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Session Roadmap

Migration Routes

- Out of Northeast
- Mid-Atlantic and Ohio Valley
- Southeast to Mississippi

Tools

- Census
- Land records
- Military Maps
- County histories & genealogies

Techniques

- Cluster Research
- Chain migration

Voice of
Ann G. Lawthers
Genealogist

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Tip

Know Major Routes by Time and Place

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Routes and Modes of Transportation

- Needed a road or waterway
- Modes of transportation

1600's	• Horseback • Canoe, rowboat, shallow, seafaring boat	Revolutionary War
1781	• Flat boats – introduced for trade and travel on Ohio River and Mississippi	
1795	• Canal boat - South Hadley, MA Canal	
1811	• Steamboat - for lower Mississippi and 1818 for Great Lakes	
1827	• Railroad – Baltimore & Ohio	

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Finding the Route

- Using family and local records, discover all you can about where your ancestor **started** or **ended**
- Determine routes and modes of transportation available by time and place

Century	Route	Mode
17 th	Native trails, rivers	Horse or boat
18 th	Widened native trails, rivers	Horse or boat
19 th	Roads, canals, then railroads	Horse, flat-bottomed boat, canal boat, railroad

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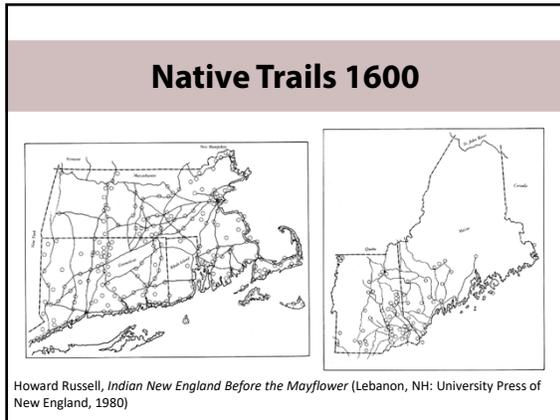
Out of the Northeast

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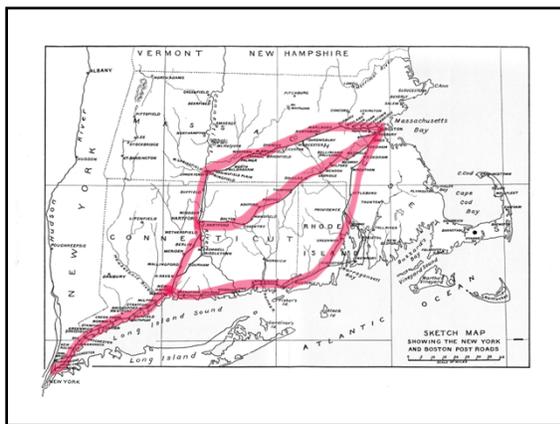
Major Routes

- 1644 • Boston Post Road – three branches – Boston to NYC
- 1699 • Albany Post Road – Albany to NYC
- 1722 • Mohawk Trail Boston to Utica, NY
- 1735 • Kings Highway – continued Boston Post Road from NYC to Charleston SC.
- 1745 • Catskill Road – Springfield, MA to Catskill, Greene County, NY on Hudson
- 1793 • Mohawk Trail - Utica to Oswego Revolutionary War
- 1794 • Great Genesee Road – Syracuse to Buffalo
- 1825 • Erie Canal – Albany to Buffalo

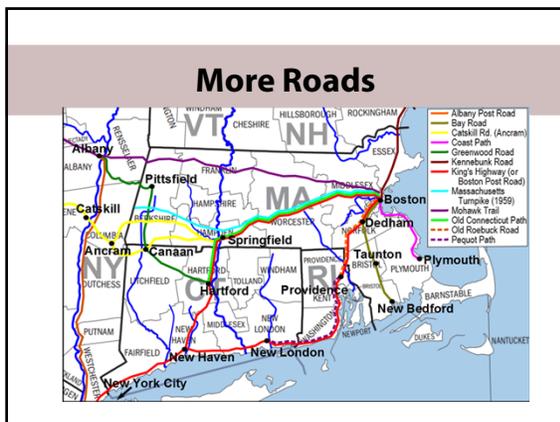
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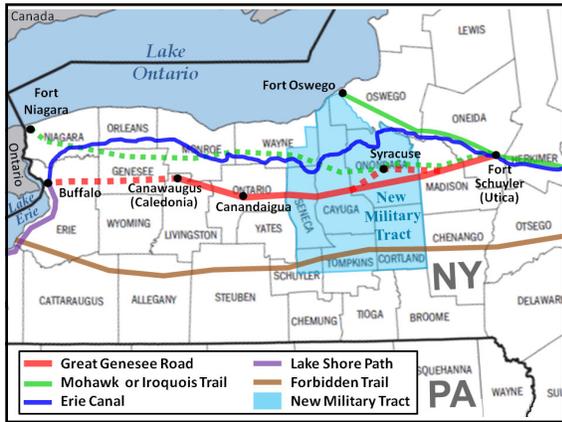
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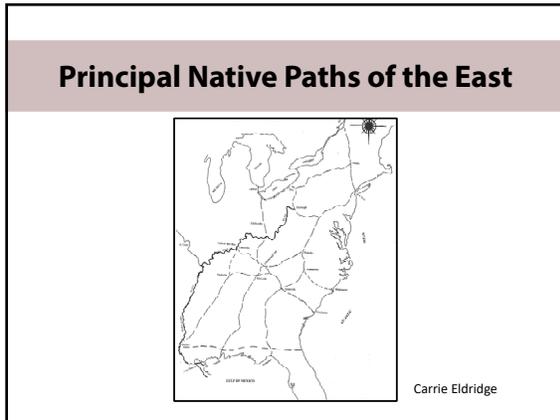
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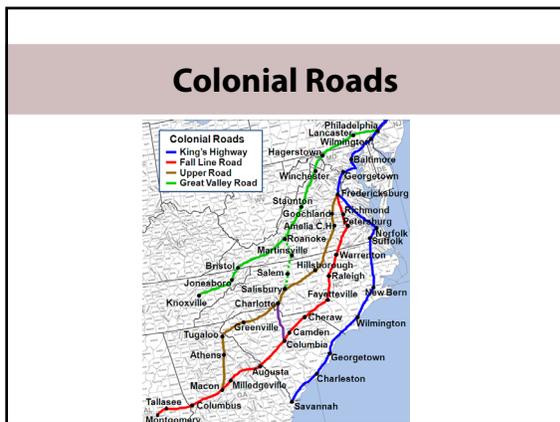
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Major Roads

Revolutionary War

- 1797 • Natchez Trace – Natchez MS to Nashville, TN
- 1806 • Federal Road – Macon GA to Mobile, AL
- 1814 • General Jackson's Road – Nashville to New Orleans
- 1814 • General Carroll's Road – New Orleans to Jackson, MS
- 1814 • McCrae's Path or St. Stephen's Road – St. Stephens to Natchez, MS

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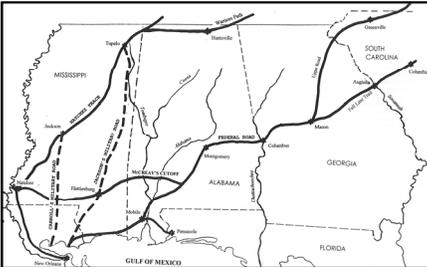
Native Trails of the Southeast



Carrie Eldridge

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War of 1812 Military Roads

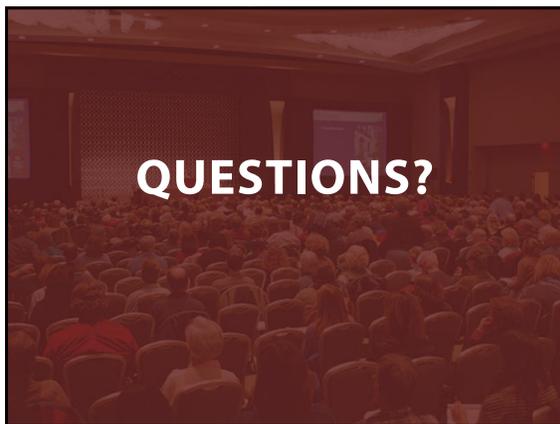


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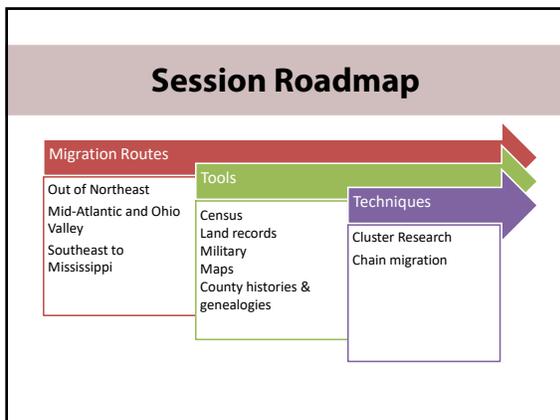
Resources

- FamilySearch.org Research Wiki
- Atlases
 - William Dollarhide (with Leland Meitzler)
 - Carrie Eldridge
- Books
 - Lynn and Lawrence Foster – Spanish trails of SW
 - William Myers – Native trails of SE
- Local Historical Societies

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Tools

- Records
 - Census
 - Land
 - Probate
 - Military
- Published Material
 - Maps
 - Town and County Histories
 - Genealogies

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Census

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Census

- Ten-year snapshot (U.S. Federal)
- Timing of migration by look at where the children were born
- Percival Family, Pawnee Nebraska, 1870



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Assembling the Family

1860 - Illinois

1850 - Michigan

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Census + Timeline

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Timeline Shows Potential Record Locations

Family Member	Birth Year	Place of Birth per Census
Alonzo	1839	Vermont
Edgar	1840	Vermont
Judson	1843	New York
Stephen	1847	New York
Dewitt	1848	Michigan
Elmer	1852	Michigan
Philo	1846	Michigan
Agusta Olive	1856	Illinois
Agustus Charles	1856	Illinois
Susan	1858	Illinois
Mary V.	1864	Illinois
Myrtle	1869	Nebraska

- Norwich Vermont to New York state (undetermined location - 1840-1842)
- New York state to Putnam, Livingston County, Michigan - 1847-1848
- Michigan to Batavia, Kane County, Illinois - 1846-1855
- Illinois to Pawnee City, Pawnee, Nebraska - 1864-1869

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Deeds

- A single deed may show a prior residence
- A series of deeds shows timing of migration

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Deed Confirms Migration

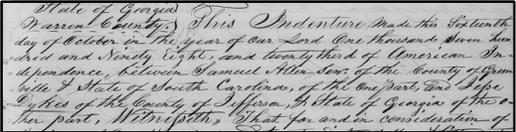
Know all men by these presents that Jonah Strickland of the County of Windsor, State of Vermont, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars to him in hand paid by Jonas Wright the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, sold and conveyed unto the said Jonas Wright his heirs and assigns forever...

- Problem – Two Jonah Stricklands, CT Rev War soldiers, one from Bolton, the other from Chatham. Which man moved to Vermont?
- Chatham deed solves the mystery: Jonah Strickland sells land in Chatham, CT to Jonas Wright in 1792
- Jonah's residence is "Windsor, in the County of Windsor, in the State of Vermont"

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Deed Reveals Prior Residence

- Samuel Allen, Sr. sells land in Warren County Georgia in 1798 to Jesse Dykes
- Samuel Allen is from Greenville County, South Carolina



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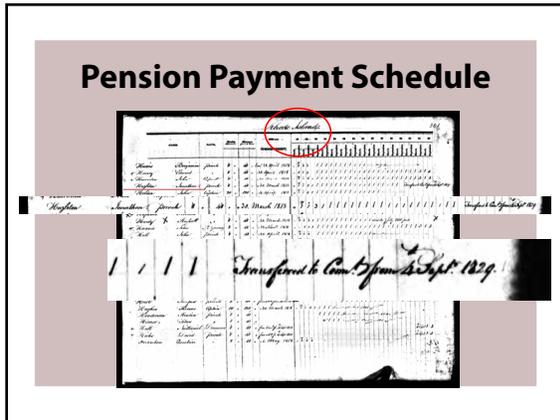
Military Records

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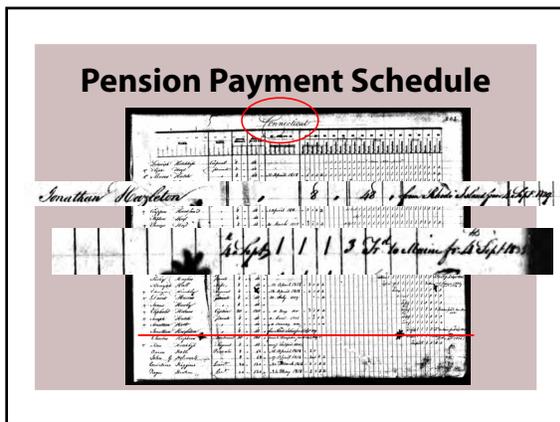
Military Records Showing Migration

- Enlistment
- Pension

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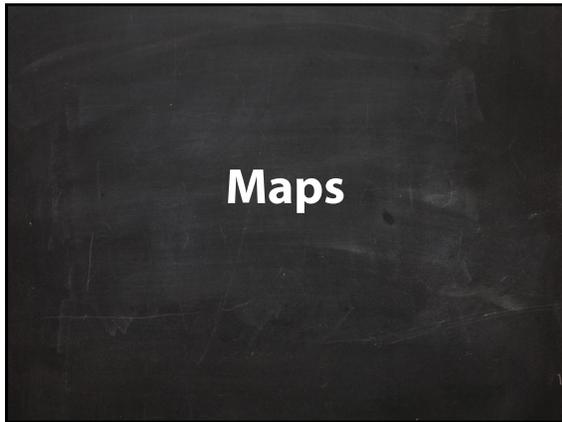


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And Then . . .

- Transferred to Maine 1831
- Transferred back to Rhode Island 1833
- Died 1840
- Wife, Miriam receives pension beginning in 1840

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Maps for Migration

- Piece together your family puzzle
 - Travel and migration routes
 - Follow family groups through the years
 - Visualize the land on which they lived
 - Provide context for their surroundings
 - Use maps to present information
- Think broadly: shift your focus away from an individual to a *place* to break down brick walls and provide context

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Types of maps

- Different types of maps may be available depending on whether your research subject is urban or rural, and the time period
 - Cadastral maps (land/property ownership)
 - Topographical maps (geographic features)
 - Insurance (Sanborn)/real estate maps
 - Ward and enumeration district maps
 - Land surveys or plat maps
 - Road maps
 - Consider the purpose of the map – why was it created, who created it?

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Where to find maps online

- Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov/collections/>
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection: <https://www.davidrumsey.com/>
- USGS TopoView: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/>
- Perry-Castañeda Library at UT-Austin: <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>
- Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at BPL: <https://www.leventhalmap.org/collections/>
- Newberry Library Atlas of Historical County Boundaries: <https://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/>
- Interactive County Boundary Maps: <https://www.mapofus.org/>

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Secondary source maps

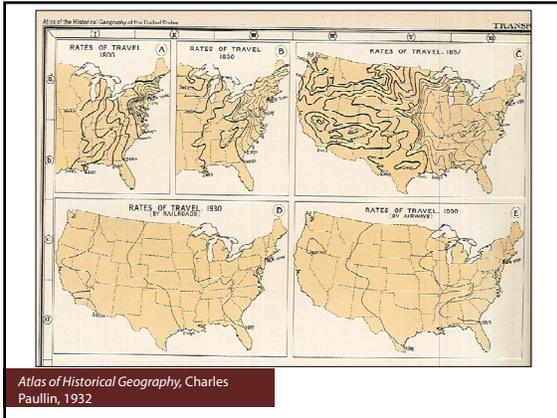
- Maps created in the recent past to help us understand historic data or trends
 - e.g., the Newberry AHCB collection, which shows changing county boundaries
- Can show transportation routes or migration patterns
- Charles Paullin, *Atlas of Historical Geography of the United States*, 1932
- Carrie Eldridge atlas series (ca. 1998-2006)
- Why use these?
 - Place our ancestor (an individual) and his farm (one small piece of land) in greater context
 - Locate possible travel routes

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**MAJOR PIONEER TRAILS
1775-1850**

An Atlas of Northern Trails Westward from New England, Carrie Eldridge, 2000

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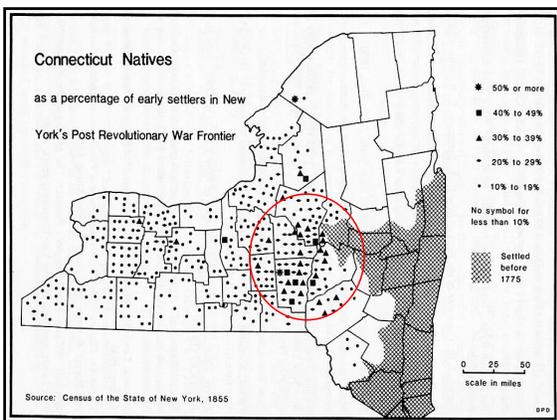


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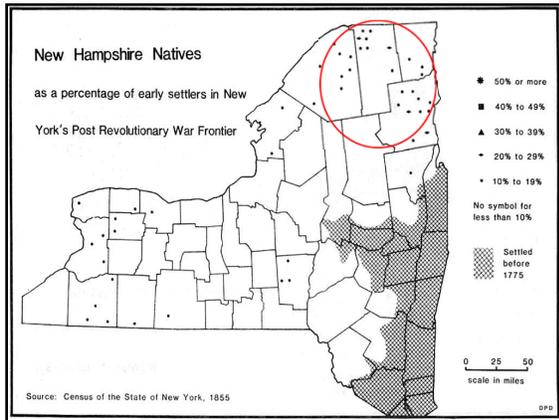
Resources for understanding migration patterns

- Primary and secondary-source maps, gazetteers, histories
- FamilySearch Wiki: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_Migration_Trails_and_Roads
- Cyndi's List: <https://www.cyndislist.com/migration/general/>
- America's Great Migrations Project: <https://depts.washington.edu/moving1/>
- GLO Public Lands History: https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/reference/default.aspx?jd=01_GLO_Records02_Public_Lands_History
- William Dollarhide: Map guide to American migration routes, 1735-1815 (and 2022 update)

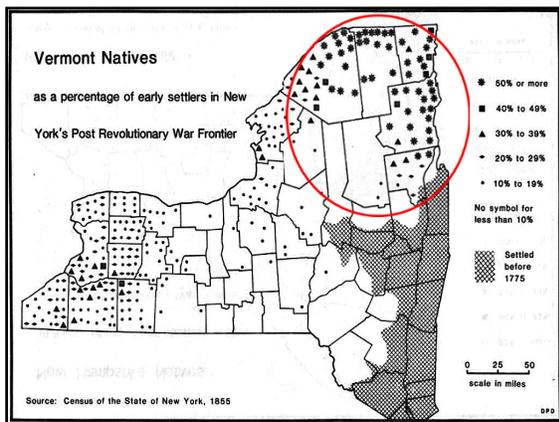
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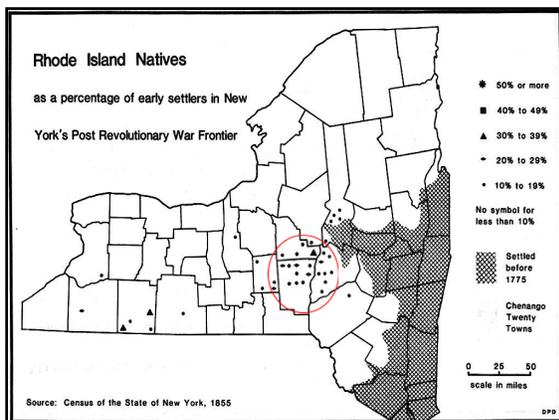
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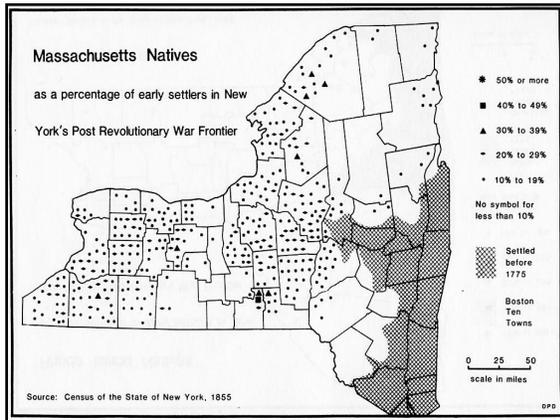
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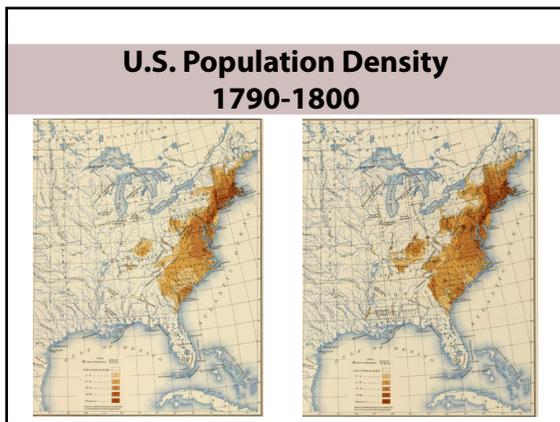
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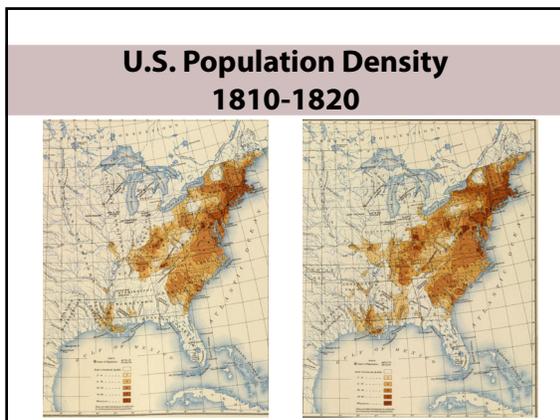
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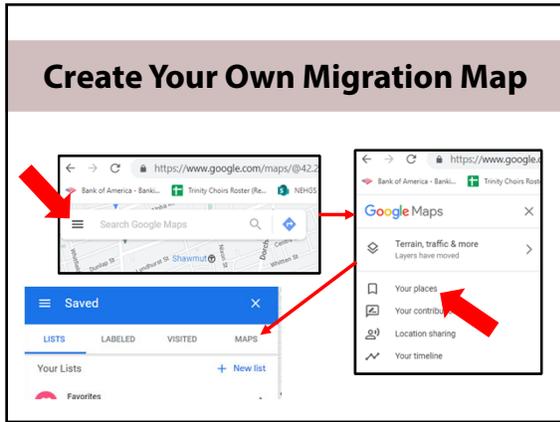
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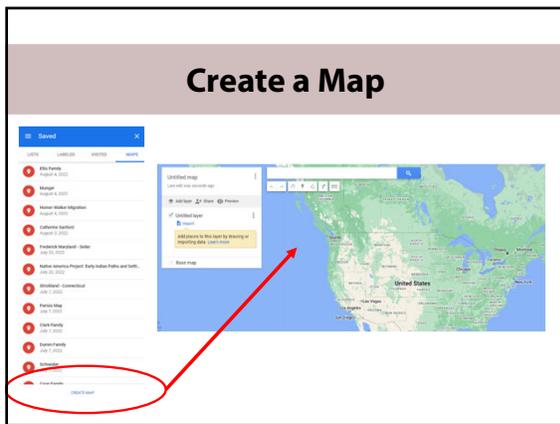
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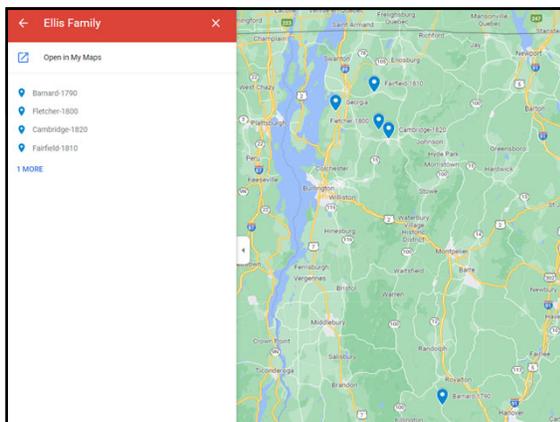
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County Histories

- Mention first settlers and their origins

The HOMMER FAMILY.—Jacob Hommer, a native of Germany, and a Revolutionary soldier, was one of the early settlers of West Salem Township. He grew up in Maryland, and was twice married. His first wife was Mary Siler, who bore him three sons and four daughters: John, Joseph, Jacob, Polly, Letta, Susan and Elizabeth. The mother died in Maryland, and he married Mrs. Hannah (Booth) Schafer, and with two sons, John and Jacob, and his four daughters, by his first marriage, immigrated to Mercer County in 1809 (Joseph remaining in Maryland), where he purchased and settled on a tract of land partly lying within the present limits of Greenville. Two daughters, Hannah and Rachel, were born of his second marriage. His cabin stood on the west side, where Samuel West now lives. The parents both spent the balance of their lives on this farm, upon which they were interred. John, the

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As Always – Caution Needed

- William Smiley in Chautauqua County History (1875)

William Smiley, an early settler in Ellery, N.Y. was a son of William Smiley who, in Ireland, was pressed into the British naval service. After about seven years, the vessel anchored in Long Island sound, and Smiley, with two cousins, companions in misfortune, "escaped from service" by swimming ashore, in Connecticut. Within a year he married, and, after many years, removed with his wife and son, William, Jr. to Savannah, Ga. where he died within a year. Soon after, the mother also died, and the son returned to Farmington, Conn. the place of his nativity. He was apprenticed to the

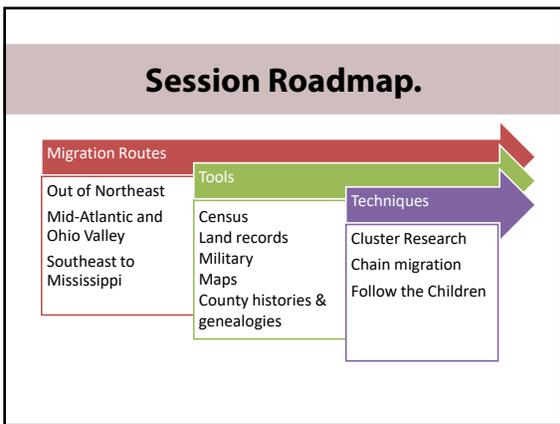
- William Smiley in Chenango County History (1880)

Capt. John Harris and William Smiley came in company from Voluntown, Conn., in 1789. Harris took up land that year and returned in the fall for his family. Smiley brought his family with him, and settled on the west side of the river, two miles below

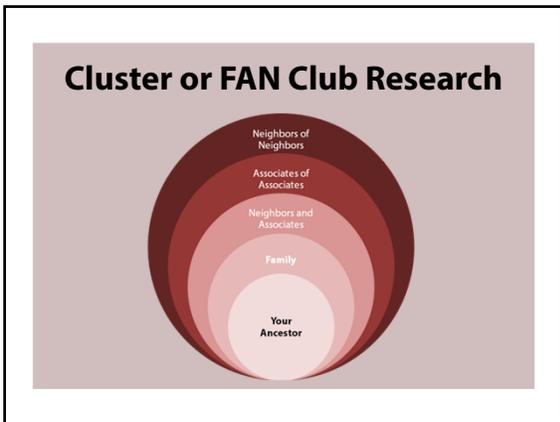
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Basic Strategy for Cluster Research

- Identify Family, Associates, and Neighbors
- Determine relationships and origins of each
- Learn about community
- Who settled there?

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Important Questions

- Who else is enumerated in your ancestor's household?
- Who is living next door? Nearby?
- Who is your ancestor buying land from or selling land to? Who are the witnesses?
- Who is mentioned in your ancestor's probate proceedings?

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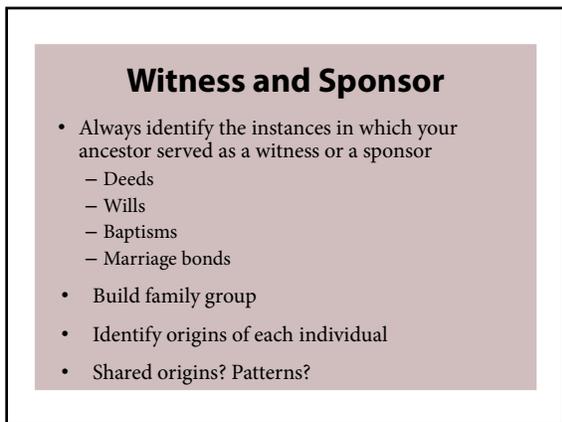
Important Questions

- Who are the witnesses to marriages? Sponsors to baptisms?
- Who is providing the affidavit when your ancestor naturalized?
- Who works alongside your ancestor? Where are they from?

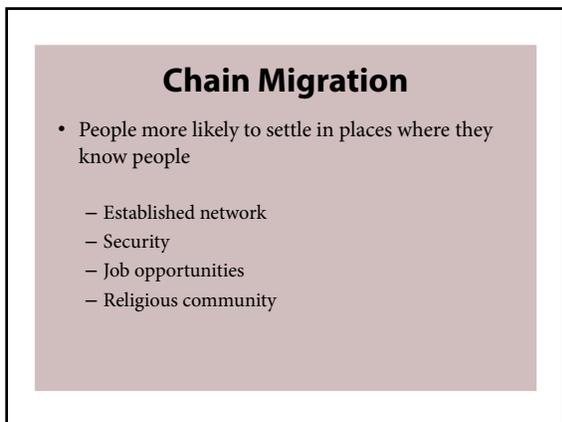
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What Were the Homers Doing in Illinois?

- Josiah Homer, born, lived and died on his farm in West Salem township, Mercer County, PA
- Yet – the 1860 census has the family in Victoria, Knox County, Ill



Name	Age
Harry Walker	68
Margaret Walker	68
Josiah Holm	38
Sarah Holm	30
Ogima Holm	11
Olandas Holm	7
Frank Holm	6
Mary Holm	4
Joseph Holm	9/12

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Birth of Children Show Migration

Child	Year	Place
Ozema Caroline	1849	West Salem, PA
George Watson	1850	West Salem, PA
Rolandus Uriah	1852	West Salem, PA
Frank Edward	1854	Illinois
Mary Magdaline	1856	Illinois
Joseph Harvey	1859	Illinois
Eva Amelda	1862	West Salem, PA
Fred Loomis	1865	West Salem, PA
James Nieblas	1870	West Salem, PA

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Tip

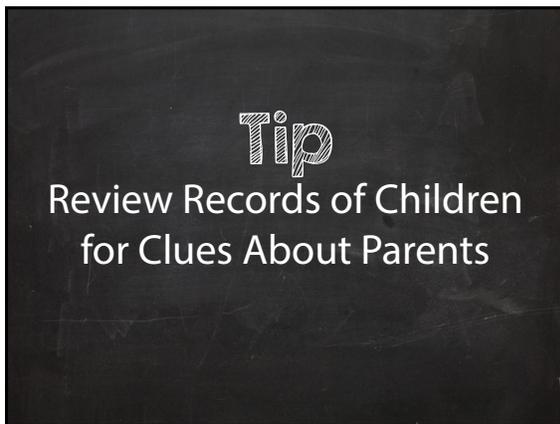
Spreadsheets can help find patterns

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Given Name	Residence 1850	Residence 1860	Residence 1870	Residence 1880
Eliza Ann	PA, Sandy Creek	OH, Scioto	UNK	UNK
Harvey Mitchell	PA, West Salem	KS, Bourbon	KS, Jefferson, Jefferson	KS, Atchison, Atchison
Samuel W.	MI, Madison, Lenawee	MI, Kalamazoo	UNK	UNK
George	PA, West Salem	IA	KS, Cowley	KS, Cowley
Sarah Catharine	PA, West Salem	ILL, Victoria, Knox	PA, West Salem	PA, West Salem
John A.	PA, West Salem	MN, Mankato, Blue Earth	MN, Mankato, Blue Earth	MO, Ozark, Barton
Anne	PA, West Salem	Deceased?		

Spreadsheet for Homer In-Laws

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Son's Records Explain Death Location for Parents

- Family Lore places the death of Harvey and Mary Ann Walker in Mankato, MN although they are buried in Pittsburgh, PA. Truth?
- Son John A was in Mankato by 1860
- John Walker's wife was a Haslip. Her father had moved to Mankato by 1857.

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Obituary

Death of Mrs. Eliza A. McLean.
 Mrs. Eliza A. McLean, widow of Cornelius McLean, formerly of Salem township, this county, died at LaMar, Barton county, Missouri, on the 31st inst., aged about 75 years. Mrs. McLean was the second child of Harvey Walker, one of the early residents of this place. With her husband she went West many years ago. Mr. McLean, though past the years of liability to military service went into the service of his country and died before the close of the late war. Mrs. McLean returned with her family to this place some ten or twelve years ago, and remained a few years, but left again some four or five years ago for Missouri. She had been living this winter with her daughter at Ocala, Kansas, but had gone back to La Mar where her son, C. H. McLean, lived, before her death. She had been a member of the M. E. Church ever since her childhood. Her husband was a brother of J. Ross and J. V. McLean, of Salem township, this county. Mrs. McLean was an earnest Christian lady, and universally respected by those who knew her best.

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Summary

- Know migration routes and transportation modes for your ancestor's time and location
- Make liberal use of the census for migration clues
- Land and military records plus tools such as maps, county histories, and genealogies help display migration
- Timelines, spreadsheets essential for chain migration and cluster research

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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

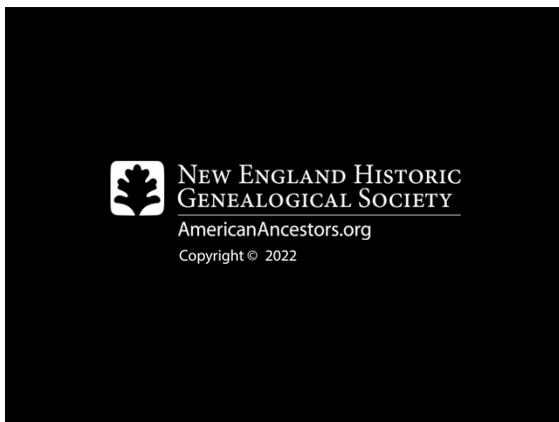
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