

# Building Your Genealogical Skills

## *Analysis 1 - Citations*

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Course Overview

## Part 1 - Basics

B1: Principles of Genealogical Research

B2: Learning About Records

## Part 2 - Researching

R1: Planning for Research

R2: How to Research

R3: Organizing for Family Historians

## Part 3 - Analyzing

A1: Citations

A2: Critically evaluating your findings

# Module Roadmap

Why bother with citations?



General citation principles



Simple citations



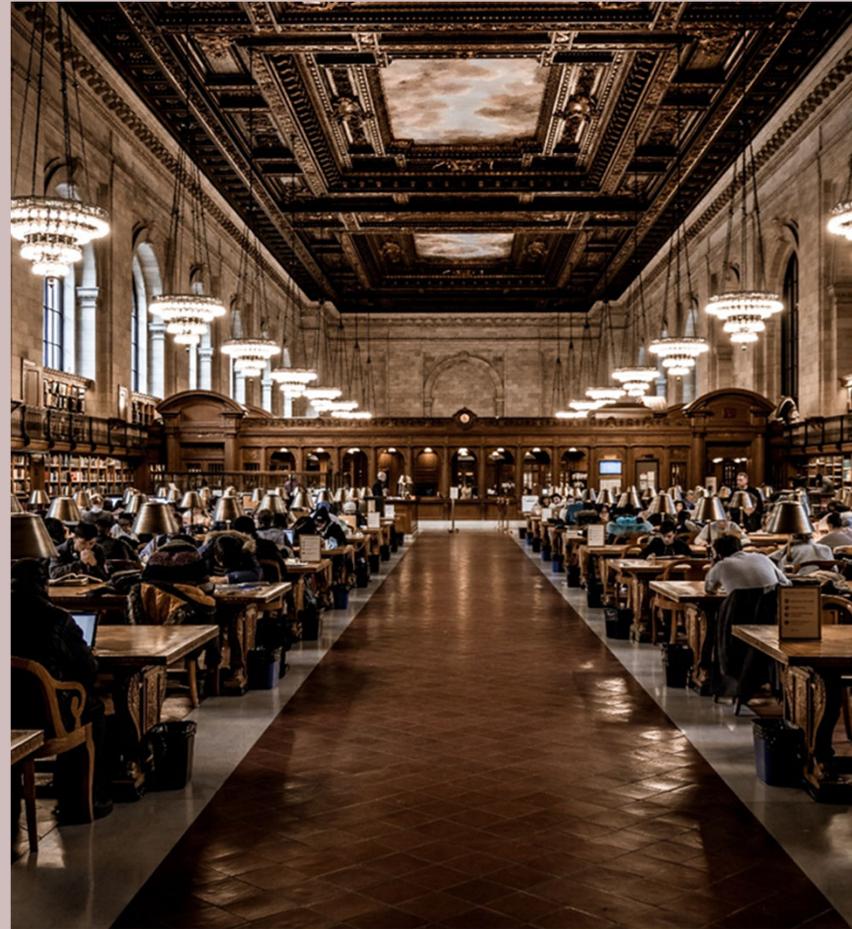
Two layer citations

# 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.)

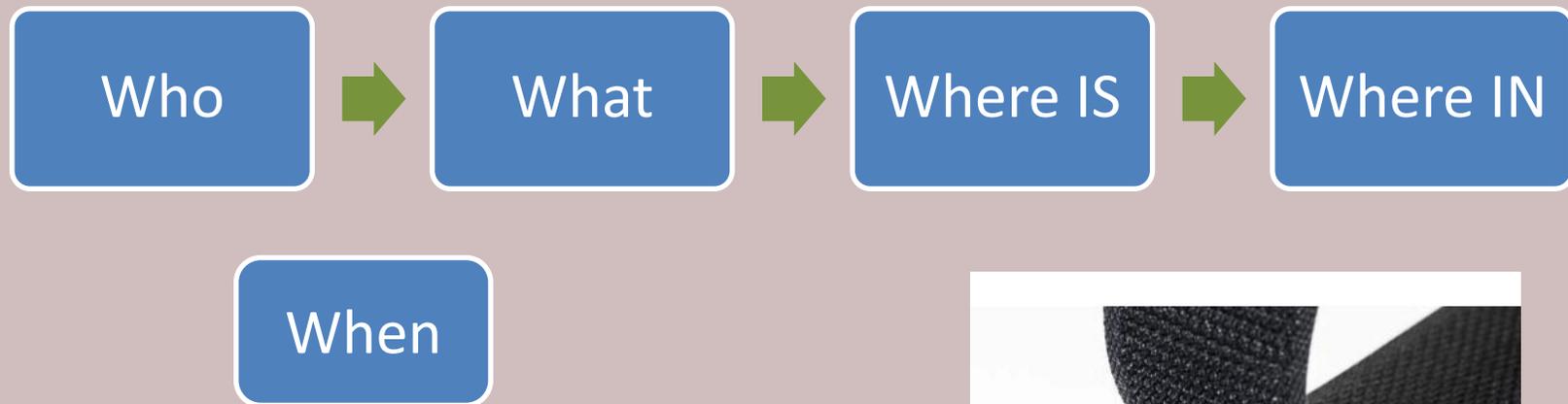
- **Where IS** the source now?
  - Publisher
  - Geographic location
  - Repository
  - Web address
- **Where IN** the source is the item?
  - Volume and page number
  - NARA roll
  - Certificate number
  - Person and event

# 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 nested groups

# Simple Citations

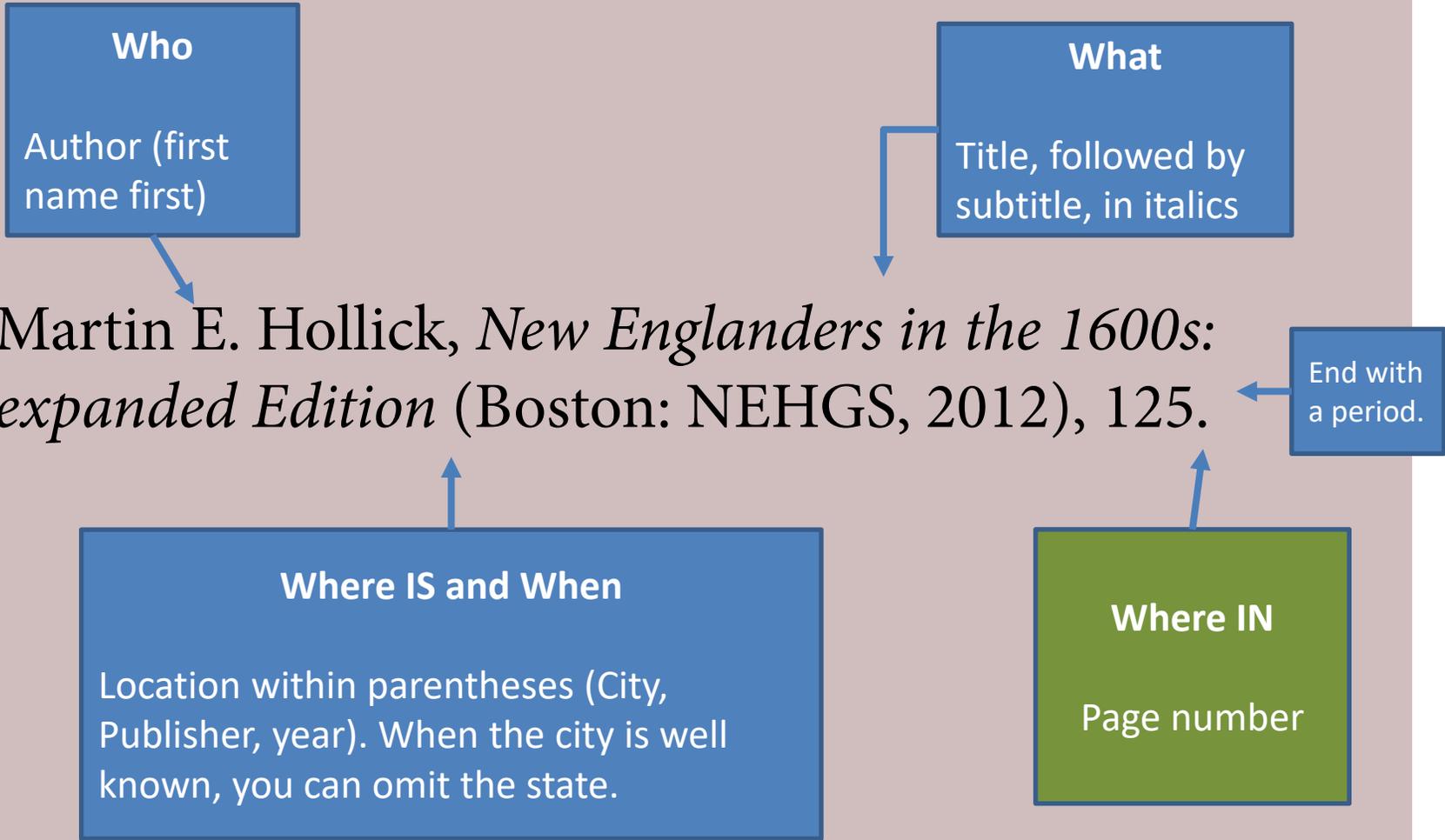
# General Citation Format



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

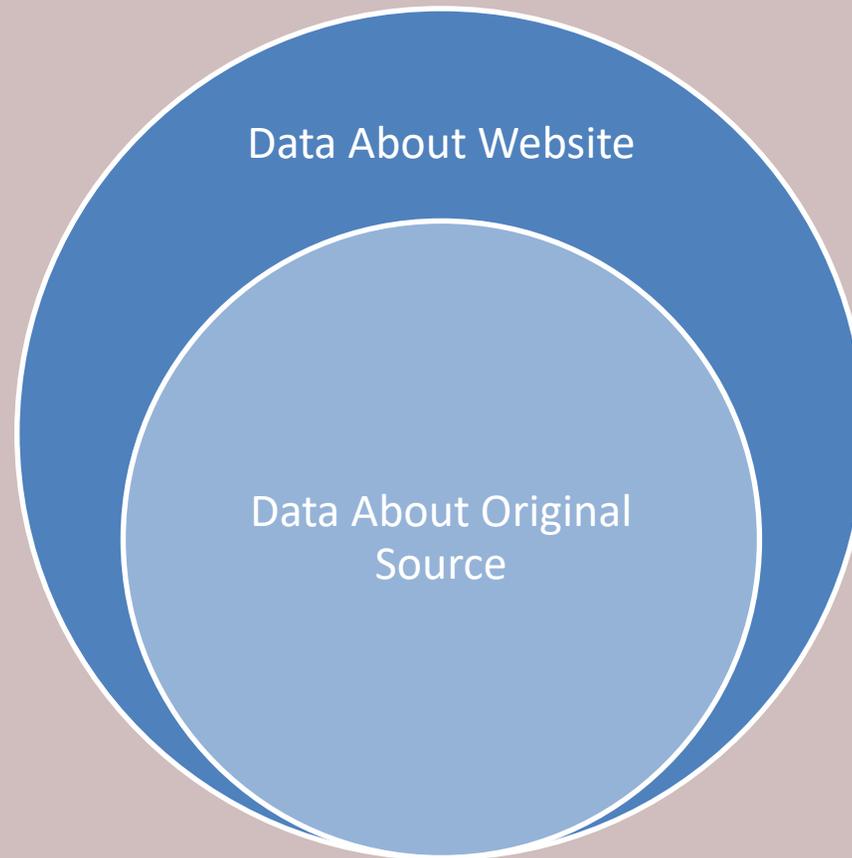


# Source Citations - Books

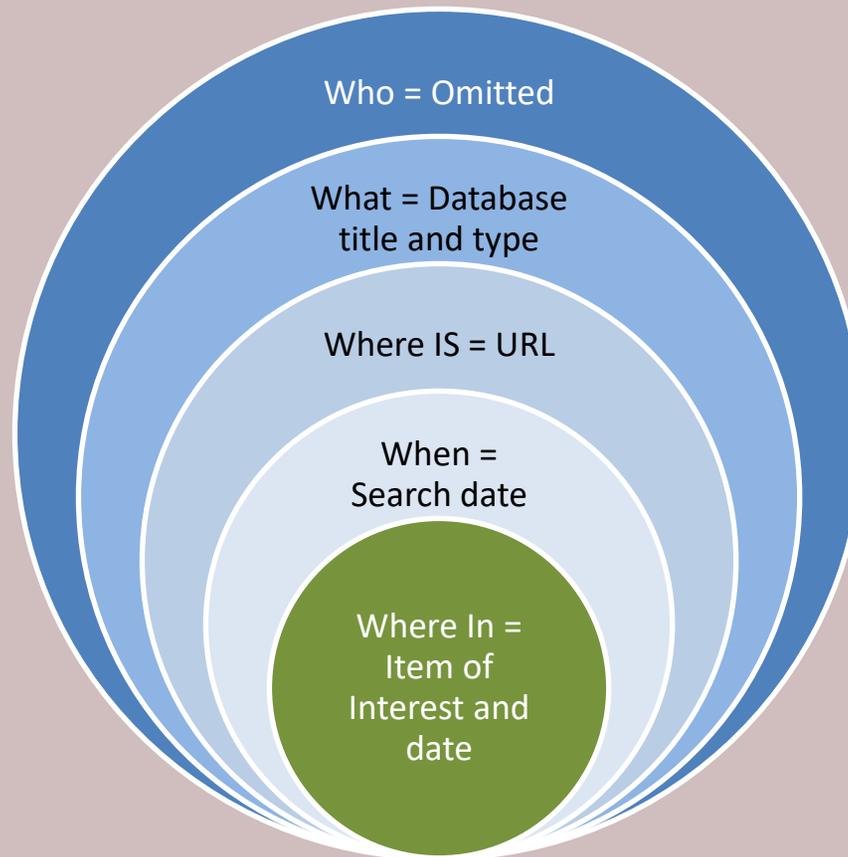


# Multi-layered Citations

# In An Online World – Citations Need Two (or more) Parts



# Layer 1: Website

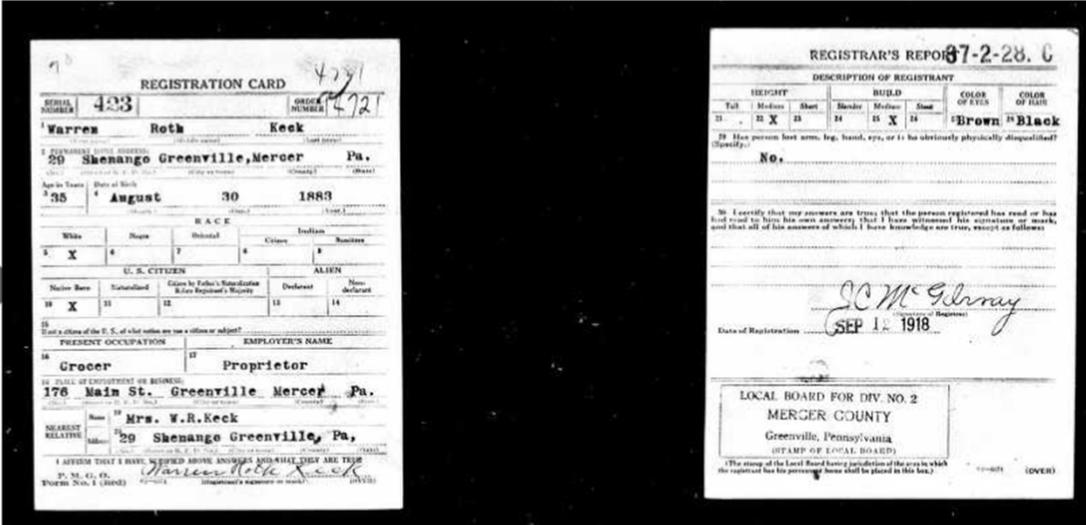


# Website Information

←
✓ 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

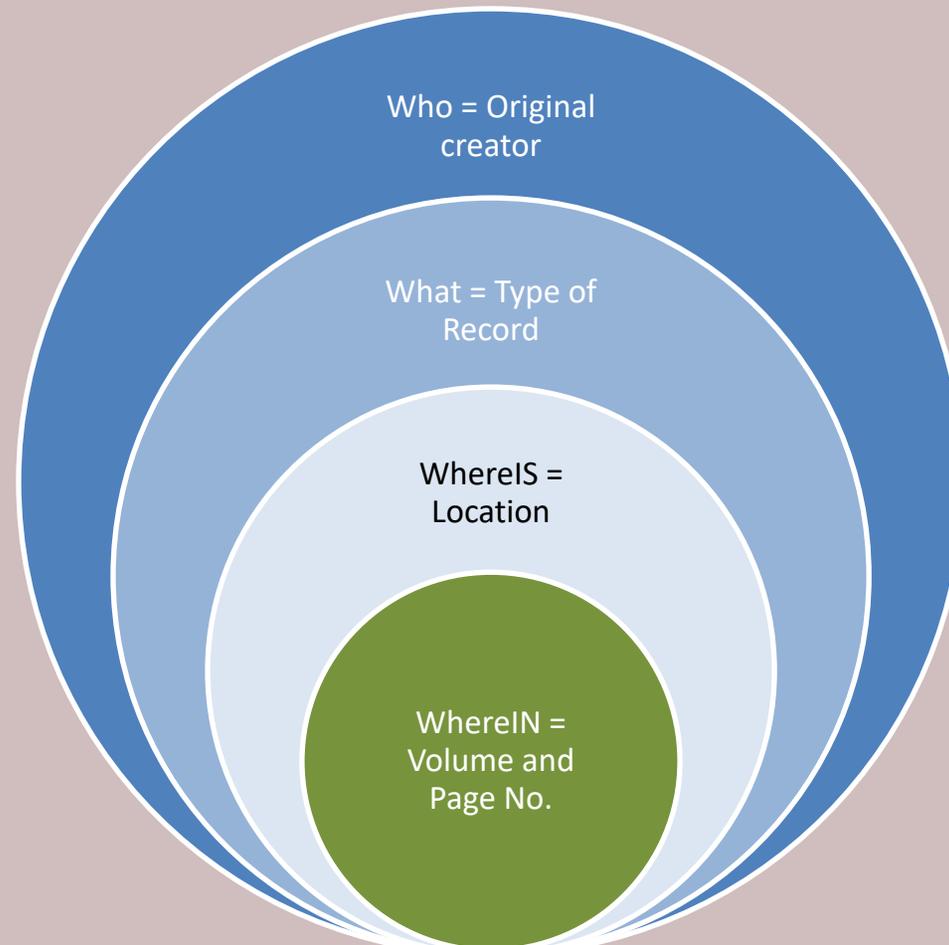
Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2005.

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	<a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a>
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	
Where IS		Already captured under item of interest
Where IN	Details	NARA Microfilm M1509
When	Often omitted	12 September 1918

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 87-2-28, C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

SEX	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	AGE	EDUCATION	RELIGION	STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF DEATH
M	B	B	B	5	150	24	H	C	S	1918	

Color of Eyes: Brown  
Color of Hair: Black

Is this person deaf, dumb, blind, etc., or is he obviously physically dependent?  
No.

I solemnly swear that the contents are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own entry, 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

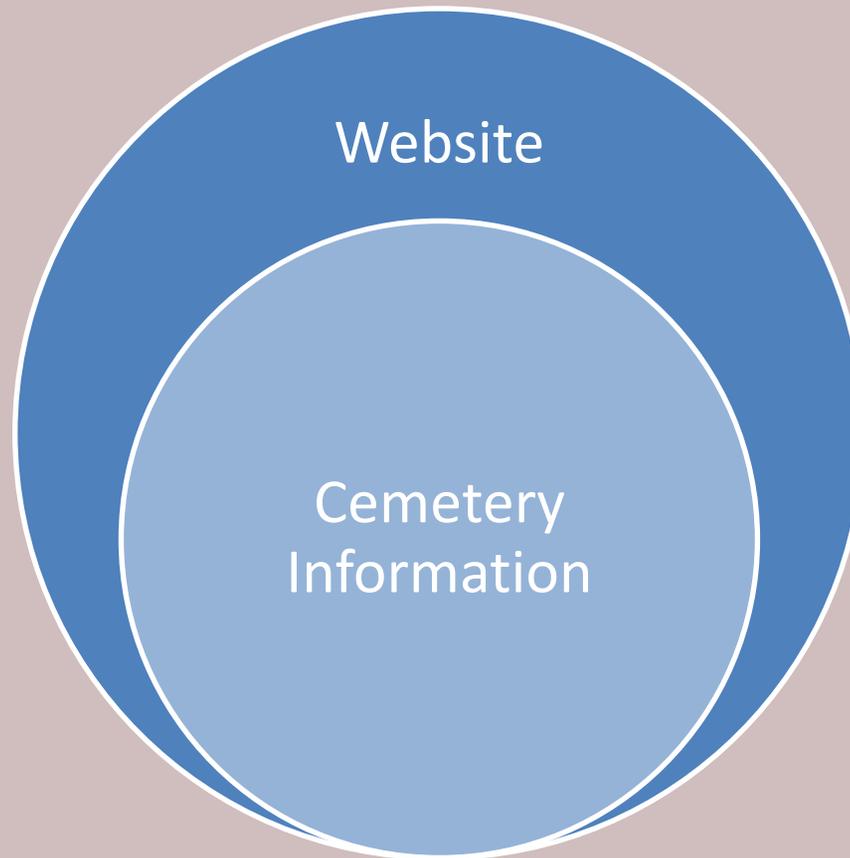
## Layer 1: The Website information

“U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” digital images at *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://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

Not just a memorial, but a tombstone photo – helpful for analysis

*Find A Grave*, digital image ([www.findagrave.com](http://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

# Review Citations

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

# **Coming Up Next – Module 7 Evaluating What You Find**



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