

Adding Story to Family History

Virtual Spring Stay at Home

Kyle Hurst, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press



American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Kyle Hurst

Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

Introduction

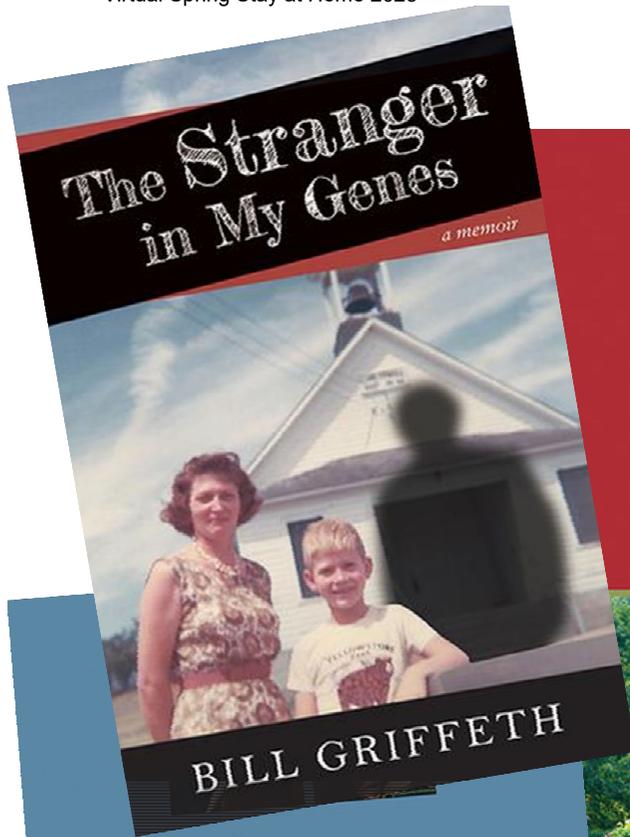
Americans tend to enjoy rags-to-riches stories and the idea of the self-made man, but as a famous philosophy thesis posits, nothing comes from nothing. A successful person who overcame hardships still came from a web of families that passed on their talents, values, and work ethic. This book, *Ancestors of Albert James Zdenek, Sr. and Rose Marie Mildred Prince*, shows how a diverse background led to the many accomplishments of Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.

These woven-together families came from different places. The ancestors of Albert James Zdenek, Sr. and Rose Marie Mildred Prince emigrated from four European countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, and England. Two families—Zdenek and Janoušek—hailed from South Bohemia; four—Prince, Molitor, Hitt, and Huber—came from Germany, the regions of Trier, perhaps Westphalia, and Swabia, respectively. The English families included Bailey, Fletcher, and Wine/Wines, while the Irish contingency included the Kennedy, Johnston, Grew, McGinnis, and Hagerty families.



Voice of
Kyle Hurst
Senior Genealogist

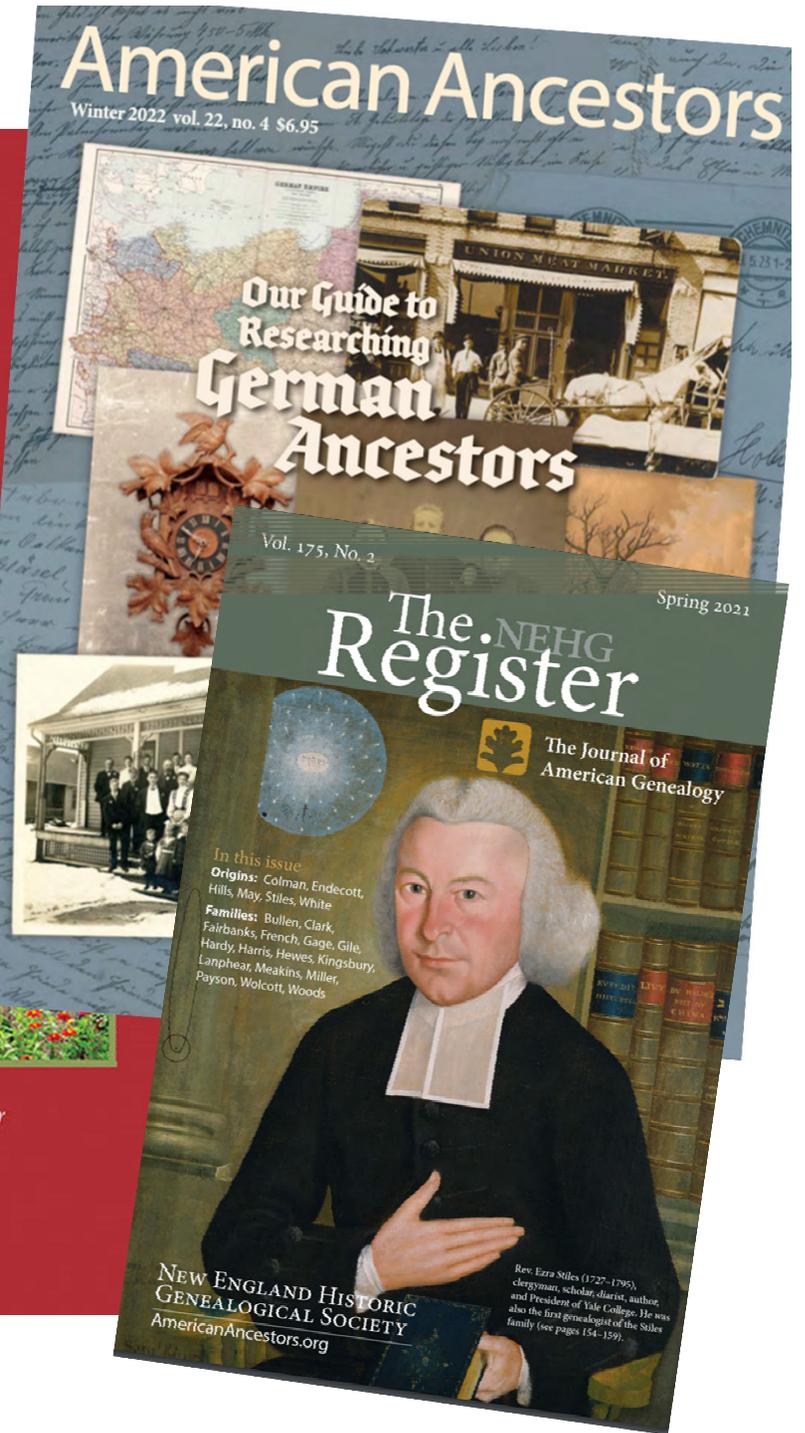
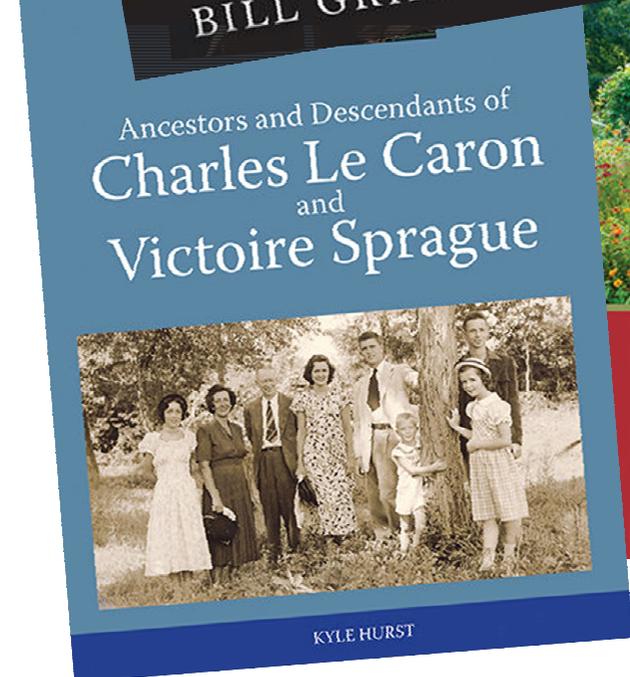
met and blended together in the America “melting pot.” Having arrived in New York, Delaware, and Virginia, the descendants eventually made Philadelphia their home (in Delaware by 1790), the Huber family (in New York by 1790 and probably as early as 1661) all moved westward to Indiana. In Illinois, a Kennedy bride arrived in 1909. During the Great Depression, the couple moved their family to Philadelphia. On Rose Marie’s side, families like Prince, Molitor, Johnston,



Descendants of
JOHN LIPPITT
 of Providence and
 Warwick, Rhode Island



*Christopher C. Child and Maureen A. Taylor
 with Andrew Krea and Jenifer Kahn Bakkala*



Components

- Family = genealogical sketches
- History = context
- Story = combine genealogical, biographical, contextual facts

Justice Bayless/Bailey was born probably in New York, about 1760, and died after 1850. He married by 1788, **Sarah _____**, born in New York, about 1766.



Orange County, New York was just over the river from Upper Smithfield Township. Originally, the township was in Wayne County, then in Pike County when that divided, and finally in Monroe County.



Justice Bailey, like many who lived through the formation of the United States of America, was quite mobile. As new lands and new transportation options opened up, Justice continually moved westward across his new country.

Get organized!

Base decisions on:

Deadlines

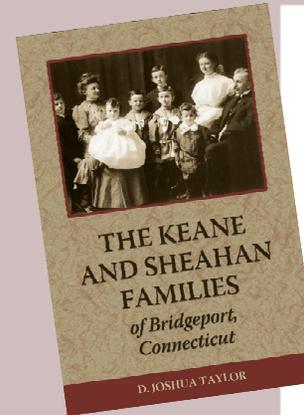
- When do you want to finish?
- Limits depth of coverage

Audience

- Who are you writing for?
- Determines style & tone

Organize ideas then data

- Table of contents/outline
 - What in each chapter/section?
 - Who to discuss?
 - What to say about them?
- Structure
 - Thesis
 - Examples to support
 - Genealogical formats vs narrative



Preface
Acknowledgments
About the Format of This Book

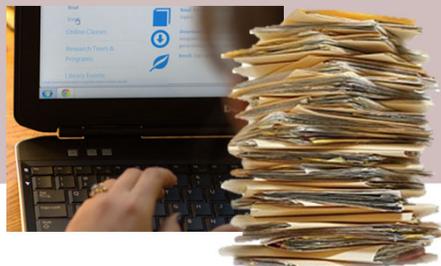
Part I: The Keane Family in Ireland
Chapter 1
On the Coast of Ireland: The Keane Family of Killoher, Kibblyowen Parish, County Clare
Chapter 2
Tracing the Keane Family in Ireland: Gleanings of the Family's Origins and Ancestry

Part II: The Keane Family in the United States
Chapter 3
Settling at Sandy Hook: The Keane Family of Sandy Hook in Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut
Chapter 4
Beginnings in Bridgeport: John F. Keane & Co. and the John Francis Keane, Sr., Family
Chapter 5
The Lamp of Learning: The Keane Family's Work Ethic and Tradition of Education

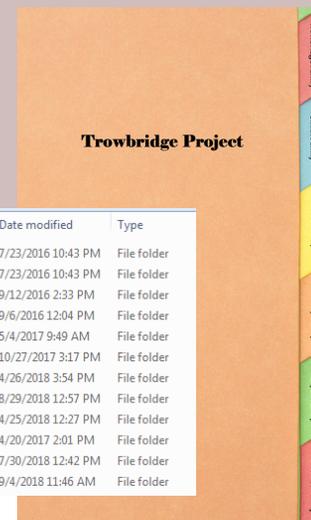
Part III: Descendants of Daniel and Margaret (Keane) Keane

Appendix I
The Geary/Sheahan Families

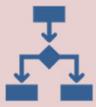
Appendix II
Conversation with Children of John and Victoire (Le Caron) Keane



Name	Date modified	Type
01 Questionnaire	7/23/2016 10:43 PM	File folder
02 Interview Transcripts	7/23/2016 10:43 PM	File folder
03 Freelancers	9/12/2016 2:33 PM	File folder
04 Supporting Documents	9/6/2016 12:04 PM	File folder
Ch 1 TrowbridgeFamily	5/4/2017 9:49 AM	File folder
Ch 2 SmithFamily	10/27/2017 3:17 PM	File folder
Ch 3 WoodFamily	4/26/2018 3:54 PM	File folder
Ch 4 CrosbyFamily	8/29/2018 12:57 PM	File folder
Ch 5 BryantFamily	4/25/2018 12:27 PM	File folder
Ch 6 HowzeFamily	4/20/2017 2:01 PM	File folder
Ch 7 Ratcliff Family	7/30/2018 12:42 PM	File folder
Ch 8 FisherFamily	9/4/2018 11:46 AM	File folder



Incorporating narrative into genealogy



Insert after birth-death-marriage info, **within** a genealogical sketch.



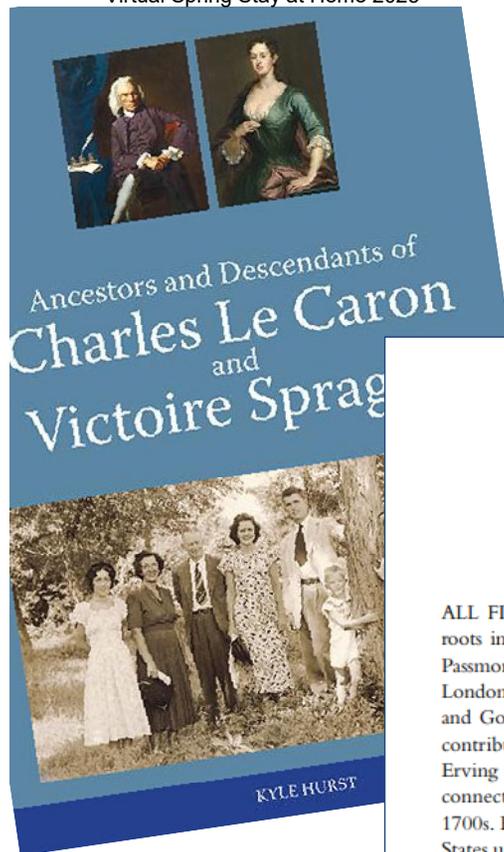
Include narrative chapters **before** and/or **after** the genealogical presentation.



Insert narrative or explanatory information in **features** / sidebars / boxed inserts.



Provide transcriptions of wills, interviews, or letters in one or more **appendixes**.



CHAPTER ONE

**BUILDING AND HOLDING
A NATION TOGETHER**

ALL FIVE ANCESTRAL FAMILIES discussed in this book have deep roots in England. Charles Le Caron's paternal ancestors—the Beach and Passmore families—primarily remained in that country and lived in London during the early 1800s. Victoire (Sprague) Le Caron's Sprague and Goddard ancestors left England for New England in the 1600s and contributed in many ways to the development of the new nation. Victoire's Erving family, which married into the Goddard family, maintained strong connections with both England and its former colonies throughout the 1700s. Eventually, one member of the Beach family came to the United States under an assumed name to fight during the Civil War, inspired by the Union cause. Descendants of these combined families have continued to play important roles in American life and history, in times of both conflict and peace.

In Pursuit of a New Nation

The Sprague, Goddard, and Erving families had markedly different experiences during the Revolutionary era. The Goddards, with a background in military and civic service, supported the Patriots; the Sprague family focused on training physicians during this pivotal time, investing in the next generation of those practicing medicine; and members of the Erving family, who were engaged in commerce and trade in Boston, were variously Patriots and Loyalists.

Narrative chapters and within sketches



John Erving II, Bath, 1806.

2. **JOHN² ERVING** (*John¹*) was born in Boston, Suffolk County, Massachusetts, 26 January 1727/8.¹⁵⁶⁴ He died in Bath, Somerset, England, 17 June 1816, and was buried at St. Swithin at Walcot in Bath, 22 July 1816.¹⁵⁶⁵ He married at King's Chapel in Boston, 18 April 1754, **MARIA CATHARINA SHIRLEY**, daughter of Gov. William and Frances (Barker) Shirley.¹⁵⁶⁶ She was baptized in Wivelsfield, Sussex, England, 4 March 1729.¹⁵⁶⁷ She died in Bath, March 1816, and was buried at St. Swithin at Walcot, 12 March 1816.¹⁵⁶⁸

Half a Century in Boston

In 1754, John married Maria Catharina Shirley, daughter of Gov. William Shirley. (See William Shirley.) Maria's father described John as "a young gentleman of extreme good character, and for whose fidelity and honor in his dealings I can be answerable, of some capital, and eldest son to a merchant of the largest fortune of any one in Boston."¹⁵⁶⁹ He gave them pew 4 in King's Chapel as a wedding gift.¹⁵⁷⁰ Portraits of the newlyweds are held at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Connecticut.¹⁵⁷¹

John, like his father, was a successful Boston merchant, landowner, and landlord.¹⁵⁷² He had a shop (selling things like indigo) on King Street throughout the latter half of the 1750s but advertised for it to be let in 1763. His first land purchase, bought from his father in 1760, consisted of a small piece of land (less than 3,000 square feet but with a well, pump, bricks, and stone) on Kilby Street (then Mackerel Lane). There he had a shop where he sold pork, flour, and other goods. Because John, a Loyalist, left the country after the Revolutionary War, he was considered an absentee owner and this land on Kilby Street was sold at auction in 1787.¹⁵⁷³

John's accounts tracked his dealings with renters and debtors. In the 1760s, John Cooper rented a house and shop from him and paid in cash, notes, and "repairs to the house you Live in." From at least 1766 to 1775, Mrs. Anna Ruler paid her rent in cash. In 1785, John made a list of bonds he held and interest made from them. The total came to £10,188 with another £3,797 in interest.¹⁵⁷⁴

Almost a century later, Samuel Adams Drake described John's house in Boston:

The mansion of Robert Treat Paine . . . was at the west corner of Milk and Federal Streets. The house, a brick one, fronted on Milk Street, and appeared in its latter days guiltless of paint. It was a large, two story, gambrel-roof structure, with gardens

WILLIAM FRANCIS MEEHAN, N° 12

An inspector for the U.S. Customs office in New York City, William Francis Meehan also served in the military for five years. On March 5, 1906 he enlisted with the 69th Infantry, Company D, and was honorably discharged April 3, 1911.

The 69th Infantry — sometimes called the “Fighting Sixty-Ninth”— is part of the New York Army National Guard. The unit’s lineage dates to the 1840s and the Irish revolutionary movement in New York City. After the unsuccessful Young Irelander Rebellion in Ireland in 1848, a group of Irish patriots in New York started to gather independent military companies. By the end of 1849, the First Irish Regiment had been acknowledged by the state; in 1850 mustered into the New York State Militia as the 9th Regiment. Over the

next few years, additional Irish regiments were formed and, in 1858, consolidated as the 69th Infantry.¹

With the Gaelic battle cry of *Faugh an Bealach* (“clear the way”), the Sixty-Ninth fought in a number of battles during the American Civil War, including Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. It has been involved in every major war since the Civil War and is still active.

Although the unit’s revolutionary beginnings were a distant past when William Meehan enlisted with the regiment in 1906, his involvement with them shows both a level of American patriotism and a pride in his Irish heritage.



William F. Meehan, ca. 1906.



William F. Meehan in the 69th Regiment, second man from the right, ca. 1908.



*Annals, Mrs. Thomas F. Downing
narrates the marriage of their daughter
William Meehan
to
Miss Lillian Margaret
Downing, October 1890
in the presence of several
of their friends.*

Wedding announcement of Lillian Margaret Downing and William Francis Meehan.

Right: 288 Rivendale Ave., Yonkers, New York, home of William F. and Lillian Meehan from 1915 to at least 1925. By the 1930 US Census, the family was living on S. 7th Ave. Photo by Ann (Carter) Alexander.

*Know Ye, that William
a Captain
in the 69th Infantry
of the
United States Army
has been honorably
discharged on the
10th day of April 1911
and released from further service
except in the case of INSUBORDINATE
JURY DUTY.
Given under my hand at
any of the places in the
State of New York
this 10th day of April 1911
John A. ...*

SEVENTH GENERATION

128. THADDEUS CARTER was born at Wallingford, New Haven County, Connecticut, 8 April 1735. He married Lucy Andrews. Thaddeus and his family moved to Litchfield, Connecticut prior to 1783.¹¹⁴

129. LUCY ANDREWS was born ca. 1744.¹¹⁵

Children of Thaddeus and Lucy (Andrews) Carter, born at Wallingford, (order unknown):¹¹⁶

- 64 i. Samuel Carter, b. 8 Aug. 1764.
- ii. Noah Andrews Carter, b. 1777; d. Barkhamstead, Litchfield Co., Conn., 31 May 1830; m. Lydia Gaylord, daughter of Joseph.
- iii. _____ Carter, b. 27 Dec. ____.
- iv. Mehitabel Carter, b. 29 Aug. ____.

130. AARON STODDARD was born at Litchfield, Litchfield County, Connecticut, 15 July 1739. He died at New York City, New York, 12 January 1777. He married first, Ann Kilbourn. He married second, Philena ____.¹¹⁷

131. ANN KILBOURN was born at Litchfield 2 July 1743.¹¹⁸

Children of Aaron and Ann (Kilbourn) Stoddard:¹¹⁹

- i. Ruth Stoddard; d. Litchfield, June 1795; m. 1788, James Tryon.
- ii. Sarah Stoddard, m. Ephraim Spencer.
- iii. Lydia Stoddard, m. Abner Gilbert.
- 65 iv. Anna “Diana” Stoddard, b. ca. 1768.

Children of Aaron and Philena (____) Stoddard:

- v. David Stoddard, b. Litchfield, 15 Nov. 1773; d. Groton, Tomkins Co., N.Y.; m. 1793, Dorcas Kent.
- vi. Sibyl Stoddard.
- vii. Mary Stoddard, b. Litchfield, 10 Jan. 1777; m. Herman Stone.

132–135. _____.

136. HENRY COONS was born between 1745 and 1750. He died in Fayette County, Kentucky, between 5 June 1821, when his will was written, and August 1823, when the will was recorded. He married Mary Ann ____.¹²⁰

137. MARY ANN ____.

Children of Henry and Mary Ann (____) Coons:¹²¹

- i. Samuel Coons.
- ii. John Coons, d. before 5 June 1821.
- 68 iii. Joshua Coons, b. 10 Oct. 1781.
- iv. James Coons.
- v. Martin Coons.

THADDEUS CARTER, N° 128

Thaddeus Carter was listed under Captain Hall’s Company, New York Regiment, in 1755, during the French and Indian Wars.¹ In 1775 during the American Revolution, Thaddeus Carter served in Captain Isaac Cook’s Company — a unit made up of minutemen from Wallingford, Connecticut. In September 1775, the regiment was engaged in operations along Lake George and Lake Champlain. They helped in the siege of St. John’s and were stationed in Montreal.²

AARON STODDARD, N° 130

Aaron Stoddard enlisted in 1776 in the Continental Army under the command of Captain Bezaleel Beebe.¹ He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Fort Washington in New York on 16 November 1776 and confined at a sugar house in Manhattan. (During the war, sugar houses throughout New York City were used by British forces as makeshift prisons.) More than 2,600 prisoners were taken by the British after the battle, and over the following months, more than 1,900 would die.² Aaron perished in January 1777. Only six of his company survived the poor conditions.³



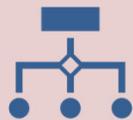
Map showing the military movements of the Battle of Fort Washington at the northern end of Manhattan. Claude Joseph Sauthier, 1777. Courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library.

Narrative then genealogy

Incorporating genealogy into narrative



Make the main body of your text a narrative and include the genealogy — *Register* style or *AT* — as end matter.



Provide genealogical information in chart form.



Dolor DAVIS (ca. 1599–1672/73)
= Margery WILLARD (d. bef. 1667)

Simon DAVIS (1636–1713)
= Mary BLOOD (1640–1717/18)

James DAVIS (1667/68–1727)
= Anne SMEDLEY (1676–1760/61)

Joseph DAVIS (1707/8–1776)
= Hannah BROWN (b. 1716)

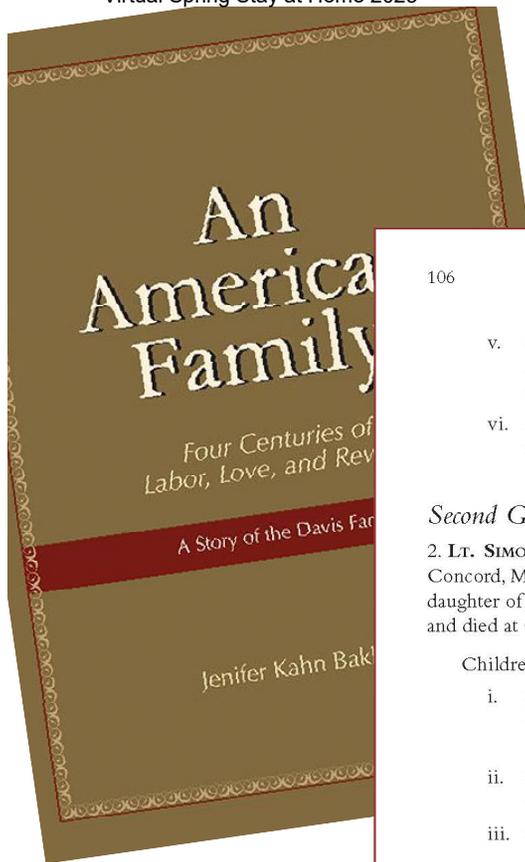
Silas DAVIS (1748–1838)
= Mary PRESTON (1754–1845)

James DAVIS (1793–1865)
= Cyrene PUTNAM (1803–1834)

Perley Bacon DAVIS (1832–1915)
= Mary Frances VINING (1839–1931)

Edward Kirk DAVIS (1880–1955)
= Rhea Ada REINEMAN (1886–1972)

Holbrook Reineman DAVIS (b. 1921)



106

An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love

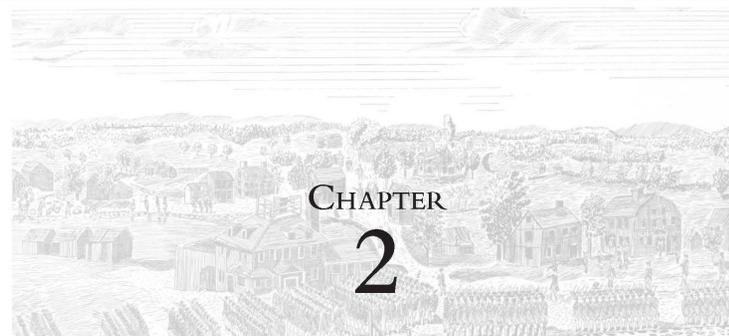
- v. SAMUEL DAVIS, b. probably Mass. about 1639/40; d. 1720; m. (1) Mass. 11 Jan. 1665, MARY MEDDOWES, d. 30 Oct. 1710; m. (2) at Concord Oct. 1711, RUTH TAYLOR, d. 6 Aug. 1720.⁶⁴⁴
- vi. RUTH DAVIS, bp. Barnstable 25 March 1644;⁶⁴⁵ m. Concord 3 March 1665, STEPHEN HALL of Concord.⁶⁴⁶

Second Generation

2. **LT. SIMON² DAVIS** (*Dolor*²) was born probably in Massachusetts in 1636 at Concord, Massachusetts 14 June 1713. He married 12 December 1660, MARGERY daughter of James and Eleanor (_____) Blood of Concord. She was born 12 December 1660 and died at Concord, probably 1717/18.⁶⁴⁷

Children of Simon² and Mary (Blood) Davis, all born at Concord:

- i. SIMON³ DAVIS, b. 12 Oct. 1661; m. (1) Concord 14 Feb. 1688/89, MARGERY WOODHOUSE, daughter of Henry Woodhouse of Concord; m. (2) Concord 19 Oct. 1714, MARY WOOD.⁶⁴⁸
- ii. MARY DAVIS, b. 3 Oct. 1663; m. Concord 28 May 1691, DEWEY WHEELER of Stow.⁶⁴⁹
- iii. SARA DAVIS, b. 11 March 1665/66; m. Concord 13 Nov. 1695, DEWEY WHEELER of Concord.⁶⁵⁰
- 3 iv. JAMES DAVIS, b. 19 Jan. 1667/68; m. Concord 4 March 1700, SARAH SMEDLEY.⁶⁵¹
- v. ELEN(ER) DAVIS, b. 22 Oct. 1672; m. Concord 14 May 1695, JOHN HUNT.⁶⁵²
- vi. EBENEZER DAVIS, b. 1 June 1676; m. (1) DINAH _____; m. (2) possibly DANFORTH, b. 23 Dec. 1676, d. 15 Oct. 1751, daughter of Capt. DANFORTH, m. (1) WILLIAM FRENCH of Billerica, Mass.⁶⁵³
- vii. HANNAH DAVIS, b. 1 April 1679; m. Concord 1 April 1700, JOHN BLOOD.⁶⁵⁴



CHAPTER 2

FIGHTING AND FARMING

Simon Davis and the Struggles of the Early Settlers

[H]e being of lively spirit encouraged the soldiers within the house to fire upon the Indians . . . with these like words, that 'God is with us, and fights for us, and will deliver us'¹⁴⁵

—Captain Thomas Wheeler, describing Simon Davis in the attack at Brookfield, 1675

Over time, as Dolor Davis, his wives, and their peers advanced in years, the mission that they had begun was handed off to their descendants. It became the charge of their children, and their grandchildren in turn, to assert the dominance of the position that the first immigrants had worked so tirelessly to establish. This was no easy task, for even as the colonial way of life began to find the security of established routines, it also was constantly and viscerally threatened. The first immigrants' children, coming of age in the 1660s and '70s, found their most urgent and growing threat to be their Native American neighbors, with whom they were now competing for ever scarcer land and resources.

Conflicts between Indians and settlers became increasingly violent, and many colonists lost their lives and property, as did many more Indians. The town of Concord, home to Dolor and Margery's son Simon, was unlike many towns across Massachusetts, in that it was never destroyed by this violence. It suffered on behalf of its neighbors, however: the increasing threat of personal loss and also the uncertainty that the colonies would continue to exert a forward momentum was probably a daily distraction for Simon, his siblings, and their contemporaries.

Although Barnstable seemed to represent a "true home," for Dolor and Margery, their relatively brief sojourn in Concord served to establish that community as the "true home" for Simon. Simon had arrived in Concord as a teenager, and he would remain there for the rest of his life.

Narrative with genealogy in back

[eI

Use the genealogical
numbering systems!

Writing narrative

Storytelling

Novel



Plot



Conflict



Transition between scenes



Characters



Dialogue

Genealogy



Themes



Tensions



Move times/locations



Ancestors



Quotes

Story Structure

BEGINNING



MIDDLE



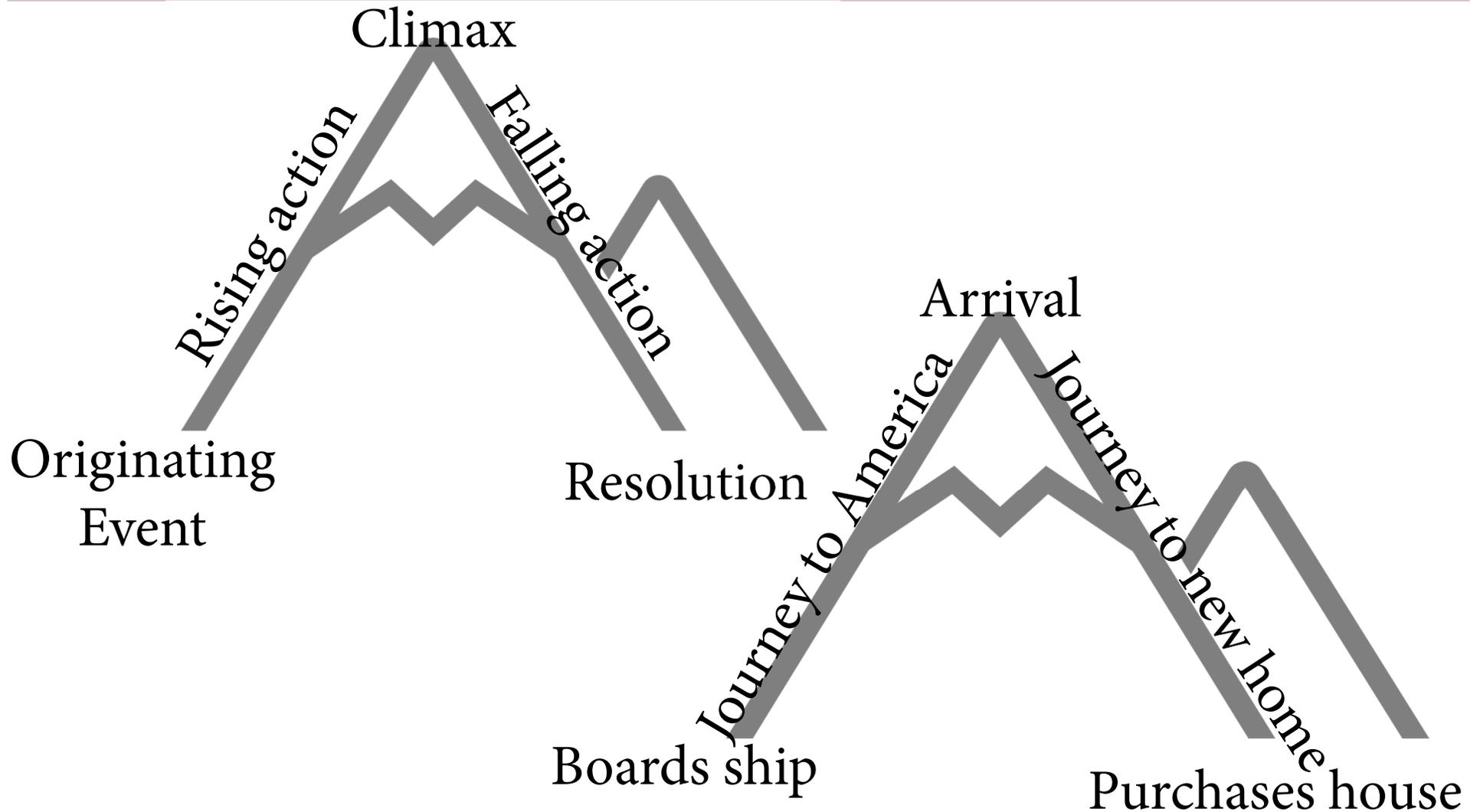
END

✓ Table of contents

✓ Genealogy

✓ Within narrative

Eventful Events



Getting started



Just start typing.



Later, reread and look for patterns.



Include only what is of interest; omit information that the reader can easily find elsewhere.

The year after they wed, they lived at **1 Waverly Place in Chelsea**. Thomas worked as a stevedore at Mystic Wharf in Charlestown.¹

When Mabel was born in **1892**, the Jameson family resided at **19 Medford in Boston**. Her father was from England and her mother from Ireland. He was a longshoreman.²

Thomas and Nora had at least five children baptized at **St. Catherine of Siena in Charlestown by 1895**. They had at least five more baptized at Immaculate Conception in Revere between **1897 and 1902**. However, two of those children died as infants, and their nearly 6-year-old died in 1903. Nora then had a stillborn daughter in **1904** who was buried at Bunker Hill in Boston.³

Near **Halloween 1895**, Thomas and Nora borrowed \$1270 from Benjamin Hadley (of Somerville) to purchase (from Jacob E. Anthony of Everett) 2250 square feet in Lot 2 with a five-foot-wide strip of Lot 5 on **Olive Street** east of Elwood Place in **Revere**. The mortgage was for ten years, and they had paid by late 1904.⁴

As of **1899**, Thomas worked as a foreman in Charlestown but also sold groceries from his home at **10 Olive Street, Revere**. As of **1902/3**, his occupations hadn't changed, but the address was **22 Olive Street**. In 1911, he was a foreman living at **28 Olive Street**.⁵

In **1900**, the Jameson family mortgaged a house at **10 Olive Street in Revere**. Seven of their nine children still lived. Thomas was a superintendant at Mystic Wharf. He had immigrated in about 1880 and since naturalized, and Nora had immigrated about 1883. Their household also featured Daniel O'Brien, born in Ireland, January 1846, who had been married 23 years and had immigrated in 1897 and not yet naturalized.⁶

Rough draft/Notes

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At home, the Jameson family resided in four locations within a two-square-mile area just north of Boston. Shortly after they wed, Thomas and Nora lived at **1 Waverly Place**, which used to be by the bridge over the Mystic River at the western edge of Chelsea. There they celebrated the birth of their eldest daughter (Mary) in March 1887 and mourned her death from croup that October. Her baptism seemed to be the only time the Jamesons held a sacramental event at Chelsea's St. Rose of Lima church, which was straight down Broadway from their home.¹⁹⁷

During the first half of the 1890s, the couple lived in Charlestown where they proceeded to have five more children. Several apartments they rented on Medford Street were located behind Mystic Playground (now Barry Playground), right by the Chelsea Street Bridge that crossed the Inner Channel to Mystic Wharf. The Jameson family lived the longest at 19 Medford Street, which was a "thoroughly well built" three-story house with three tenements and fourteen rooms. It even featured "water closets on each floor." At the time, the building's owner could expect to receive about \$504 in rents each year.¹⁹⁸

All five of Thomas and Nora's Charlestown-born children—Frances Ellen, Robert, Mabel, Daniel, and James John—lived to adulthood. They were baptized at St. Catherine of Siena, at the base of Bunker Hill on the side near their rental homes. Traditionally, this was the poorest Catholic parish in the area because it tended to have large Irish families among its mostly working-class parishioners. In part due to this, St. Catherine of Siena's parish has since merged with St. Mary's, which now features the re-created St. Catherine of Siena Chapel within its lower level. For the first of these five baptisms, Nora's father Daniel and sister Ellen O'Brien served as godparents. Nora's sister Margaret sponsored the second.¹⁹⁹

Near Halloween in 1895, Thomas's promotion to foreman allowed him to purchase property on Olive Street in Revere. Although this was the farthest he ever lived from Mystic Wharf, it would have been a straight shot down Broadway through Chelsea to reach the bridge (now called the Maurice J. Tobin Memorial Bridge). Thomas and Nora borrowed \$1,270 (from Benjamin Hadley of Somerville) to purchase (from Jacob E. Anthony of Everett) 2,250 square feet in Lot 2 with a 5-foot-wide strip of Lot 5 on Olive Street east of Elwood Place. They repaid the ten-year mortgage by late 1904.²⁰⁰

The address for this property was 10 Olive Street until about 1901 or 1902, when it was renumbered as 22 Olive Street. The house had seven rooms and a bath "piped for hot and cold water." While Thomas still worked at Mystic Wharf, Nora sold groceries from their home.²⁰¹

Notes to manuscript

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Cite as you write!

How to add the narrative



Chronologically



Thematically



One topic per paragraph

Quaker Life

After banns were posted on 7 September and 5 October, Isaac Conroe and Elinor Wright married at the Burlington Monthly Meeting “1730, 8, 22” (22 October 1730). Isaac, son of Isaac Connarro, was from Gloucester County. Elinor, daughter of Jonathan Wright, was from Burlington (town and county). Among the many witnesses were Jonathan Wright, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Connarow, Stephen Wright, and Fretwell Wright.⁷³

The Conroe couple remained with the Burlington Quaker meeting at first. On at least two dates, 6 9th month 1738 and 2 12th month 1746, Isaac was appointed to attend the quarterly meeting by the Burlington Monthly Meeting.⁷⁴

Then in the summer of 1751, Isaac Conroe and his wife made plans to switch to the Chesterfield Meeting. However, the friends who looked into his application for a certificate of removal (from the Burlington Monthly Meeting) determined that “he was likely to return here again” and denied the request.⁷⁵

The Builder

Isaac Conroe was a mason and brick-seller.

In 1762, Isaac supplied twenty thousand bricks to Edward Prior/Pryor “used in building the Proprietor’s house in [Perth] Amboy.” Pryor paid for ten thousand white bricks on 19 March 1763, but Isaac was still owed “10:6:9 York money” as of 13 April 1770. The Board of Proprietors of East Jersey agreed to pay the balance.¹⁰³

The Proprietary House was built about the time of the first visit of William Franklin, the royal governor and son of Benjamin Franklin. He wanted to live there, and the East Jersey proprietors wanted rooms for the Council and Assembly. Unfortunately, when the building was ready in September 1764, a depression and stirrings of revolution meant that Franklin did not move in until nine years later.¹⁰⁴

Isaac Conroe led the construction of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse (originally the New York Lighthouse). According to Park Historian Thomas J. Hoffman:

Kyle Hurst et al, *Selected Ancestors of Nelson McMahon and Louise Rathbun* (Newbury Street Press, c2020).

Property in Burlington

Over the course of their time in Burlington, New Jersey, Isaac and Elinor Wright basically owned and sold three properties.

They received the first property from Elinor’s parents on 27 February 1730/31. Jonathan and Elizabeth Wright of Burlington sold property to their son-in-law, Isaac Connarro, a Burlington bricklayer, and their daughter, “Elinor,” for £60. The first part was for the dwelling house known as White Hall on the island of Burlington that Jonathan had purchased in 1720. The second part included 19 acres that Jonathan obtained in 1723. With the land, Isaac received the rights to build a brick wall on the property line and

Thematically then chronologically

What makes an engaging family history?

Details about people, places, events

Historic and geographic context

Photos, charts, and other images

Clear, focused writing

[eI

Read your text aloud

Perspective

Point of View

- Authorial vs. narrative voice
- Third person vs. first person
- Don't switch viewpoints midstream
- Decide how close is close enough

Hugh Hart Lusk was asked by Justice Foster if he would defend Louisa Collins in her murder trial, which was scheduled to begin the following week. The judge said that there wasn't any money to pay for his services.



At the height of his career, Hugh took on the responsibility of representing Louisa Collins *pro bono*. With only a week remaining until the murder trial, Justice Foster chose him for the defense.



One week, that's all he had, one week to prepare a defence in a murder trial. The prosecution had had a month. . . . What did he have? A request from Justice Foster that he, Hugh Hart Lusk, should conduct the case *pro bono*, which meant no fee, no assistance, no money for any investigative work . . .

Viewpoints

Carol Baxter, *Writing and Publishing Gripping Family Histories* (St. Ives, New South Wales: Baxter, c2016), 37.

Narrative Voice Styles

- Narrative non-fiction

Justice Bailey, like many who lived through the formation of the United States of America, was quite mobile.

- Journey of discovery

By tracing him in census, land, and tax records, **I found that** Justice Bailey was quite mobile.

- Intimate voice

After his 50th birthday, Justice **decided** to leave New York bound for Ohio. **Would he** finally be at home there?

- Encyclopedic

Between 1790 and 1810, Justice Bailey appeared in N.Y. records for Orange, Tioga, and Livingston Counties.

- Distant voice

Justice Bailey (1760-aft. 1850) lived in New York in 1810 and in Ohio by 1835.

- “Faction”

In his **melancholy**, Justice Bailey **thought**, ‘Maybe moving from place to place will bring me **happiness and success**.’

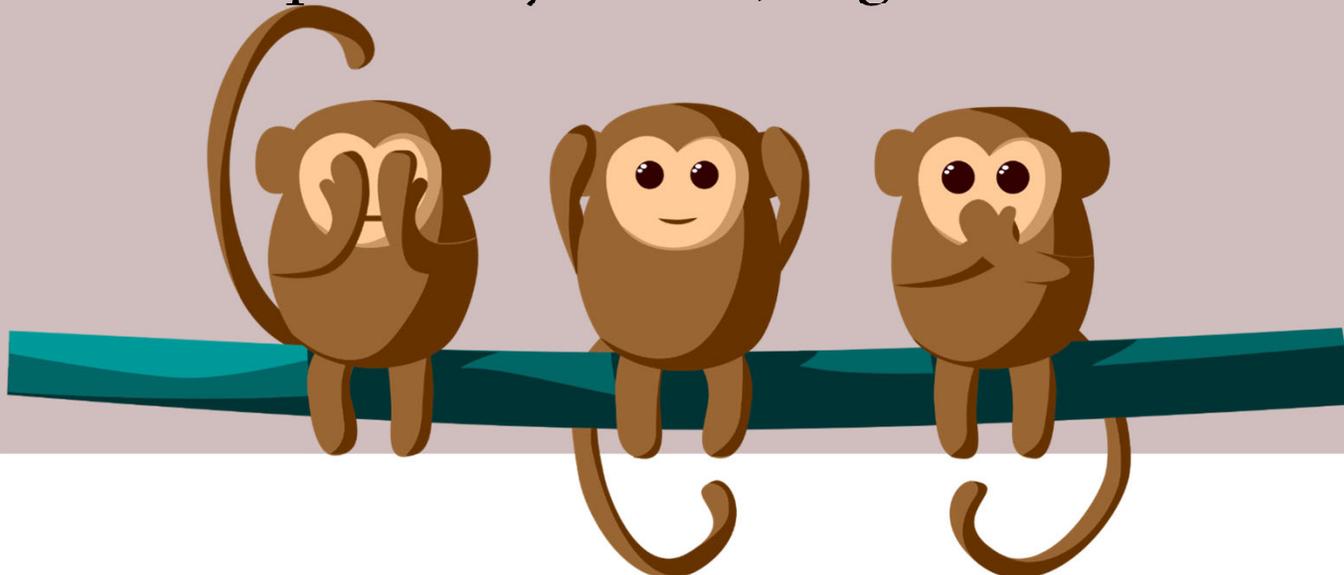
Truth Matters

Do

- Be tactful
- Beware bias
- Maintain impartiality

Don't

- Withhold “sensitive” data
- Exaggerate
- Judge



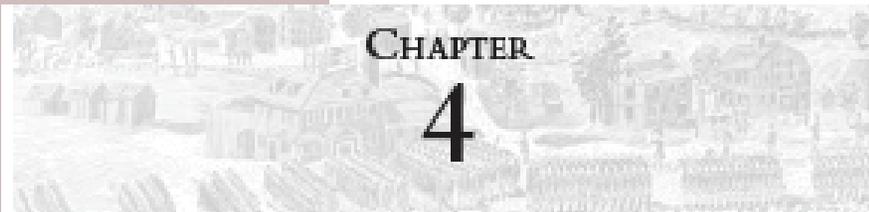
Anchoring

- Location
- Timeframe
- Generation
- Characters



TO AMERICA!

Dolor Davis and the Establishment of the American Colonies



CHAPTER

4

GO WEST, YOUNG MEN

Albert, Arthur, and Edward and the Expansion of America

If we were to ask one what is the real foundation of future success of the Pilgrim Place project . . . I should reply . . . that the real foundation . . . is the quality of the Pilgrim Place residents themselves. . . . The spirit of fine consideration, courtesy, helpfulness and cheerfulness combined with some talent for forcefulness and efficiency, will pave the way over which all good things will arise, sooner or later.²⁴

—Albert R. Davis, upon his retirement as Executive Secretary of Pilgrim Place retirement community, 1940.

Since Dolor Davis's arrival in the 1630s, seven generations of Davises had made their homes within a seventy-mile radius of where he first made landfall at Boston. From Cambridge to Barnstable, from Concord to New Ipswich to Hyde Park, the Davises had firmly established themselves as northeasterners, with the city of Boston remaining as their closest metropolitan hub. Many of their neighbors and friends, however, had ventured into new territory over the years, particularly to lands in the American west that were becoming hosts to ripening new cities.

The appetite for westward expansion began almost as soon as European settlers like

they could see nothing but a wastefulness, and corn fields, not the husbandry of man.²⁵

the New World in 1634

in the early colonization European exploration in settlements in the early along the eastern seaboard the Colony of Jamestown and others, Europeans who had confidence in the idea of

unfortunate new era of policies of King James, the political, economic, and social. The New World held the ability to change and shape the settlements. In 1629, King James and steady stream of immigrants of the Massachusetts Bay Colony were already established, were single men, settling in the west, and most, however, were young men of Dolor Davis.

Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, *An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love, and Reward* (Newbury Street Press, c2018).

Answering Questions



WHO?



WHAT?



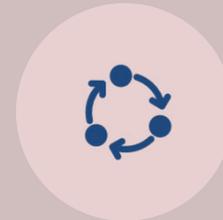
WHEN?



WHERE?



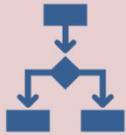
WHY?



HOW?

Biography

Adding genealogical content



Enter data following the chosen format.



Add the key events in the subjects' lives.



Consistency leads to clarity!

Vital data

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891. He died in Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, **JOSEPHINE ACCARDO**.

Biographical : What kind of information?

- Education
- Military service
- Occupations
- Places of residence
- Religious affiliations
- Personal details

86

Descendants of Dr. Nathaniel Saltonstall of Haverhill

Dr. Nathaniel⁶ Saltonstall

Born at Haverhill, Massachusetts 10 February 1746/47

Died there 15 May 1815

Married at Haverhill 21 November 1780, Anna White

THE ELDEST SON of his father's third marriage, Dr. Nathaniel Saltonstall became the head of the Saltonstall family in Essex County before his fortieth birthday. Unlike his half-brother Colonel Richard⁶ Saltonstall (1732–1785) or his youngest brother, Leverett⁶ Saltonstall (1754–1782), Dr. Saltonstall did not favor the Loyalists, but neither was he notably keen in support of the rebel cause: "wholly unambitious of public life," he was "Diffident and fond of retirement."¹

The financial disarray occasioned by his father's death did not keep Nathaniel from being educated at the Boston Latin School—where he lived with his mother's older brother, Middlecott Cooke—and then at Harvard College, from which he graduated in 1766. He qualified as a doctor in the years before the Revolution: "The mildness of his manners and kindness of his disposition excited the confidence of his patients, and gained their strong attachment. He was remarkable for his humane and even assiduous attendance on the poor, consoling them by his cheerful visits and his supplies of medicine and other necessaries, without any hopes of remuneration."²

Nathaniel inherited the Cooke mansion on State Street in Boston in 1771; instead of moving into the city from Haverhill

Biographical: Where to look

Published sources

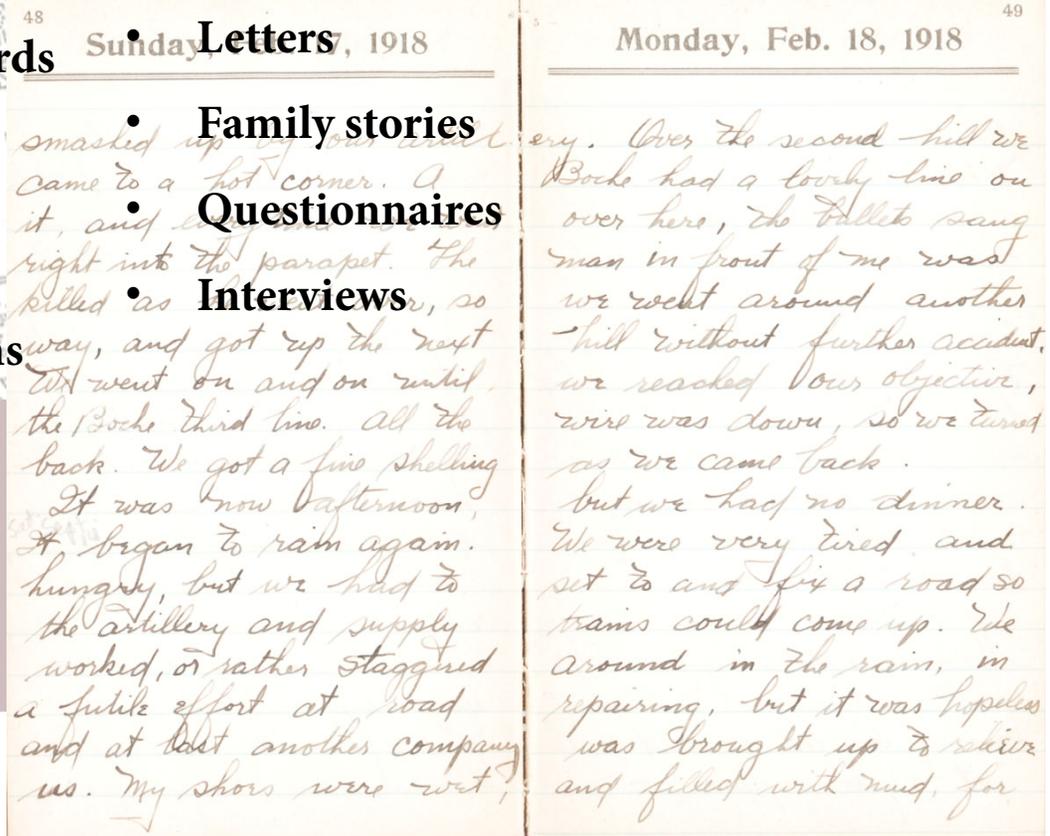
Unpublished sources

- Census data
- Ship's registers/immigration records
- Wills and probate
- Deeds/land records
- Obituaries/gravestone inscriptions
- Newspaper articles
- Books/family histories

Diaries

Letters

- Family stories
- Questionnaires
- Interviews



[← Back to Results](#)

Early New England Families, 1641-1700

Image

Transcript

Volume

Alexander Adams (m. 1644)

Page

4

of 6

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Print

Print Range

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New Search

Favorite

22 1st month 1663: Boston, "Nathaniel Ramsey servant to Alexander Adams died."⁴⁷

ESTATE: 29 January 1677[1/8]: Administration on the estate of "Alexander Addams late of Boston, shipwright" was granted to "Mary his Relict in right of her Selfe and Children."⁴⁸ 2 February 1677[1/8]: Inventory on the estate of "Alexander Addams deced. Jan^y 16 1677," taken by John Scarlett and Nathaniel Greenwood, was filed by "Mary Addams." The total came to £514.12s, including "dwelling houses wth the Land from the Sea to y^e Back Street (£400) and timber and other ship building material in the yard (£21)." 28 February 1677[1/8]: "Mary Addams," administratrix, posted bond of £1000 with John Scarlett and Nathaniel Greenwood.⁵⁰

19 August 1684 (signed 28 August 1684): "Samuel Addams, Caleb Stretton, Samuel Sexton & William Parkman" divided Alexander's estate. Caleb Stratton in the right of his wife, eldest daughter, received "the house wherein he the said Caleb now dwells" William Parkman received land between Stratton's house and his Samuel Sexton received "y^e Mansion house wherein he now dwells" and land to the east. Samuel Adams "the only Son" received the land "being now Employed for a building yard ..." down to the low water mark with the condition that Stratton, Sexton and Parkman would retain their right "of landing their wood, provisions & goods for their families ..." unless Samuel paid them twenty shillings each to forfeit that right. A memorandum attached to the deed and dated the same day stated that they had agreed to different lines of division and "That Samuel Sexton shal only have the Westward part or end of the Mansion house, the division to be made at the middle of y^e Maine Stack of Chimnys" the remainder of the mansion house and all of the land laid out in the original agreement to Sexton and Stratton was to belong to William Parkman: 4 December 1684: the agreement was acknowledged by all four parties at the

Biographical details in records

More of the story

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of “old age” at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1971. He was buried in the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married JOSEPHINE ACCARDO, daughter of ANTONIO ACCARDO and ANNA ACCARDO, New Orleans, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.

Partanna parish records

After the First World War ended, Frank again travelled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, *Anna*. The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Passenger list

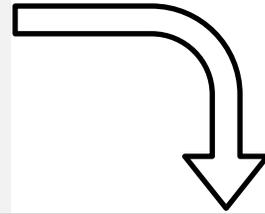
Family stories;
newspaper articles

[eI

Decide what to omit.

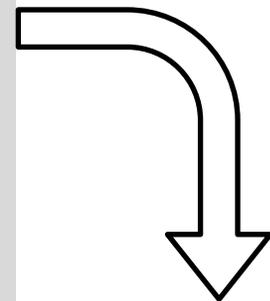
According to the 1860 census, on 17 July 1860 the Pratt household at Norwich, Connecticut, consisted of George Pratt, white male aged 27, [occupation illegible], \$800 in personal estate, born in Massachusetts; and Sarah Pratt, white female aged 28, house keeper, born in Connecticut. The young couple was also enumerated in her father's household: on 18 July 1860, the Whittlesey household at Salem, Connecticut, included Oramel Whittlesey, white male aged 58, music teacher, \$10,000 in real estate, \$16,000 in personal estate, born in Conn Whittlesey, white female aged 54, born in Conn Maginnis, white male aged 34, music teacher, \$ estate, born in Ireland; E. T. Maginnis, white fem in Connecticut; O. M. Maginnis, white female aged Connecticut; E. J. Maginnis, white female aged Connecticut; G. F. Pratt, white male aged 28, lav Connecticut; and S. V. Pratt, white female aged Connecticut.

The 1870 census, taken on 16 July 1870, reports household at Norwich, Connecticut consisted of male aged 37, lawyer, \$12,000 in real estate, \$6, estate, born in Massachusetts, a male U.S. citizen Sarah Pratt, white female aged 38, keeping hou Connecticut; Alice Pratt, white female aged 10, within the year, born in Connecticut; Oramel Pr. 8, at school, has attended school within the year Connecticut; Gertrude Pratt, white female aged attended school within the year, born in Conne white male aged 3, at home, born in Connecticut white female aged 7 months, born in Nov. [186 Connecticut; Margaret Harrinton, white female aged servant, born in Ireland, parents of foreign birth; Margaret O'Reagan, white female aged 22, domestic servant, born in Ireland, parents of foreign birth; and Anna Keiley, white female aged 13, domestic servant, born in Connecticut, parents of foreign birth. . .



At the time of the 1860 census, George, 27, was living with Sarah, 28, in Norwich with \$800 in personal estate. His occupation is lawyer; she is listed as a housekeeper. They are also enumerated in the household of her father, Oramel Whittlesey in Salem. By 1870, George was listed as a lawyer with \$12,000 in real estate and \$6,000 in personal estate. Sarah was keeping house. Also living with them were their children Alice, 10; Oramel, 8; Gertrude, 8; Bela, 3; and infant Susan, 7 months.

By 1880, Sarah was a widow. A music teacher, she was living at 11 Union Street in Norwich, with her daughter "Allce" [Alice] M., 19, also a music teacher; son Oramel W., 17, daughter Gertrude, 15, and son Minot T., 8, all in school; and niece Charlotte Maginnis, 16,



As a lawyer, George increased his wealth during the 1860s, which was fortunate as he had to support five young children. After George died during the following decade, his widow Sarah and their eldest daughter both worked as music teachers to maintain the family.

Deciding what to omit

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Don't let missing information
stop you from writing!

Thomas (of Sunderland, England) arrived at **Galveston, Texas**, 5 February 1881. He declared his desire for U.S. citizenship at the U.S. Circuit Court in Massachusetts, 30 December 1886. As a laborer, he petitioned for naturalization at Boston, 15 October 1888 and was naturalized there, 7 January 1889. His witnesses were Charles E. Muligan and Robert G. Swatland of Chelsea.¹

Galveston immigration:

- “Galveston immigration data is not available from the National Archives before 1871 and 1894; further, some records are missing near the time of the 1900 hurricane.”²
- Historical marker: “Federal laws enacted in **1875** ended the unrestricted immigration into the country and led to the establishment of the **area’s first U. S. Immigration Station at Galveston’s Pier 29**.... The U. S. Congress chose Galveston over New Orleans as the major new Federal immigration station in 1906.”²
- “More than 130,000 immigrants came through the Port of Galveston from 1840 to 1915. Jami Durham, a historian with the Galveston Historical Foundation,.... The **immigrant station on Galveston Island opened in 1853 at Pier 29**, Durham often was described as the “Ellis Island of the West” or a “Second Ellis Island.” Frustrations of researching immigrants who entered Galveston at Pier 29 or other piers is that many records are gone.... The Texas Seaport Museum at Pier 21 in Galveston has records of passengers arriving to the seaport city from in 1844 to 1949. Records from 1844 to 1853 are **missing** from The National Archives, a large gap during a busy immigration period. Some records are faint copies of originals and are unreadable.”³

During the first year, Thomas sailed out with the 336-ton barque *Magdala*. It had been built in Sunderland a decade earlier and was owned by the Watson family. The *Magdala* left for Point de Galle, Sri Lanka, the day after Thomas’s registration. When they returned to the British Isles after about ten days, two crew members refused to continue their service (citing “frivolous and ridiculous excuses,” in the opinion of the magistrates) and were sentenced to six weeks of hard labor.¹⁸¹ Perhaps this was enough to show Thomas that life on the sea was not for him, because he chose instead to work at a wharf for most of his life.

Thomas braved at least one last major sea voyage when he left England for America. According to his own memory, he arrived in early February 1881 at Galveston, Texas. The port there had attracted immigrants since around the time Texas joined the United States (in 1845), but it took decades before an official U.S. Customs immigration station was set up at its Pier 29. Unfortunately, the National Archives’ collection is missing the port’s records for 1871–1894. Even without those documents, we know that from the 1840s through the 1940s, over 130,000 immigrants arrived at Galveston. With the selection (in 1906) of Galveston over New Orleans as the official point of entry, by 1915 Galveston became known as the “Ellis Island of the West.”¹⁸²

From Texas, Thomas could have traveled by ship or by train to the northeastern states. Likely, he had to stop over in New York before making his way to Massachusetts. He seems to have settled at Chelsea by 1884, but he was certainly in the area at the end of 1886 when he declared his desire for U.S. citizenship. Having petitioned for naturalization two years later, he officially became a citizen on 7 January 1889.¹⁸³

Qualifying words

Gaps and unsolved problems



Enter what you have and highlight it for later attention.



Enter what you have and indicate the need for further research.

- In your preface
- In the text
- In reference notes

Context

Timeline

1891	1901	1906	1920	1925	1926	1927	1942	1961	1969	1982
Frank Taormina born 	Frank emigrates	Josephine Accardo born 	Frank emigrates again	Uddo & Taormina company forms	Frank & Josephine marry 	Progresso forms	Progresso moves to NJ	Frank retires	Progresso sold	Frank dies 
<p>1890-1920 Emigration of over 4 million Italians to USA</p> <p>→</p> <p>1914-1918 WWI</p>							<p>→</p> <p>1941-1945 WWII</p>			

Noting ideas

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of “old age” at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in St. Bernard, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, **JOSEPHINE ACCARDO**.

After the First World War ended, Frank again travelled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, Rosario Taormina. The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Comment [KH1]: How would this trip have differed from his first trip to America with his parents in 1901?

Comment [KH2]: If the destination was New Orleans, how did Frank end up dying in Florida but buried in New Jersey?

Comment [KH3]: Research the company – especially its beginnings and how it changed hands

Context: What kind of information?

- Historical events/eras/background
- Geography
- Cultural and religious beliefs/practices
- Descriptions

THE LIPPITTS OF COOPERSTOWN

Abraham Lippitt (#16) was about 46 years old when he set his sights on a new life in New York. In 1798, he and his family left a Rhode Island community bursting with Lippitts for the frontier of Otsego County, New York. There, they were the first Lippitts to establish themselves in this new territory; a place where many descendants would eventually call home.

Although we may never know their precise reasons, Abraham and his wife Sarah were part of a steady stream of New Englanders who were venturing west. Poor rocky soil and a short growing season made the colonies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island difficult places to farm,¹ and the promise of green pastures loomed. In Rhode Island, the exodus may have been caused at least in part by a devaluation of the currency that ushered in hard economic times for families there. Stories of abundant game and fertile soil had been relayed by Revolutionary War soldiers who had fought in the area; now a new peace and fewer colonial restrictions opened the door for a mass migration of Yankees to New York State.

Wanderlust may also have played a role. According to historian Stewart Holbrook: "Yankees were born with an uncommon urge to see, with their own eyes, if the grass on the other side of the mountain really was greener. Certainly, it was some such curiosity and little else that prompted many a well-fixed New Englander to leave. . . ."²

Christopher C. Child et al, *Descendants of John Lippitt of Providence and Warwick, Rhode Island* (Newbury Street Press, c2021).

THE ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL HISTORY

Place homeland, region, town, nearby city, countryside, neighborhood, land, property

Architecture design, usage, materials, location, landscaping, interior decor, vernacular style, outbuildings, repair, alteration, display, storage, inheritance

Time and Season ways they determined time and season, work hours, rhythm of life, climate changes, seasonal events, holiday celebrations, daily schedules

Family structure, power, division of labor, levels of cohesion, nuclear and extended, servants, adopted and step members, pets, relationships, surrogates

Marriage ceremonies, relationships, gender roles, sexuality, courtship, methods of choice, infidelity and response, widowhood, inheritance, premarital relations, customs, dress, property, divorce, nontraditional partnerships

Childraising conception, birth control, pregnancy, birth, medical care, naming practices, inheritance, nurture, discipline, religion, education, training, work, play, toys, pets, adolescence, initiations, organizations, pictures, dress, mortality, grieving

Old Age attitudes, care, power, work, ceremonies, organizations, roles, rights, inheritance, housing, hobbies, health, dress, deference, wisdom

Death life expectancy, causes, health, medical care, burial, funeral customs, grieving practices, inheritance, obituaries, tributes, naming and necronyms

Religion denominations, beliefs, practices, ceremonies, discrimination, scriptures, icons, hierarchies, group behavior, intermarriage, childraising

Education at-home, public or private, equipment, discipline, teachers, school-room, rural schools, advanced, apprenticeship, boarding, on-the-job, lessons, textbooks, social life, organizations, recreation, emergencies, parental roles, scholarly subjects, research, higher education, professional training

Language usage, literacy, reading material, accents, dialects, colloquialisms, proverbs, sign language, foreign, translation, technology, mass communication, oral tradition

Literature reading matter, Bibles, religious texts and tracts, books, school-books, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, pamphlets, brochures, advertising, posters, documents, children's books, comic books, programs, handbills, music, ephemera, oral traditions (stories, proverbs, jokes, songs)

Arts aesthetic preferences, talents, hobbies, home decor, music, writing, painting, crafts, theatrical performance, practical design, professions, architecture, sculpture, drawing, photography

Ethnicity old culture, language, physical features, customs, religion, music, costume, arts, immigration, travel experiences, assimilation, organizations, work, housing, schools, naming, foodways, architecture, enclaves, push and pull factors, prejudice, intermarriage

Health folkways, nutrition, diet, disease, epidemics, wounds, medical care, sanitation, death, hazards, injuries, exercise, exposure, childbirth, life cycles, infant and child mortality, pregnancy, female cycles, medicines, addictions, equipment

Food foodways, crops, gardens, preservation, refrigeration, diet, nutrition, recipes, dishes, table customs, cookery, methods, tools, servants, food events

Dress fabrics, sewing, fashions, motives, styles, fads, dress events, age and class distinctions, needlework, shopping, catalogs, accessories

Work jobs, professions, types of labor, schedules, equipment, training, ethics, methods, attitudes, clothing, income, seasonality, rank, age and gender distinctions, conditions, organizations, transportation, hazards, fairness, manuals, publications, rank, structure, manufacturing

Economy business, bookkeeping, income, expenses, prices, currency, investments, losses, inflation, depression, theft, charity, taxes, inventory, property, inheritance, accounting, selling

Technology equipment, utilities, machines, tools, utensils, methods, inventions, work, household, farm, manufacturing, transportation, communication, medical, emergency, flight, space, photography

Recreation seasonal nature, timing, organizations, dress, equipment, rules, competition, popular culture, hobbies, arts, games, toys, music, awards, travel, socializing, technology, television, radio, films, oratory, festivals, traditional ethnic and regional customs

Migration mobility rates, transportation, push and pull factors, group behavior, routes, assimilation, enclaves, return migration, foodways, health, transported possessions, written accounts, work, recreation, vehicles

Rank systems, organizations, politics, work, deference, wealth, inheritance, property, influence, public office, honor and shame, publicity, display of rank, attitudes

Politics government, elections, organizations, opinions, voting, issues, political parties, interest groups, campaigning, taxes, reform, contracts, women's suffrage

War and military motives, draft, common soldier experience, costumes, equipment, health, disease, medical care, wounds, battles, chores, training, rank, civilian homefront experiences, epidemics, shortages, inflation, mobilization, transportation, alternative service, conscientious objection, veterans' experiences, property loss, death, hospitals, patriotism, opponents, organizations, pensions, widows and orphans, postwar society, wartime marriage and relationships, discipline

Social Deviance attitudes, laws, punishments, motivations, violence, crime, abuse, family secrets, suicide, theft, sexuality, group behavior, publicity, shame

Katherine Sturdevant, *Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, c2000), 18-19.

[eI

Don't write about big topics that
are beyond the scope of your
family history.

(Please don't try to explain the American
Revolution.)

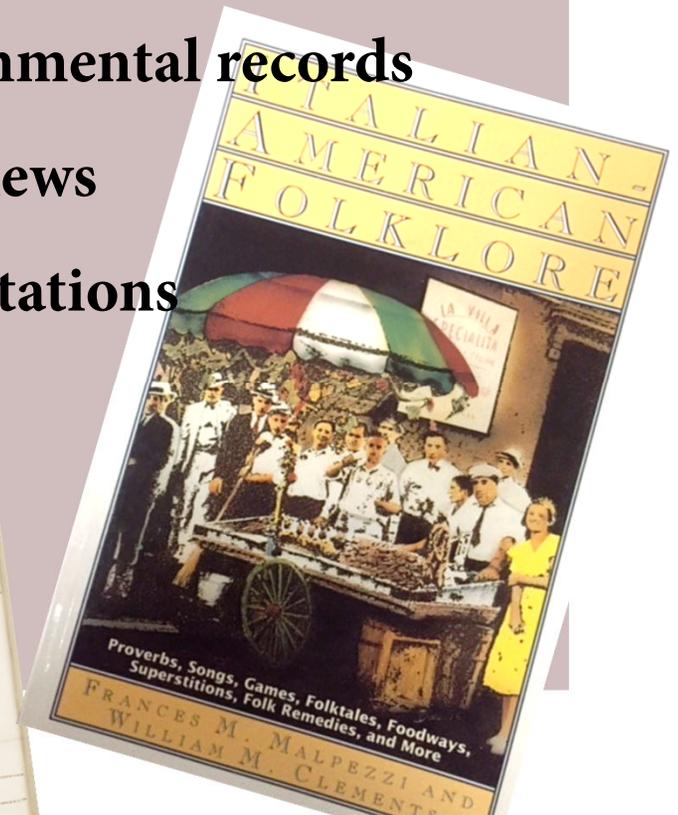
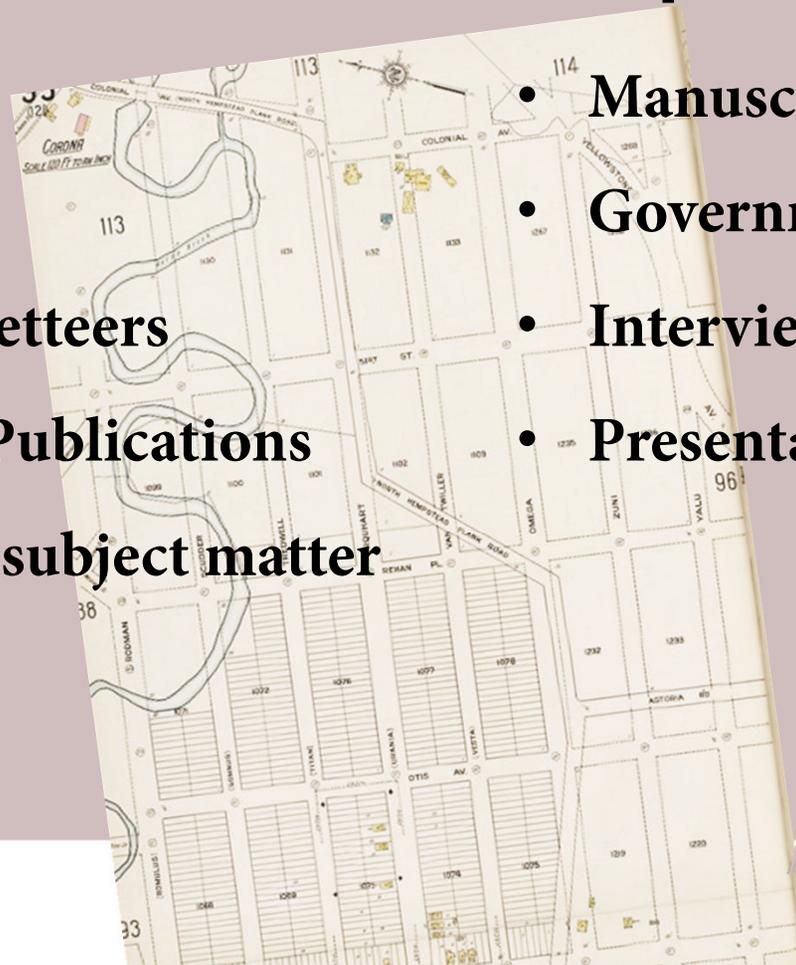
Where to obtain background info for your narrative

Published sources

- Histories
- Timelines
- Maps/Gazetteers
- Websites/Publications by/about subject matter
- News

Unpublished sources

- Manuscript collections
- Governmental records
- Interviews
- Presentations



Story in context

Journal article about Italian immigration

After the First World War ended, Frank again traveled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. **Italian immigration to America had just begun to taper off after the arrival of 4 million of Frank’s countrymen.** As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, Rosario Taormina. **So many Sicilians like them had settled there that the French Quarter was nicknamed “Little Palermo.”** The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

New Orleans website

The Scottish branch of the family lived in the Shetland Islands (also called Zetland) for many generations. Only seven larger and eight smaller islands of the hundred are inhabited. The group is so far northeast off the main coast of Scotland that the next stop is Norway. Naturally then, Shetland's geography and history is a unique blend of Norse and Scottish family names and cultures.²⁶⁶

Robert grew up in the village of Grimster on the island of Yell (formerly Zell), the second-largest island north of the main island. Even at the height of its population (in 1846), Yell only had 3,450 residents. Almost all its settlements hug the coast, leaving the center as what is know as "da Wilds o'Yell." Unsurprisingly then, inhabitants of the Mid and South Yell parish primarily made a living fishing, mostly for ling, cod, herring, and sea trout. Robert's father Andrew Jameson (No. 56) and grandfather James fished in addition to farming.²⁶⁷

Robert and Jean wed in 1855 at the Mid Yell church with minister James Barclay officiating. At the time, Robert worked as a seaman in merchant service. Over the next five years, the couple had two sons and a daughter, only to lose their younger son, the first Thomas Thomason. The young family remained on Yell until at least 1860.²⁶⁹



A 2009 map showing ships serving the Shetlands and the islands of Yell and Fetlar. It takes over 12 hours to get to J.

Area's primary migration cause

Uncertain migration

Possible motivation for destination

During the 1860s, Shetland as a whole lost about 300 residents to migration. According to an 1871 inquiry, the primary cause was "the system under which the people have been and are placed." In imploring change, Commissioner Thomas Edmonston explained:

There can be no doubt but that the barter or truck system has been and is the curse of Shetland. . . . As the system at present stands, a good year for fishing or for the crops does not mean much cash among the people any more than a bad year implies little, but it means little or much debt. The people as a rule do not finger in money one fiftieth of their earnings as an average, and three fourths or thereabout of them never see money as payment for their produce. Such a state of matters is utterly demoralizing, and so long as it is permitted to continue Shetland must and will continue behind-hand in every sense, at least so far as the peasantry are concerned.

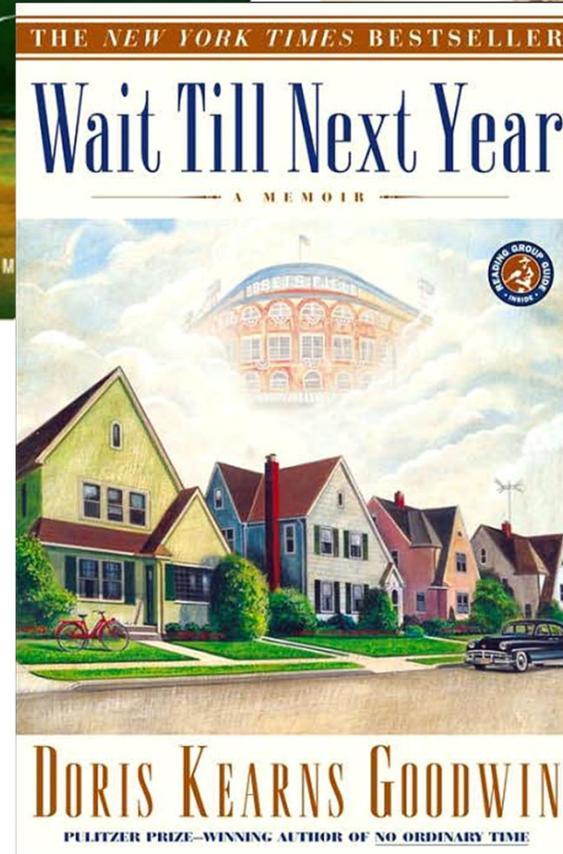
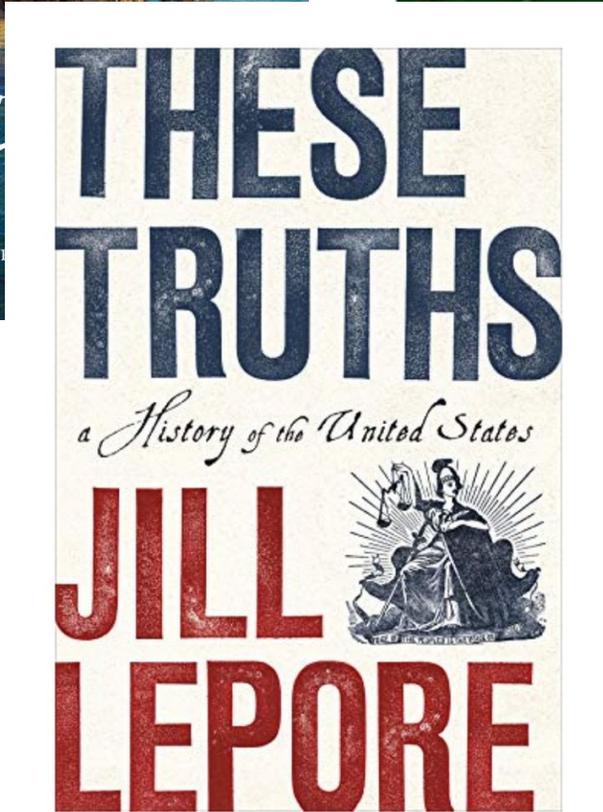
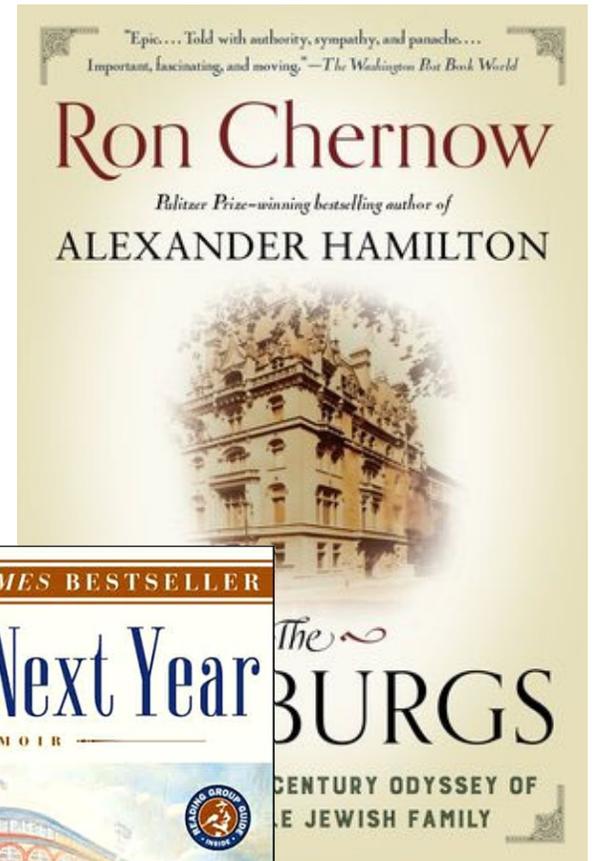
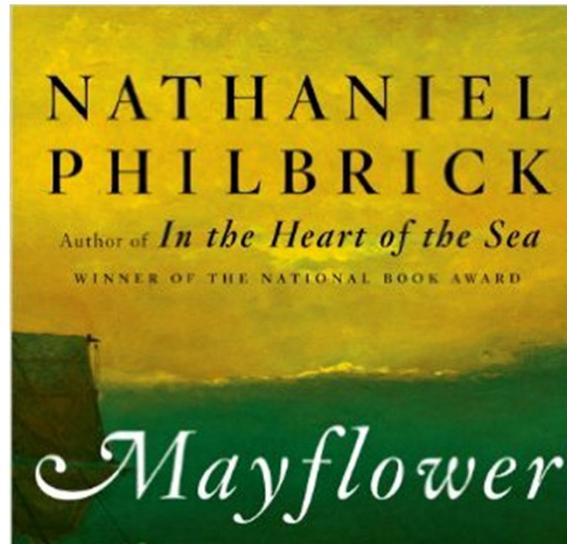
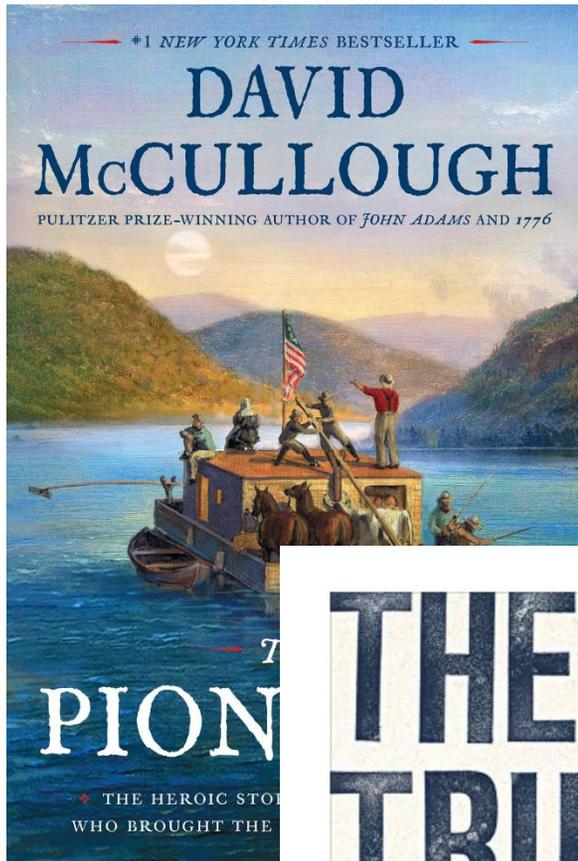
Essentially, the barter system arose from the unbalanced relationship between proprietors and tenants and the proprietors' monopolizing role in the fishing industry. The commissioners estimated that nearly two thirds of the population (essentially all adults) were "under the influence of truck"—whether perpetuating or being victimized by that system. Throughout the centuries, the system had added tensions between the Scottish (who became proprietors) and those of Norse background (who lost lands and influence to said Scots).²⁷⁰

In 1860 or 1861, this Jameson family decided to leave the Shetlands to settle along the northeastern coast of England. As a mariner, Robert chose to move to Sunderland, a shipping port known for shipbuilding. According to an 1848 gazetteer, over 35 shipyards allowed "ship-building [to be] carried on [in Sunderland] to a greater extent than at any other port in the empire." Sunderland became one of the four English towns to attract the largest numbers of Shetlanders over the course of the century. As of 1881, the Jameson family lived on Zetland Street, a name that may have indicated a known gathering of Shetlanders.²⁷¹

While Robert likely sailed out from northern village, Monkwearmouth, near the Wear River and near a Benedictine monastery, the townships held nearly 12,500 residents in total. The family lived in the township of Monkwearmouth Shore (making up nearly half of Monkwearmouth's total acreage), which grew from 15,139 residents in 1861, to 16,590 in 1871, to 17,647 in 1881.²⁷²

Context to fill gaps

[eI
Read historical
nonfiction



Search

Events

Membership

Give

A National Center for Family
History, Heritage & Culture

Publications

Expert Help

Tools

Signature Projects

Centers & Initiatives

Publishing



Writing & Publishing Your Family History

Publishers

What publishers can help with:

-  [Editing](#)
-  [Book and cover design](#)
-  [Page layout](#)
-  [Photo/image scanning](#)
-  [Indexing](#)
-  [Preparing files for the printer](#)
-  [Warehousing and distribution \(mailing/shipping\)](#)

Some publishers and publishing services have a physical "brick and mortar" presence and work more traditionally; others have an online presence only.

Some brick-and-mortar publishers services have expertise in genealogy and family history:

-  [Genealogy House \(Amherst, Mass.\), *http://genealogyhouse.net/*](http://genealogyhouse.net/)
"Publishers of Family History and Genealogy"
-  [Otter Bay Books \(Baltimore\), *http://otter-bay-books.com*](http://otter-bay-books.com)
"Self-publish your book: Family history, local history, church history, memoirs, and more"
-  [Stories to Tell Books \(Washington, D.C.\), *https://www.storiestotellbooks.com/*](https://www.storiestotellbooks.com/)
"Self-publishing for independent authors"
-  [Legacy Books \(Riverton, Utah\), *https://legacybooks.com/*](https://legacybooks.com/)
"Concierge-level service"

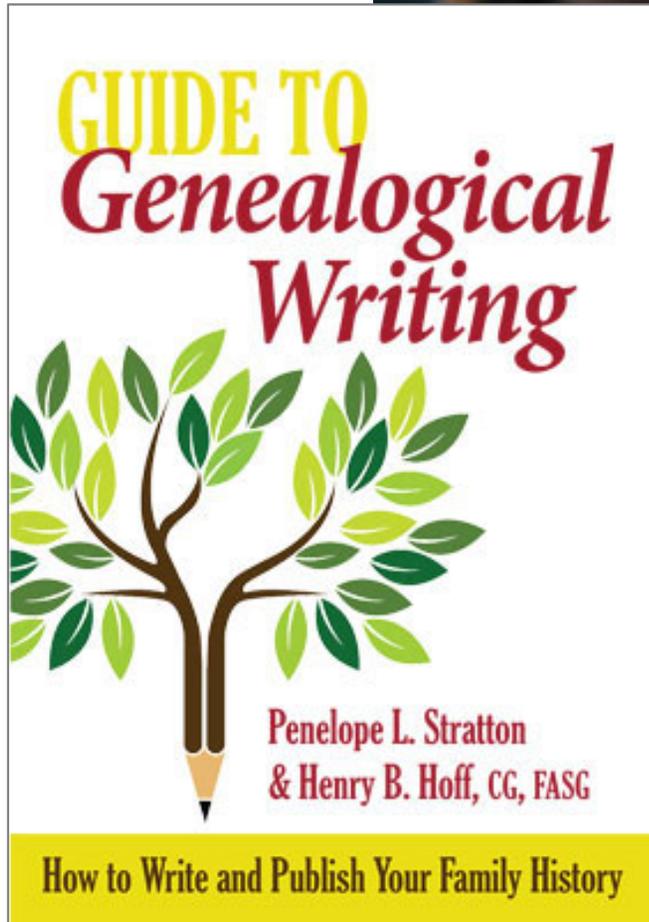
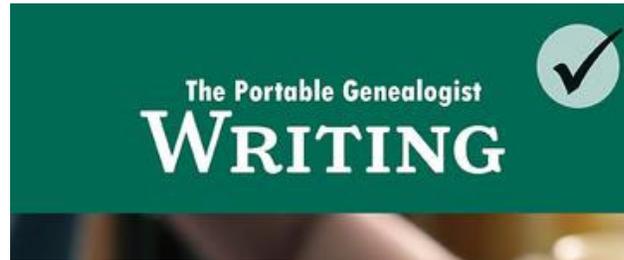
To find others, search for "genealogy publishing" or "assisted self-publishing."

By Penny Stratton

Introduction

Why is it important to write your family history? Think about the legacy you will be leaving if you write and publish your own family research: not only a legacy for current and future family members, but an important resource for current and future genealogical researchers. If you've been researching your family for any significant length of time, probably no one knows your family story like you do. The ease and affordability of digital printing give you all the more reason to write and publish! This subject guide provides information, tips, and resources for the basic steps of writing and publishing your family history.

AmericanAncestors.org/tools/writing-publishing-your-family-history



THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 1

Building a Genealogical Sketch

By Penny Stratton, Publications Expert at NEHGS

Introduction
Genealogical writing typically follows a prescribed format for a particular person or family presented in a precise, ready-to-turn-your-family-history-research-into-a-genealogical-sket

The basics are the same whether you are presenting a family in a particular format (Register style), beginning with an ancestor (Ahnentafel), or tracing direct lines back to the earliest known ancestor. If you are precise, clear, and consistent, your reader will be able to follow your research.

THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 2

Genealogical Numbering

By Penny Stratton, Publications Expert at NEHGS

Introduction
Genealogical writing uses a variety of numbering systems to help organize material and make your research findings accessible to the reader. Whether you are presenting a family in a particular format (Register style), beginning with an ancestor (Ahnentafel), or tracing direct lines back to the earliest known ancestor, this format uses a rather simple numbering system to help you organize your research.

TOPICS

- Ancestor table numbering
- Register-style numbering
- Automatic numbering in Microsoft Word
- Generational numbering

THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 3

Editorial Stylesheet

By Penny Stratton, Publications Expert at NEHGS

Introduction
There are many conventions for the presentation of genealogical information. It's important to be consistent in how you present your research, refer to certain places and people, and implement your overall style.

Whether you are writing in an Ahnentafel or Register style format, this Portable Genealogist will help guide your writing and decision-making regarding abbreviations, punctuation, and the like.

Style by Element
Depending on the format you choose (Ahnentafel or Register style), you will have different main text, biography or narrative, children lists—outlined below with published examples of each Building a Genealogical Sketch.

Main Text & Biography
Note: The below conventions should be followed

Convention	Example
Order of data: born-died-married	
Born/baptized/died/buried at a village, town, or city	b. in Sep. 1861; d. in 1852
Born/baptized/died/buried in a county or state; if town is not known	b. in Sep. 1861; d. in 1852
Buried in a cemetery	b. in Sep. 1861; d. in 1852
Do not repeat county or state for a town that has already been named in a sketch	b. in Sep. 1861; d. in 1852
In the box, use only the first name, except when full name is stated in records <<what does this mean?>>	b. in Sep. 1861; d. in 1852

THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST 4

Reference Notes

By Kyle Hurst, Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

Introduction
Citations—notes that tell your readers the sources of your information—are an important part of every genealogy and family history, regardless of whether you think your primary audience will be family members or members of the genealogical community. This Portable Genealogist will help you determine how to formulate your reference notes.

Basic Guidelines

1. Include a citation for every statement of fact that is not commonly known.
2. Include enough information for your readers to find your source. Then be sure to indicate where you found the data or information—and also how to access it, if it's online.

Placement of Citations
Decide how frequently to place reference notes in the text. One approach is to put a number after each fact; another is to put the note number at the end of a sentence or paragraph. If you do the latter, combining several sources into one note, make sure you indicate which fact comes from which source.

You can create either **footnotes** or **endnotes**. Footnotes appear at the bottom of each page, and endnotes appear at the end of the chapter or at the end of the book. Footnotes offer ease of reference but pose layout problems and can make a page look intimidating. Endnotes offer more flexibility with layout but require the reader to hunt for a note.

Citation Styles
The first time you cite a particular source, give the complete reference for the source, including publication information, date, and relevant volume, edition, and page numbers. Below are the key elements for a book citation. (See the top of page 2 for a sample article citation.)

Books

Martin E. Hollick, *New Englanders in the 1600s: Expanded Edition* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 125.

Author (first name first) **Title followed by subtitle, if applicable, in italics; Capitalize important words.** **Location within parentheses (City; Publisher, year). When the city is well known, you can omit the state.** **End with a period.**

Subsequently, you can create a shortened note, an abbreviated version of the full note, making sure to give such details as page number. Example:
Hollick, *New Englanders in the 1600s*, 125.

If you do use short forms—for books as well as your other sources—it is helpful also to provide a bibliography for your readers (not covered in this Portable Genealogist).

TOPICS

- Style by element
- Styles by type of

NEHGS TIPS

- Basic guidelines
- Placement of citations
- Citation styles
- Examples of full notes and shortened forms

WRITING
Genealogical Numbering

WRITING
Reference Notes

Children's List
Note: The below conventions regarding children:

Convention	Example
Delete county and state if a town is mentioned again	<<example?>>
Combine data with <i>and</i> if place and date the same	b. and bp. in CT
Use <i>in</i> if day of birth is not known	b. in Sep. 1861; d. in 1852
Denote twins with (<i>twins</i>)	i. Benjamin; Lo in. Howard; Lora
If child is carried forward to a main sketch, give only birth and death info	1. <<example?>>

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Review

1. Family:

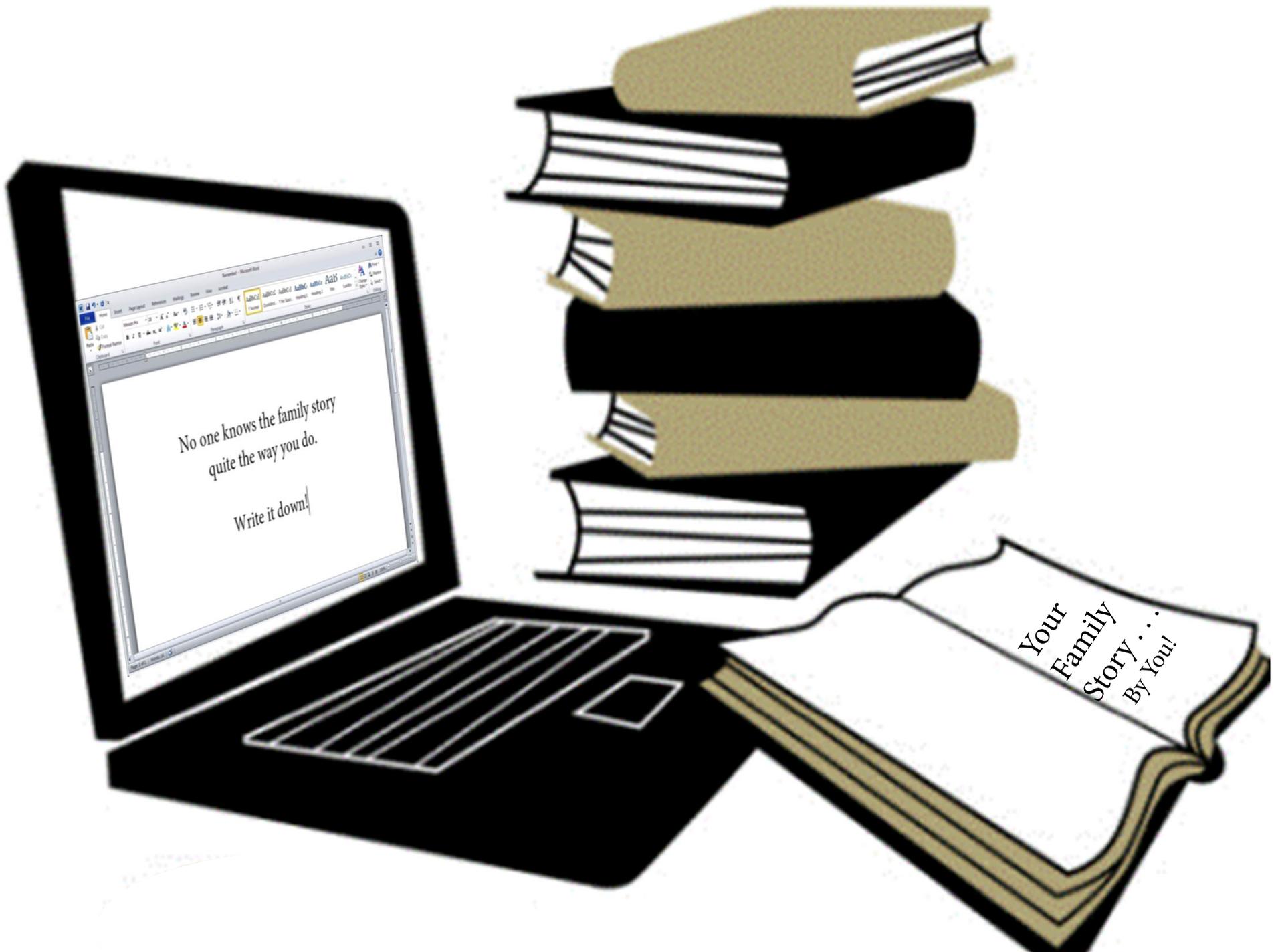
Make a timeline of significant moments in an ancestor's life.

2. History:

Add contextual info that puts your ancestor's life in perspective.

3. Story:

Combine the biographical and contextual info using your preferred narrative style.



QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@nehgs.org

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
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