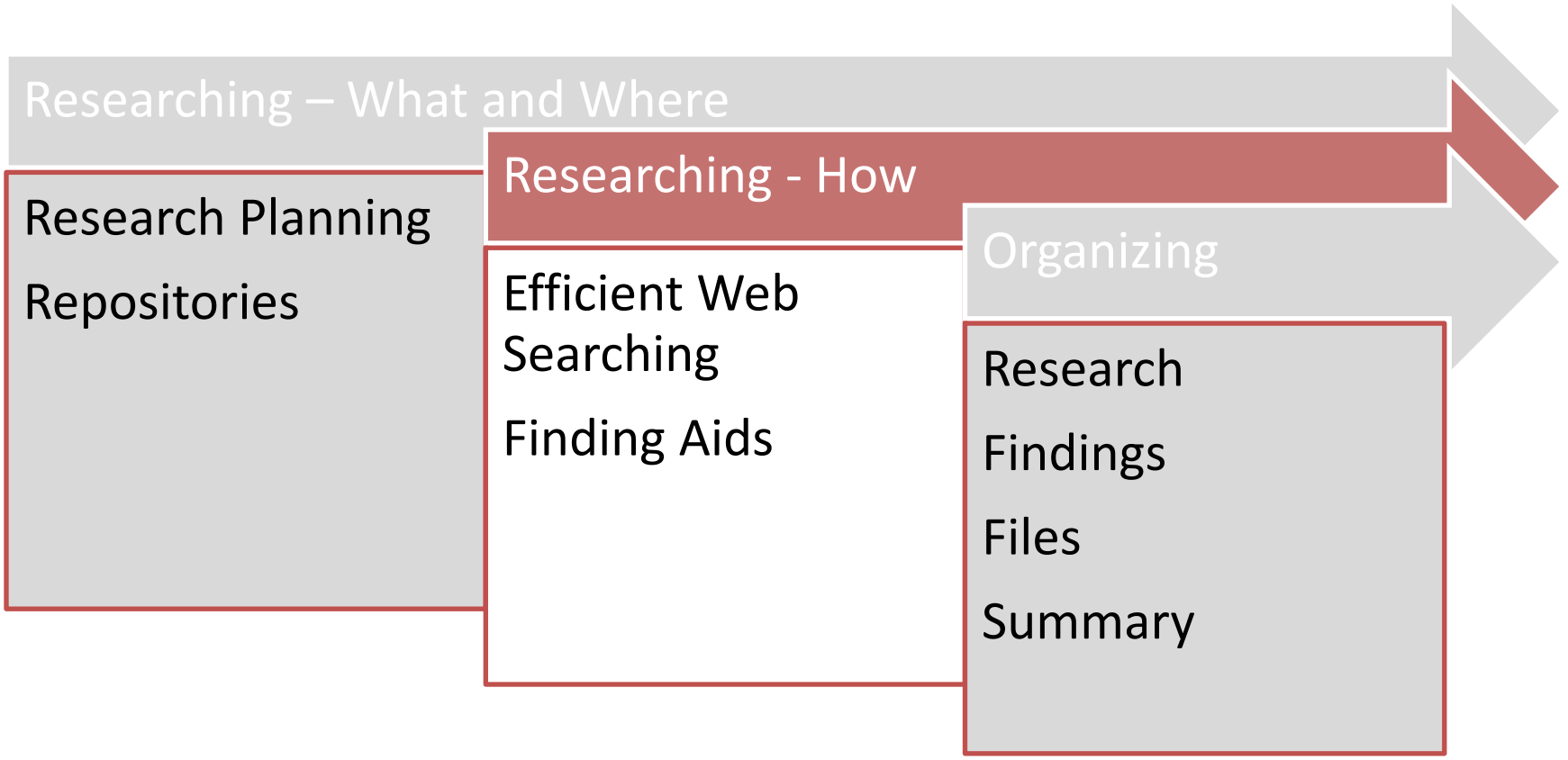
QUESTIONS?

Session #2 Roadmap



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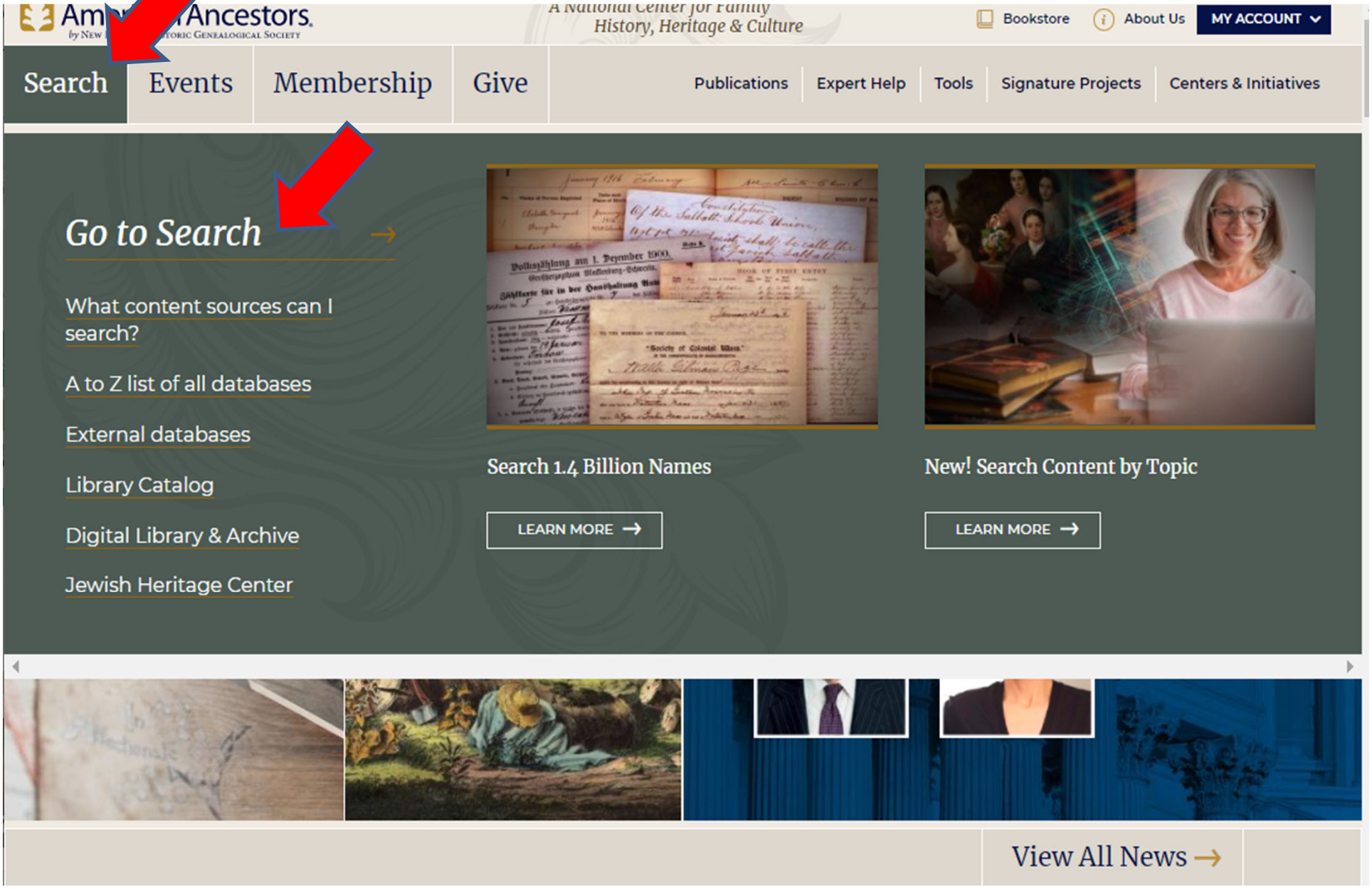
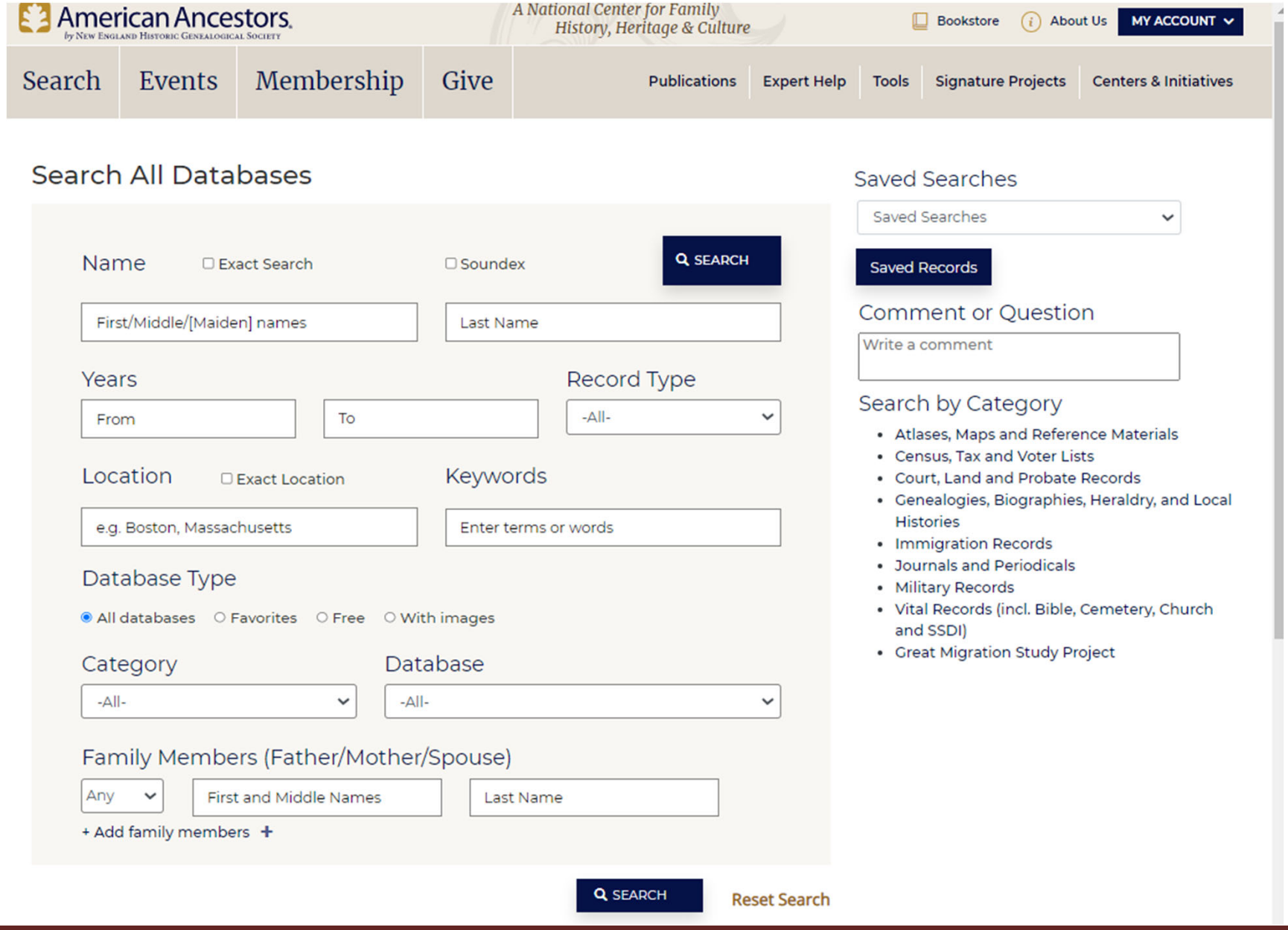


Searching the Databases



https://americanancestors.org/database-search-advanced-search

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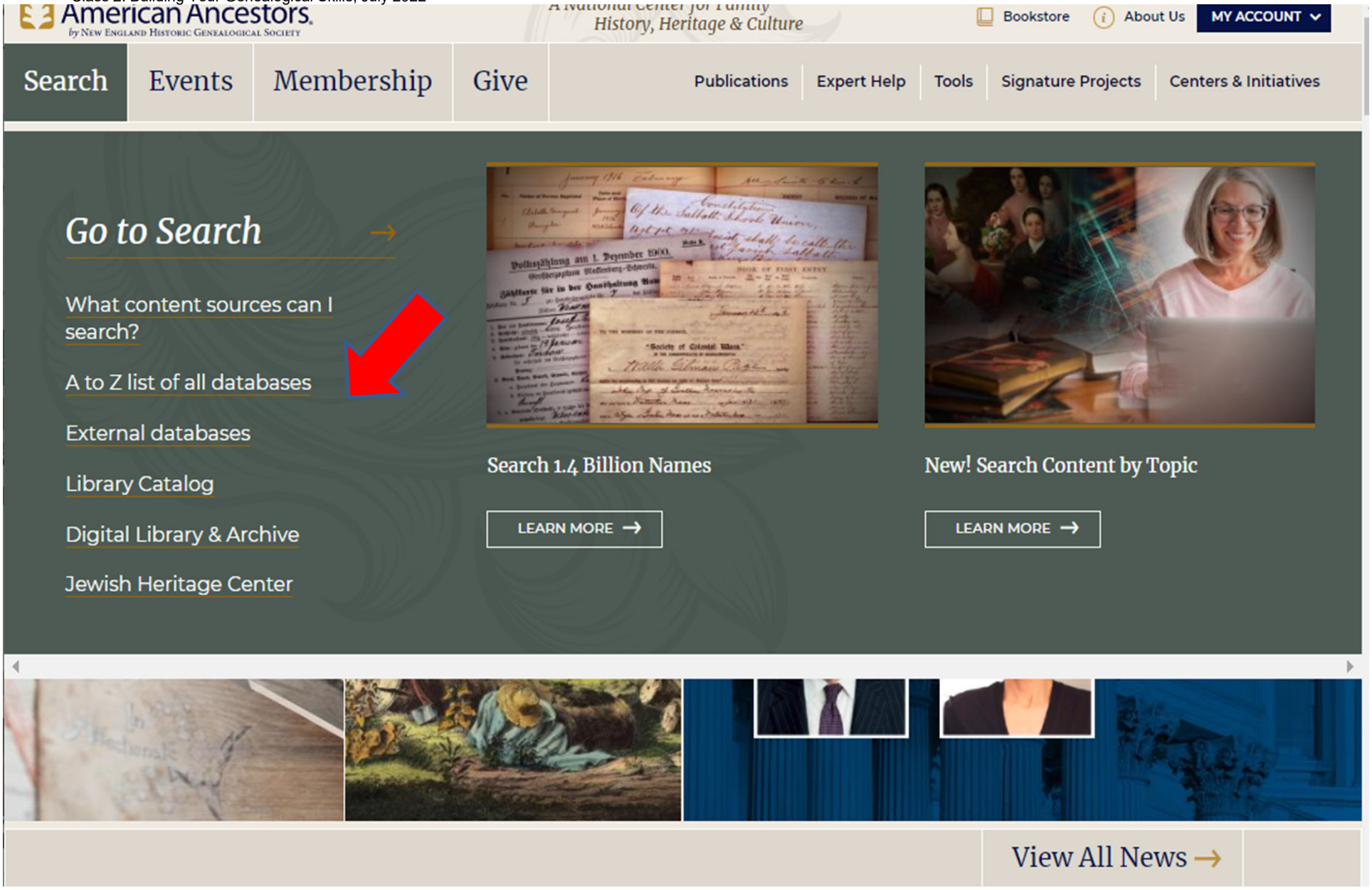

Searching the Databases

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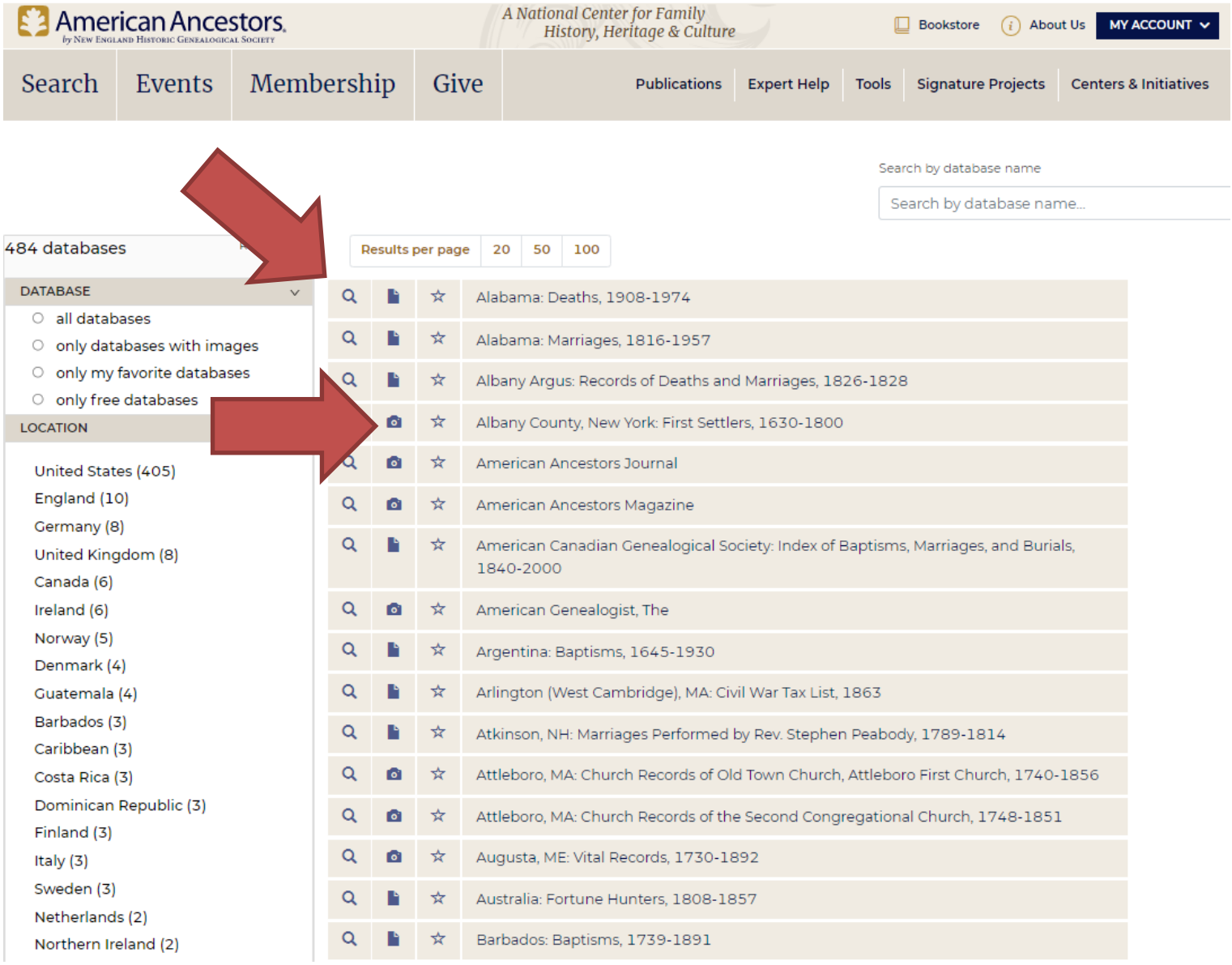

Browse Databases

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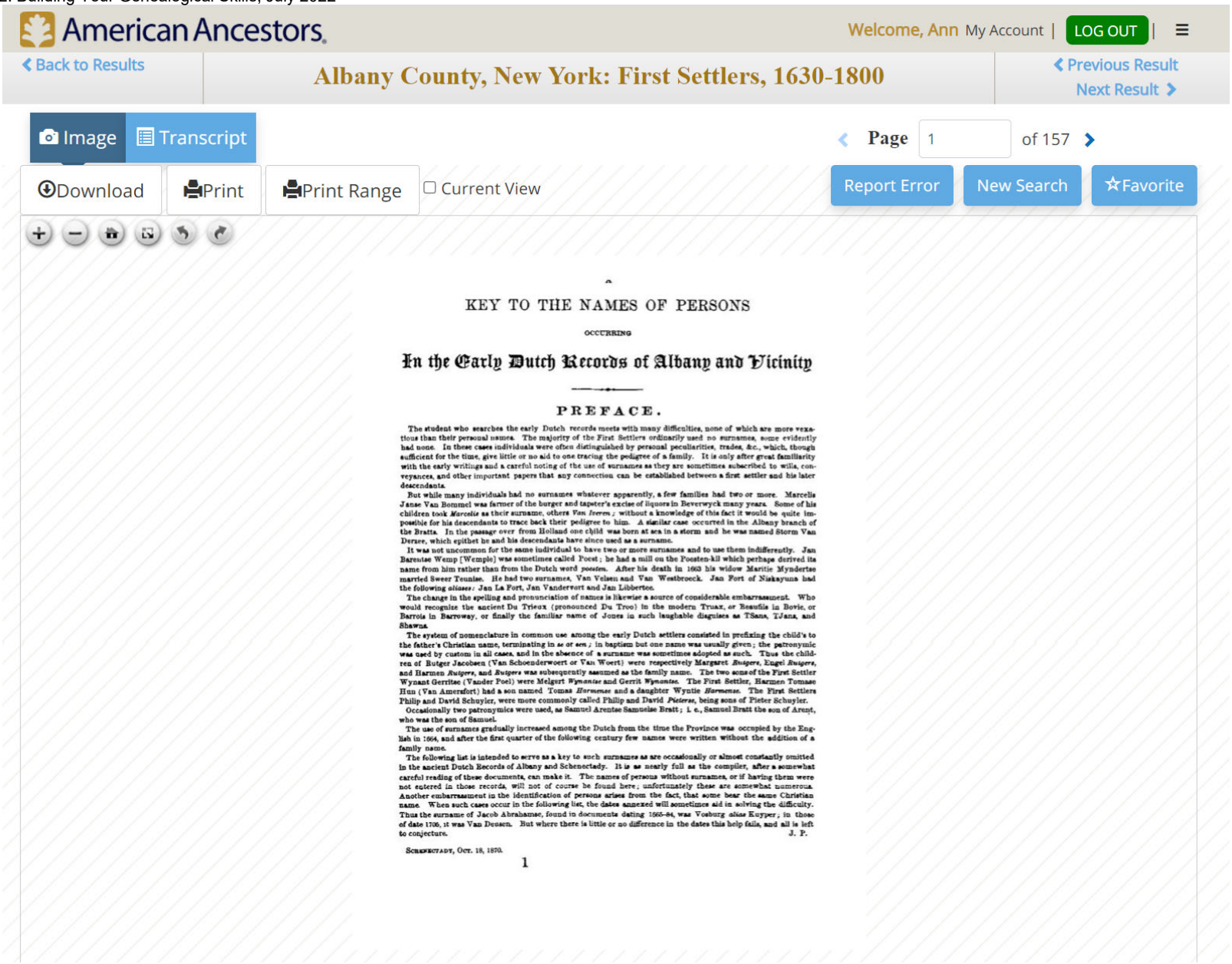

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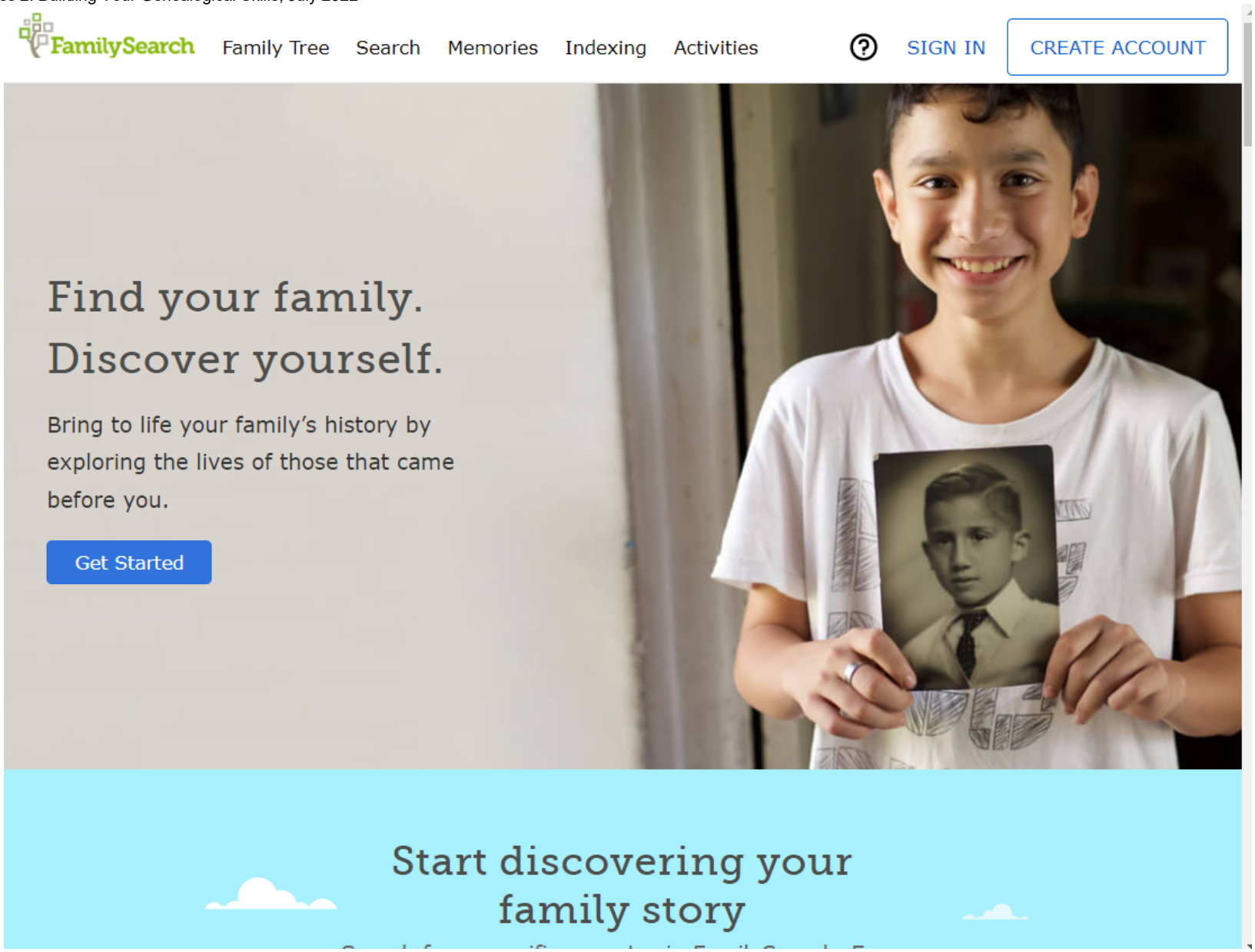

Maximizing Family Search

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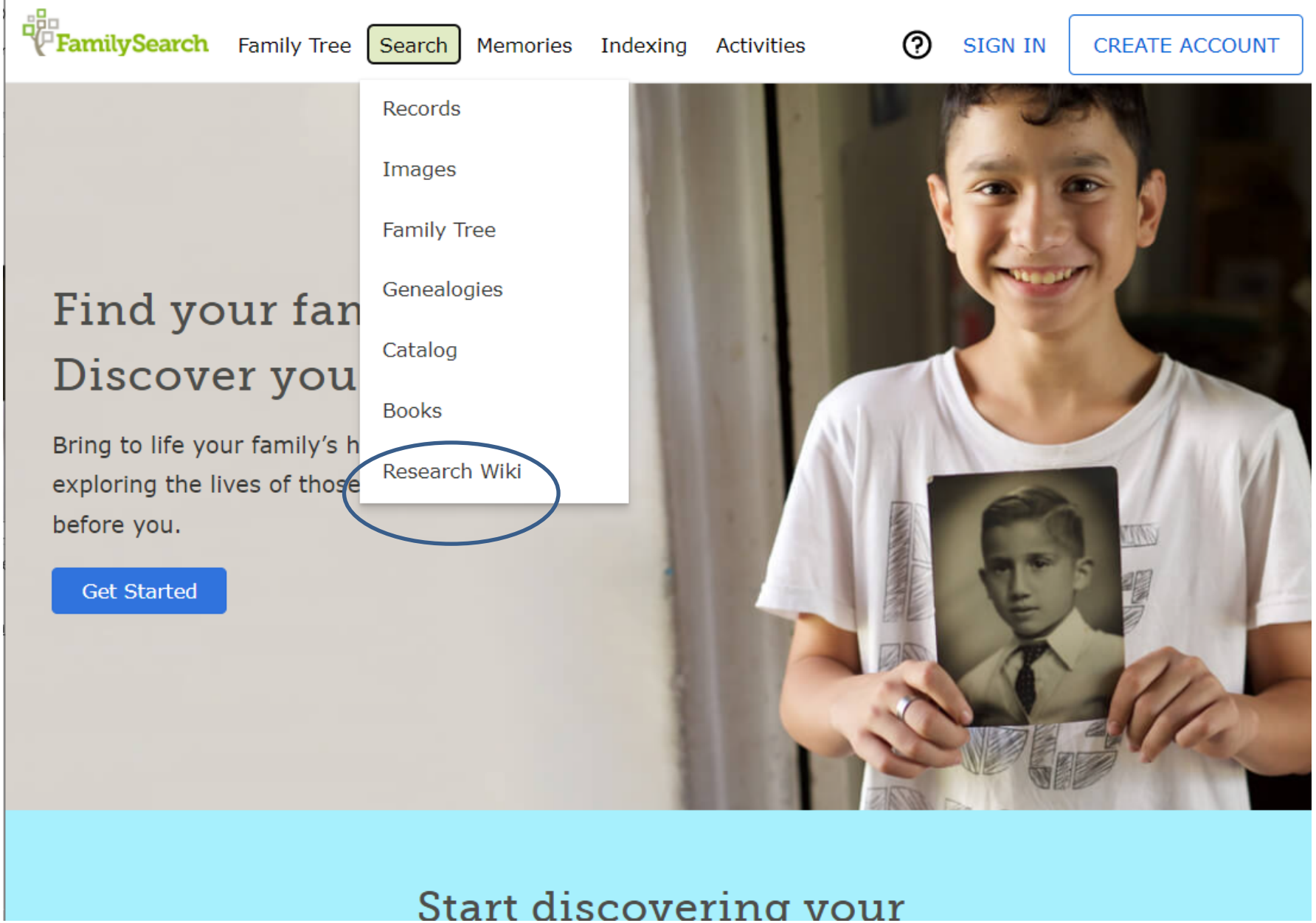

Family Search Wiki

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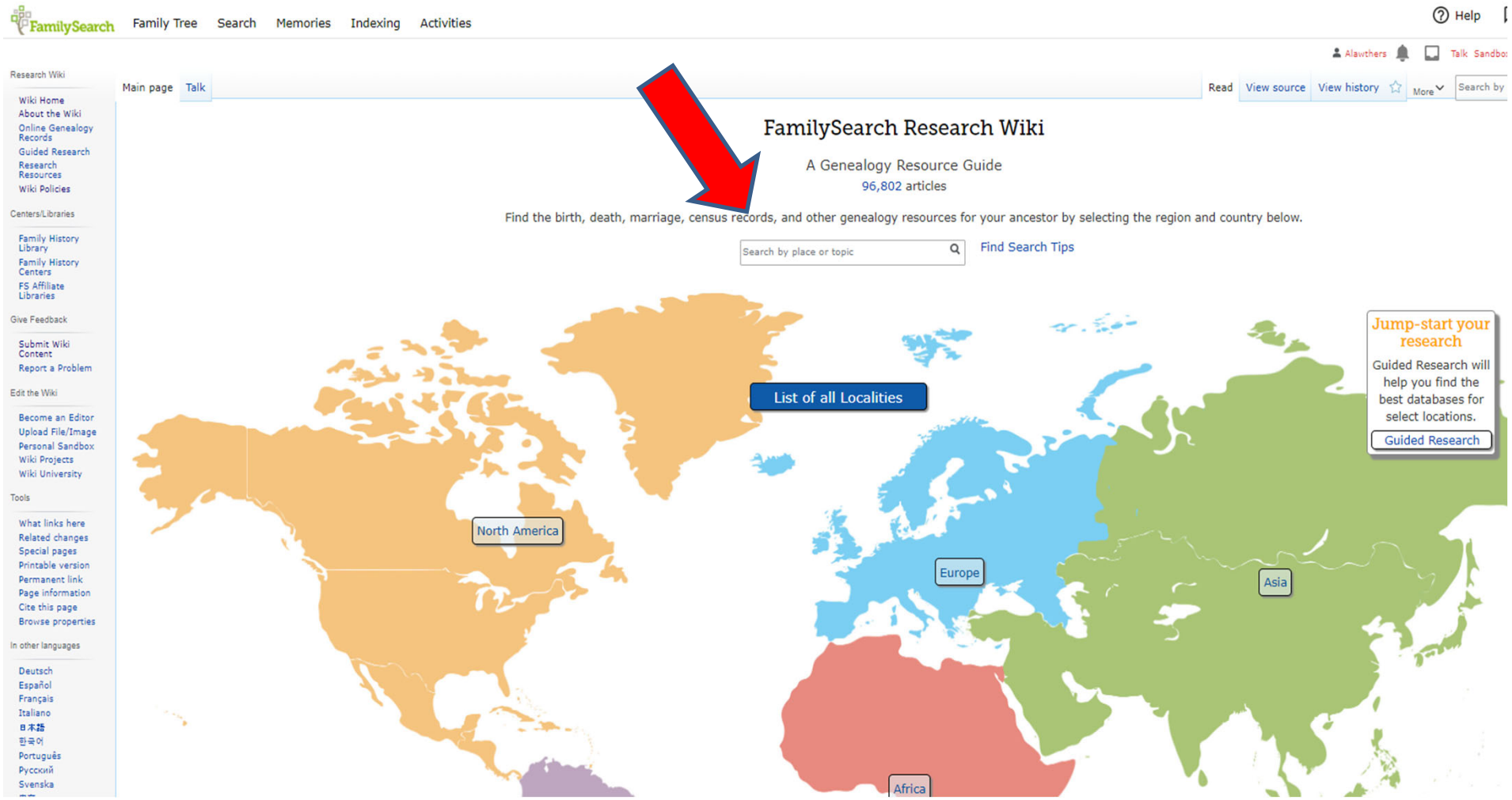

Wiki Search Page

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Poland Genealogy

(Redirected from Poland)

Europe → Vermont, United States Genealogy

(Redirected from Vermont)

United States → Vermont

Guide to **Vermont ancestry, family history, and genealogy** birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

Vermont Wiki Topics

To request editing rights on the Wiki, click here.

US Migration Canals

Most Significant United States Canals Used by Settlers
Champlain Canal · Erie Canal · Schuykill Canal · Union Canal · Ohio and Erie Canal · Louisville and Portland Canal · Beaver and Erie Canal · Pennsylvania Canal (Main Line) · Delaware and Raritan Canal · Chesapeake and Ohio Canal · Wabash and Erie Canal · Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal · Miami and Erie Canal · Illinois and Michigan Canal

United States → Migration → Canals

To request editing rights on the Wiki, click here.

Great Valley Road

United States → Migration → Migration Trails and Roads → Great Valley Road

Adopt-a-wiki page

This page adopted by: PA Roots and its members who welcome you to contribute.

PA-Roots

Adopt a page today

The **Great Valley Road**, also called in various parts the "Great Wagon Road," "Great Warriors' Path," "Valley Pike," "Carolina Road," or "Trading Path," was the most important Colonial American route for settlers of the mountainous back country of the southern British colonies. It went from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania over to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia forking into the Tennessee Valley and Knoxville. The other fork went more south into the Piedmont Region of North Carolina, and then to its terminus on the Savannah River at Augusta, Georgia. From Philadelphia to Augusta was 735 miles (1183 km). Several other important early pathways merged with, or split off from the Great Valley Road.[1]

Contents [hide]

1 Historical Background
2 Route
3 Settlers and Records
4 Internet Sites
5 Other Wiki Pages
6 Sources

The **Great Valley Road** went from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Roanoke, Virginia. There it split with one fork going to Knoxville, Tennessee, and the other to Augusta, Georgia.

Historical Background

The American Indians developed a network of eastern trade and warrior trails stretching from the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. One of these trails, the Great Warrior Path from New York to the Carolinas, also served as the western boundary of British settlement until 1744. In that year a new treaty gave control of the east side of the trail to European colonists in Virginia. This opened the way for the trail to evolve into one of the most important roads for settlers in Colonial America.[2] By 1765 the road was cleared for use by horse drawn wagons.[3]

After 1744, the Great Valley Road was most heavily used by Ulster-Irish immigrants called Scots-Irish in America to spread through most of Appalachia bringing their Presbyterian religion.[3] Pennsylvania Germans also used the trail to spread into the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The Moravians of Pennsylvania followed the road to settle the Wachovia region of North Carolina starting in 1753. The first settlements of Virginians in Tennessee were associated with the end of the trail in that region in the 1760s.

In 1746 the Pioneer Road first crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains from Alexandria to Winchester, Virginia, where it fed into the Great Valley Road.[4] The Wilderness Road opened in 1775 into central Kentucky, and branched off the Great Valley Road in southwest Virginia at Bristol (Sapling Grove).[5] Starting in the late 1770s explorers and pioneers at Staunton, Virginia started using the Kanawha Trail which followed the New River/Kanawha River into West Virginia.[6] From the terminus of the Great Valley Road at Knoxville, Avery's Trace to Nashville opened in 1788, and the Georgia Road to Athens opened in 1805.

Route

(Northeast to Southwest)[7]

- Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (often called the Philadelphia Wagon Road through Pennsylvania)
- Lancaster, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
- Gettysburg, Adams, Pennsylvania
- Hagerstown, Washington, Maryland (crosses Cumberland Road)
- Winchester, Frederick, Virginia (Pioneer Road from Alexandria joined here)
- Staunton, Augusta, Virginia (start of Kanawha Trail to West Virginia)
- Roanoke, Roanoke, Virginia (trail forks toward Knoxville and Augusta)

Wiki Page

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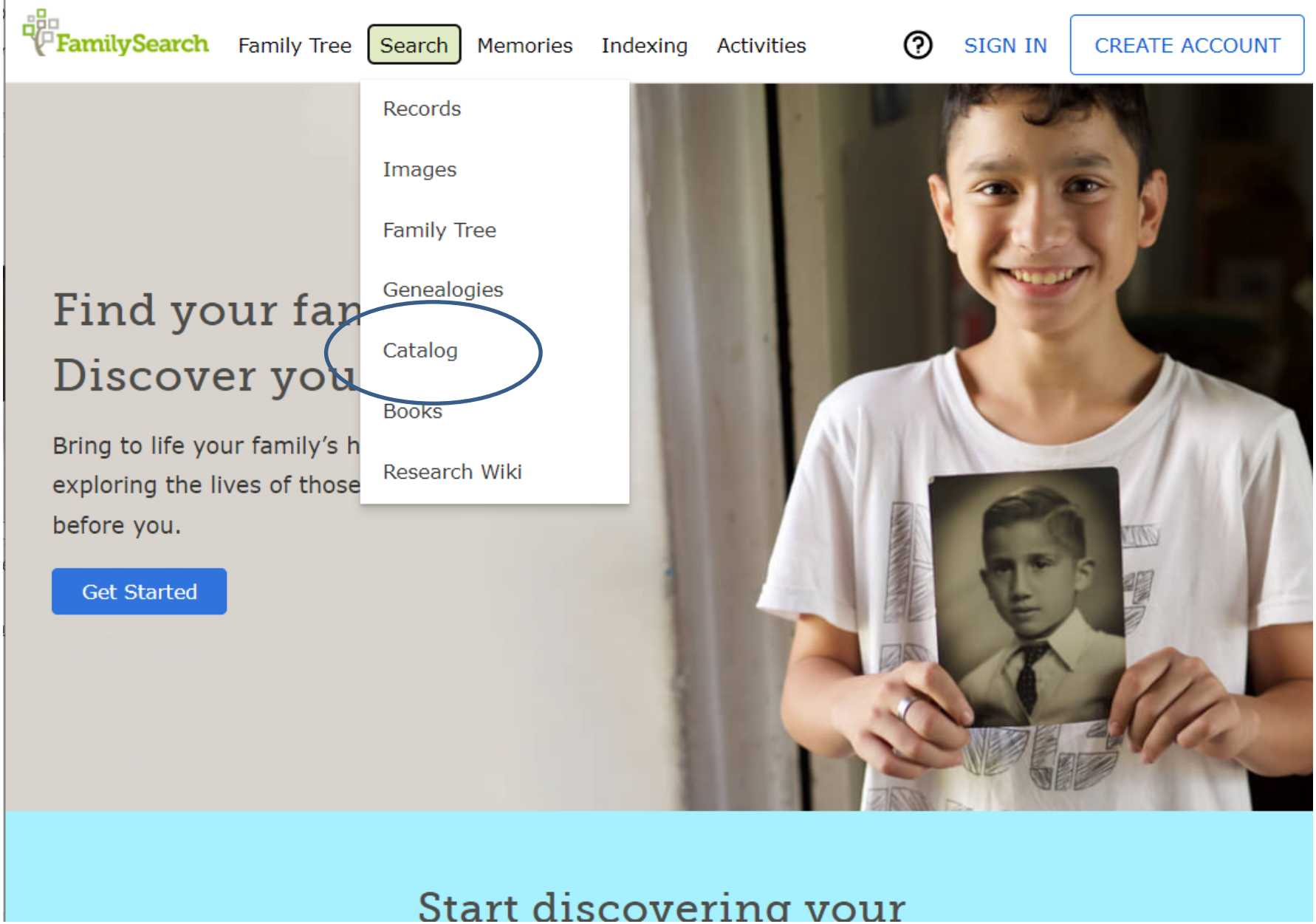

Family Search Catalog

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https://www.familysearch.org/search/

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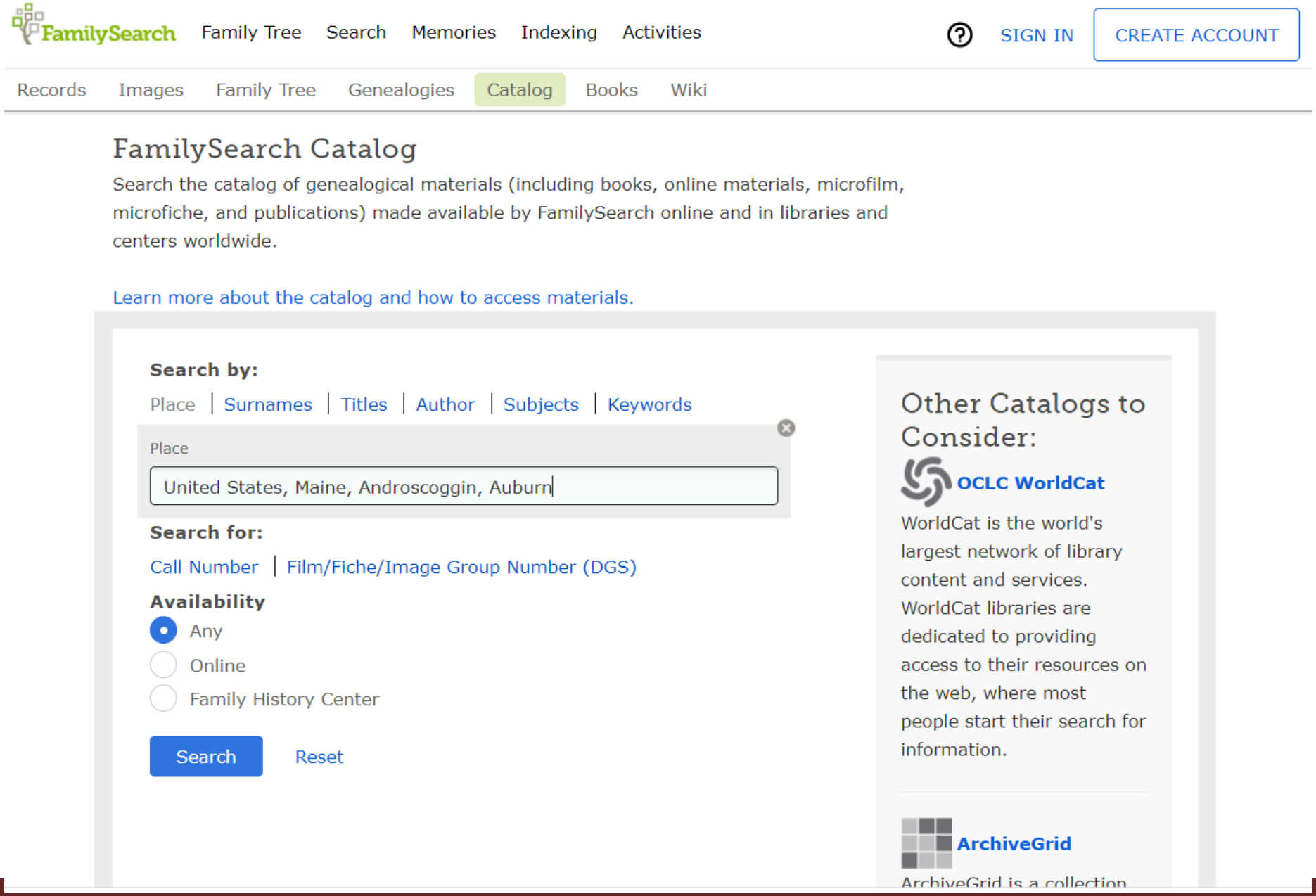

Using the Family Search Catalog

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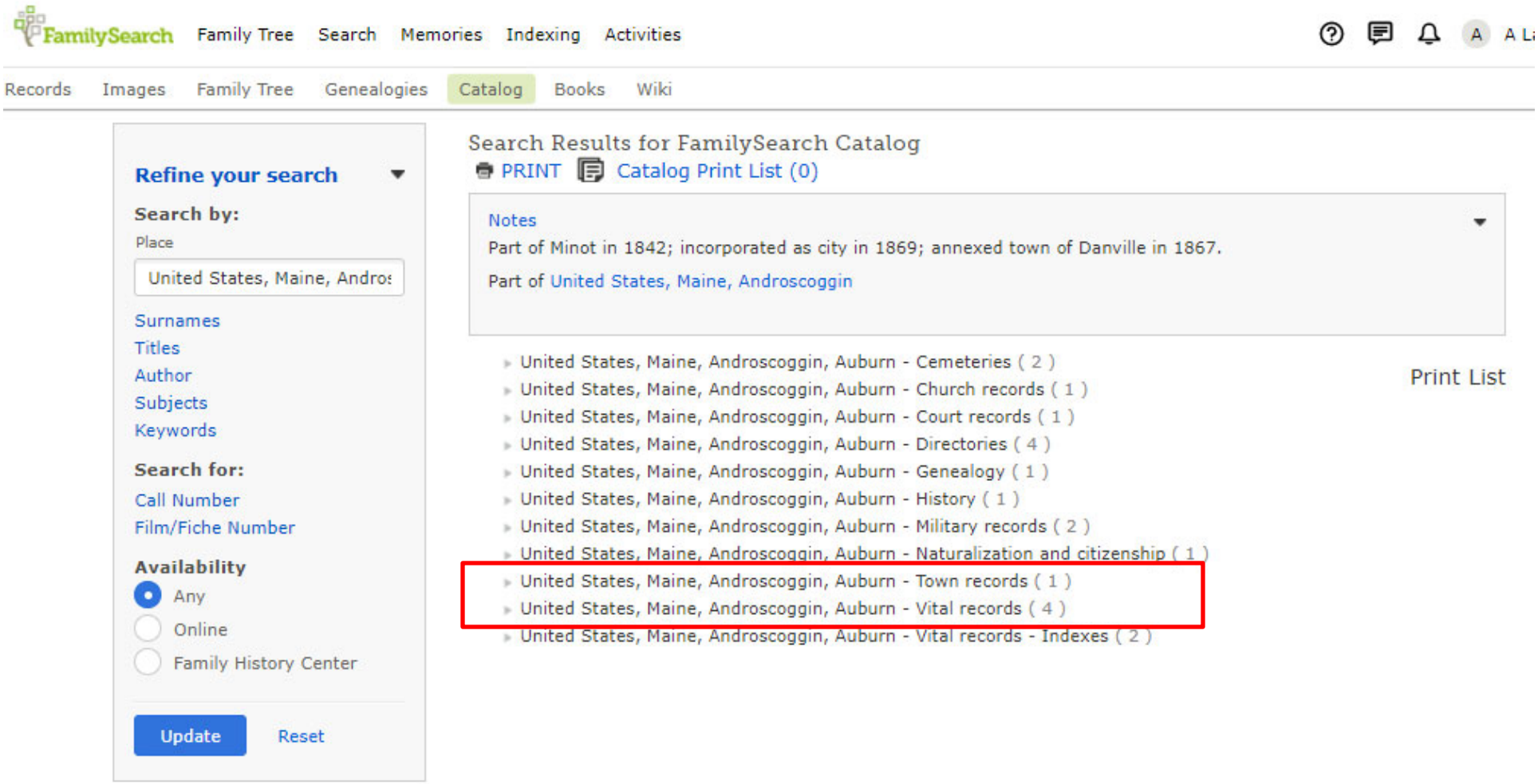

Town of Auburn, formerly Danville, Maine at FamilySearch

Clicking on a Heading

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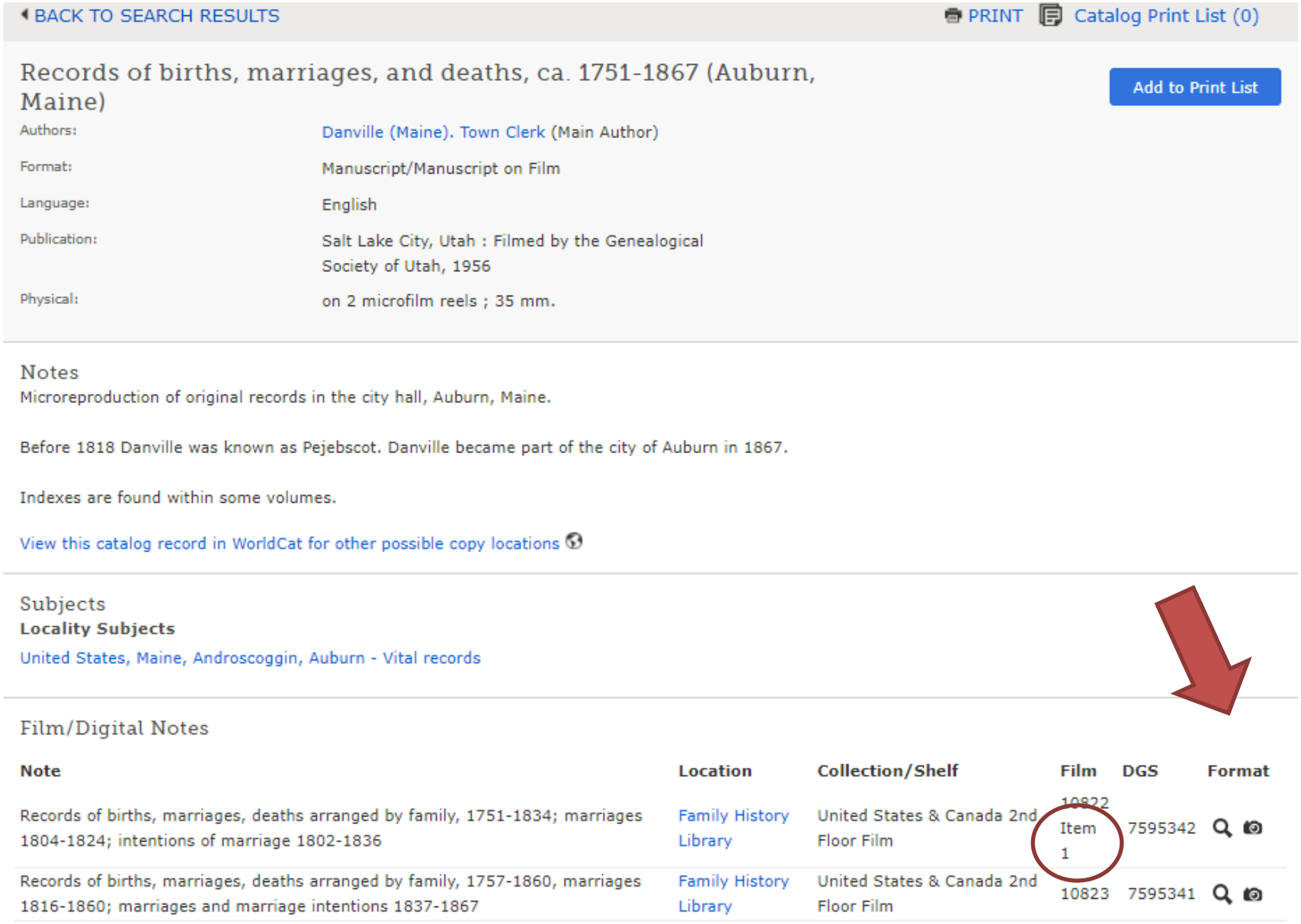
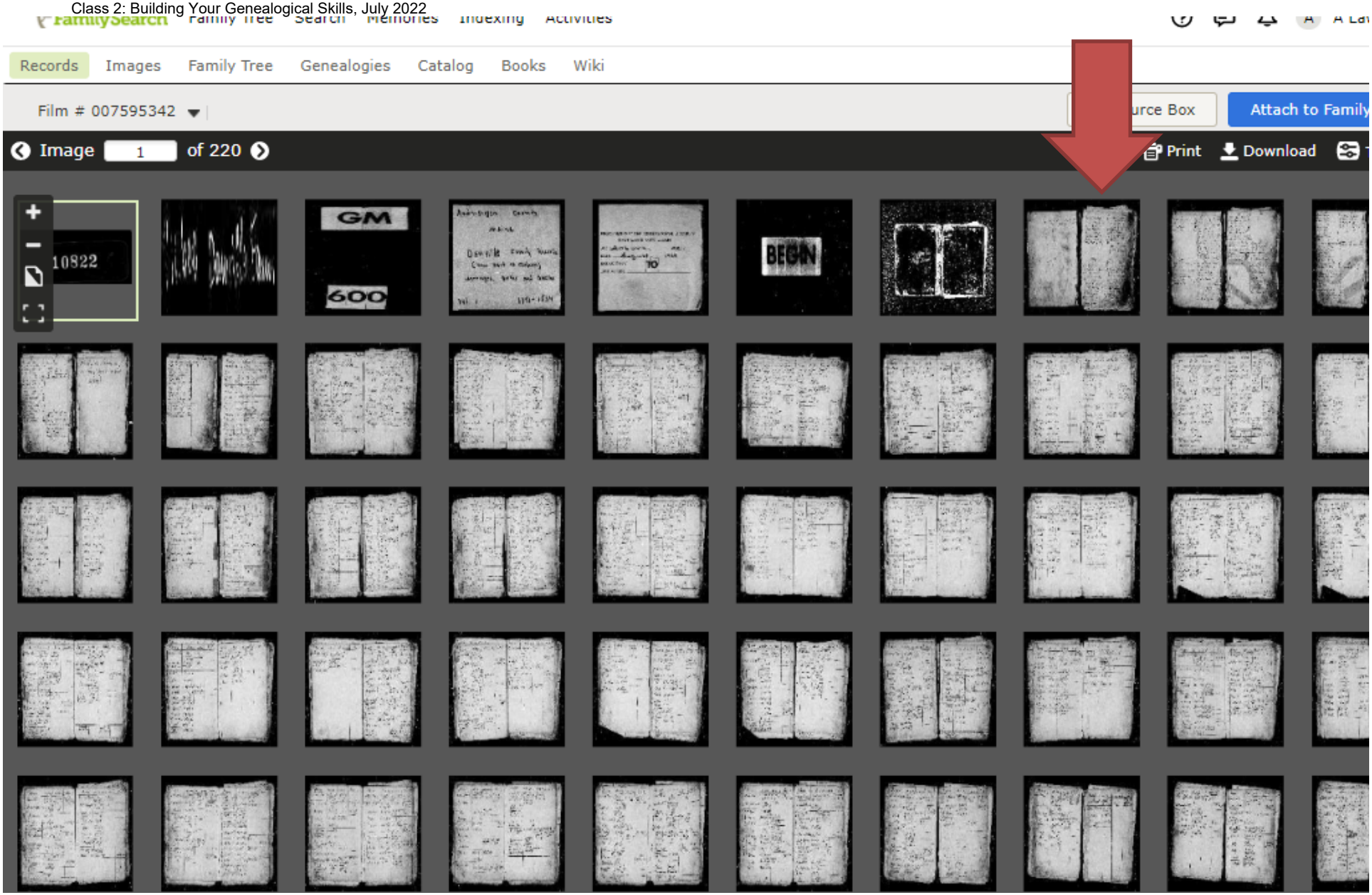


Clicking on a Listing



Clicking the Camera

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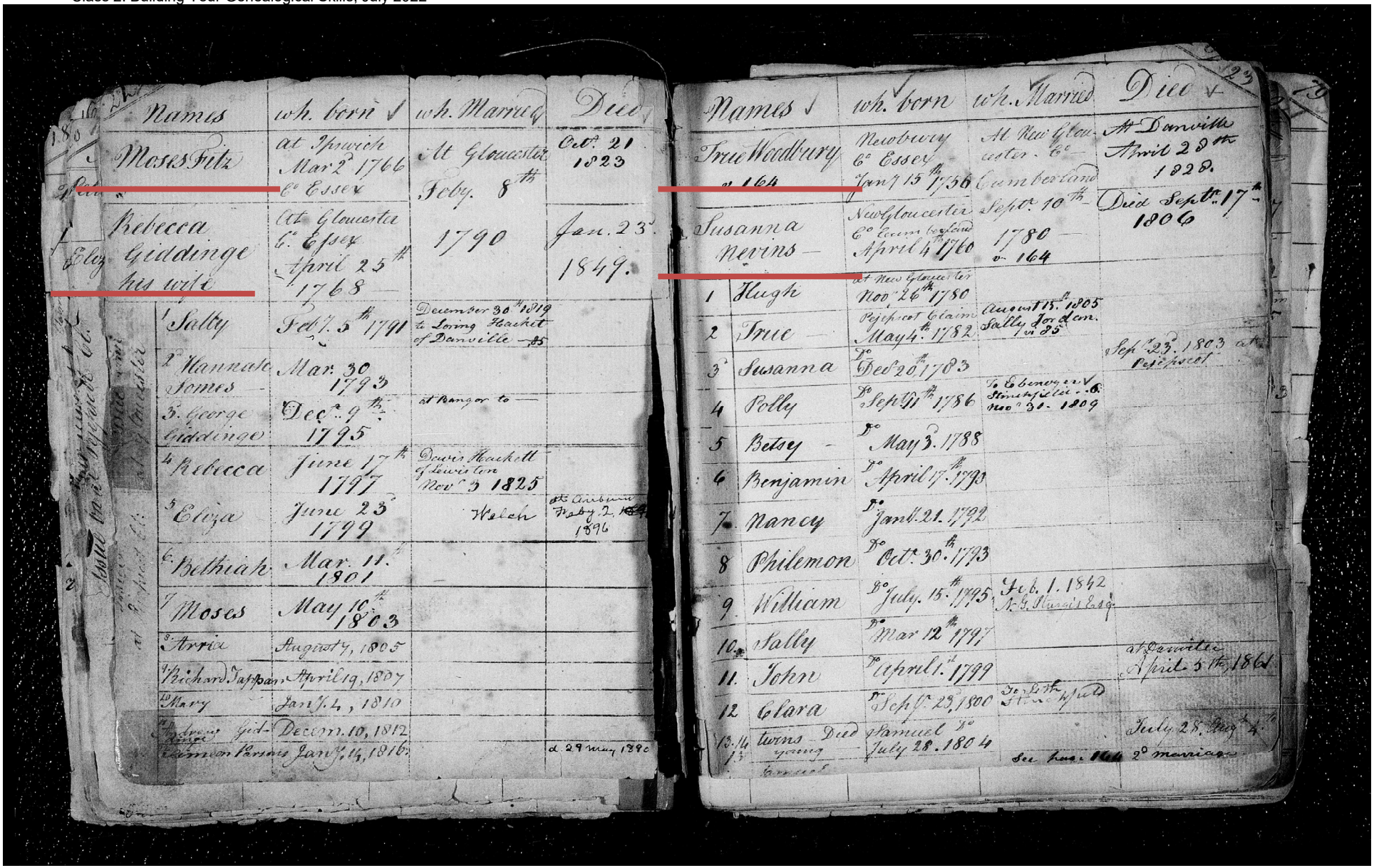

Clicking on an Image

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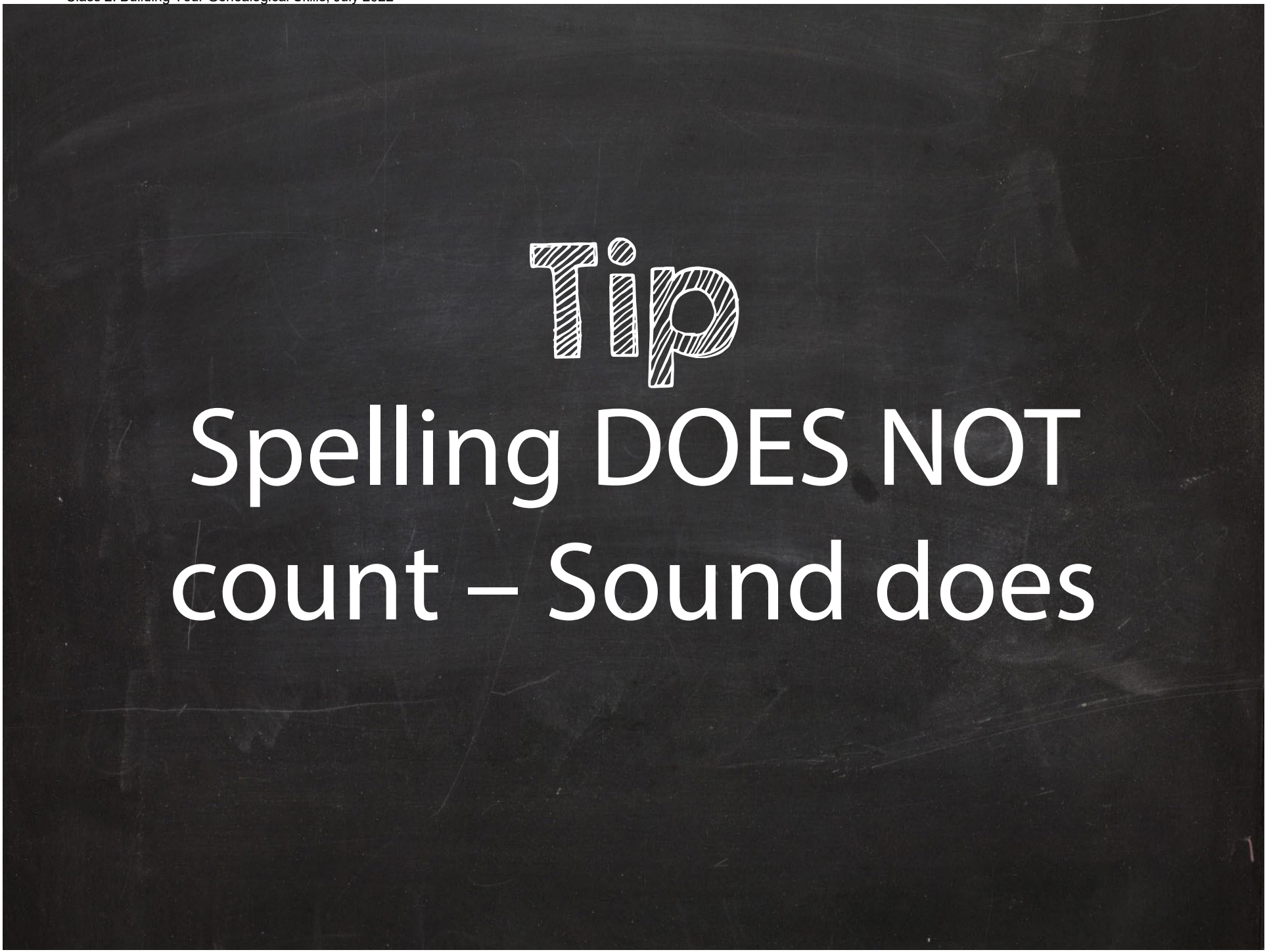
FamilySearch Database Searching



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Unique Family Search Features

- Alternative names
- Search with relationship
- Search by more than one collection
- Export results to Excel

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Wildcards

- Symbols used to replace or represent one or more characters
- ? = 1 character
- * = 1 or more character
- Ex. To search for ”Lawthers", you can use some of the following variations:
  - L*w*s
  - L*w*r*
  - L?wthers

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FamilySearch Search Page – BASIC SEARCH

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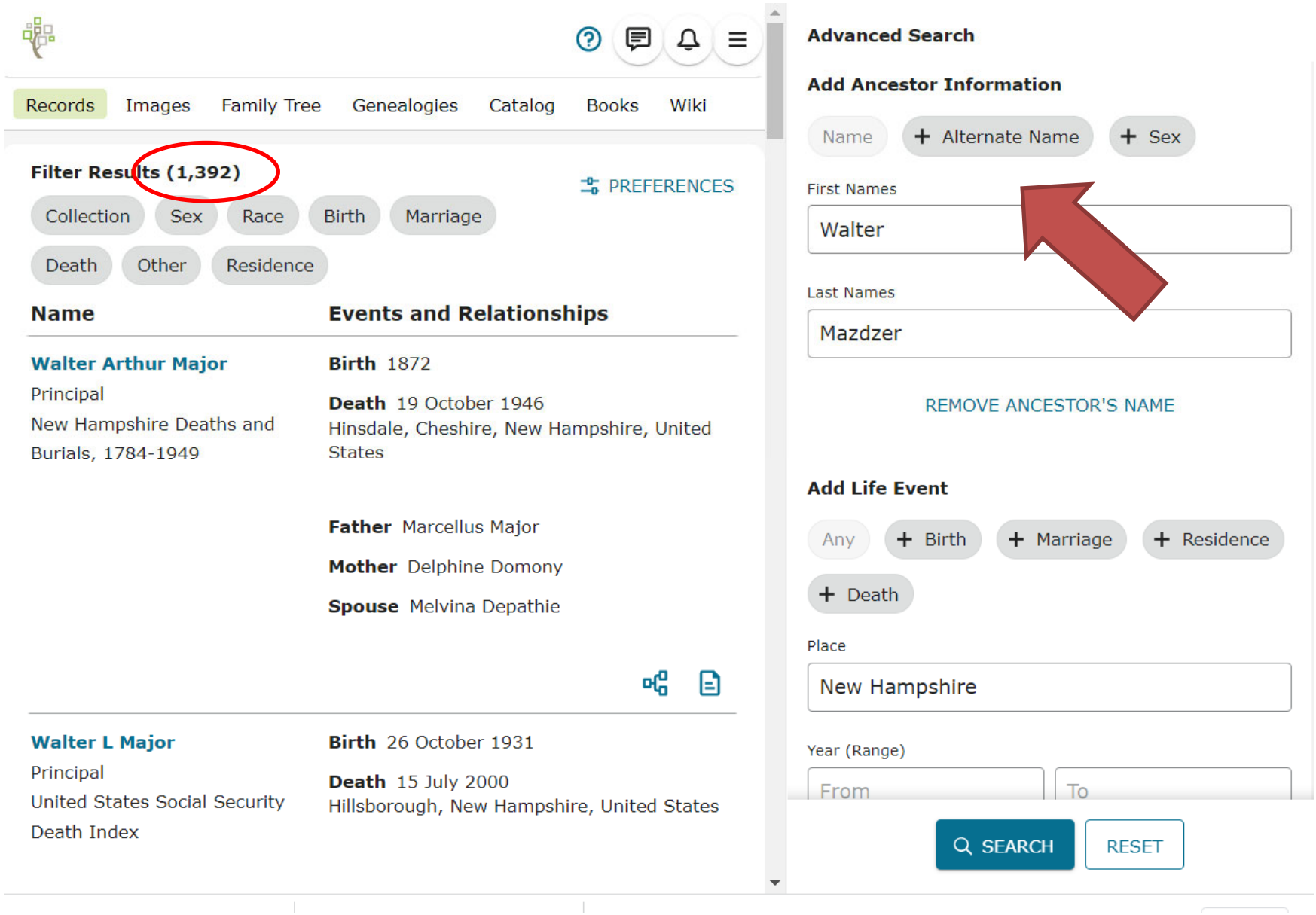

Results Page – Name, Birth, Residence

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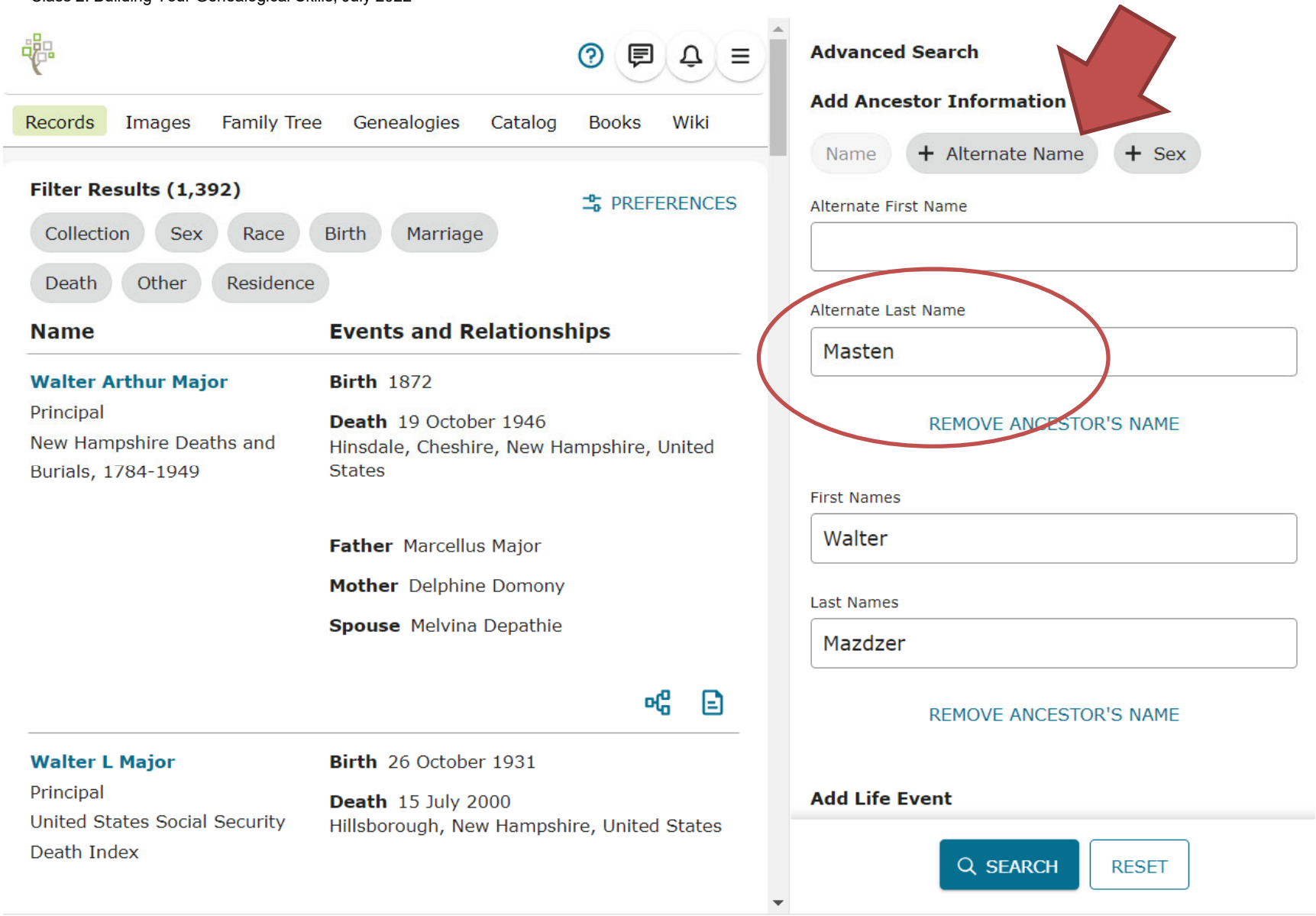

Alternate Name

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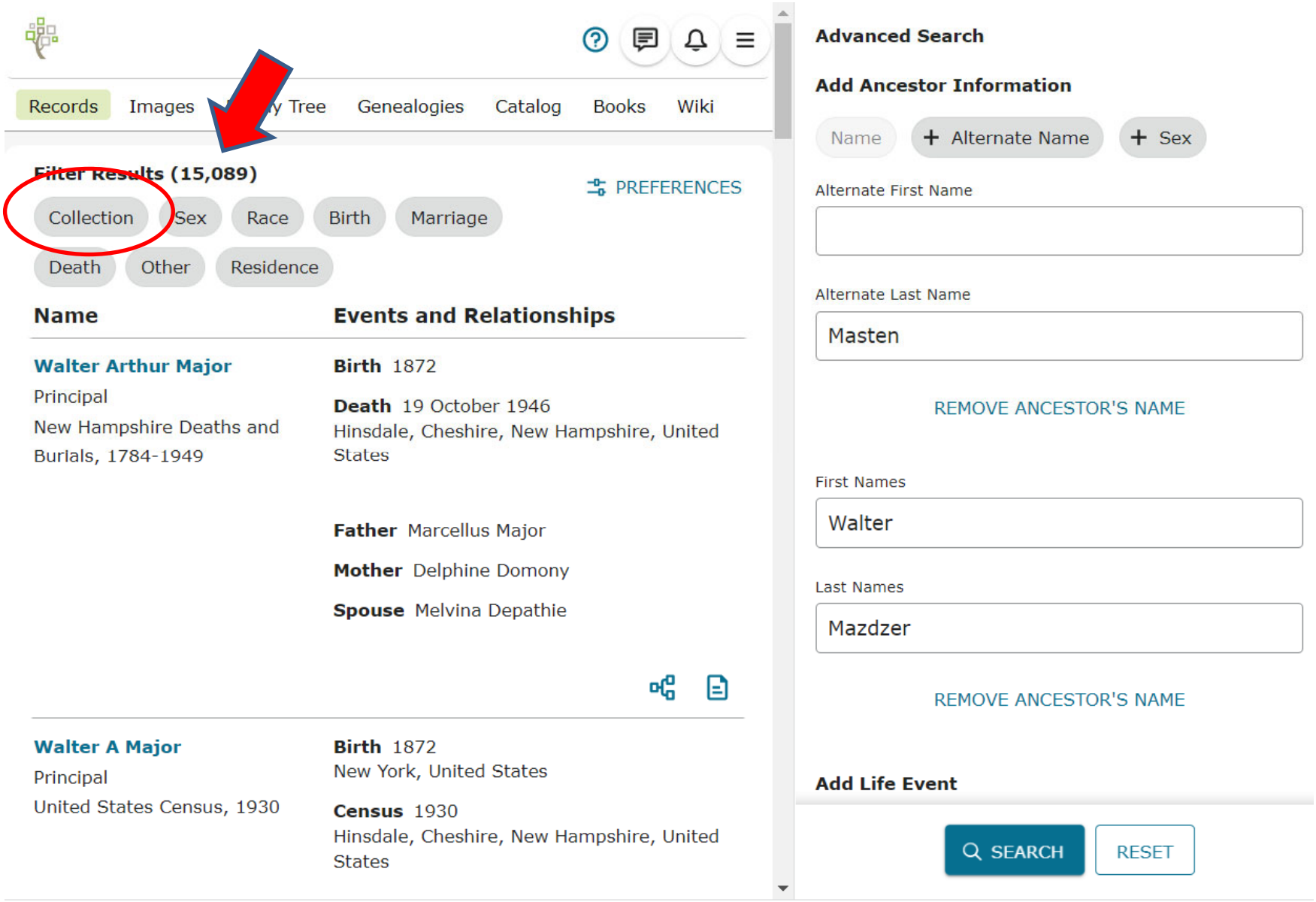

Alternative Name Results Page

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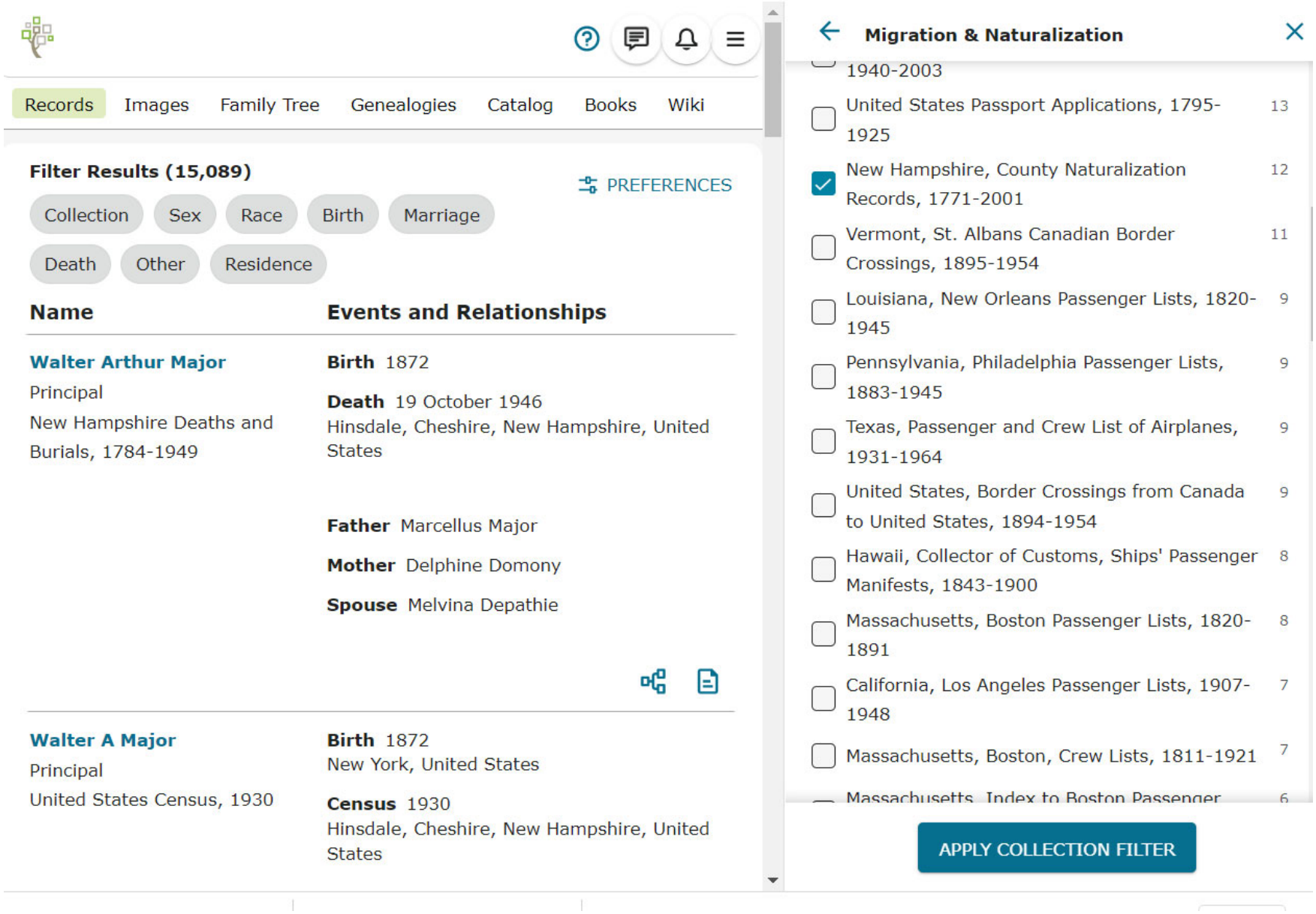

Filtering by Collection

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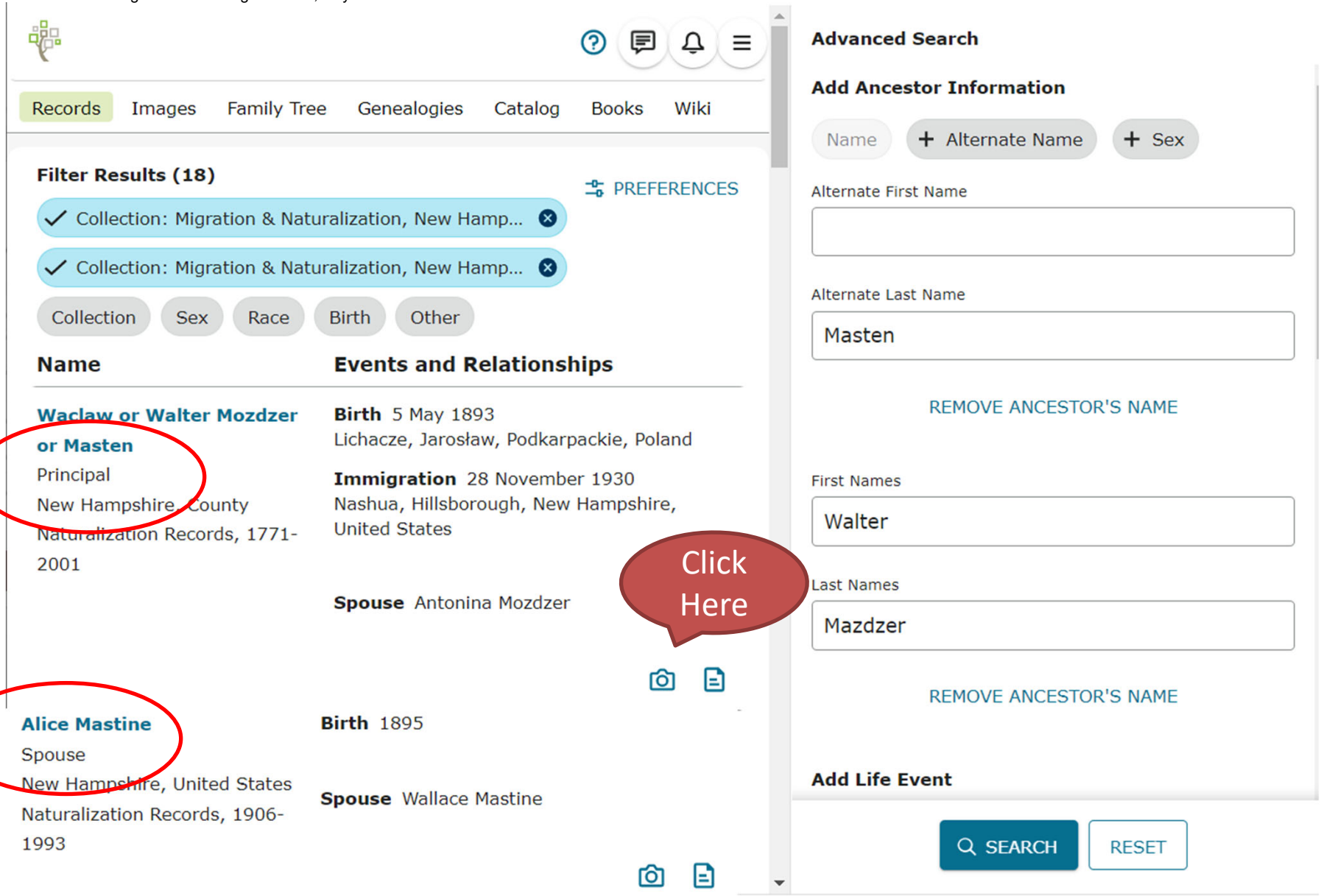

Results

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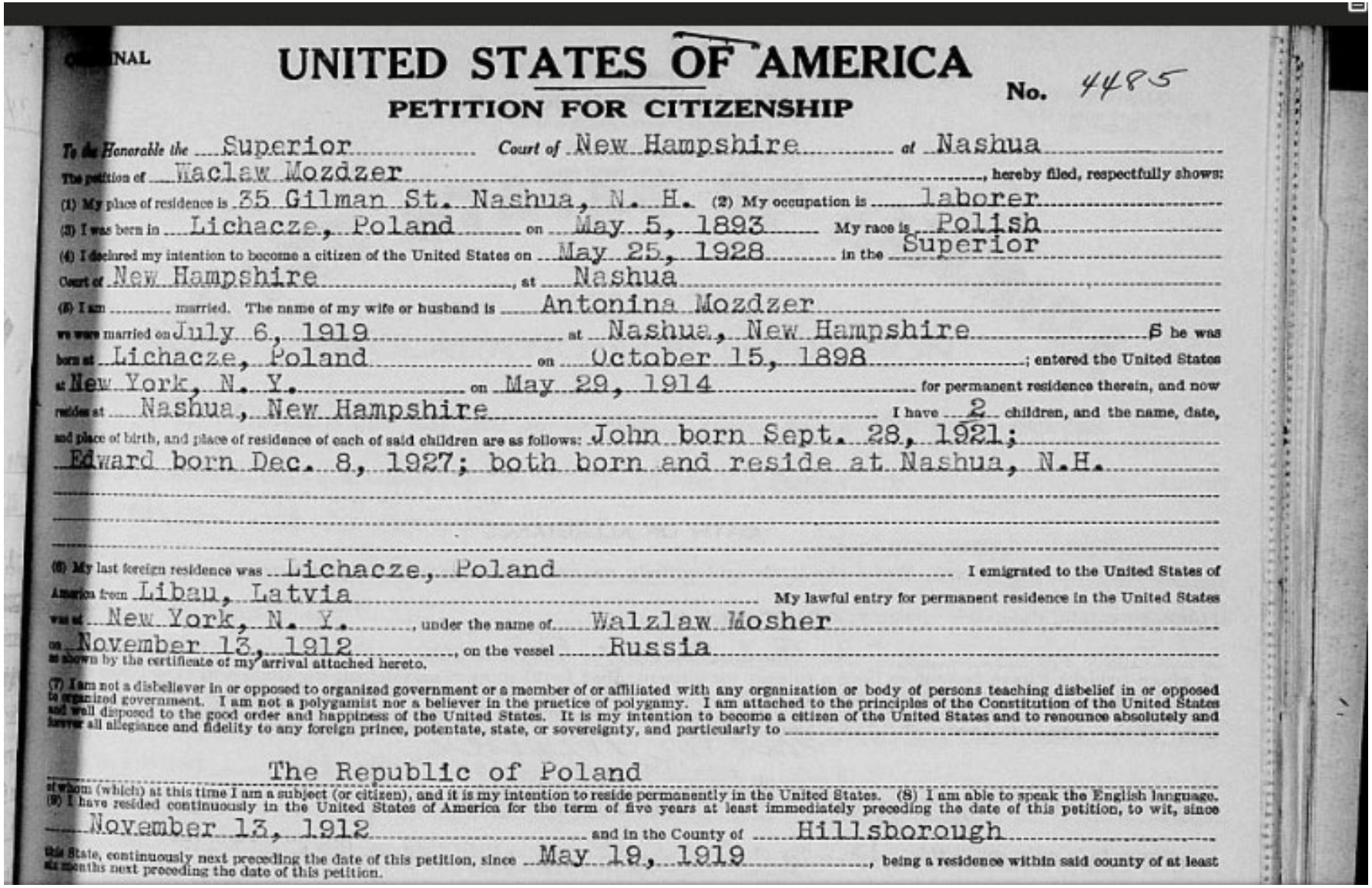

ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 4485

PETITION FOR CITIZENSHIP

To the Honorable the Superior Court of New Hampshire at Nashua

The petition of Waclaw Mozdzer, hereby filed, respectfully shows:

(1) My place of residence is 35 Gilman St. Nashua, N. H. (2) My occupation is laborer

(3) I was born in Lichacze, Poland on May 5, 1893 My race is Polish

(4) I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on May 25, 1928 in the Superior Court of New Hampshire, at Nashua

(5) I am ..... married. The name of my wife or husband is Antonina Mozdzer

we were married on July 6, 1919 at Nashua, New Hampshire She be was born at Lichacze, Poland on October 15, 1898; entered the United States at New York, N. Y. on May 29, 1914 for permanent residence therein, and now resides at Nashua, New Hampshire I have 2 children, and the name, date, and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children are as follows: John born Sept. 28, 1921; Edward born Dec. 8, 1927; both born and reside at Nashua, N.H.

(6) My last foreign residence was Lichacze, Poland I emigrated to the United States of America from Libau, Latvia My lawful entry for permanent residence in the United States was at New York, N. Y., under the name of Walzlaw Mosher on November 13, 1912, on the vessel Russia as shown by the certificate of my arrival attached hereto.

(7) I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching disbelief in or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States. It is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to

The Republic of Poland

of whom (which) at this time I am a subject (or citizen), and it is my intention to reside permanently in the United States. (8) I am able to speak the English language. (9) I have resided continuously in the United States of America for the term of five years at least immediately preceding the date of this petition, to wit, since November 13, 1912 and in the County of Hillsborough this State, continuously next preceding the date of this petition, since May 19, 1919, being a residence within said county of at least six months next preceding the date of this petition.

Click Through To Image

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Export search results into Excel

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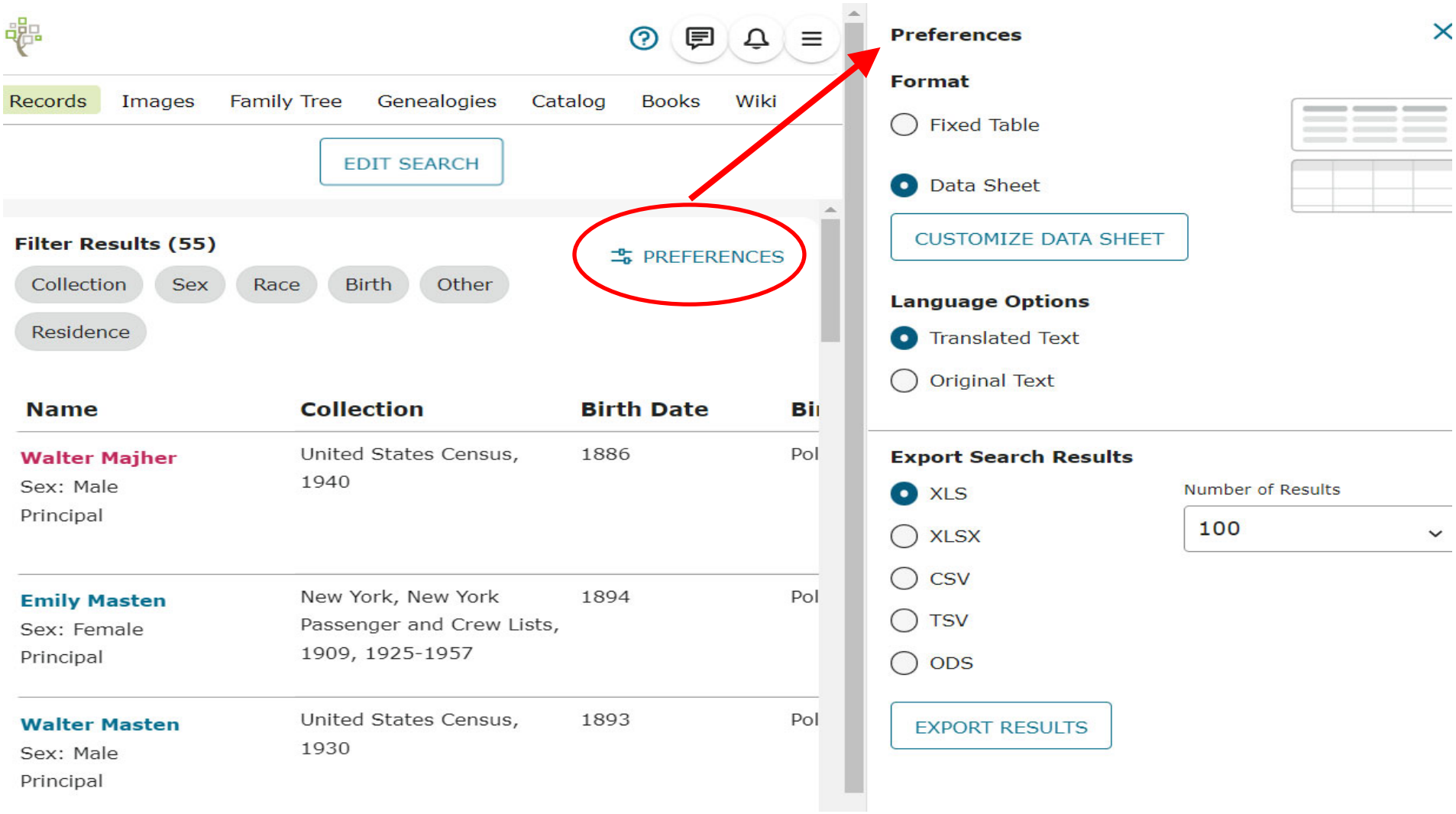

Mazdzer or Masten; New Hampshire or Vermont or New York

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Sample Search Result Export

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Ancestry

Power Searching at Ancestry

- Use wildcards
- Filter by database type (Categories on Ancestry)
- Use sliders
- Use the card catalog

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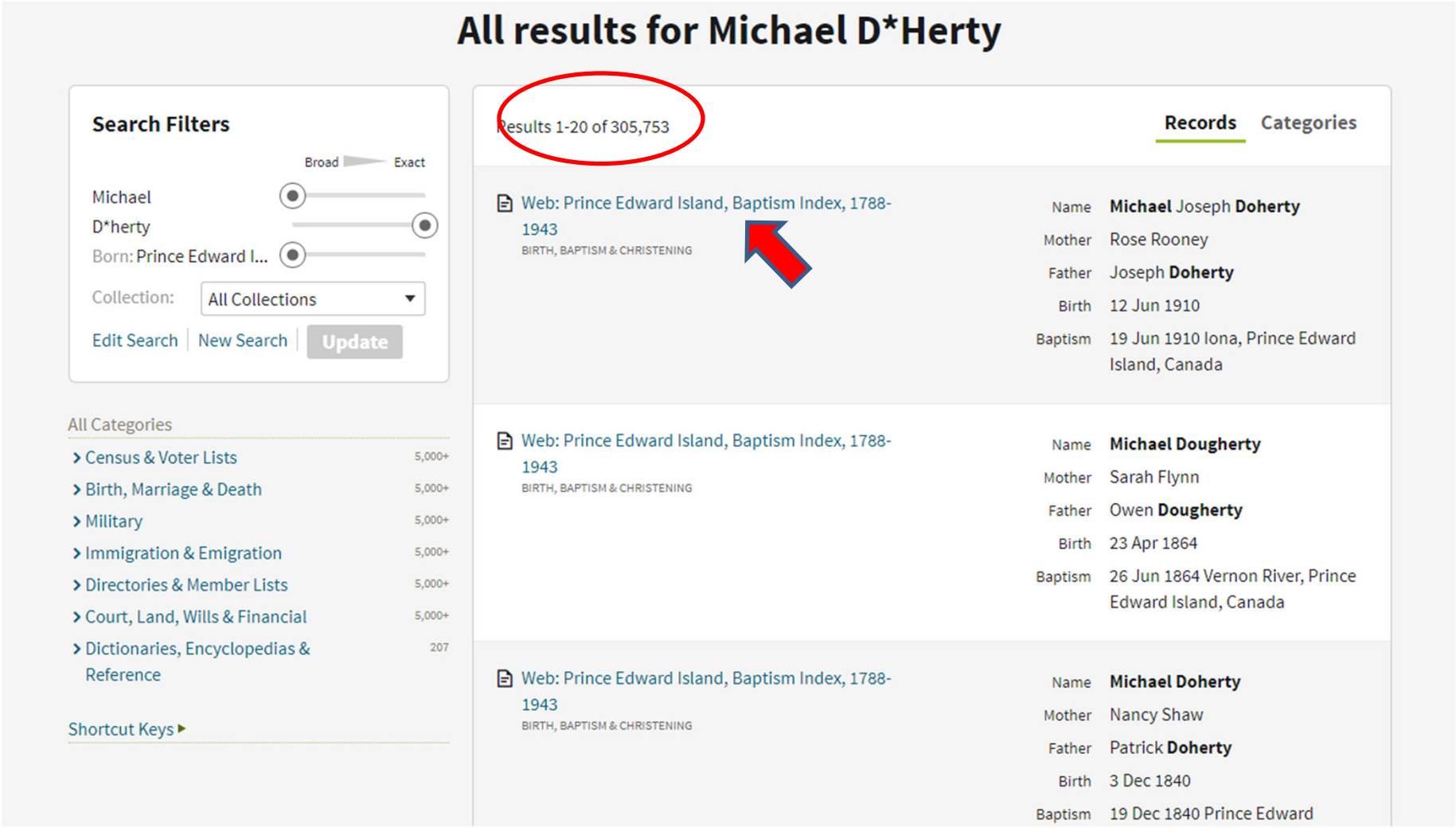

Ancestry Results for Michael D*herty, born PEI

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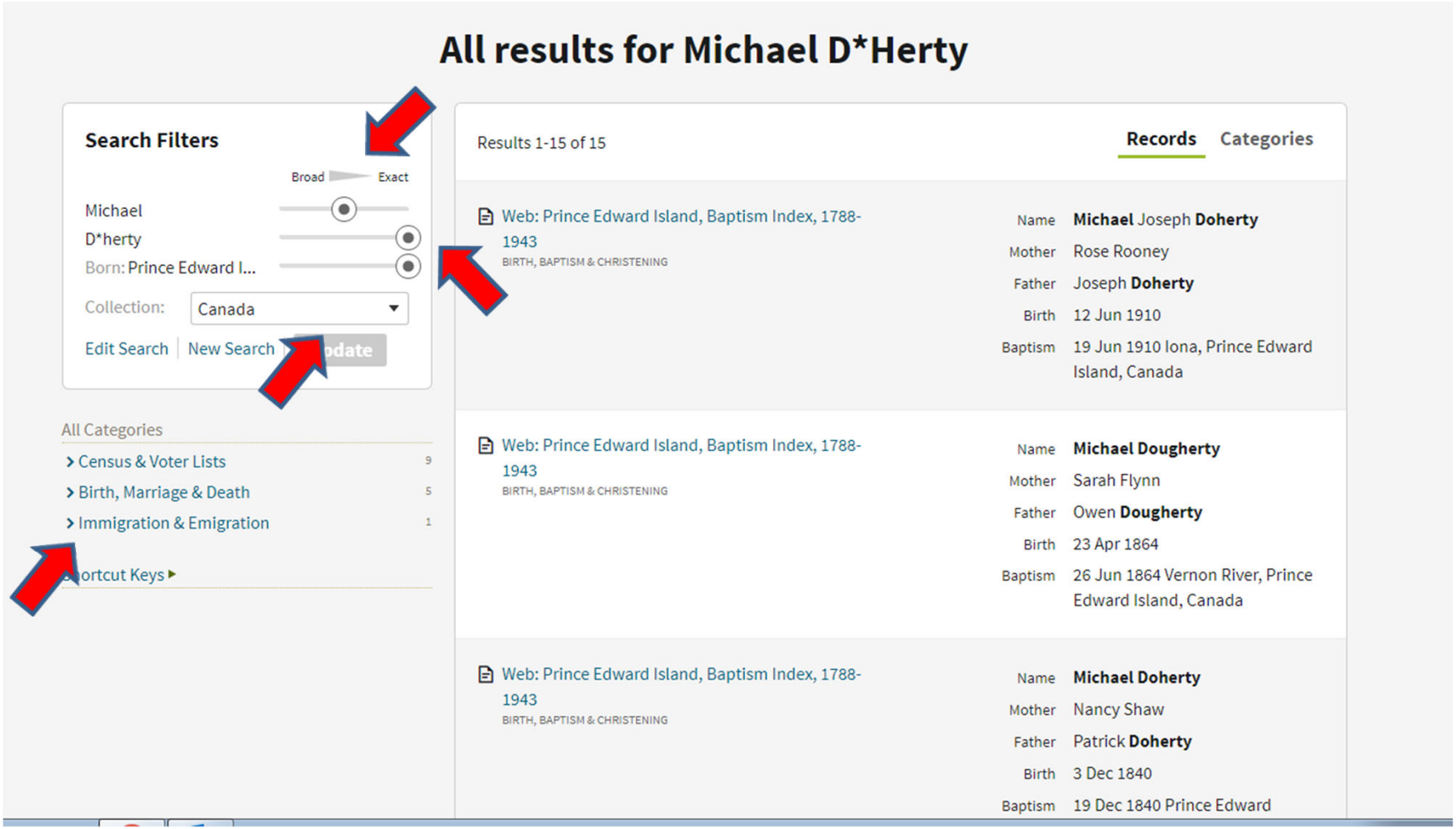

Using Sliders to Focus Search

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Filter on Categories

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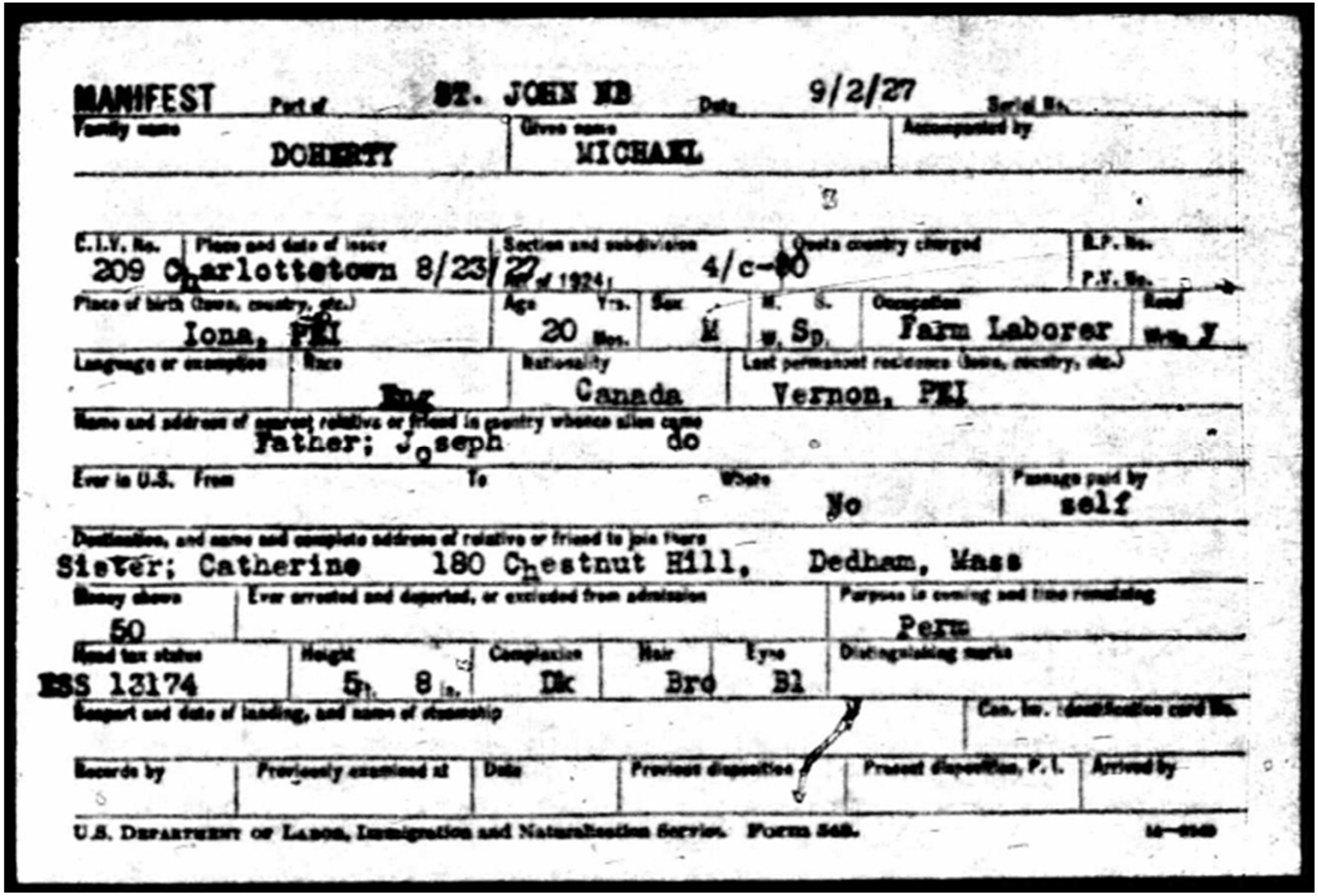


MANIFEST Port of ST. JOHN NB Date 9/2/27 Serial No.

Family name	Given name	Accompanied by
DOHERTY	MICHAEL	

C.I.V. No.	Place and date of issue	Section and subdivision	Quota country charged	R.P. No. / P.V. No.
209	Charlottetown 8/23/27	Act of 1924; 4/c-80		

Place of birth (town, country, etc.)	Age Yrs. Mos.	Sex	M. S. W. Sp.	Occupation	Read Write
Iona, PEI	20	M	Sp.	Farm Laborer	Y

Language or exemption	Race	Nationality	Last permanent residence (town, country, etc.)
	Eng	Canada	Vernon, PEI

Name and address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came: Father; Joseph do

Ever in U.S. From	To	Where	Passage paid by
		No	self

Destination, and name and complete address of relative or friend to join there: Sister; Catherine 180 Chestnut Hill, Dedham, Mass

Money shown	Ever arrested and deported, or excluded from admission	Purpose in coming and time remaining
50		Perm

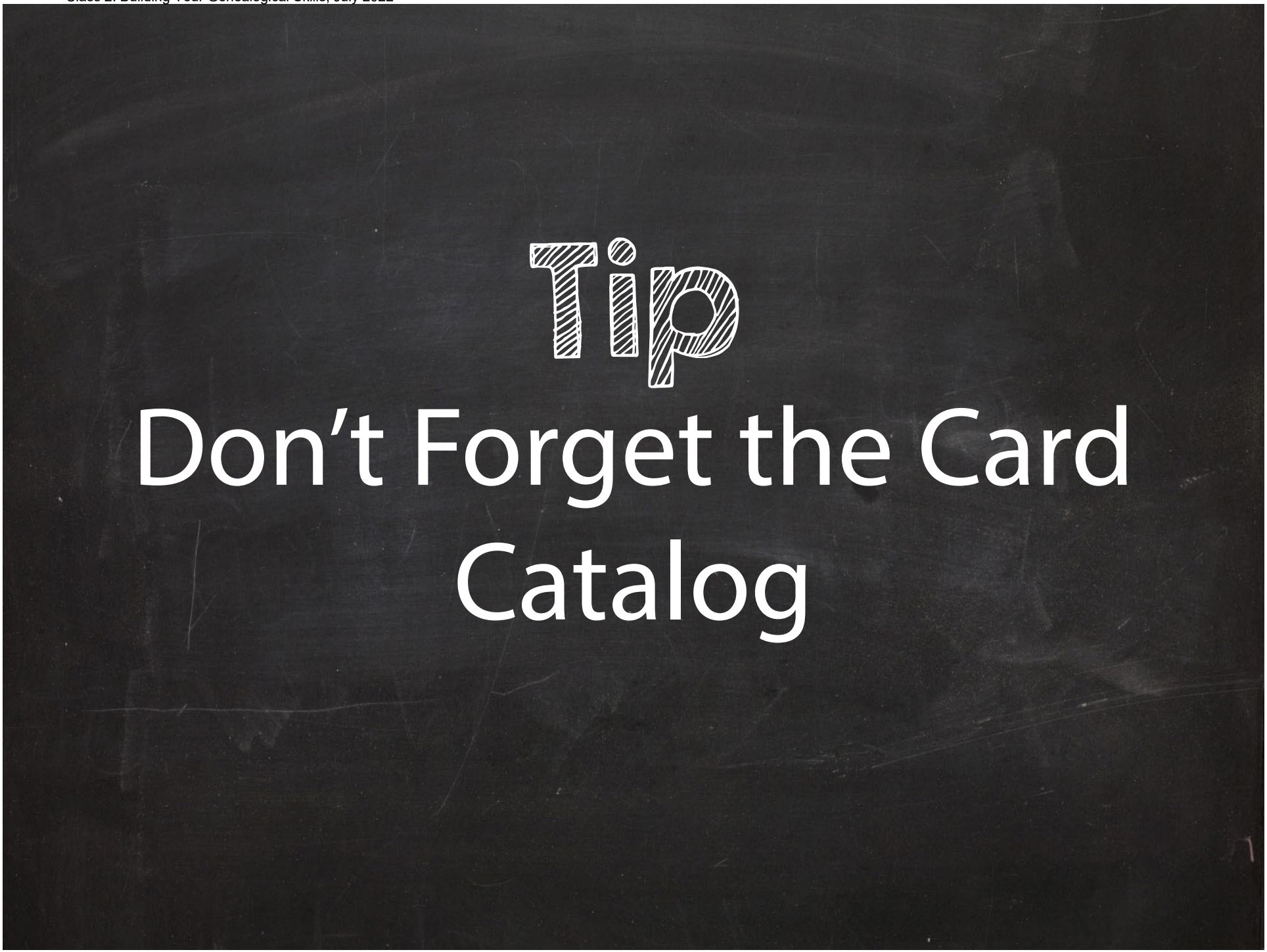
Head tax status	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Distinguishing marks
ESS 13174	5 ft. 8 in.	Dk	Bro	Bl	

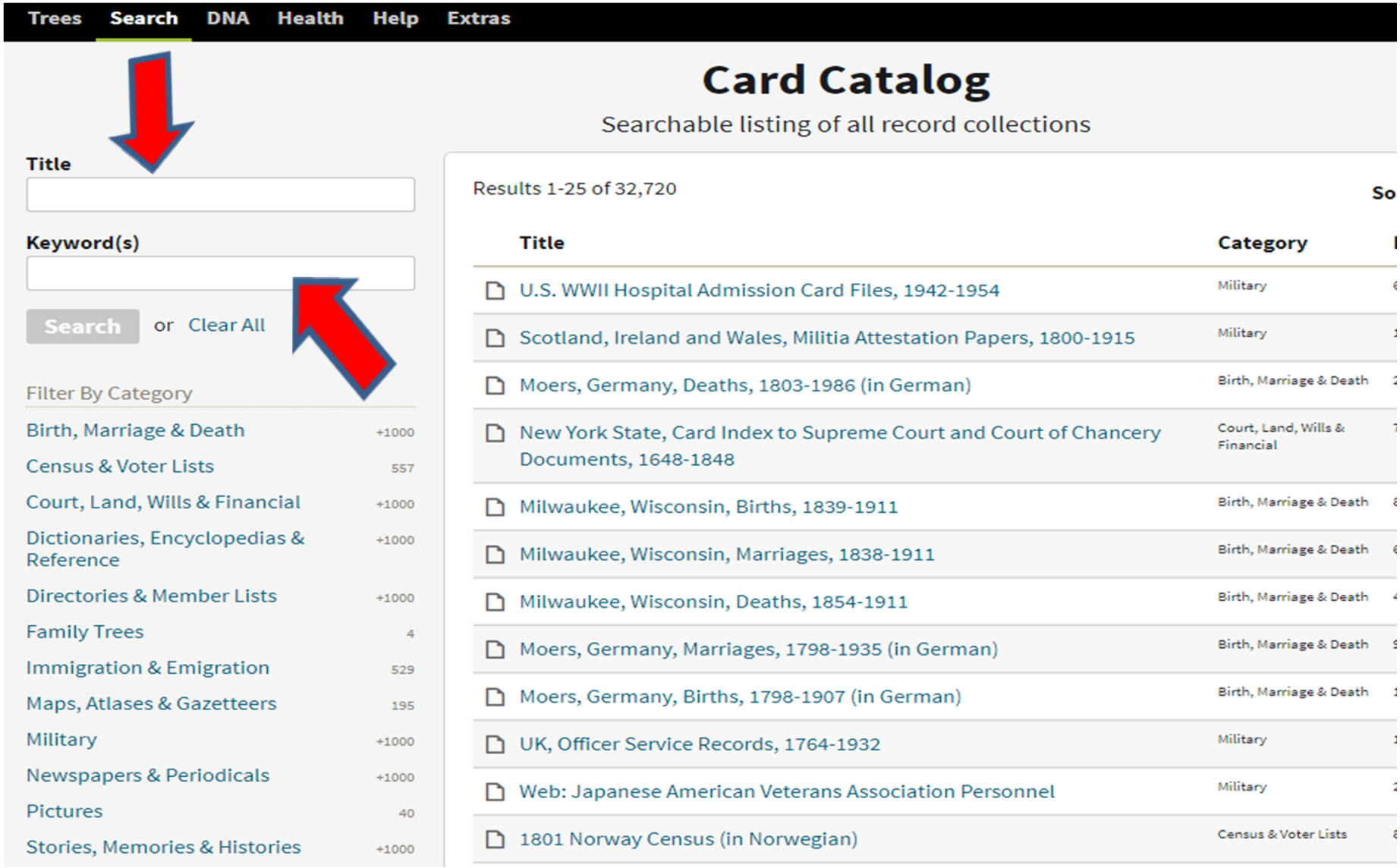
Seaport and date of landing, and name of steamship | Con. Im. identification card No.

Records by	Previously examined at	Date	Previous disposition	Present disposition, P. I.	Arrived by

U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form 548.

Pre-Examination Manifest for Michael Doherty


Tip
Don't Forget the Card Catalog



Using the Card Catalog

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Other Research Aids

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Finding Aids

- Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research
- New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer
- County and town histories

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Digital Book Sources

- https://www.hathitrust.org/
- https://books.google.com/
- https://archive.org/index.php
- https://openlibrary.org/
- https://books.familysearch.org
- http://library.si.edu/digital-library

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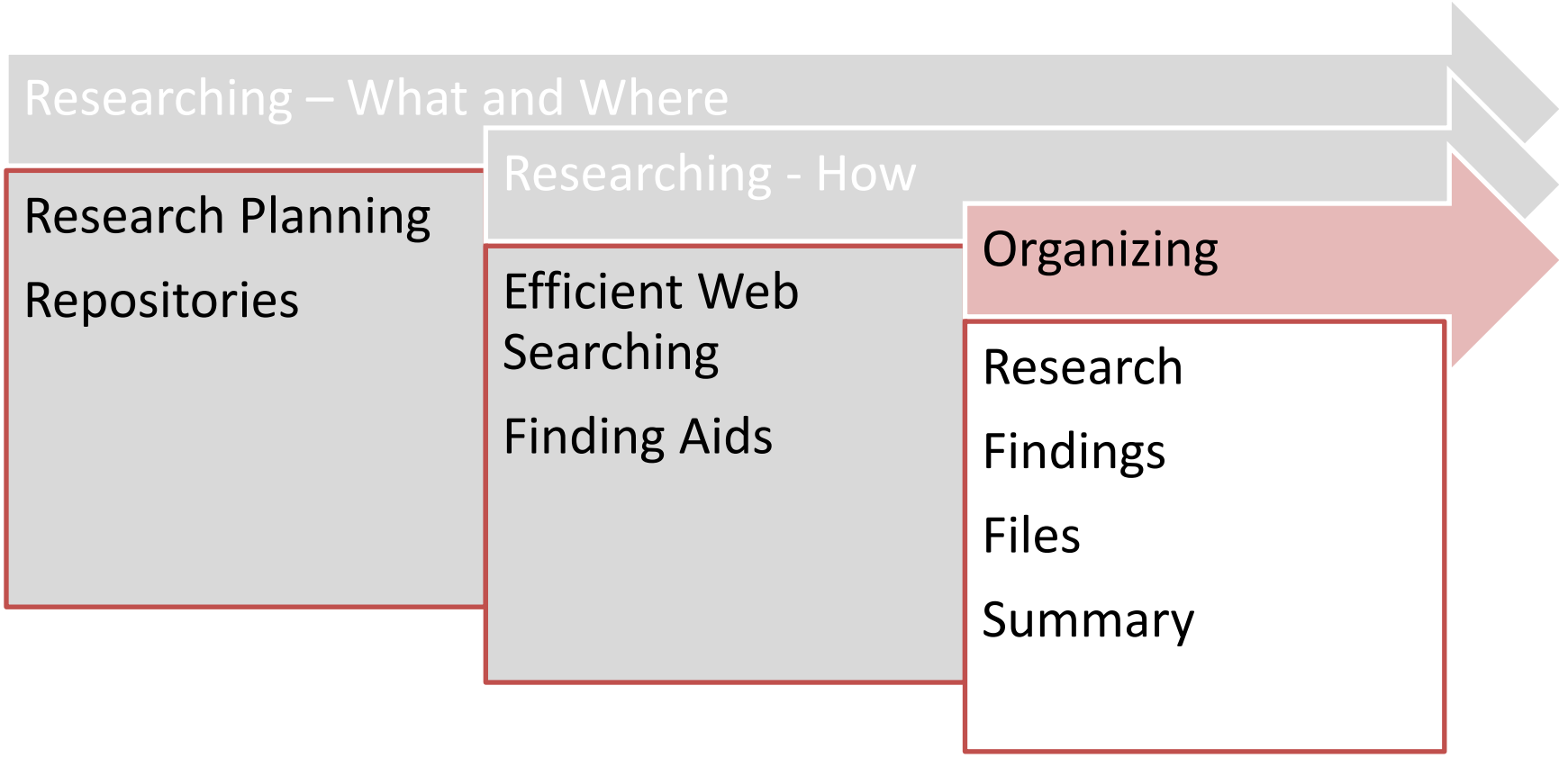
Session #2 Roadmap



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KIS: Rule #1 for Organizing

- KIS – "Keep it simple"
  - Make it easy to do the right thing
- Organizing Your
  - Research Process
  - Findings
  - Files
  - Summary

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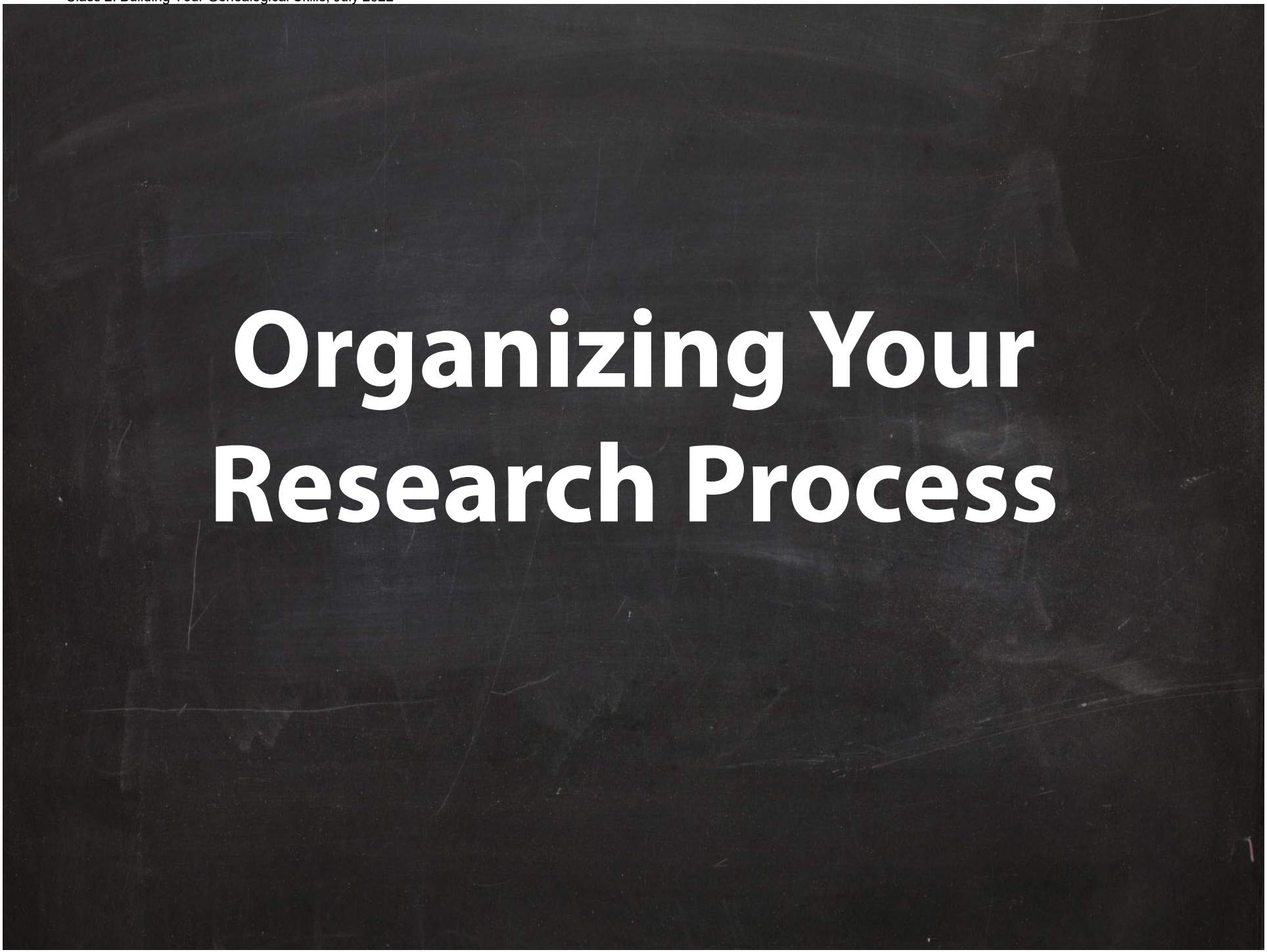

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Reminder – Use the Basic Tools!

- Research Plan
- Research Log

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Tasks Lists and To-Dos

- Suggestion 1: Keep a dedicated research notebook
- Suggestion 2: Use a word processing program, spreadsheet or database program
- Suggestion 3: Use your genealogy software program's task lists, etc.

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Evernote or OneNote

- **Note:** A single item stored in Evernote or OneNote software
- **Notebook:**
  - Evernote – a collection of notes, stacks of notebooks
  - OneNote – a collection of sections, pages, notes
- **Tags:** Descriptive topic words, e.g.
  - Probate
  - Connecticut
  - Patrick Higgins
  - Birth records

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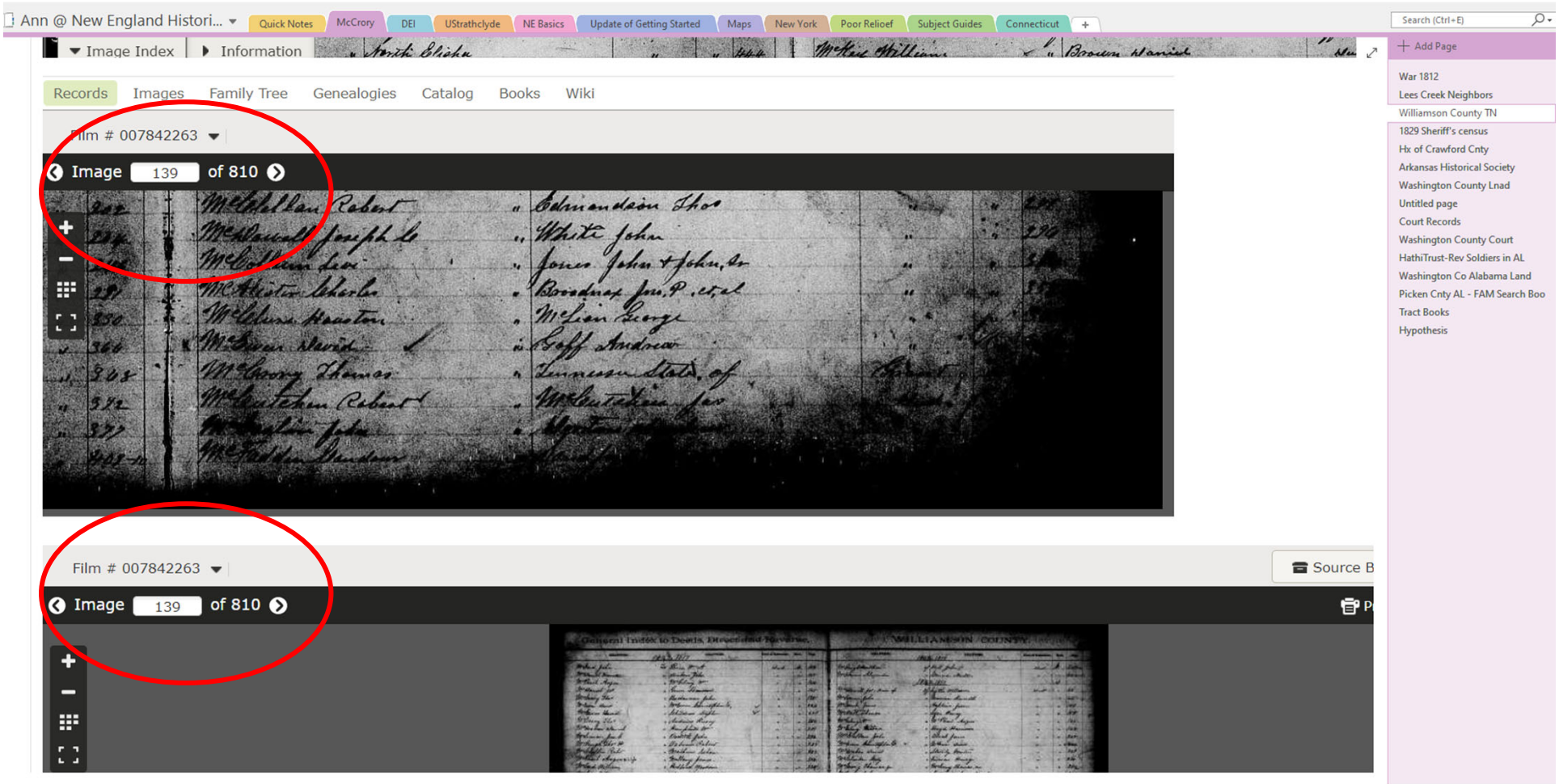
One Note Parking Spot



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Key Tools!

- Pedigree chart
- Family Group sheet

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What to Do With "Orphan" Documents?

- Paper:
  - File in a folder under something like "work in progress" or "holding file" or "ongoing research"
- Digital
  - Folder with "holding" or similar name
    - Subfolders by surname
  - Excel sheet
    - Three columns
      - Surname
      - Citation and document link
      - Why important – track your thought process!!!

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Organizing Your Files

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Paper Versus Digital Organization

- Use a system you can maintain. There is no one "right" way to organize. It has to work for you.
- Consistency is key
- Leave a "paper" trail
- Write down your organizing decisions

Rhonda R. McClure, *Portable Genealogist: Organizing your Research*, (Boston, MA: NEHGS, 2013)

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FamilySearch.org Tips

- Do NOT change your old files to a new note keeping system all at once.
  - Start slowly with just the one family you are researching right now.
  - Wait to organize the file of another family until you start research on that family.

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Organizing_Your_Files

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File Naming

Who, What, Where, When

- HummerJacob-deed-EmmitsburgMD-1810
- LawthersNancy-gravemarker-GreenvillePA-2022
- HomerFred-Will-p1-Cleveland-1903
- HigginsJohn1844-death-ModorrahIRE-1925
- CrottyJames-census-EastchesterNY-1900

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Files Exist in Folders

- Folder Structure
  - **Top Level:** "Genealogy Files" or perhaps the name of your family tree.
  - **Next Level:** Major lines for your family, e.g., Lawthers line, Higgins line, Plowman line Crotty line
  - **Third Level:** Within each major branch there will be a surname folder for the surnames you have researched.

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Fourth Level – Record Types

- Vitals
- Church and Cemetery
- Census
- Military
- Newspaper
- Immigration and Citizenship
- Land
- Probate

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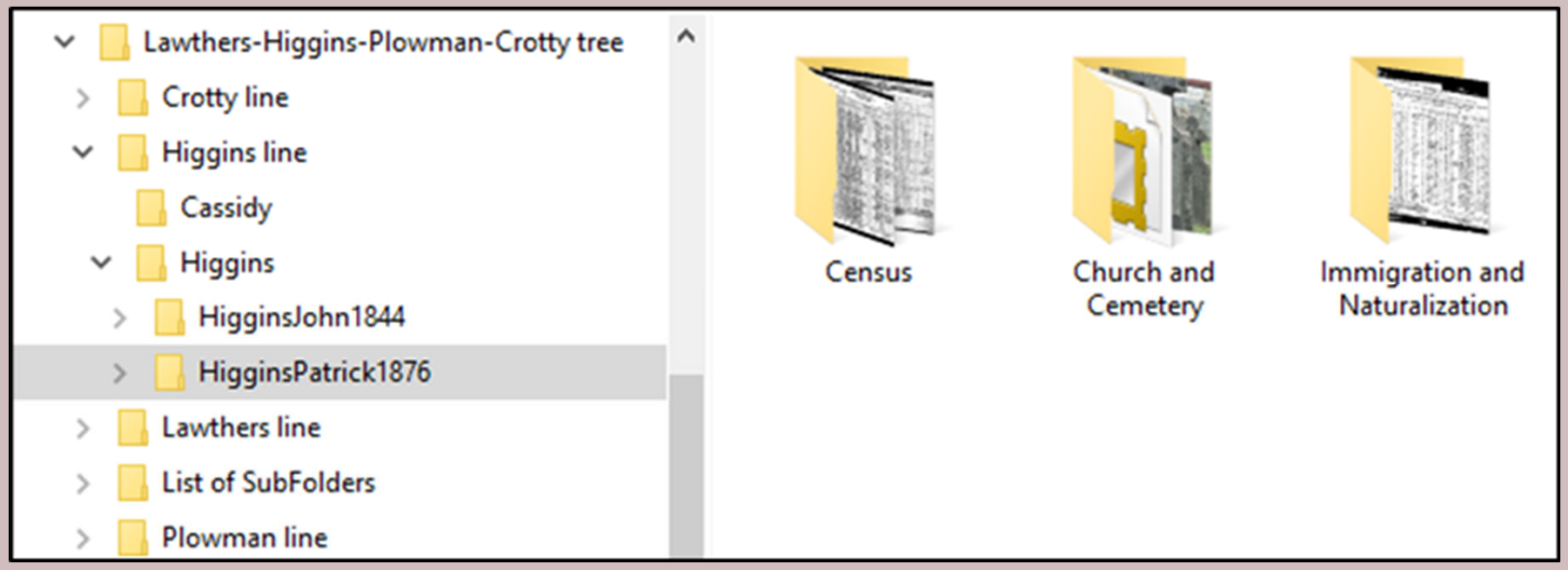
Digital File Structure



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Paper Choices

- Option 1: One folder per person
- Option 2: One folder per couple
  - Individual stays with birth family until marriage
  - Family group sheet
  - Photocopies of records with source citations
- Option 3: Binders

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Paper System
Color Coding

- Mary Hill created the system
- Organize according to the five-generation chart
  - Father's father's line is BLUE
  - Father's mother's line is GREEN
  - Mother's father's line is RED
  - Mother's mother's line is YELLOW
- Start by sorting your "stuff" into four groups/piles/boxes based on grandparent surnames

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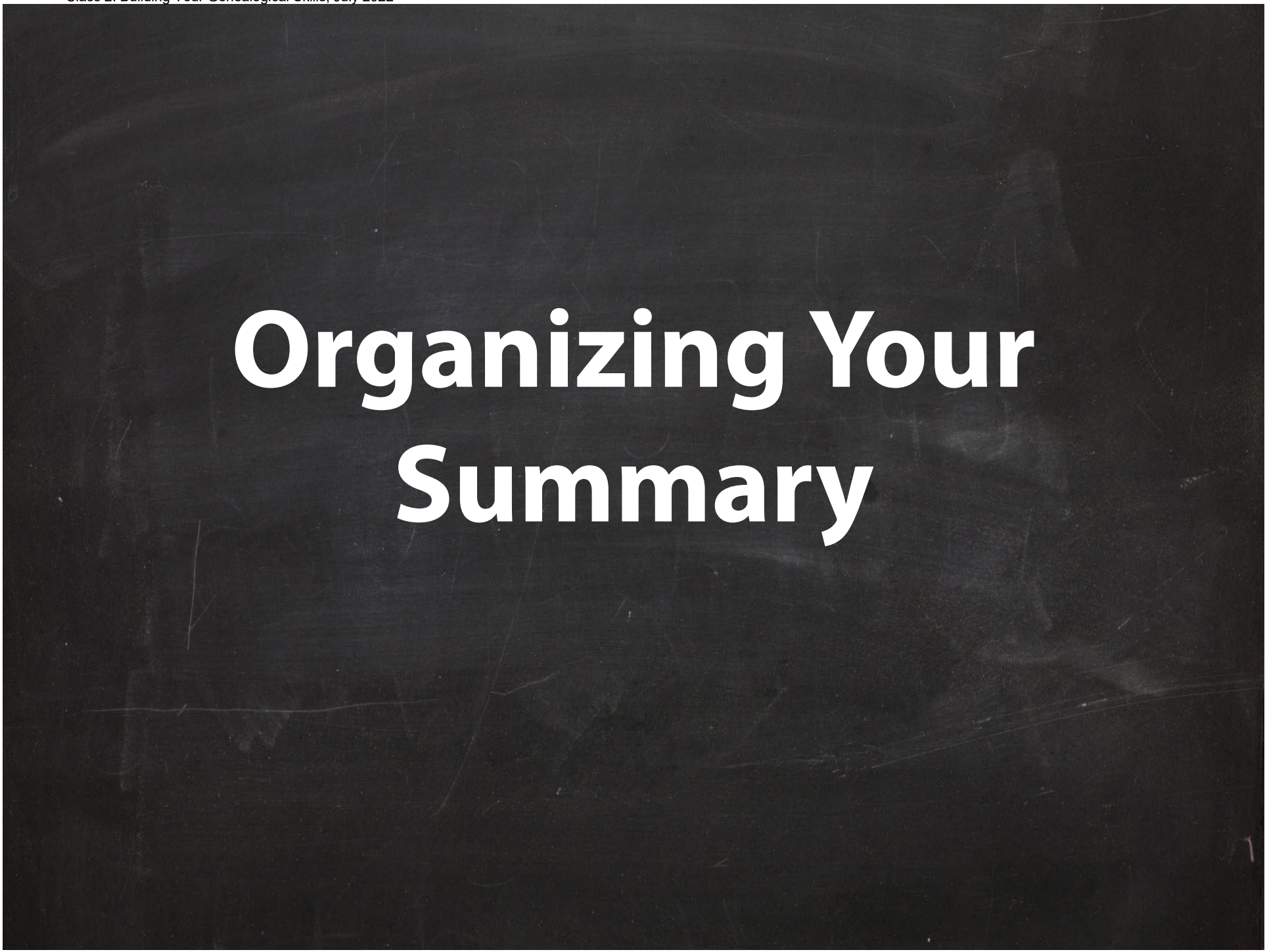

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The Genealogical Sketch

- Beginning: Vital information about a couple in the following order
  - Place of birth/baptism and birth/baptism date(s)
  - Place of death/burial and death/burial date(s)
  - Place of marriage and marriage date
- Middle:
  - Narrative about the family
- End: List of couple's children and their dates
- People are numbered

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Genealogical Numbering Systems

- Why bother?
  - You need to be able to use compiled genealogies
  - If you write your history for family, you will need to use a system to organize the presentation
- Numbering systems
  - Ahnentafel
  - Register
  - NGSQ/Modified Register

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Ahnentafel

- Starts with a person and works back – see pedigree chart
- Males always even number, females always odd number
  - Father's number, take the subject's number and double it
  - Mother's number, father + 1
- When using Ahnentafel for genealogical sketches – lists of children are not usually included

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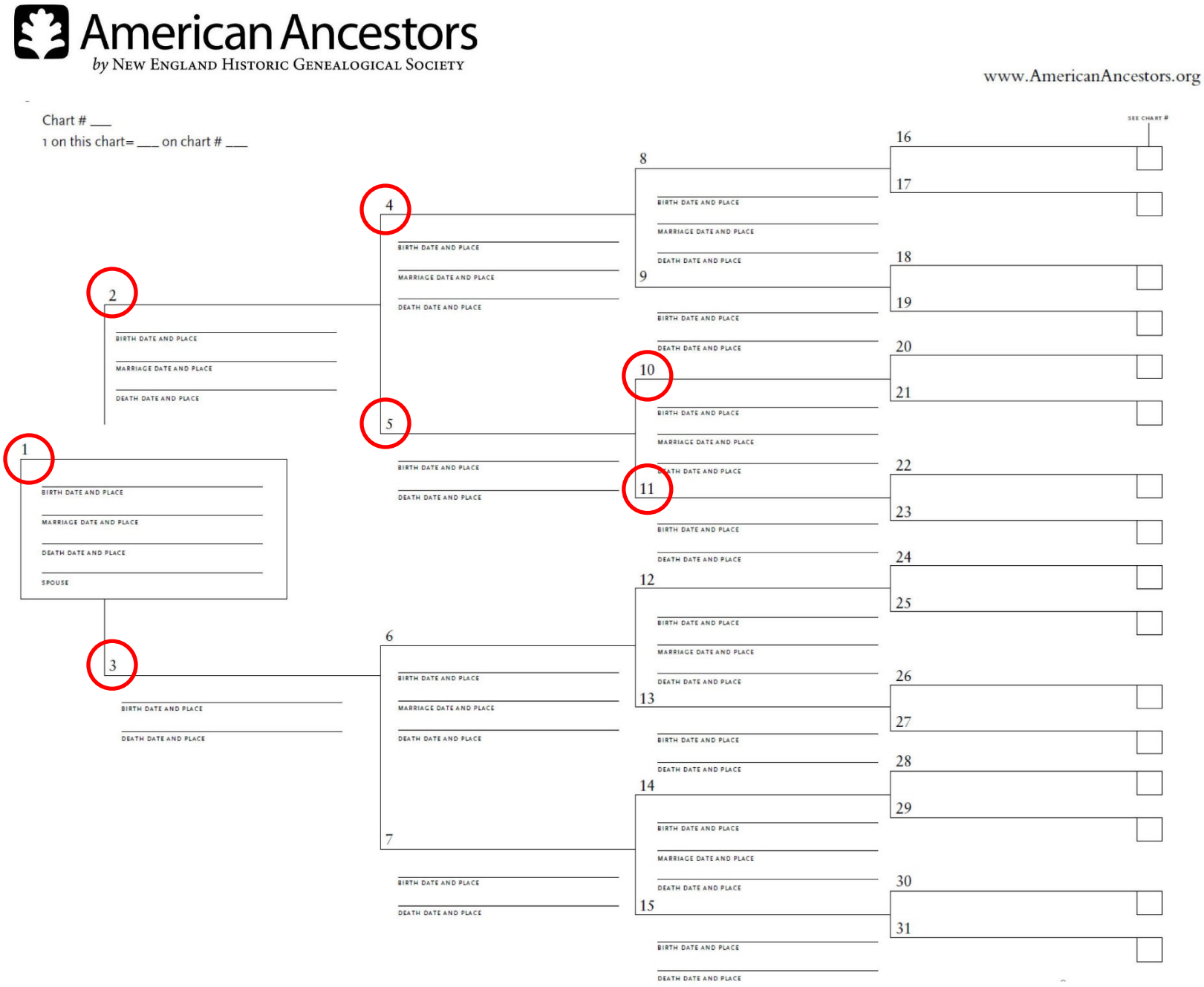

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Ahnentafel Sketch

- Ascending numbering system
- Lists of children often not included

Rhonda R. McClure, *Ancestors of Bob Schieffer* (Boston, NEHGS, 2016, p. 11)

12. **Lemuel Ashley Decatur Payne** was born in North Carolina 29 January 1844 and died at Austin, Travis County, Texas 21 September 1911. He married ca. 1869,[20]

13. **Nancy Dialtha Blanton,** who was born in Monroe County, Tennessee 29 December 1846 and died at Austin 5 May 1913.[21]

14. **James Crawford McMillan** was born in Missouri 12 February 1828 and died in Karnes County, Texas 31 August 1907. He married in Hill County, Texas 24 November 1864,[22]

15. **Agnes Ince,** who was born in Missouri in 1845 and died at Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas before 23 November 1916.[23]

James served in the 12th Texas Calvary of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. He enlisted in Company A, which was comprised of men from Hill County, where he was living at the time. The 12th served as part of Parson's Brigade and was originally known as the Fourth Texas Dragoons. They saw action in Arkansas during the war, stopping the Union advance in Little Rock; fought the Union cavalry in the White River Expedition; participated in the Battle of Cotton Plant; and attacked a Union supply line at L'Anguille Ferry. The 12th gained a reputation as hard fighters; it became known as the Swamp Fox Regiment for traveling swamps—and attacking Union positions—at night.

The most significant fighting the 12th engaged in, however, was in 1864, during the Red River campaign in Louisiana. They were involved in attacking the Union at Blair's Landing and participated in the last battle of the campaign, at Yellow Bayou. They returned to Arkansas and finally were ordered back to Texas in 1865, where they disbanded. The Texas State Historical Association website says, "Their efforts helped prevent a Federal occupation of southern Arkansas and northern Louisiana. As scouts and raiders, they protected East Texas from federal soldiers and became one of the best known Texas cavalry regiments in the Trans-Mississippi Department.[234]

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Register

- Descending numbering system with children assigned numbers if they have their own sketch

Genealogical Summary

1. HENRY[1] DISPAW/DESPER was born say 1618 (assuming marriage at 25), and died in Lynn, Massachusetts, in October 1676.[10] He married in Horsemonden, Kent, 10 April 1643, **HELEN JARRET,** who died probably prior to 1673 when her husband and son Henry, both potters, immigrated to Massachusetts.

Henry Dispaw left a will dated 27 February 1674[/5?], proved 26 June 1677, mentioning sons Henry and Edward. The other children, whose baptisms are shown below, evidently died or remained in England.

Children of Henry[1] and Helen (Jarret) Dispaw/Desper, all baptisms in Horsemonden:

2. i. HENRY[2] DISPAW, b. ca. 1644; m. (1) _____; (2) CATHERINE _____.
ii. JOAN DISPAW, bp. 13 Sept. 1646.
3. iii. EDWARD DISPAW, bp. 24 March 1649/50; m. SARAH _____.
iv. CHRISTOPHER DISPAW, bp. 7 Feb. 1654.
v. WILLIAM DISPAW, bp. 27 March 1657.

NEHGR, Vol 170: 298

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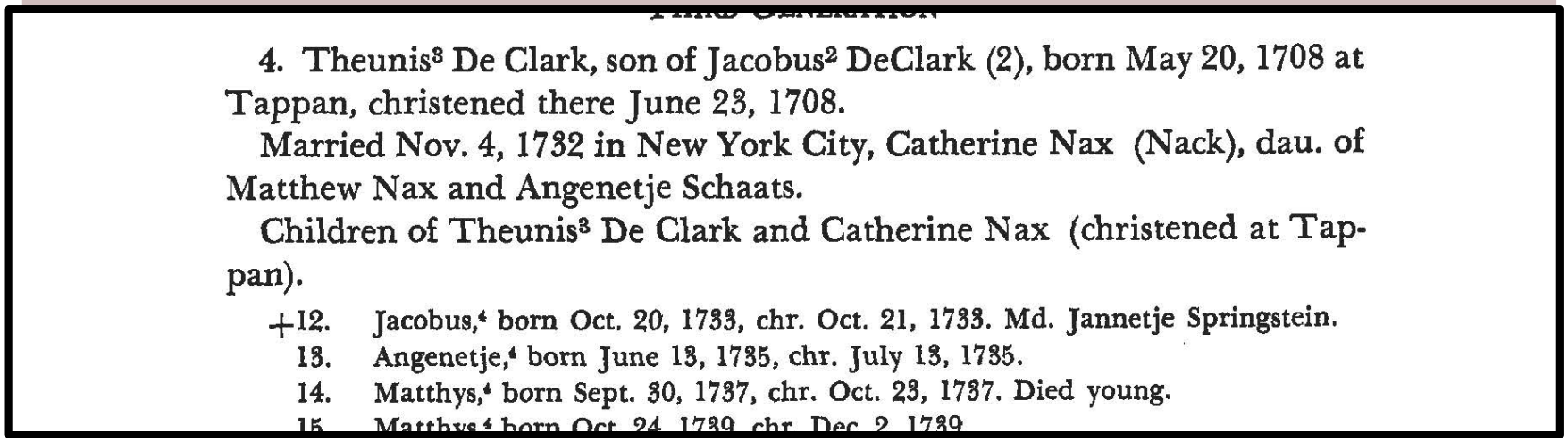
NGSQ (AKA Modified Register)

- Descending numbering system, every child receives a number based on birth order
- Plus signs or asterisks show children with their own sketch



THIRD GENERATION

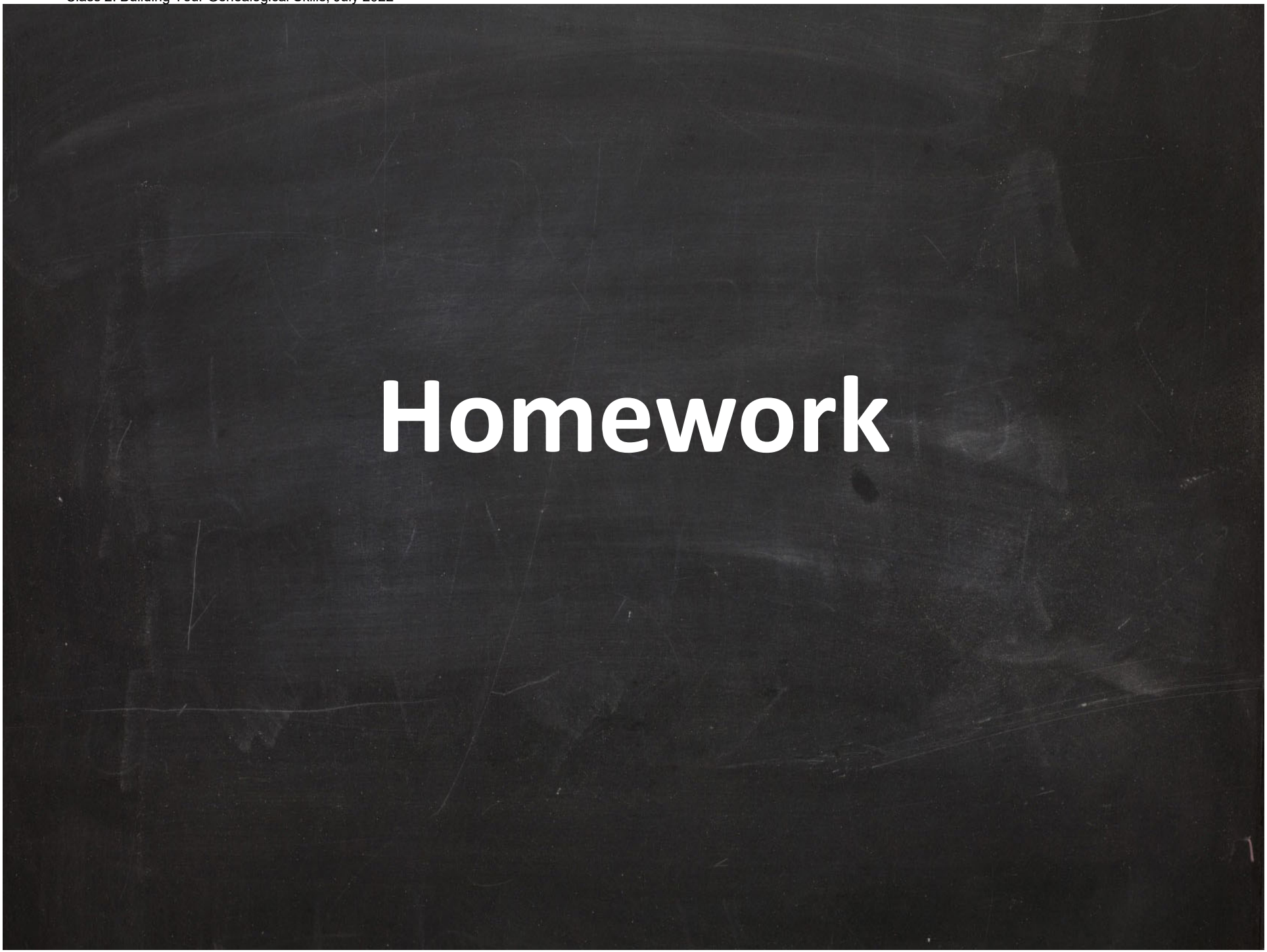
4. Theunis[3] De Clark, son of Jacobus[2] DeClark (2), born May 20, 1708 at Tappan, christened there June 23, 1708.

Married Nov. 4, 1732 in New York City, Catherine Nax (Nack), dau. of Matthew Nax and Angenetje Schaats.

Children of Theunis[3] De Clark and Catherine Nax (christened at Tappan).

+12. Jacobus,[4] born Oct. 20, 1733, chr. Oct. 21, 1733. Md. Jannetje Springstein.
13. Angenetje,[4] born June 13, 1735, chr. July 13, 1735.
14. Matthys,[4] born Sept. 30, 1737, chr. Oct. 23, 1737. Died young.
15. Matthys,[4] born Oct. 24, 1739, chr. Dec. 2, 1739.

NYGBR, Vol 96: 196



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Research Plan and Log

- Retrieve your 5-generation chart for your family
- Complete a full research plan template for one of the questions you want to answer
- Execute your plan
- Use a research log to track your progress
- Come prepared to talk about both the negative and positive aspects of using both a plan and a research log

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