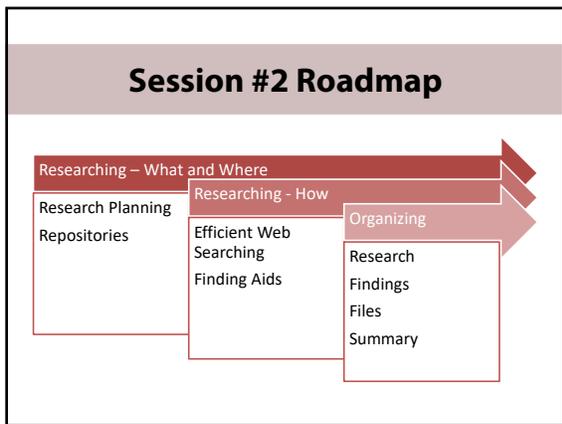


1



2



3

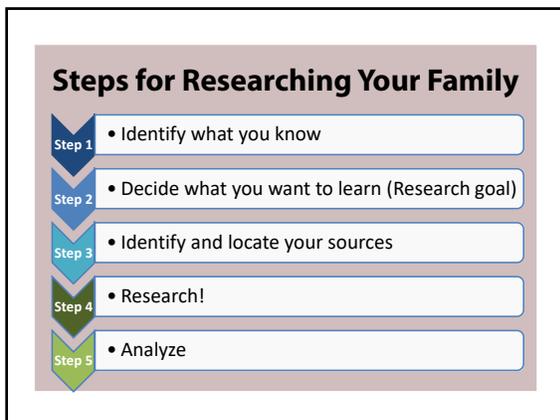
Homework Review

Research Question	Records Needed to Answer	Repository

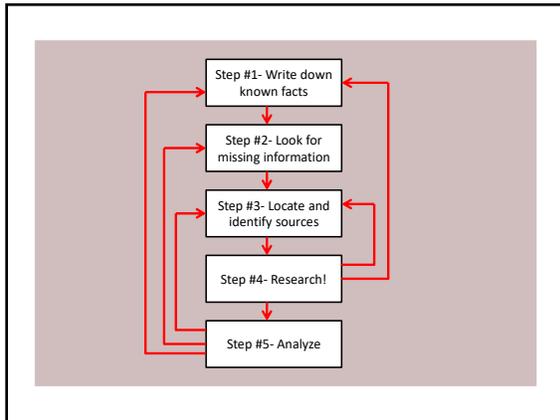
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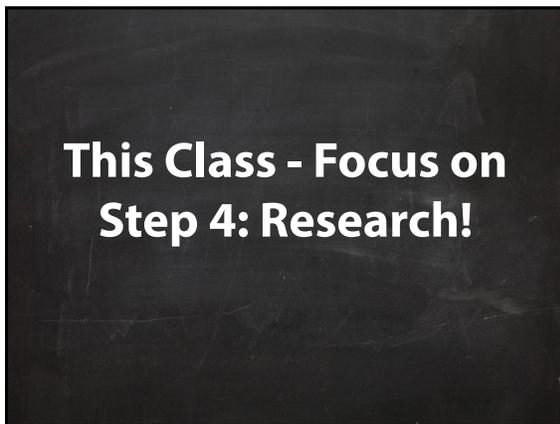
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8

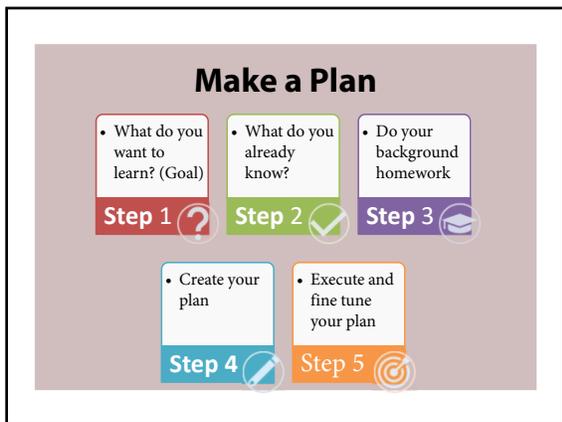
Step 4: Research!

- 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)

9



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12

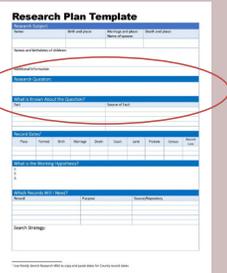
Sample Question

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

13

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



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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?

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?

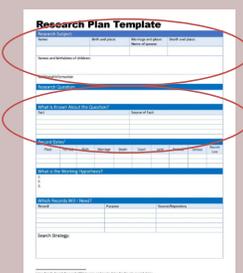
What is Known About the Question?

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



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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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FamilySearch Research Wiki
A Genealogy Resource Guide
166,176 articles

Find the birth, death, marriage, census records, and other genealogy resources for your ancestor by selecting the region and country below.

Find Search Tip

Use of all Locations

Finding Records Dates

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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

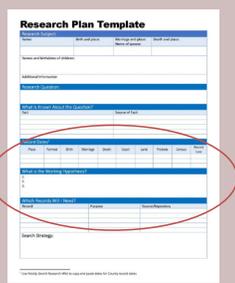
What is the Working Hypothesis?

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



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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

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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

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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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AmericanAncestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Research Log

Repository: _____ Date: _____

Source Information <small>(URL, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)</small>	Call Number <small>(file number, URL, etc.)</small>	Objective	Results

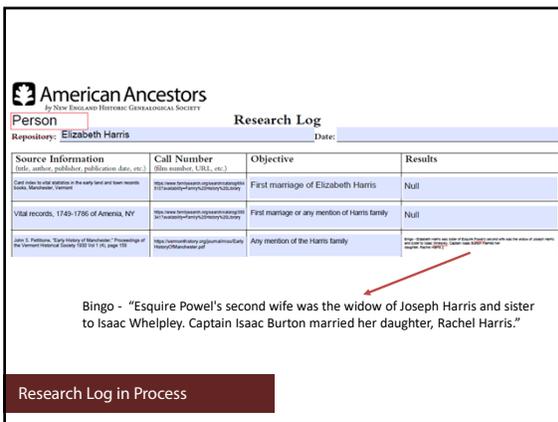
www.AmericanAncestors.org

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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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Source Information	Call Number	Objective	Results
First marriage of Elizabeth Harris		First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	Null
Vital records, 1743-1786 of America, NY		First marriage or any mention of Harris family	Null
John S. Pedersen, "Early History of Manchester," Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society, 1922 (Vol. 17), page 128		Any mention of the Harris family	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."

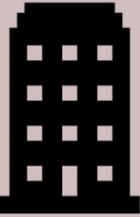
Research Log in Progress

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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

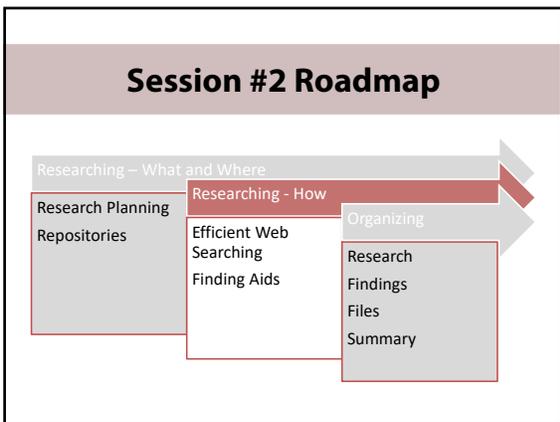
- “Big 3” general genealogy websites
 - *Ancestry.com* (\$)
 - *FamilySearch.org* (free)
 - *AmericanAncestors.org* (\$, guest option)
- Location-specific websites
 - Archives of a particular state, county, or city, e.g., Washington State Digital Archives, Missouri Digital Heritage, Baton Rouge Digital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



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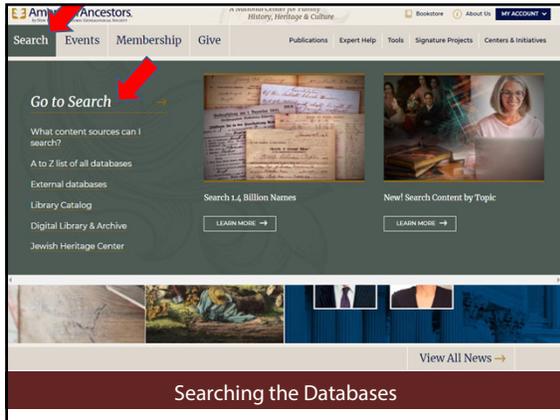
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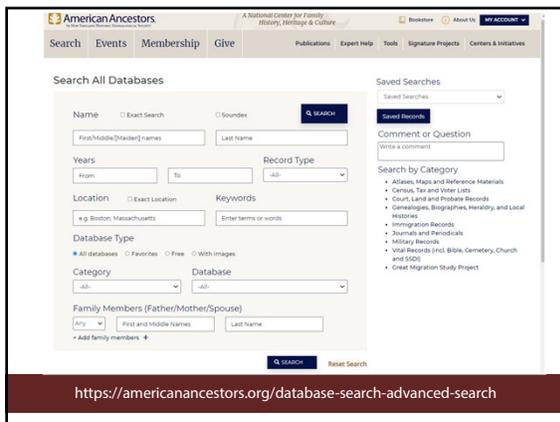
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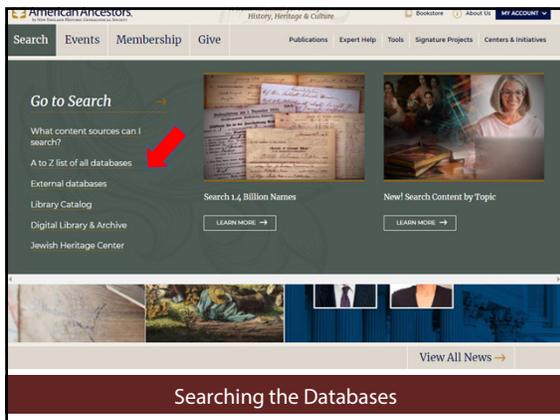
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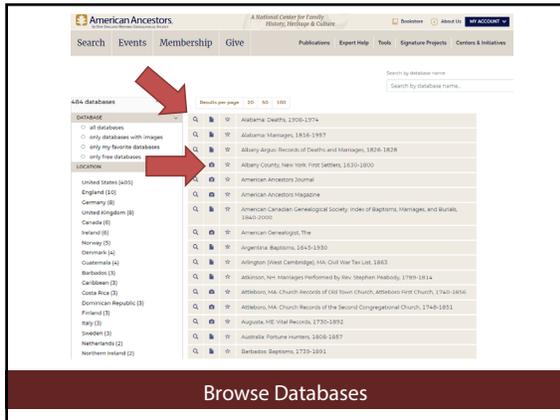
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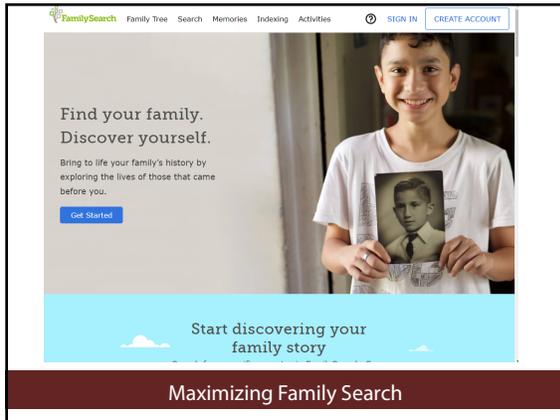
46



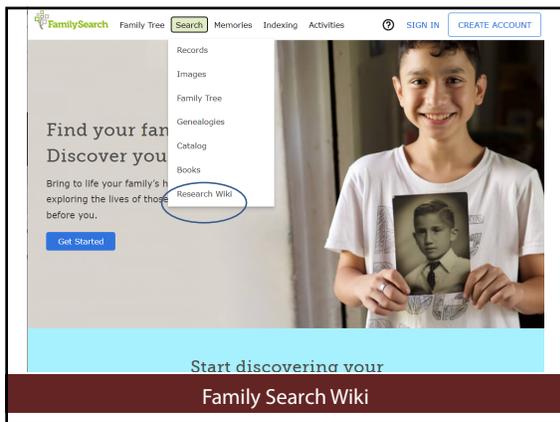
47



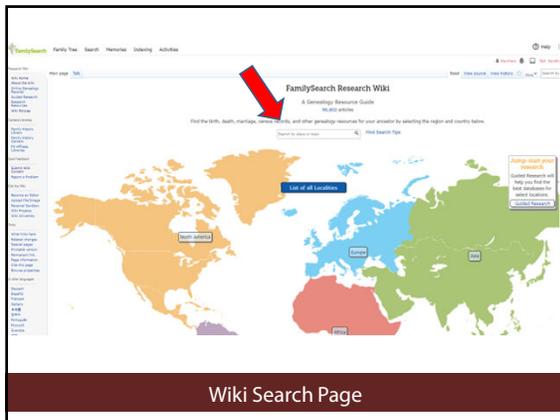
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49



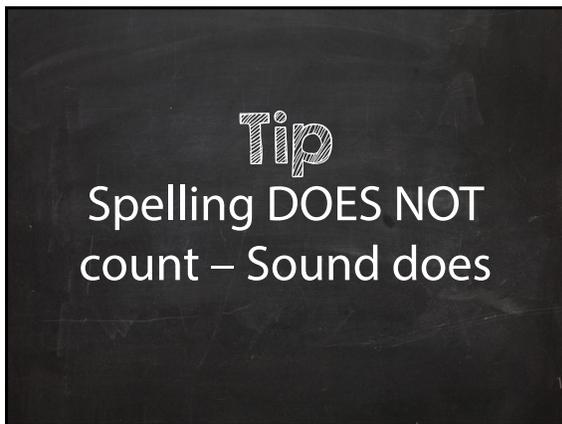
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Wildcards

- 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

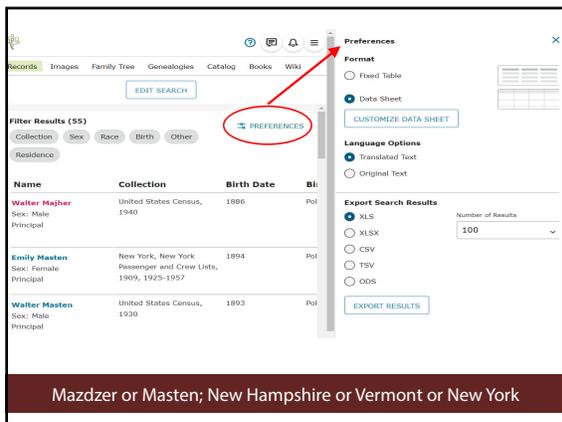
65

Results Page – Name, Birth, Residence

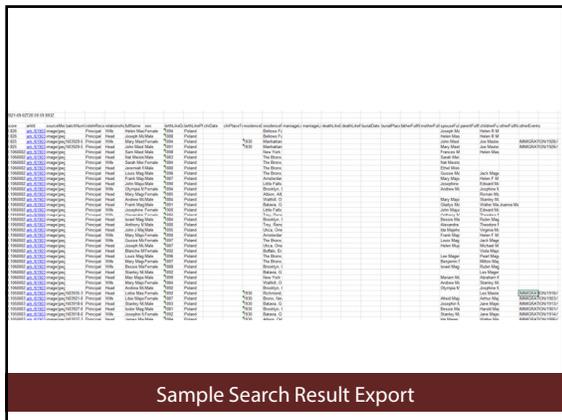
66



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Power Searching at Ancestry

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

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All results for Michael D*Herty

Results 1-20 of 206,753

Search Filters

Michael
Priority
Born Prince Edward, L.
Collection: All Collections

Records Categories

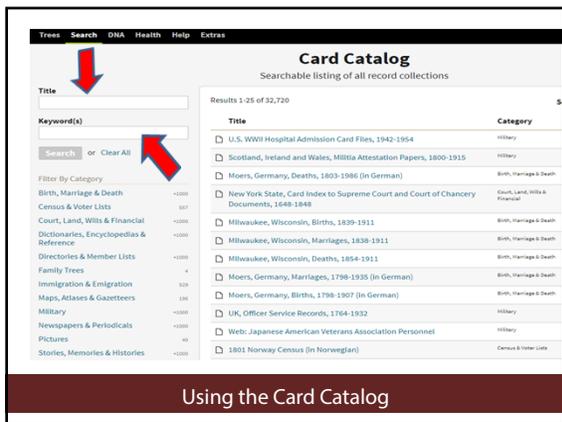
Web: Prince Edward Island, Baptism Index, 1788-1943 84% baptisms & christenings	Name: Michael Joseph Doherty Mother: Rose Rooney Father: Joseph Doherty Birth: 12 Jun 1919 Baptism: 18 Jun 1920 Saint, Prince Edward Island, Canada
Web: Prince Edward Island, Baptism Index, 1788-1943 84% baptisms & christenings	Name: Michael Dougherty Mother: Sarah Flynn Father: Owen Dougherty Birth: 23 Apr 1864 Baptism: 26 Jun 1864 Vernon River, Prince Edward Island, Canada
Web: Prince Edward Island, Baptism Index, 1788-1943 84% baptisms & christenings	Name: Michael Doherty Mother: Nancy Shaw Father: Patrick Doherty Birth: 3 Dec 1940 Baptism: 19 Dec 1940 Prince Edward

Ancestry Results for Michael D*herty, born PEI

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Finding Aids

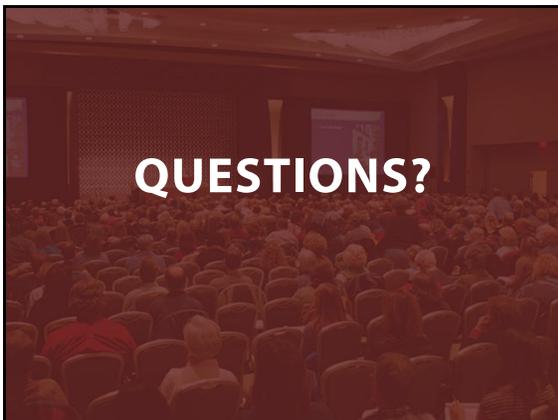
- Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research
- New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer
- County and town histories

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Digital Book Sources

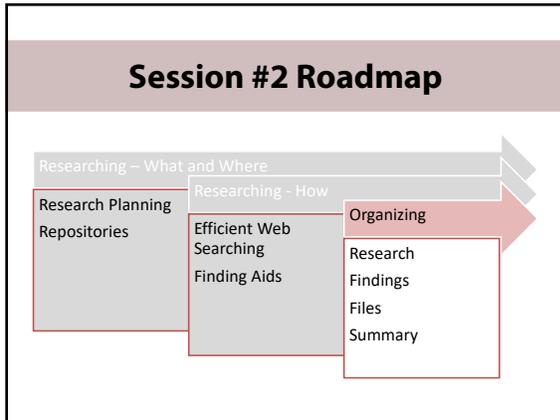
- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- <https://books.google.com/>
- <https://archive.org/index.php>
- <https://openlibrary.org/>
- <https://books.familysearch.org>
- <http://library.si.edu/digital-library>

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QUESTIONS?

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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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**Organizing Your
Research Process**

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Reminder – Use the Basic Tools!

- Research Plan
- Research Log

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Tasks Lists and To-Dos

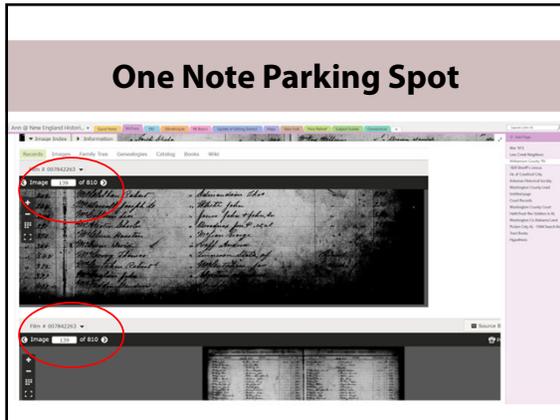
- Suggestion 1: Keep a dedicated research notebook
- Suggestion 2: Use a word processing program, spreadsheet or database program
- Suggestion 3: Use your genealogy software program's task lists, etc.

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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

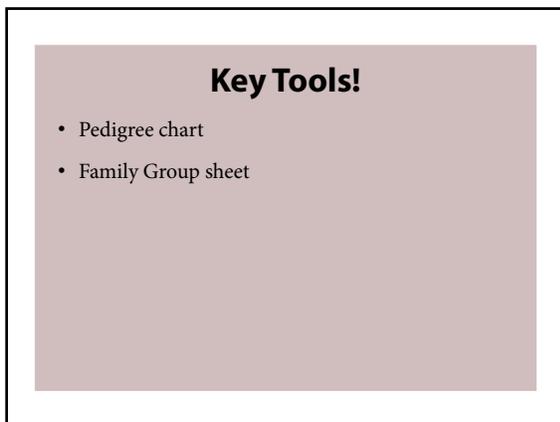
93



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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.

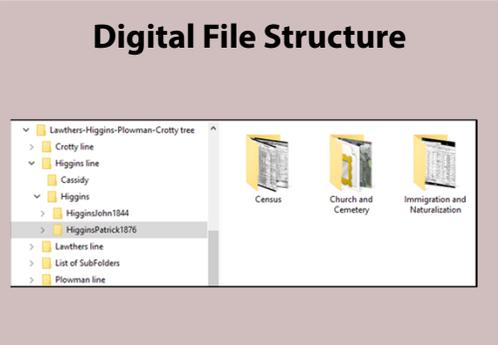
102

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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**Organizing Your
Summary**

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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

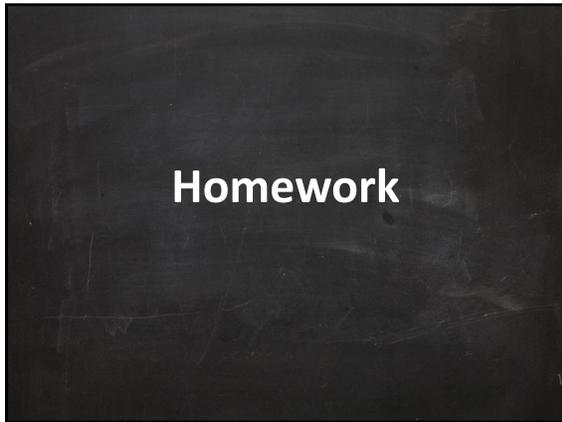
109

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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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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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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