



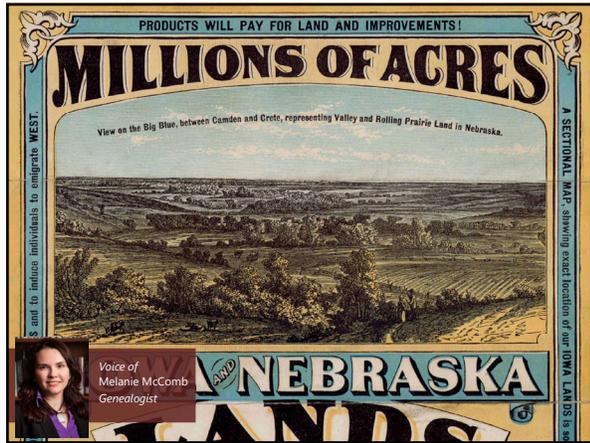
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"Follow the Money" Approach

- When vital records do not exist or have significant gaps, we turn to financial records to learn more about our ancestors
- This approach can be used to track an individual's movements through a country or overseas
- It can help clarify relationships between families

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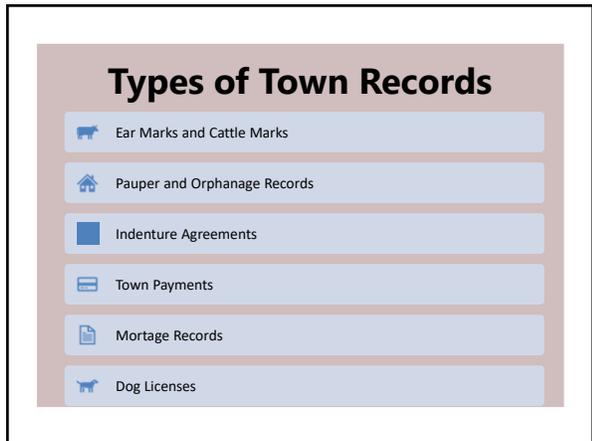
Types of Records

Town Records	Land Records	Military Pension and Bounty Land Records
Probate Records	Tax Records	Employment Records

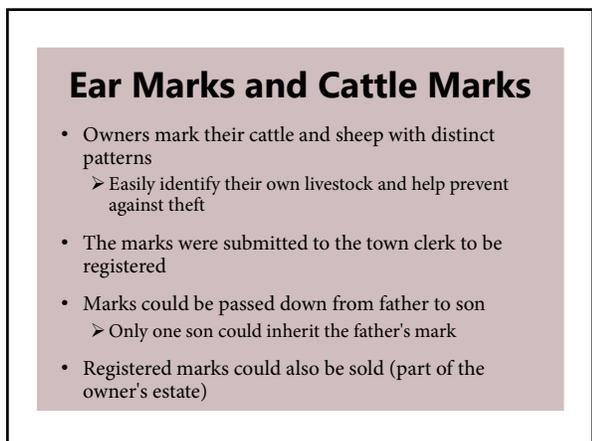
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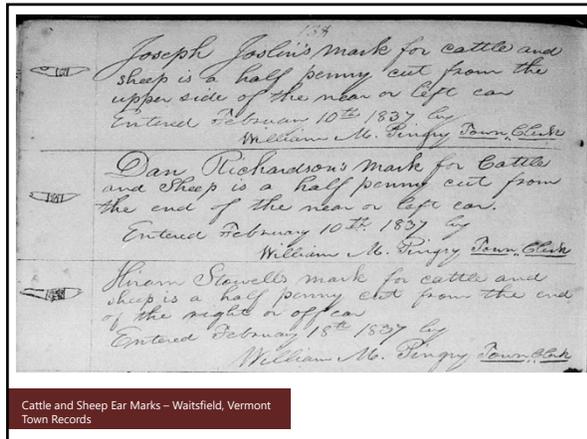
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Pauper and Orphanage Records

- Town officials were responsible for supporting the poor and orphaned children
- Guardians may be appointed to care for orphans who were heirs to property
- Orphaned children may be "bound out" to learn a trade or sent to an institution like an orphanage

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts D^o to the Town of Newburyport for the support of and supplies to sundry paupers not belonging to this nor any other town in this Commonwealth from June 3rd 1830 to July 3rd 1831. inclusive.

Support.

Geo Ann Bryan	302	90	27 45
Mary Butterfield	302	de	27 45
Mary Bantlett	302	de	27 45
Moses Gales	8	de	7 20
John Rogers	302	de	27 45
John Campbell & wife	302	180	54 90
Esther Paynes	302	90	27 45
Elmer Small	302	50	15 25
Mary Aiken	302	90	27 45
Sons Children of Adam Lane	302	100	30 50
Christopher Gardner	7	90	6 30
James Stogian	302	50	15 25
Saml Salkus	22	90	19 80
Mary Ann Aiken	302	90	27 45

Newburyport, MA Welfare Records

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Indenture Agreements

- Legal contracts made between an indentured servant and an employer "master"
- Outlines the duration of servitude and the rules that servant and master will abide by

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INDENTURE OF A GIRL, BOSTON, ABOUT 1701.

THIS INDENTURE Witnesseth that Mary Clifford, daughter of Stephen Clifford late of Boston Deceased aged nineteen years of her own free & Voluntary Will hath put her self Apprentice or Servant to John Pastre and Marget his wife and to their assignes and with him or them after the manner of a Servant to dwell and serve from this present first day of August into the full End and Term of four years from thence next ensuing the date hereof; by all which Term of four years the said Servant the said Mr or Mistris well and truly shall serve their Service shall keep close their Command lawfull and honest everywhere. She shall gladly do, hurt to her said M or M she shall not do, to the Value of Twelve pence by the year, but shall let if she may, or else immediately admonish her said Master thereof; the Goods of her said Mr or Mrs she shall not incontinently waste, nor them in anybody hand, whereby her Mr may incur any hurt; Fornication in the House of her said Mr or else where, she shall not Commit; Whorehouse she shall not Contract; without the Special License of her sd Master. From the Service of her Mr day or night she shall not absent or prolong herself; but in all things as a good and faithful Apprentice or Servant, shall bear and behave her self towards her said Master and all theirs during the Term aforesaid; and the said John Pastre and Marget his wife doe inforce the finding and providing of their said Servant apparel, Meat, Drink and Bedding, and all other necessaries meet and convenient for a Servant, for and during the Term aforesaid; And at the Expiration of the aforesaid Term her said Master or Mrs shall give unto said Servant decent apparel both of Linnen and Woolen in Witness whereof the Parties above mentioned for the true performance of the aforesaid Covenants & Agreements have jointly & severally Interchangeably set, their Hands & Seals to each indenture being both of one Tenth & Term; and Date in Boston - this first - day of August in the first - Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady so God in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred.1"

Boston Record Commissioners Report
Vol. 10, p. 151 (Archive.org)

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Mortgage Records

Mortdy Wright to Joseph M Wright Summed May 20 1709
at 90 minutes past eleven o'clock A.M.

Know all men by these presents, that I Mortdy Wright of Boston in the County of Middlesex, in consideration of Eighty Dollars paid to me by Joseph M Wright of Boston, County aforesaid, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby grant, bargain, sell & convey unto the said Joseph M Wright, the following personal property, to wit: One Slave named Hagar, 1 White Horse, 1 dozen Iron Bars, 1 dozen Iron Hammer quality, 1 Bucking Blade, 1 Baking Stone, 1 Leather Side with the hid clothes, shads & cords, 1 Shawl, 3 Bells, 2 Light Stands, 1 Pair with trawers, 2 Looking Glasses, 1 pair Golden Buttons, 10 Buttons, 1 Pen box. I have & to hold the property aforesaid unto the said Joseph M Wright his Executors, Administrators & assigns forever.

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Census Documents

- Identify the occupation of your ancestor as well as the amount of real estate they owned
- Agriculture census schedules should be consulted if you have farmers in your family
 - Indicate the amount of land they owned

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Value of Real Estate Owned

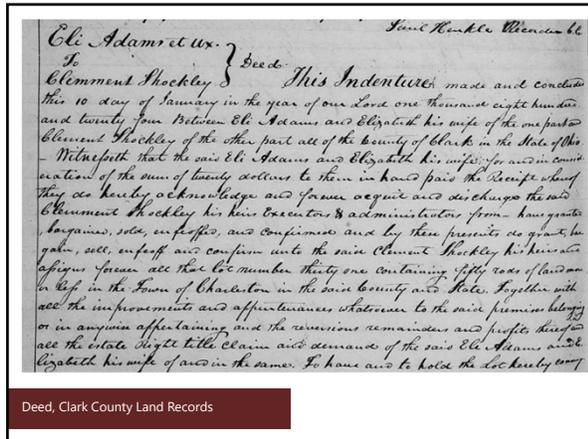
SCHEDULE 1 - Free Inhabitants in the County of Marion, State of Iowa, enumerated by me, on the 10th day of April, 1850.													
The Name of each Free Inhabitant and place of abode on the first day of April, 1850, was		Sex		Color		Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.		Place or Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.		Value of Real Estate Owned.		Value of Personal Estate owned, including property in transit.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
181	Wm. B. Buggs	M	35	W	White	Farmer	Ill.	Ill.	1000	100			
182	John B. Buggs	M	30	W	White	Farmer	Iowa	Iowa	500	50			
183	Charles B. Buggs	M	25	W	White	Farmer	Iowa	Iowa	200	20			
184	John B. Buggs	M	20	W	White	Farmer	Iowa	Iowa	100	10			
185	John B. Buggs	M	15	W	White								

1850 Census, Marion County, Iowa

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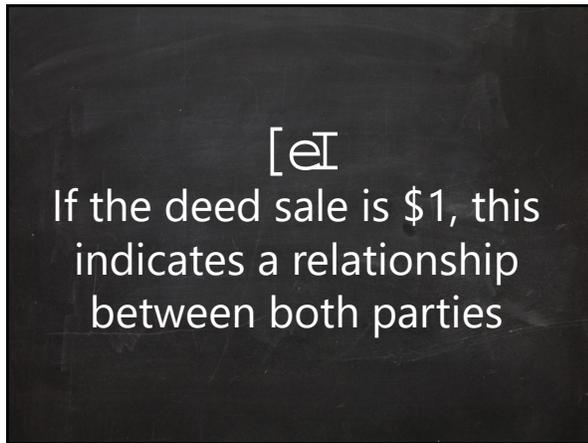
Ancestry.com

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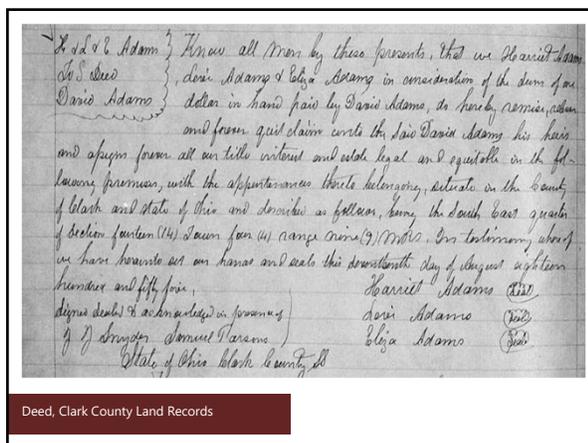


Deed, Clark County Land Records

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Deed, Clark County Land Records

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The Homestead Act

- Signed in 1862, this law allowed any American (including freed slaves) to purchase up to 160 acres of federal land
- Buyer was required to live on the land for five years and perform necessary upkeep and additions
- Civil War Union veterans could use time served in military towards the residency requirement

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Locating Homesteading Files

- Use the Bureau of Land Management web site to search for land patents in the U.S.
- Land entry files can be obtained from the National Archives in Washington, DC
 - Homesteading files are starting to become available on Ancestry.com

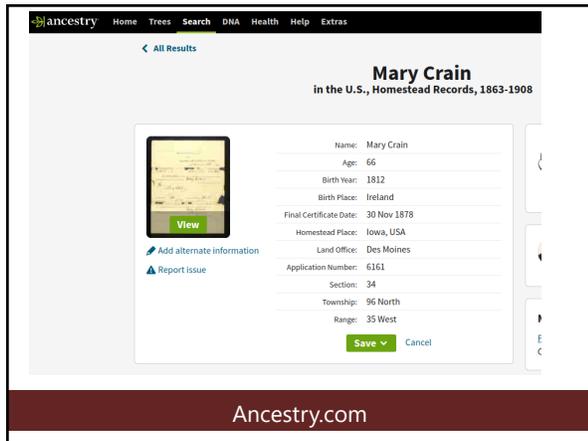
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<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

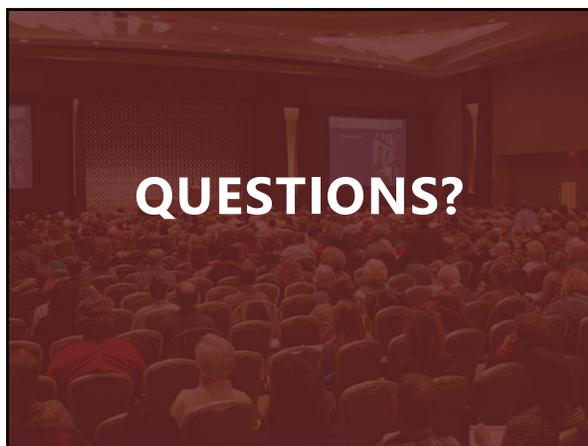
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Military Pension and Bounty Land Records

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Revolutionary War Pension History

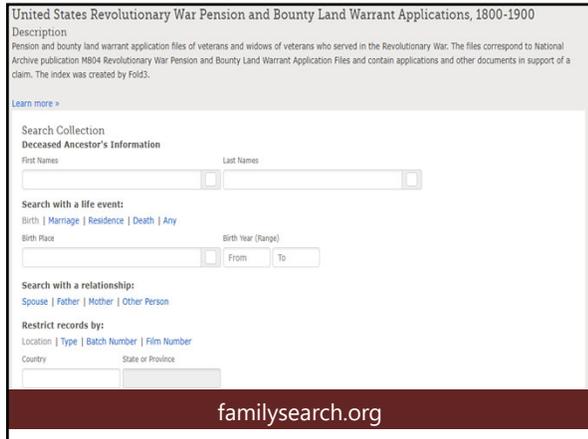
- 24 August 1780 – Congress passed an act to offer pensions to widows and orphans of Revolutionary War soldiers
- 1818 – Congress passed a resolution granting pensions to veterans who were not disabled but were having financial difficulties – lifetime pension
- 1832 – Full pay for life to officers and enlisted men who served 2+ years; partial pay for 6 months to 2 years
- Original files are kept at the National Archives, Washington D.C. (digitized and available on Fold3.com)

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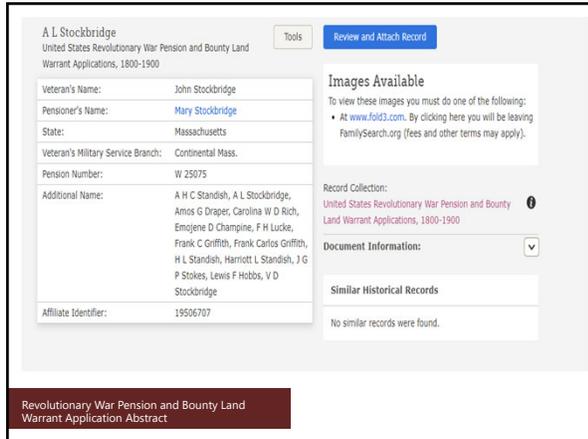
Pension Roll of 1835

- In 1834/1835, the U.S. Senate passed a series of resolutions requiring a list be compiled of pensioners who were drawing pensions for service in the Revolutionary War
- Some War of 1812 veterans may be listed
 - Most appear in later pension rolls

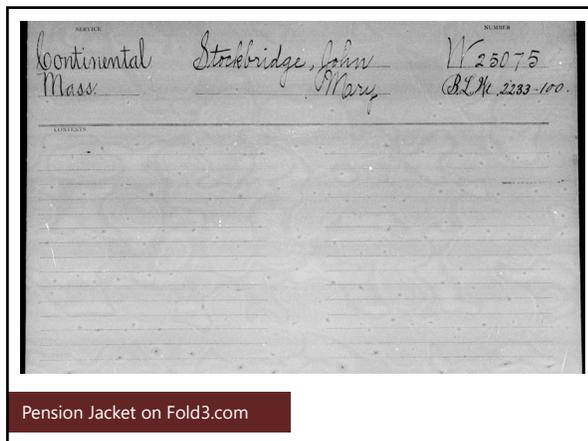
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Civil War Pensions

- Federal pensions were granted to Union veterans and their surviving family (spouse, children, parents, dependents)
- Original files are kept at the National Archives, Washington D.C. (widow's pensions being digitized and added to Fold3)
 - Use NATF-85 form to make your request
- Confederate pensions were granted by the individual states
 - Link: <https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/confederate/pension>

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U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Lived In Year Location
City, County, State, Country

Any Event

Add family member: Spouse

Spouse First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Keyword
e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Relation to Head

Relative's Relationship

Gender

Search

Provided in association with
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
 Records Administration

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Name Range

Christian
 Baumgardner, Daniel-Beamen, James
 Beamerderfer, John H.-Bechtol, George
 Bechtol, Henry-Beeman, Arthur
 Beekman, Chanogy-Bell, James R.
 Bell, James R.-Benford, John H.
 Benford, Joseph-Benning, John
 Benning, Charles-Bernard, Dennis
Personal People Release Files

Related data collections

Ancestry.com

50

(9-25-9)

NAME OF SOLDIER: *Adams, Henry*

NAME OF DEPENDENT: *Widow, Minor, Mrs. Isaac Adams*

SERVICE: *A. S. U. S. A. C. 1st Regt.*

DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1881, April 21</i>	<i>Invalid, Widow, Minor,</i>	<i>1016, 674.</i>	<i>1011, 266</i>	<i>Ill.</i>

ATTORNEY: _____

REMARKS: *C-2, 356, 084*

6-112

Civil War Pension Index Card

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Testate vs. Intestate

Testate	Intestate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will • Codicil • Letters of testamentary • Inventory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of Administration • Inventory • Guardianships • Distributions

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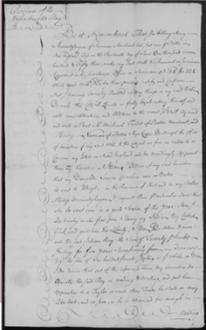
Wills

- A will is a legal document where property is transferred upon the party's death to family, friends, servants, business partners, and the community
- Kept at the county level where the deceased had their primary residence
- Wills can include the following:
 - Names of children (and their spouses)
 - Name of spouse
 - Names of grandchildren, nieces/nephews
 - Names of servants
 - Names of slaves

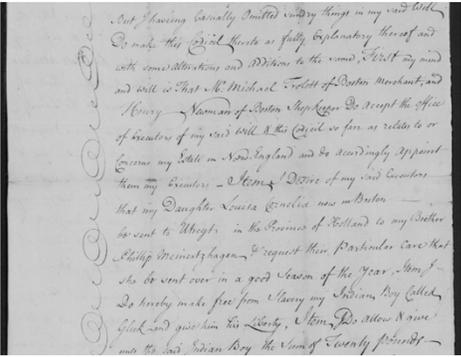
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Codicils

- An addition or change to a will
- Common changes:
 - Add or remove heirs
 - Change distribution of estates
 - Acknowledge deaths of heirs in will
 - Administrators of estate



55



Codicil, Henry Meinertzhagen, Suffolk County, Mass, Case 10998

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Why isn't someone mentioned in a will?

- Deceased
- Moved away
- Already received their inheritance
- Not yet born/considered a minor when the will was written
- Estrangement

57

Inventories

- A list of the deceased's belongings and property was taken and distributed to heirs
 - Keep note of the persons who took the inventory - they may be family or close friends/business partners

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Letters of Administration

- Issued if an individual died intestate
- The court appoints an administrator/trix
 - Distributes the estate of the deceased
 - If the deceased is married, typically the widow/widower

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Letters of Administration – estate of Joseph Knight, Essex County Mass, Case 16001

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Accounts

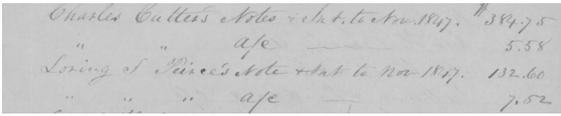
- List of debts owed to the estate
- List of debts the estate owes to others
- Published in newspapers

61

Why look at accounts?

- Hint at status of ancestor
 - Do they owe a lot of money?
 - Are they lending money frequently?
 - Do the debts add up to more than the value of the estate?
- Potential family and associate connections
 - Extended family
 - Business associates

62



Charles Cutter's estate v. Chas. T. Am. 1847. \$ 389.75
" " a/c 5.58
Living of Pierce's estate v. Chas. T. Am. 1847. 132.60
" " " a/c 7.52

List of Debts, Leonard Cutter,
Suffolk County, Mass, Case 34906

63

Distributions

- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid and debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
 - List of children if vital records aren't available
 - Married names of daughters
 - Children of deceased heirs

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Whereas by your account of administration of said estate, this day settled and allowed, it appears that there is now remaining in your hands the sum of four hundred ninety one dollars seventy seven cents and a half, being the balance of said account, to be distributed among the heirs of said intestate, agreeably to law: Now my therefore hereby ordered and directed to pay said distributive balance, in full, unto the heirs of said intestate, the sum of one hundred ~~twenty~~ ^{ninety} dollars ~~twenty~~ ^{eight} cents, as their distributive shares of said balance, taking their receipts for the same; all to be still held, so far as their said shares will extend, to pay their debts, and what further debts and charges shall hereafter arise against said

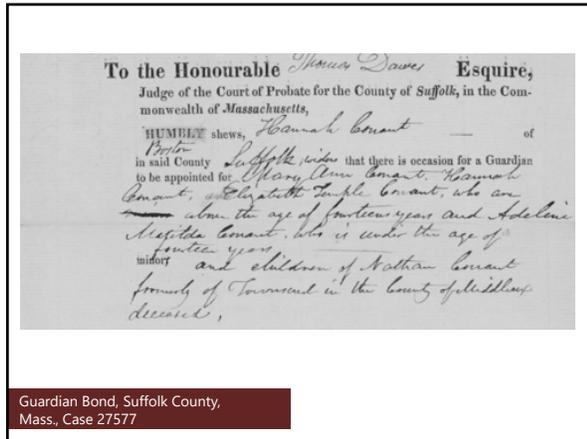
Order Distribution, Joseph Knight estate, Essex County, Mass., Case 16001

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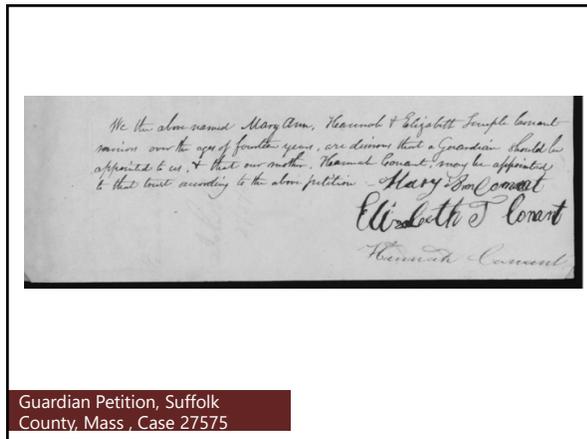
Guardianships

- Appointed for minor children
 - Males: under 21
 - Females: under 18
- Guardians protected the inheritance of minor heirs to an estate
 - Can provide financial support
- After minor becomes of age, the guardian is released
 - Guardian would then make an account of compensation

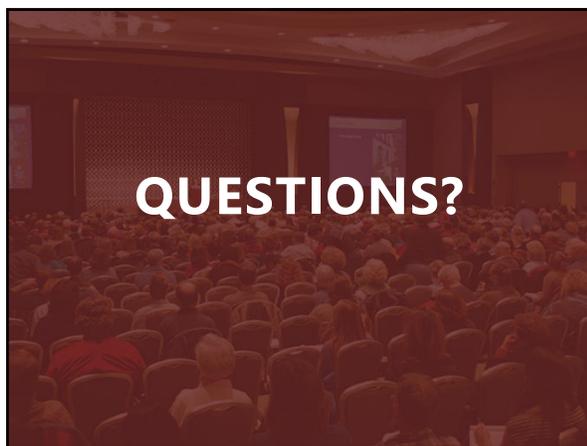
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Poll Tax

- Tax levied as a prerequisite to voting
- Massachusetts was the first to enact the poll tax in 1646, followed by New Haven in 1649
- Re-introduced in the South after the Civil War to disenfranchise African Americans from voting
 - "Grandfather clause" for poor white Americans
- Abolished in 1964 when 24th Amendment was passed

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RECORD OF WOMEN POLL TAXPAYERS.

NAME	YEAR REGISTERED	AGE	THESE COLUMNS SHOW						
			1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Sweden, Mrs. Alice (W)	76-77/1903	42-43-1903							
Davis, Mrs. Mary (Wid. Davis)	1908	8-22-1908							
Rowland, Mrs. Madeline (Wid. Rowland)									
Rogers, Miss. (Wid. Rogers)	7-11-11	12-25-11							
Reese, Mrs. Clara (Wid. Reese)	11-6-12	1-18-12							
Rowley, Mrs. Clara (Wid. Rowley)									
Rowley, Mrs. Mary (Wid. Rowley)	7-21-12	11-27-12							
Daniel, Mrs. (Wid. Daniel)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									
Wid. Mrs. (Wid. Mrs. ...)									

Women Poll Taxpayers, Dallas County, Alabama

72

Taxes on Real and Personal Estates

- Tax rolls may detail the type of structures they have on estate (house, farm, mill, etc.)
- Tax rolls are a great census alternative. They can help you recreate the community they were living in.

73

New York, Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804

74

IRS Tax Assessment Lists

- 1 Jul 1862 – Bureau of Internal Revenue was created (later renamed to Internal Revenue Service)
- The United States was divided into collection districts
- Two lists created
 - A list of names of individuals subject to taxation who lived in the division
 - A list of names of individuals who lived outside the division but were owners of property in the division

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Service Record Card

Name: **Aaron, Harry** State: *Illinois* County: *Cook* Corp. Div.:

Department: **Engineering** Division: *Chicago* Where located:

Entered on duty: **NOV 8 1912** Date of appointment: **Nov. 4, 1912** Date of exit: *6/19/12* Reported for duty on following:

Position: **WIREMAN (MOTOR & CONTROL)** How appointed: **R. L. Smith & Manley** Where appointed: **U. S.** Age: **33** Place of birth: *New York*

Salary: **656 Hour** Remarks: Home address: **7115 Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill.**

File No. **22155** Authority: *W. Debe*

Date	Salary	Position	Department	Division	Where located	Authority
<i>11/8/12</i>	<i>656</i>	<i>Wireman</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>Chicago</i>	<i>W. Debe</i>

Panama Canal Service Record Card

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Railroad Records

- Pensions granted by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board starting in 1934
 - Ancestry.com has the Pension Index for 1934-1987
 - Original claim files can be obtained from the National Archives, Atlanta, Georgia
- Each railroad company has their own archives, which include employee records

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U.S., Railroad Retirement Pension Index, 1934-1987

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Birth: Day Month Year

Death: Day Month Year

Any Event: Day Year

Keyword

Provided in association with National Archives and Administration

Related data collections

[U.S., Northern Pacific Railway Company Personnel Files, 1899-1963](#)

Find your Minnesota railroading ancestors in this rich collection of personnel files from the Northern Pacific Railway Company.

Ancestry.com

81

(12-21-09-20M-5-6025) Form 2331

NAME Paul Geldner [EMPLOYEE MUST SIGN IN INK]

SHOP Cooper OCCUPATION Cooper smith

RATE 42 per hour

DATE EMPLOYED August 27-1940 ADDRESS 716-2nd Street

DATE OF BIRTH April 19-1866

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT _____

DATE OF LEAVING 6-18-10 CAUSE Laid off

APPROVED: E. Frank G. Baumann FOREMAN

N. W. O. R. W. C. R.

Southern Pacific Railroad Employee Record Card

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Review

1. Our ancestors left behind records with each financial transaction they participated in
2. Records are located in a variety of repositories
3. Multiple records need to be consulted to understand more of your ancestor's story

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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

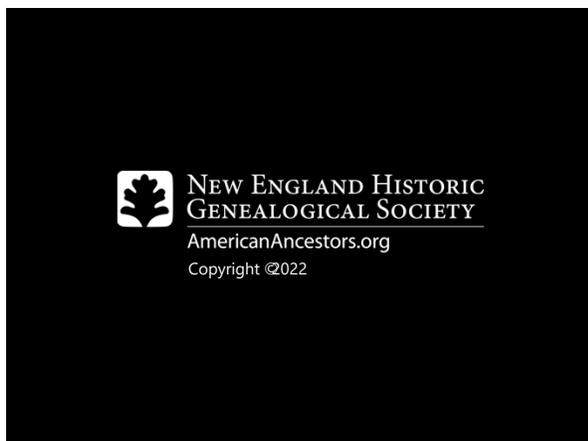
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