

Genealogy Boot Camp

Session 2: Analyzing Sources

April 2022

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Overview of the Day

Session 1

The Basics:
Research process
Forms and conventions
Standard sources

Session 2

Analyzing Sources:
Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)
Analysis Principles
Citations

Session 3

Analyzing Records:
Information vs. evidence
Proof

Session Map

Genealogical Proof Standard



Analysis Principles



Citations

Genealogical Proof Standard

- Reasonably exhaustive research
- Complete, accurate citations to the source or sources of each information item
- Tests—through processes of analysis and correlation—of all sources, information items, and evidence
- Resolution of conflicts among evidence items
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

Reasonably Exhaustive Search

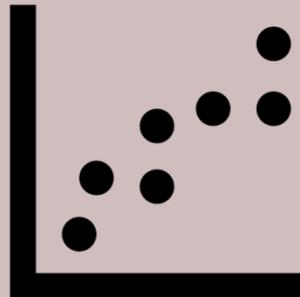


- Not exhaustive
- Sources that a reasonable genealogist would use

Complete and Accurate Citations



Analysis and Correlation



Written Summary



Session Map

Genealogical Proof Standard



Analysis Principles



Citations

Analysis Elements

Source

Original

Derivative

Authored

Information

First-hand

Second-hand

Unknown

Evidence

Direct

Indirect

Negative

Analyze the Source

Definitions: Sources and Records

- A **source** is a coherent collection of **records** created by a single jurisdiction or a single author for a defined purpose.
- A **record** is that portion of a **source** which pertains to a single event.

Robert Charles Anderson, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis* (Boston: NEHGS, 2014) p. 1

Original Sources

- Original – From the time period being researched.
Includes:
 - Duplicate original
 - Record (Clerk's) copy
 - Image copy
- Digital copies, microfilm, microfiche
considered original for analysis purposes
- BCG Article - QuickLesson 10

Derivative Sources

- Derivative – Written by someone who did not experience the events or time period. Includes:
 - Transcripts
 - Extracts
 - Abstracts
- https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Primary_sources

21. I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Christian Thomas to be sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament, and I do revoke and annul all former Wills by me heretofore made In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this Fourteenth day of May 1777

Signed sealed published and declared by Christian Thomas the above named Testator as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto, the words "thing" and "estate" being first interlined.

Christian Thomas Seal

Unnixed to the foregoing Will in the following Probate Writ
 Frederick County to wit the 24th December 1777. Then came Richard Potts, Nicholas Tice and Joseph Doll the three subscribing Witnesses to the last Will and Testament of Christian Thomas late of said County deceased, and severally made Oath on the Holy Evangel of Almighty God that they did see the Testator therein named sign and seal the said Will, and that they heard him publish, pronounce and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament, that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their Apprehensions of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding and that they respectively subscribed their names as Witnesses to the said Will in the presence and at the request of the Testator, and in the presence of each other

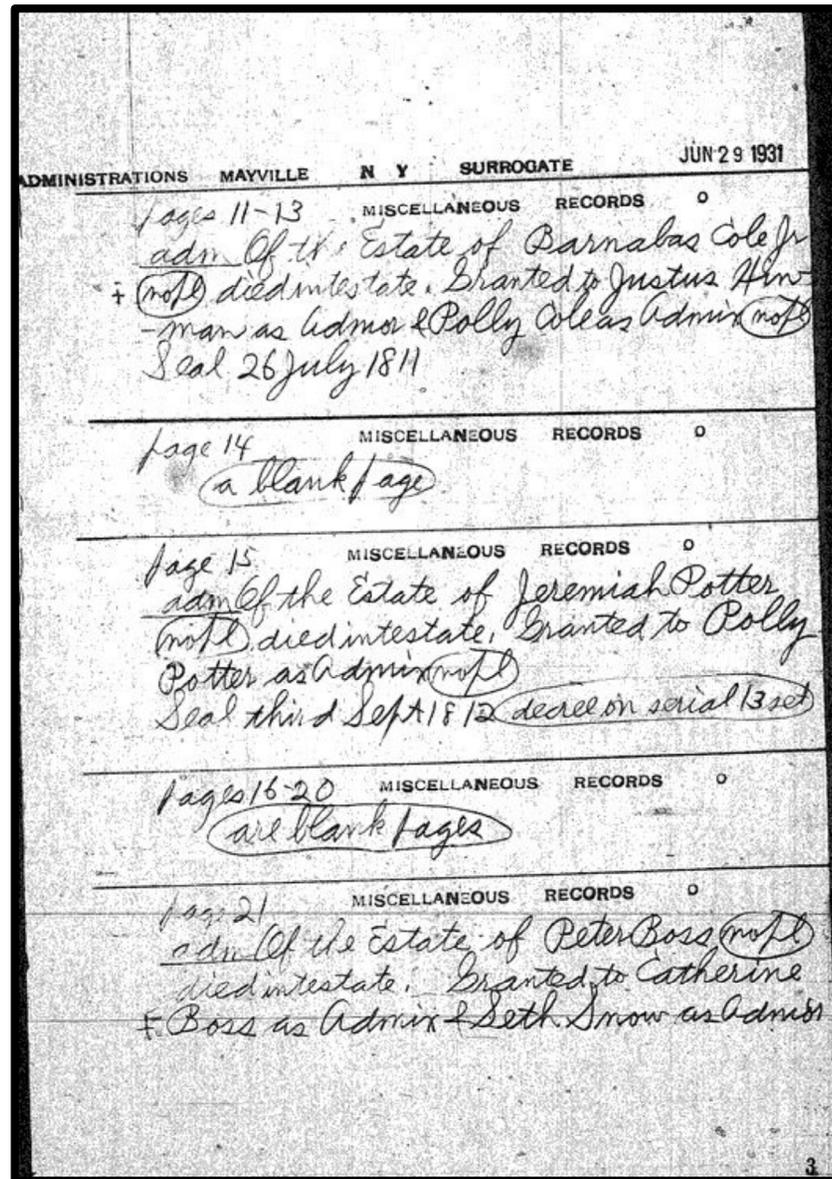
(Sides) Testified by Geo: Muddock Reg^{is}

Recorded 24th December 1777.

In the name of God amen I Jacob Shumer of Frederick County in the province of Maryland, being thro' the abundant mercy and goodness of God, tho' weak in body yet of a sound and perfect Understanding and memory do constitute this my Last Will and Testament, that is to say First and principally of all I recommend my Soul into the hands of God (that

Original Probate

Frederick County Maryland Probate Records



Derivative Probate

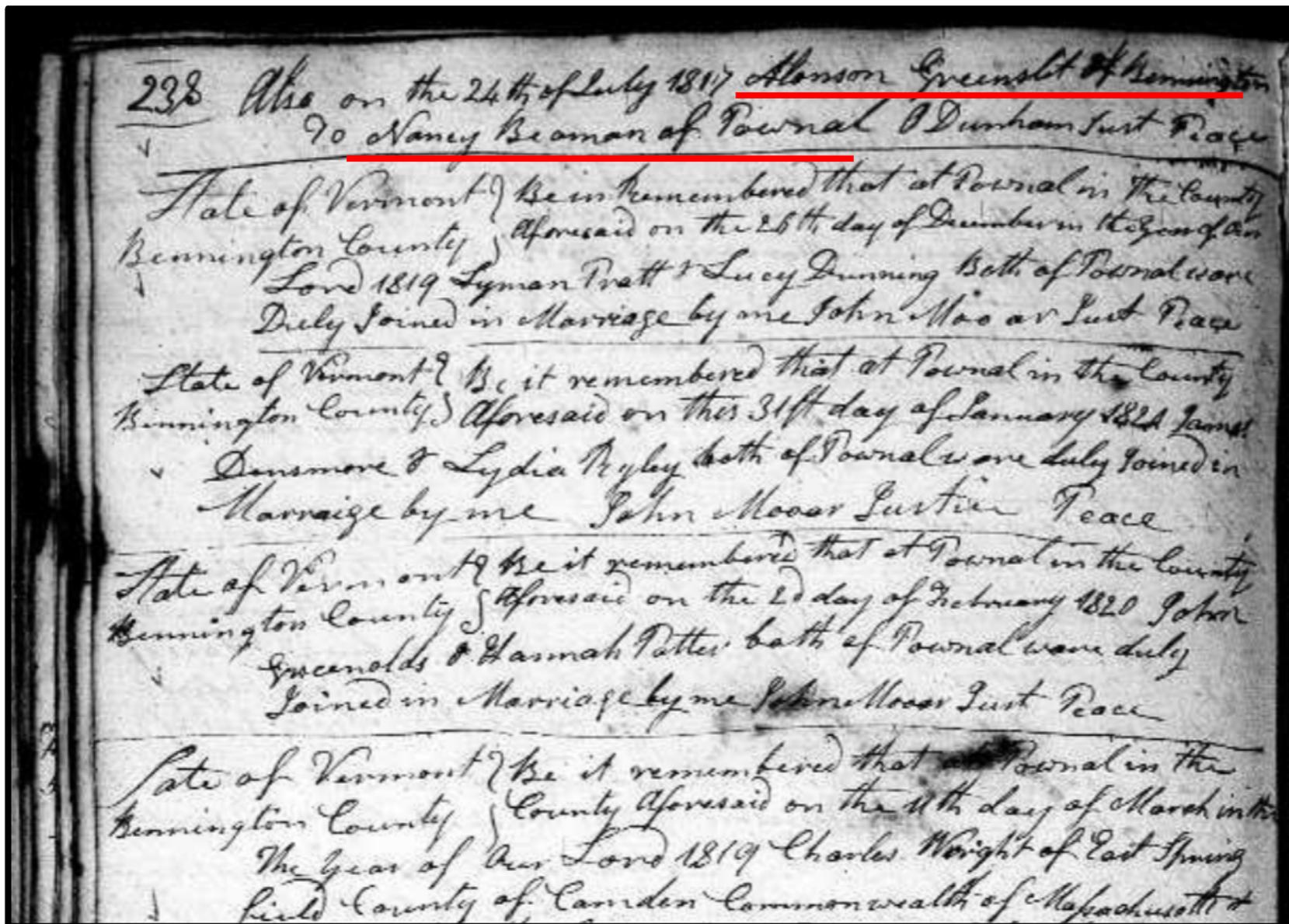
American Ancestors Database

22 THE PROBATE RECORDS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

Inventory taken 1:1:1642, by John Woodbridg, Henry Short and Richard Knight: howse & land, 30li.; Six kowes, 30li.; foure oxen, 24li.; one bull & one steere, 3 yeare old, 7li. 10s.; three beasts, two yeares old, 8li.; two beasts, one yeare old, 2li. 10s.; three Calves, 1li. 4s.; three hoggs, 1li. 4s.; Bees, 7li. 10s.; haye, 4li.; Soyle, 1li.; Cart, Slead & 3 Yoaks, 1li. 6s.; within the howse: one fetherbed & flockbed, 3li. 10s.; Six fether pillowes, 18s.; 4 Coverleds, 2li.; 5 blanketts, 1li. 10s.; 3 paier of Sheets, 1li. 8s.; 2li. and a halfe of bee wax, 2s. 6d.; bowlster Case & pillow & napkins, 10s.; porke, 2li. 7s.; butter & Cheese, 12s.; barrells & butte[r] Cherne & other lumb., 18s.; Pewter, 1li. 7s. 6d.; Brasse, 3li. 13s.; a Brasse pott, 1li.; iron potts, 1li. 6s.; A chafing dish & a posnet, 5s.; 12 bushells of indian corne, 2li. 2s.; 9 bushells of wheate, 2li. 6d.; 2 bushells of pease, 9s.; hogsheds & howes & other lumber, 16s.; in apparrell, stockins & shoes, 3li.; muskett & fowling peeeces & 2 Swords & bandileers, 1li. 19s.; working Tooles & lanthorne, 15s.; bookes, 1li.; spinning wheeles, 10s.; a chest & chaiers & other lumb., 16s.; harrow tines, 10s.; total, 153li. 8s. 6d. *Ipswich Deeds, vol. 1, leaf 3.*

ESTATE OF GEORGE BROWNE OF NEWBURY.

“The last will & Testament of George Browne May 26th 1642 In the name of God amen I George Browne being sick & weake in body but pfect in minde &c doe make my last will & Testament in mann & forme as followeth Impr I bequeath my soule into the hands of god and my body to the earth to be buried It I give to my beloved wife my howse & land with all my howsehold goods except my muskett & sword my wearing clothes & Tooles. Item I give unto her my kow It I give to my brother Richard Browne my wearing clothes & Tooles It I give vnto Richard Littleale Twenty shillings to be paid out of the rent of the Mill Item: I give vnto my father & to my brother Michael Twenty shillings a peece to be paid out of the Mill, but if god by his prvidence bring them into this land then my will is to give them six pounds a peece or if but one of them ||come over|| then he shall receive twelve pounds & if afterward the other come then he shall repay to him six pounds Item I give to all my brethren & sisters besides Twelve pence a peece my will is that all this shalbe paid out of my Mill after all my debts are discharged It I give unto Joseph Browne sonne of my brother Richard Browne



Original Vital Record

Vol 1 Pownal Records, p 238, viewed at
Family Search

MARRIAGE—BRIDE

Name of Bride *Fancy Beaman*

Name of Groom *Clayton Greenshik*

Residence of Bride *Pownal*

Date of Marriage *July 24 - 1817*

Color _____ Age in Years _____

Occupation _____

Place of Birth _____

Father's Name _____

Birthplace _____

Mother's Name _____

Birthplace _____

Name Party Officiating *C. Tenham - Justice of Peace*

Town *Pownal*

Widowed _____

Town of
Pownal

I hereby certify that the facts set forth on the reverse side of this card are matters of record in *Book of Surveys & Eas marks*
No 1 - Page 238

Attest: *May F. Sampman*
Town Clerk.

May F. Sampman
Town Clerk.

Original Vital Record

Vermont Vital Records 1760-1954, Family Search

Derivative Vital Record

SCITUATE BIRTHS

To THE YEAR 1850

ADAMS (see Addams), Margaret, d. James, bp. Mar. 18, 1654.
C.R.2.
Mary, d. John of Marishfield, great grandchild Widdow James,
bp. Dec. 14, 1656. C.R.2.

ADDAMS (see Adams), Anne, d. James, Apr. 18, 1649. [Adams, C.R.2.]
Mary, d. James, Jan. 27, 1653. [Adams, C.R.2.]
Richard, s. James, Apr. 19, 1651. [Adams, C.R.2.]
William, s. James, May 16, 1647. [Adams, C.R.2.]

ADVERD, Elizabeth, d. Henry, bp. June 29, 1651. C.R.2.
Experience, d. Henry, bp. Apr. 18, 1652. C.R.2.
Mary, d. Henry, bp. June 29, 1651. C.R.2.
Sarah, d. Henry, bp. June 29, 1651. C.R.2.

ALBEE, Dianthe, d. Amos and Judith, Sept. 14, 1803.
Judith C. [—], w. Amos, — [1784]. G.R.2.

ALDEN (see Aldin), Isaiah, s. Isaiah and Mercy W., Sept. 1, 1819.

John, s. John and Hannah of Duxborough, bp. Dec. 10, 1710. C.R.2.

Lydia, d. Isaiah and Mercy W., Feb. 5, 1830. [w. Allen Merritt, G.R.2.]

Mercy, d. Isaiah and Mercy W., Apr. 20, 1821.

Mercy, ch. Isaiah and Mercy, bp. Oct. 7, 1832. C.R.1.

Mercy W. [—], w. Isaiah [Jan. —, 1799]. G.R.6.

Thomas, s. Isaiah and Mercy W., Aug. 17, 1827.

Thomas, ch. Isaiah and Mercy, bp. Oct. 7, 1832. C.R.1.

ALDIN (see Alden), Samuel, s. John and Hannah of Duxborough, bp. May 17, 1713. C.R.2.

ALLEN (see Alin), Cornelia Maria, d. George M. and Hannah E., July 10, 1832.

11

ABBREVIATIONS

a. — age

abt. — about

b. — born

ch. — child

chn. — children

Co. — county

C.R.1. — church record, First Parish, and records from Rev. John Lothrop's original manuscript

C.R.2. — church record, Second Church of Scituate, now the First Unitarian Church of Norwell

C.R.3. — church record, Trinitarian Congregational Church

C.R.4. — records of the Society of Friends of Pembroke, now in the possession of the Society at New Bedford

d. — daughter; died; day

Dea. — deacon

dup. — duplicate entry

G.R.1. — gravestone record, First Parish Cemetery, Meeting House Lane, now Prospect Street, Scituate Harbor

G.R.2. — gravestone record, Groveland Cemetery, North Scituate

G.R.3. — gravestone record, Judge Cushing's Cemetery, Greenbush

G.R.4. — gravestone record, Hatch Burying Ground, Greenbush

G.R.5. — gravestone record, James Burying Ground, Greenbush

G.R.6. — gravestone record, Union Street Cemetery, Scituate Harbor

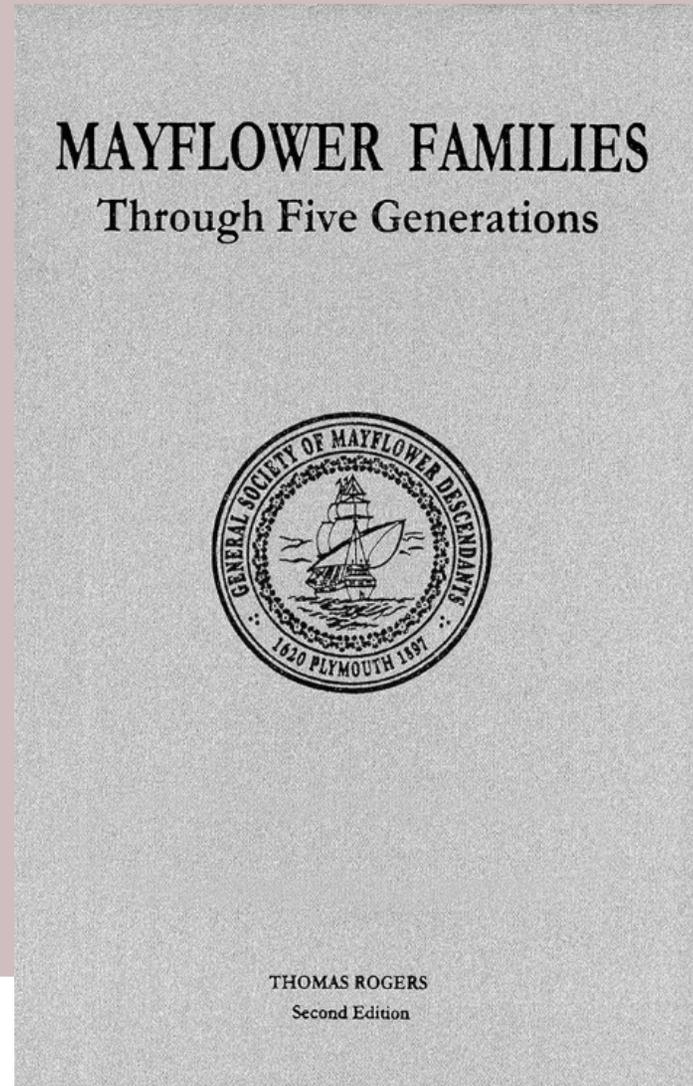
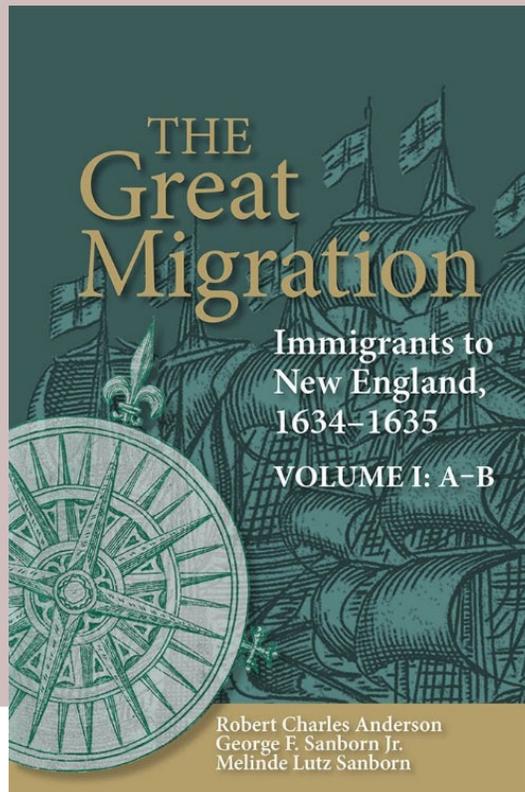
G.R.7. — gravestone record, Fairview Cemetery, Scituate Centre

G.R.8. — gravestone record, Mt. Hope Cemetery, North Scituate

G.R.9. — gravestone record, Town Burying Ground, Scituate Centre

Special Class of Sources

- Authored works
 - Compiled genealogies



Summary of Source Analysis

- Is it ???
 - Original
 - Derivative
 - Authored

Session Map

Genealogical Proof Standard

A light red arrow pointing downwards from the bottom right corner of the 'Genealogical Proof Standard' box to the top right corner of the 'Analysis Principles' box.

Analysis Principles

A light red arrow pointing downwards from the bottom right corner of the 'Analysis Principles' box to the top right corner of the 'Citations' box.

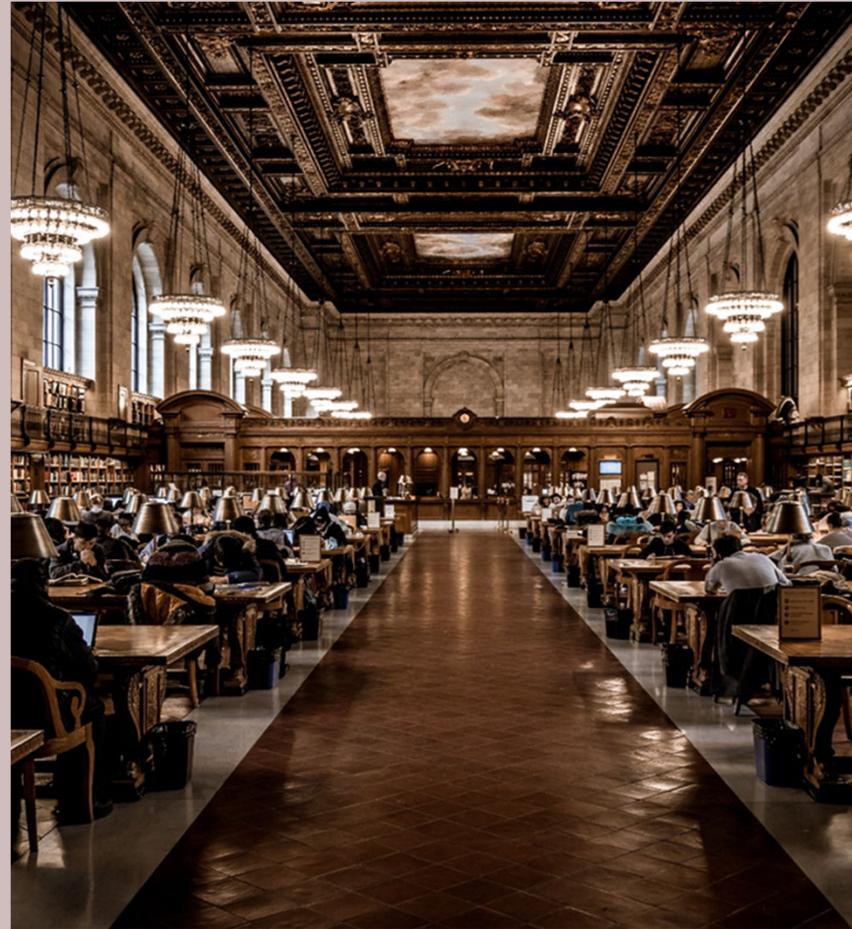
Citations

Why Bother With Citations?

1. Knowing the source of a fact allows you, or someone else, to go back and find it again
2. Knowing the source of a fact helps you evaluate its credibility
3. Citations are part of the Genealogical Proof Standard

Genealogical Proof Standard

- Reasonably exhaustive research
- Complete, accurate citations to the source or sources of each information item
- Tests—through processes of analysis and correlation—of all sources, information items, and evidence
- Resolution of conflicts among evidence items
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.



<http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

Citation Principles

- Capture enough information about the source and its record so you can find the record a second time.
- Thomas W. Jones, noted genealogist, has said,
 - “This idea that there is one way to cite a source is **false**,” [emphasis added] (2015, APG Conference)
- Pick a style and stick with it – Consistency is important.

*Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013, pp38-40.

Capturing Enough to Find Again Nesting Doll Principle

Database: Massachusetts Town Clerk and Vital Records

Website: Ancestry



Town: Sutton

Type of Record:
Death

Item of Interest

Citation is an Art



Citation Elements

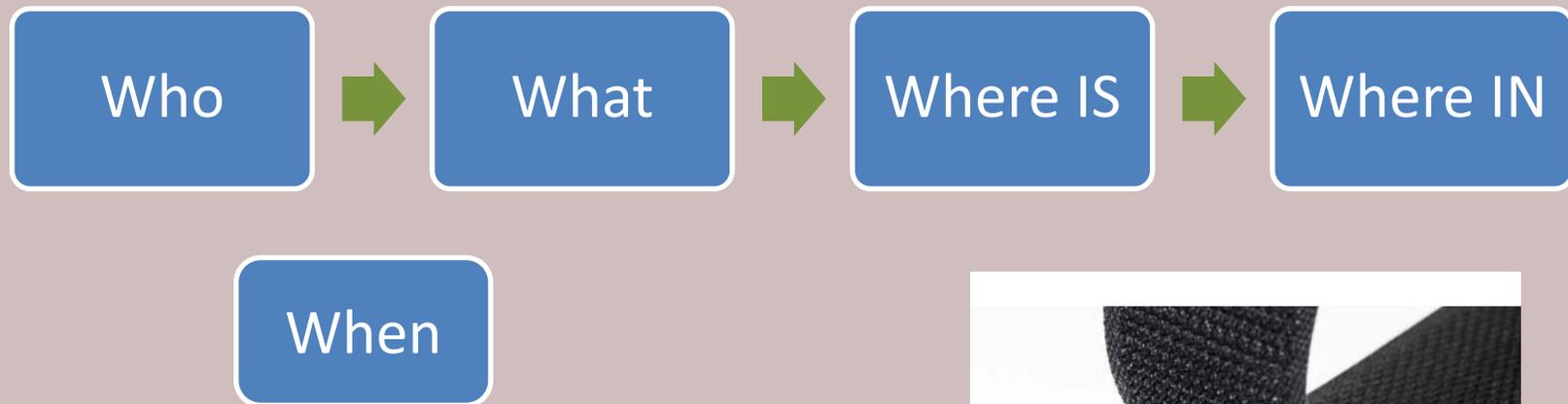
- **Who** (or what) created the source?
 - Author
 - Organization
- **What** is the source?
 - Book title
 - Database name
 - Not the website name – that is the publisher
- **When** was the source created?
 - Date the source was created
 - Date the record within the source was created
 - Date the record was accessed

Thomas W Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* (Arlington, VA : National Genealogical Society, 2017), p. 40

Citation Elements (cont.)

- **Where IS** the source now?
 - Publisher
 - Geographic location
 - Repository
 - Web address
- **Where IN** the source is the item?
 - Volume and page number
 - NARA roll
 - Certificate number
 - Person and event

General Citation Format



Velcro Principle – Don't separate items that ought to stick together



Documentation Conventions

- Book titles and journal names are *italicized*
- Database names, article titles are in "quotes"
- Parentheses group publication details (print and online)
- Semicolons divide complex citations with two or more layers

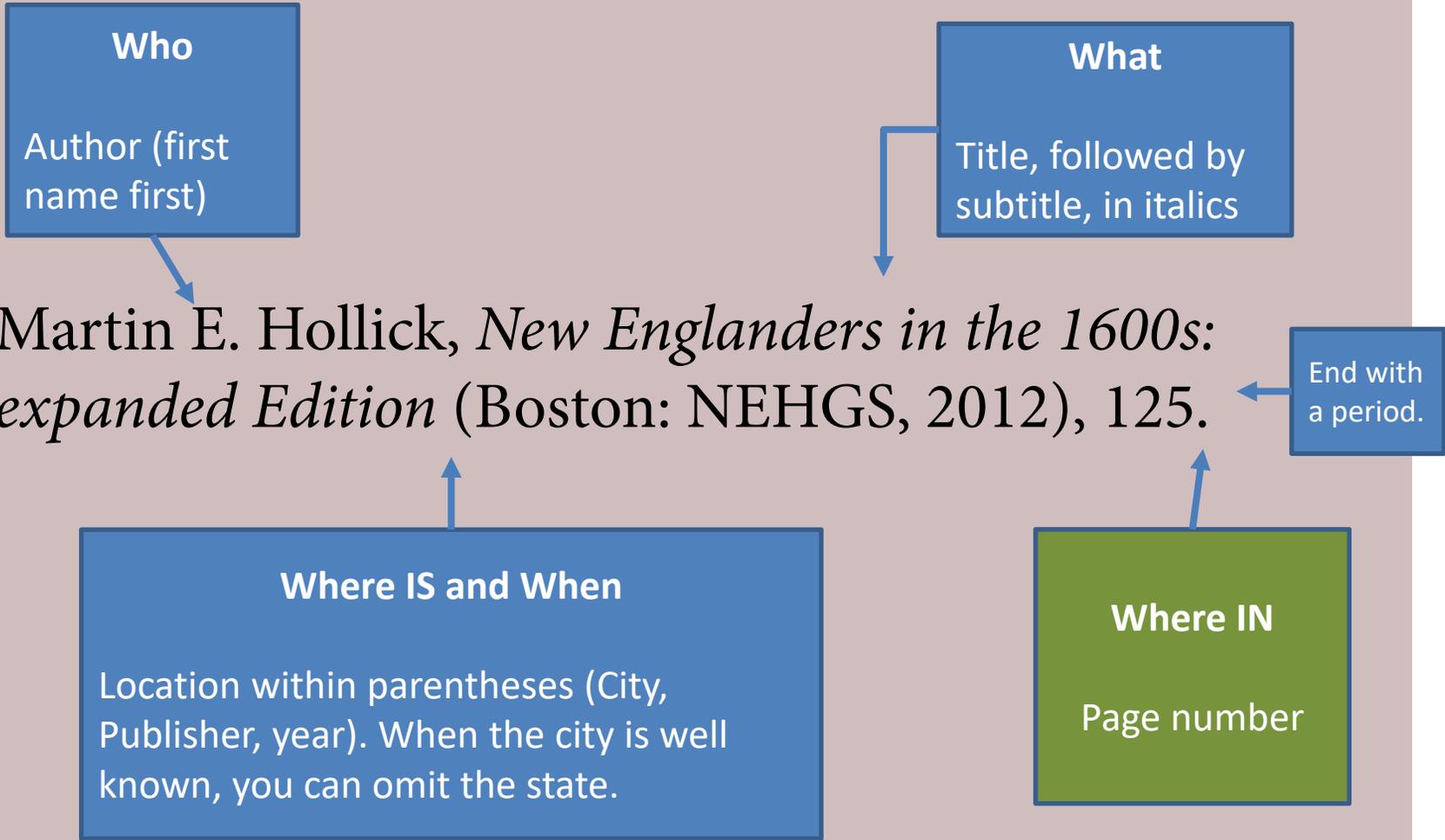
Citation Examples

- Book – Single Layer
- Draft Card – Two Layer
 - Website information and record of interest
 - Source of the Source (Original record)
- Census – Three layer
 - Original source that has been digitized and record of interest
 - The website provider information
 - The Source-of-the-Source (where the website found the information)

Citation Example

- Find A Grave – Two layer
 - Website information and record of interest plus creator of memorial
 - Source-of-the Source – Cemetery information
- Cemetery – One layer
 - Cemetery information and record of interest
- Newspaper – Two layer

Source Citations - Books



Tip

Most citations will
have several layers

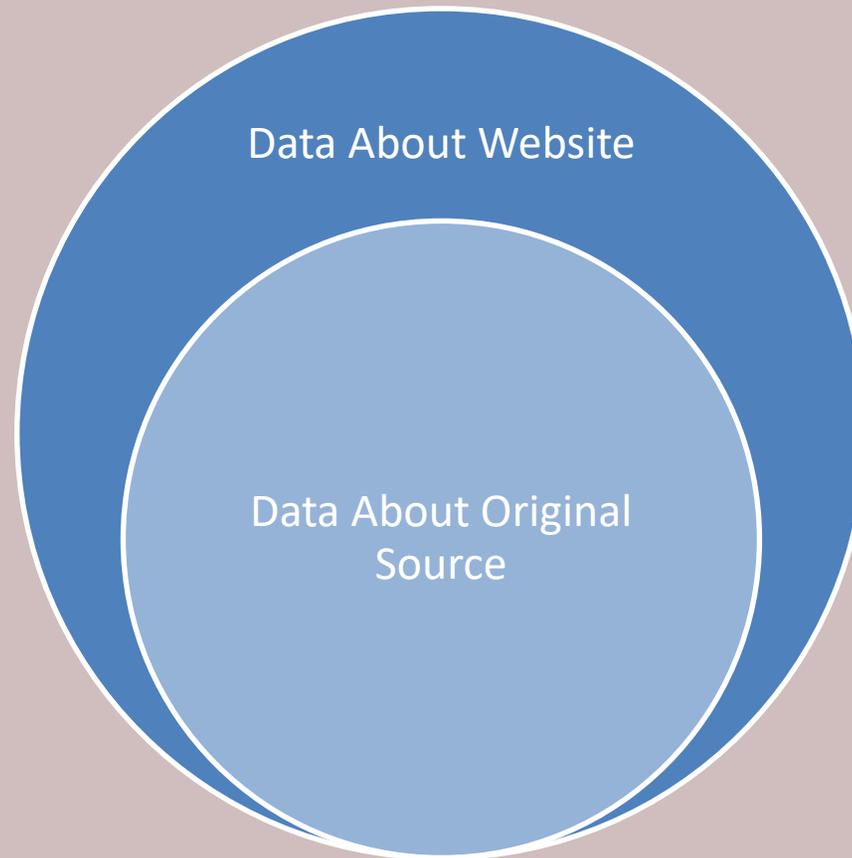
Two Principles for Writing a Citation

Velcro

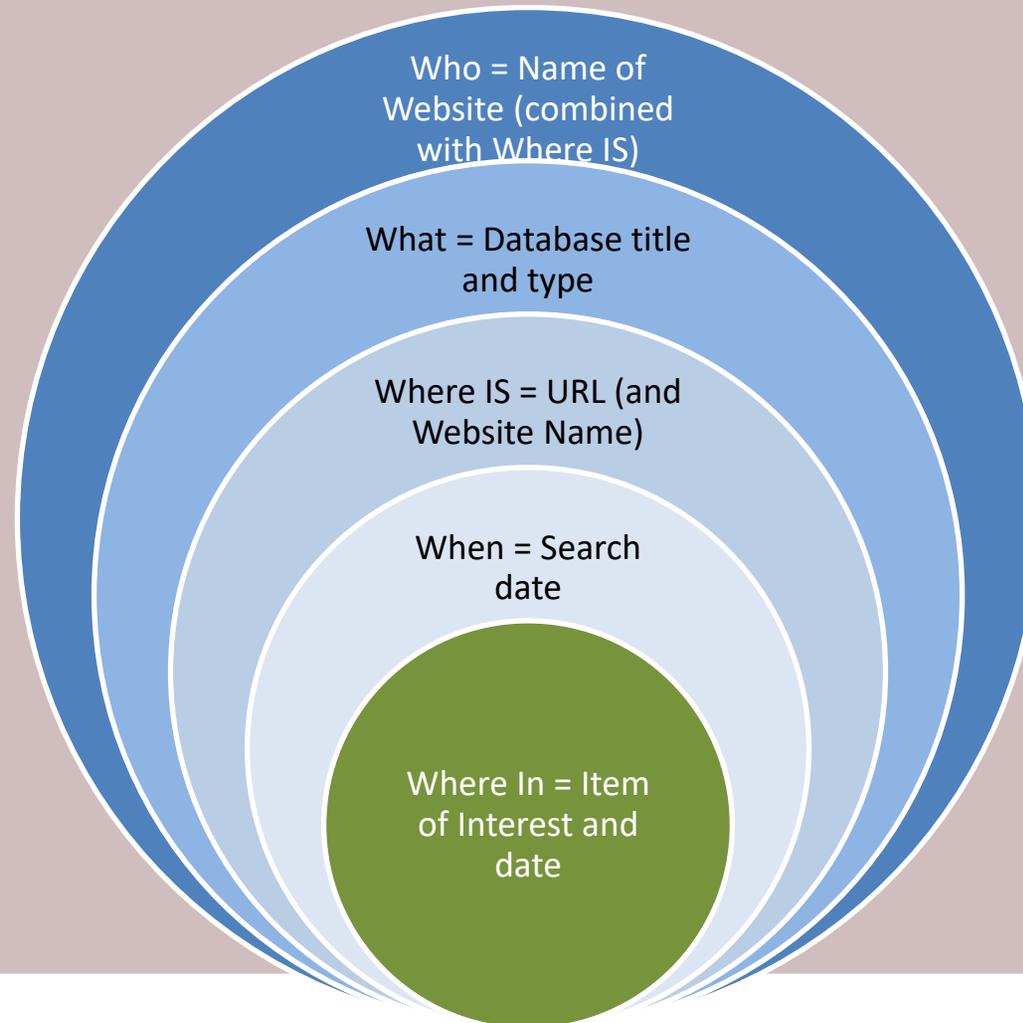
Nesting Dolls



In An Online World Citations Need 2 or 3 Layers



Layer 1: Website

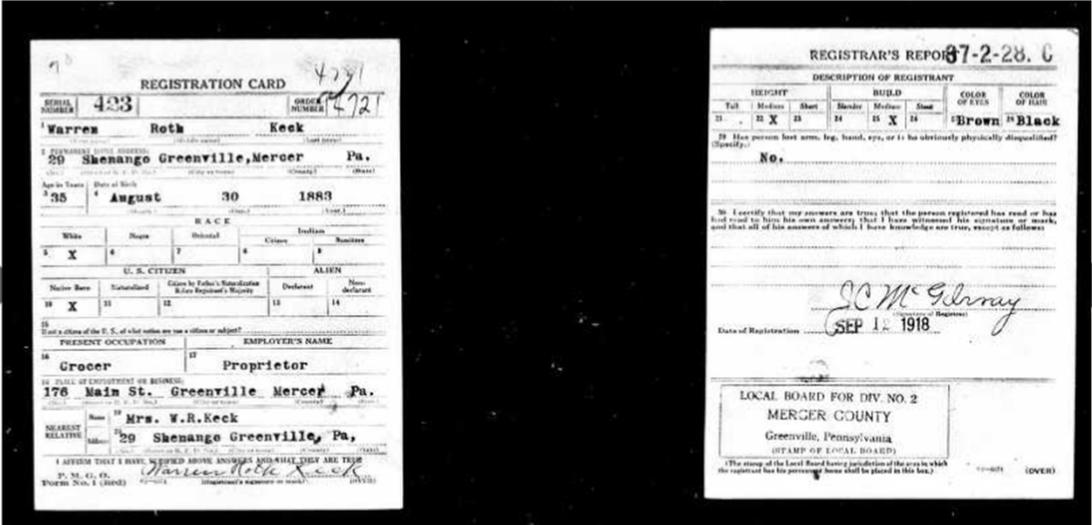


Website Information

←
✓ Saved ▾

U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 for Warren Roth Keck

Pennsylvania > Mercer County > 2 > Draft Card K



Select all text

Source Citation ⓘ

Registration State: *Pennsylvania*;
Registration County: *Mercer County*

Description

Draft Card: K

Source Information

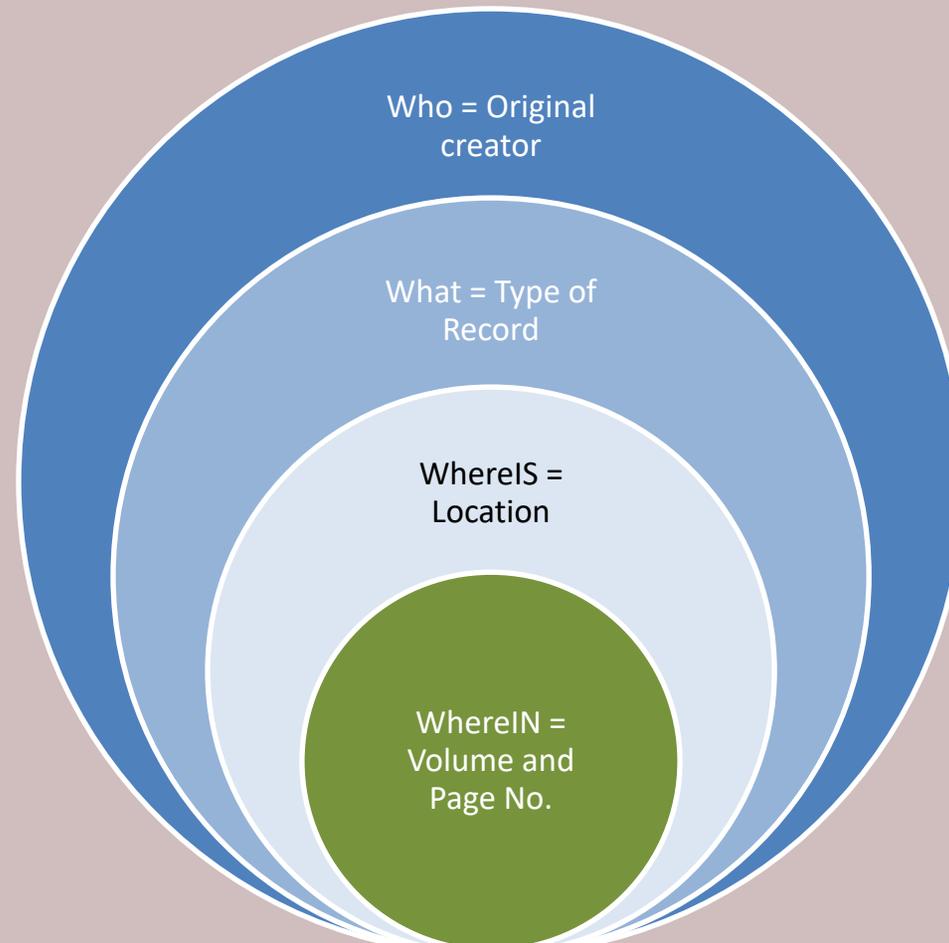
Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.

Original data: United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. M1509, 4,582 rolls. Imaged from Family History Library microfilm.

Website Information – Cont.

Who	Website Name	<i>Ancestry</i>
What	Database Name	“U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” digital Images
Where IS	URL	www.ancestry.com
When	Date Accessed	20 April 2022
Where IN	Record of interest	Draft card for Warren Roth Keck, serial no. 423, order no. 4721, Draft Board Division 2, Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania

Layer 2: Original Source



Selective Service Information

Who	Author	U.S. Selective Service System
What	Title	Draft Board Division 2
Where IS	Location	Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania
Where IN	Details	NARA Microfilm M1509
When	Often omitted	12 September 1918

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 87-2-28, C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	SCARS	MARKS
5 11	145	Brown	Blue	Brown		

Color of Hair: **Brown** Color of Eyes: **Blue**

Is this person deaf, dumb, blind, etc., or is he obviously physically dependent?

No.

I solemnly swear that the contents are true and that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own application, that I have obtained his signature or mark, and that all of the contents of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

J.C.M. G. Linnay
 Date of Registration: SEP 1, 1918

LOCAL BOARD FOR DIV. NO. 2
 MERCER COUNTY
 Greenville, Pennsylvania
 OFFICE OF LOCAL BOARD

Registration State: *Pennsylvania*;
 Registration County: *Mercer County*

Description
 Draft Card: *K*

Source Information
 Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.
 Original data: United States, Selective Service System. World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, *M1509*, 4,582 rolls. Imaged from Family History Library microfilm.

Citations - Online Database

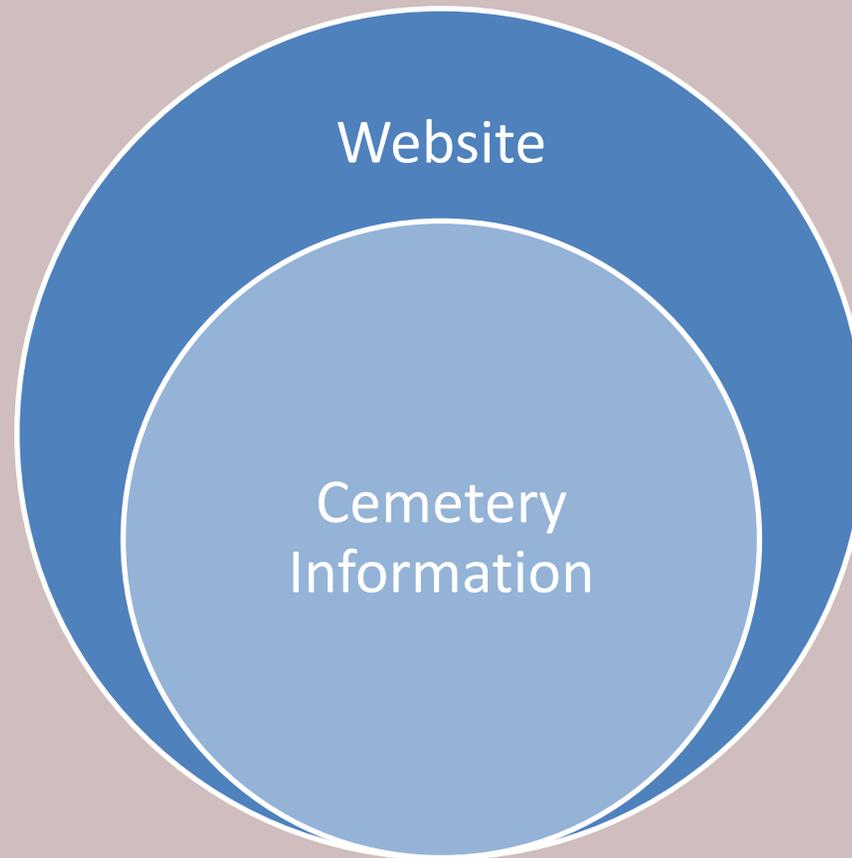
Layer 1: The Website information

“U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” digital images at Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 20 April 2022), draft card for Warren Roth Keck, serial no. 423, order no. 4721, Draft Board Division 2, Greenville, Mercer County, PA; citing NARA microfilm M1509, no roll number given.

Layer
Divider

Layer 2: The Original Record

Find A Grave – A Two Layer Source



Layer 1: Website Information

Who	Author/Creator	Find A Grave
What	Title	omitted
Where IS	Location /Repository /Web Address	www.findagrave.com
Where IN	Memorial Page	154008051 for Louisa Thaxter Danielson added by Elizabeth on 20 Oct 2015
When	Date Accessed	3 January 2018



Louisa Thaxter Danielson

BIRTH 1 Sep 1823
DEATH 2 May 1888 (aged 64)
BURIAL [Limington Village Cemetery](#)
 Limington, York County, Maine, USA
MEMORIAL ID 154008051 · [View Source](#)

[SHARE](#) [SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)

[MEMORIAL](#) [PHOTOS 1](#) [FLOWERS 0](#)

Created by: Elizabeth
 Added: 20 Oct 2015
 Find A Grave Memorial **154008051**

Layer 2: Cemetery Information

Who	Omitted	
What	Cemetery Name	Limington Village Cemetery
Where IS	Location /Repository /Web Address	Limington, York, Maine
Where IN	Omitted	
When	Omitted	



Louisa Thaxter Danielson

BIRTH 1 Sep 1823
DEATH 2 May 1888 (aged 64)
BURIAL [Limington Village Cemetery](#)
 Limington, York County, Maine, USA
MEMORIAL ID 154008051 · [View Source](#)

[SHARE](#)
[SAVE TO](#)
[SUGGEST EDITS](#)

[MEMORIAL](#)

[PHOTOS](#) **1**

[FLOWERS](#) **0**

Created by: [Elizabeth](#)

Added: 20 Oct 2015

Find A Grave Memorial **154008051**

Citations – Find A Grave

Find A Grave, digital image (www.findagrave.com : viewed 3 January 2018) memorial # 15408051 for Louisa Thaxter Danielson, added by “Elizabeth,” 20 October 2015; citing Limington Village Cemetery, Limington, York County, Maine.

Creator information
velcroed to memorial
number

Evidence Explained Template Online Source

- “Name of Database in quotation marks”
- Type of database (BMD/land, etc.)
- *Title of Website in Italics* (URL : access date)
- specific item of interest
- SOURCE-OF-THE-SOURCE DATA.

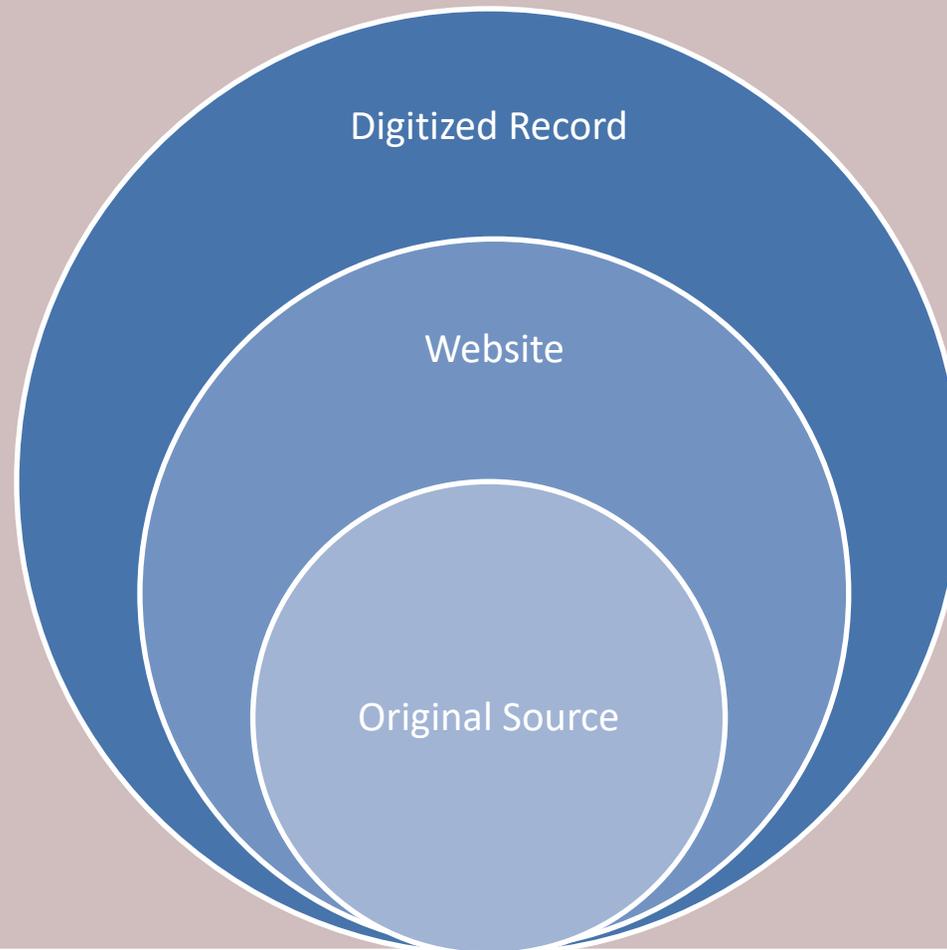
QuickLesson 26: Evidence Explained

QUESTIONS?

Exceptions to the Rule

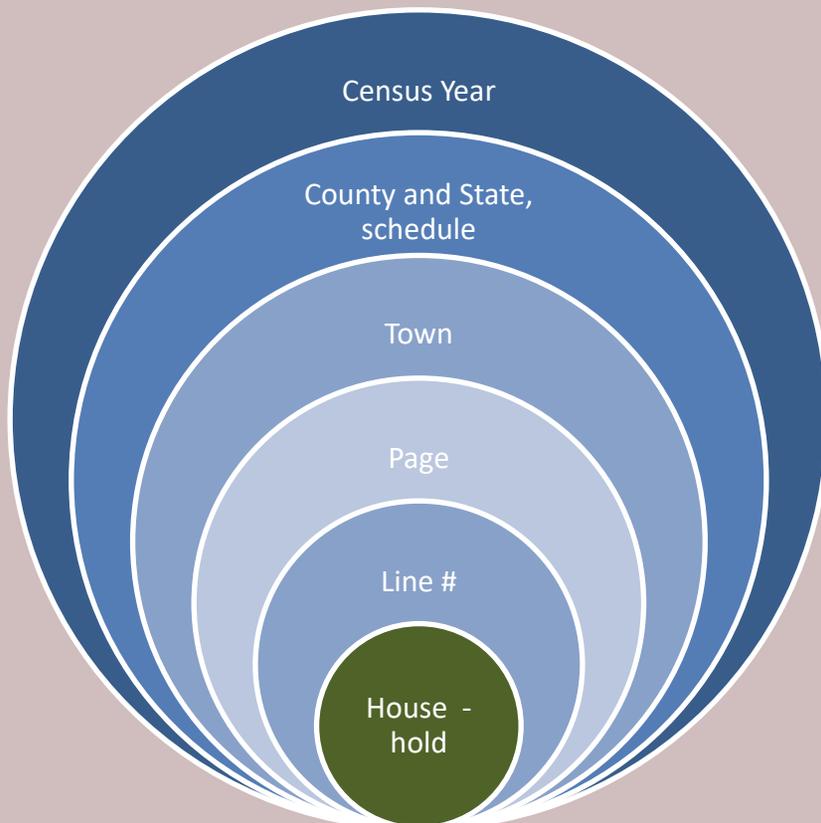
- Census – Original record first with extra detail
- Newspapers – Original record first

Census Records – Three Layers

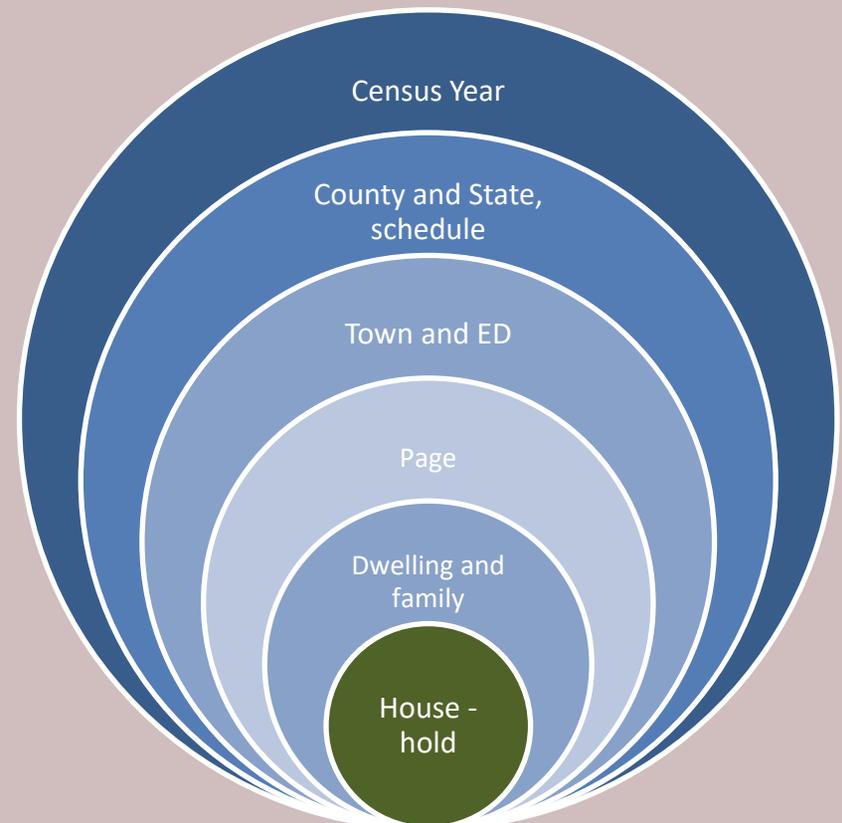


Layer 1: Digitized Record

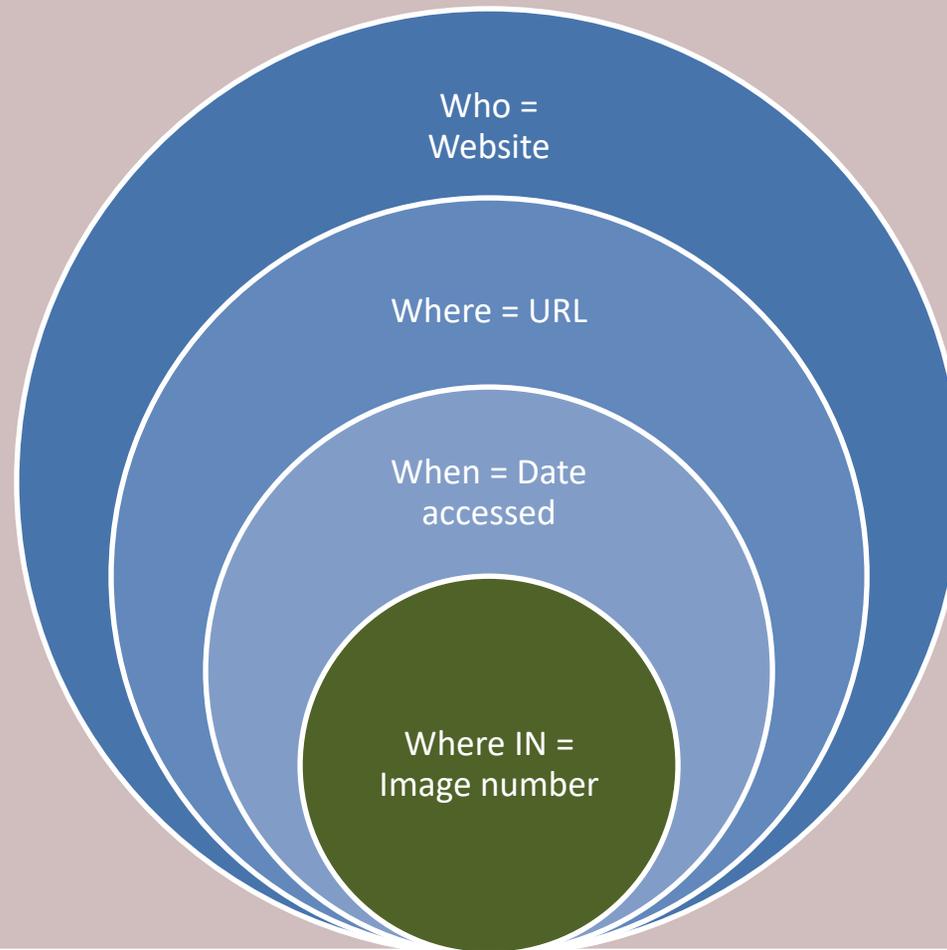
1790-1870



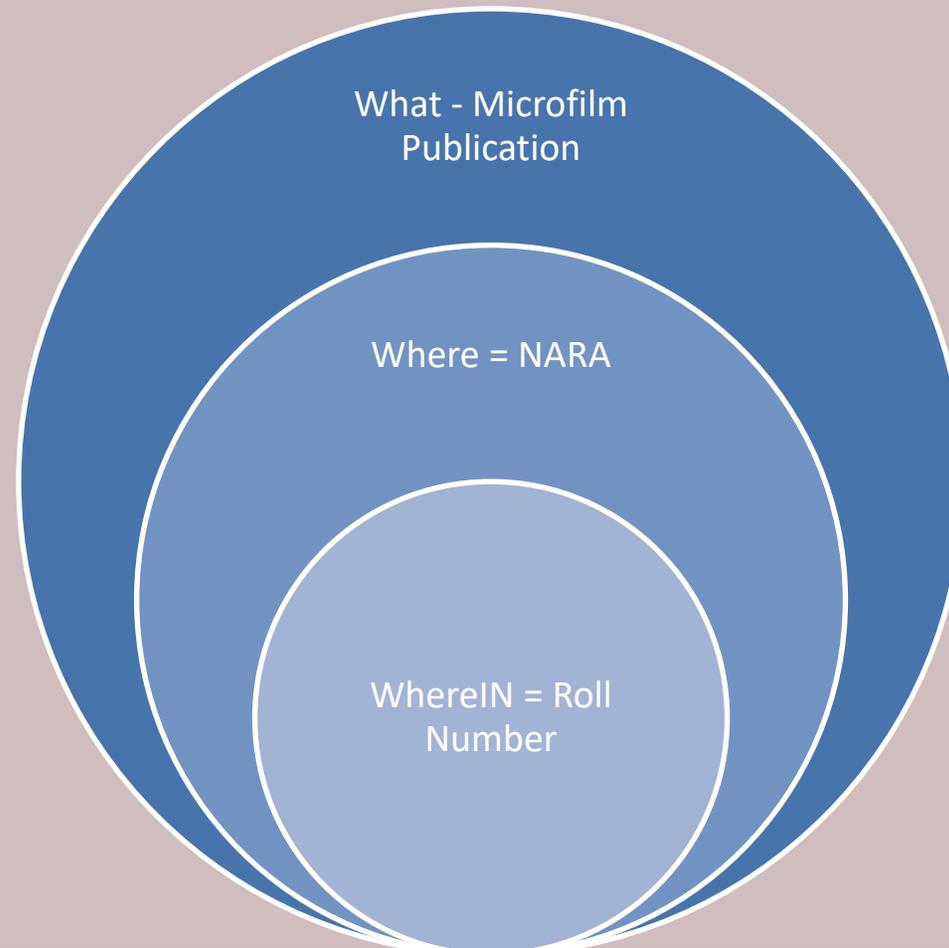
1880 onward



Layer 2: Website



Census Layer 3: Original Source



Layer 3: Original Source

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

Who	Omitted	
What	Title	NARA Microfilm T623
Where IS	Omitted	
Where IN	Roll Number	Not given
When	Omitted	

Citation – Census Record

Enumeration District
(ED) “velcroed” to
Town

Exact spelling on
census

“1900 U.S. Federal Census,” Westchester, New York, population schedule, Eastchester, ED 64, page 2A, dwelling 20, family 26, household of James Bellew; digital image at *Ancestry* (www.Ancestry.com : accessed 27 March 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, no roll number given.

Semi-colon layer
divider

Newspaper Citations

THE DEATH ROLL.

FRED HOMER.

Word was telegraphed here Saturday evening of the death, at Capitan, New Mexico, of Fred Homer, of Greenville and Cleveland. The remains will be brought here for burial and are expected to arrive on Wednesday, when the Knights of Pythias, of which he was a member, will take charge of the funeral arrangements.

Mr. Homer was born in this place about 38 years ago, and was the youngest son of Josiah Homer, Clarksville street. A few years ago he married Miss Jennie Stinson, of this place, and they went to Cleveland to reside, where ~~conced~~ was engaged in the electrical business. The wife and one son survive.

Mr. Homer was a young man of sterling qualities and will be mourned by a host of friends.

The immediate cause of death was pneumonia, although he had been ailing from lung trouble for some time, and his trip to New Mexico was for the benefit of his health.

- Article Title: "The Death Roll"
- Newspaper: Record-Argus
- Location (Greenville, Mercer, PA)
- Website: Newspapers.com
- Accessed: 2 Feb 2005

Newspapers – Original Source First

Original Source		
What	Article Title	“The Death Roll”
What	Newspaper	Record-Argus
Where IS	Location	Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania
When	Publication Date	2 Feb 1903
Where IN	Page and Column	Page 5, column 4

Website		
Who	Website	Newspapers.com
What	Image or transcription	Digital image
Where IS	URL	www.newspapers.com
When	Date accessed	25 Feb 2005

Citation - Newspaper

- “Death Roll,” Record-Argus (Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania), 2 February 1903, page 5, column 4; digital image viewed at Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : accessed 25 Feb 2005).

Exercise

1. Designate a member of your group to be reporter.
2. Construct citations for the records in your packet
3. Present the citations to other participants

Citations Summary

- Citations help you find the record again and help you evaluate the quality of what you found
- Capture Who (Author, Organization), What (Title), Where IS (Publisher, location), Where IN (Record of Interest), When (date – velcroed to item)
- Think of nesting dolls and moving from general to specific
- Remember to Velcro dates to appropriate element
- Citations are an art; do not get tied in knots over them

Genealogical Proof Standard

- ✓ Reasonably exhaustive research
- ✓ Complete, accurate citations to the source or sources of each information item
- Tests—through processes of analysis and correlation—of all sources, information items, and evidence
- Resolution of conflicts among evidence items
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>



THANK YOU!

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