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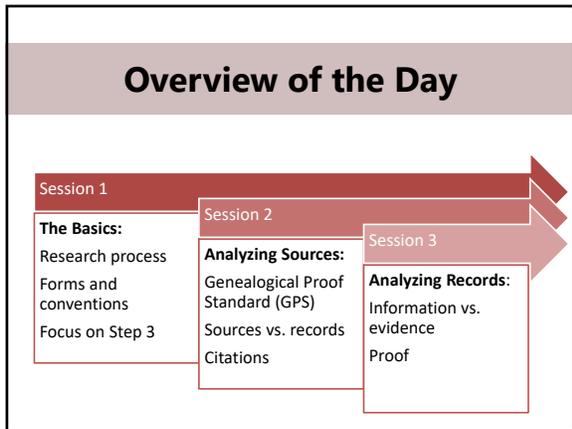
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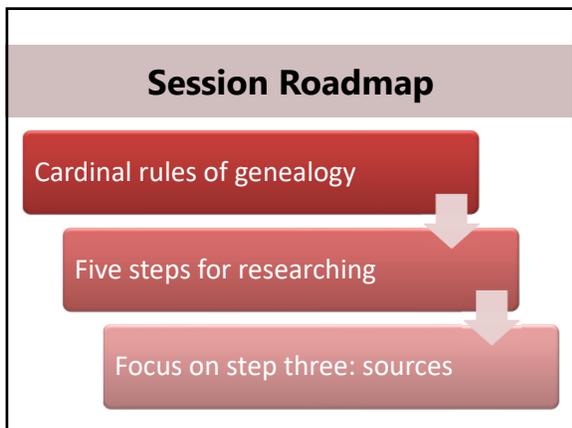
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## What is Genealogy?

ge-ne-al-o-gy (jēnē'äləjē)

- Study of our ancestors - our parents, their parents, siblings and so on
- More than names and dates - stories and how our families fit into history
- Stems from ancient Greek
  - *Genea* meaning generation
  - *Logia* meaning telling or discourse or study of

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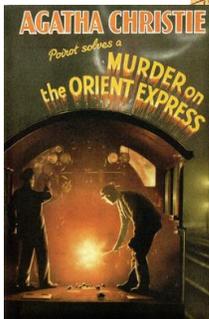
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### Detective Work



OR



Jigsaw Puzzle

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## Why study family history?

- Learn about new people and new places
- Connect your family story to notable events in history



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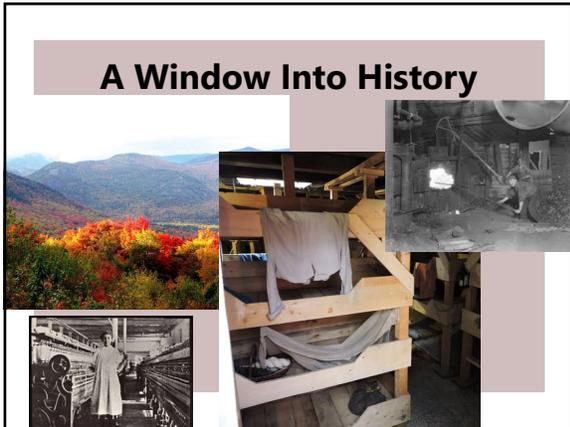
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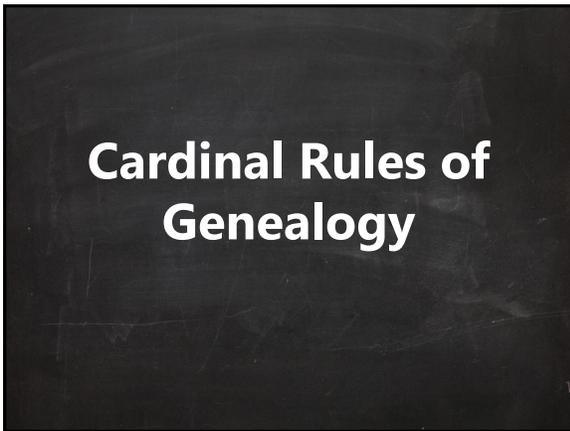
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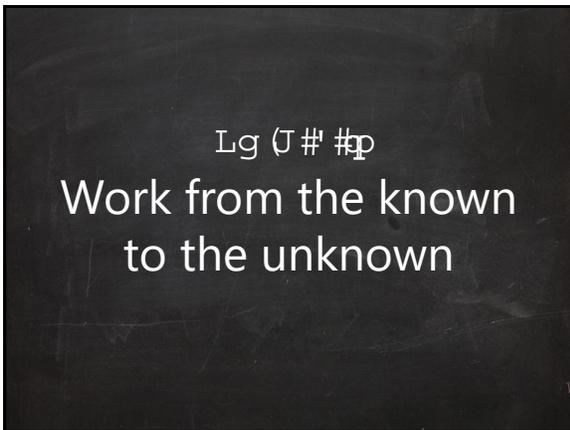
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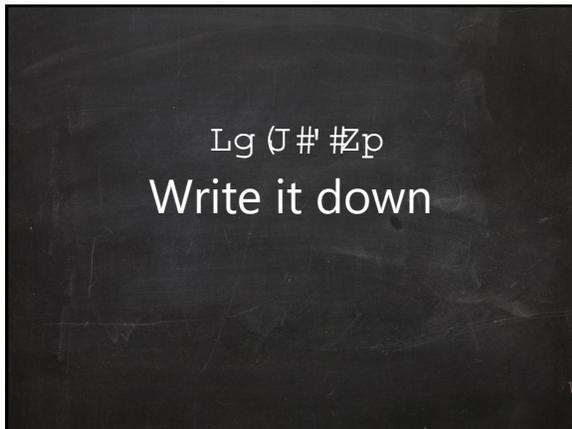
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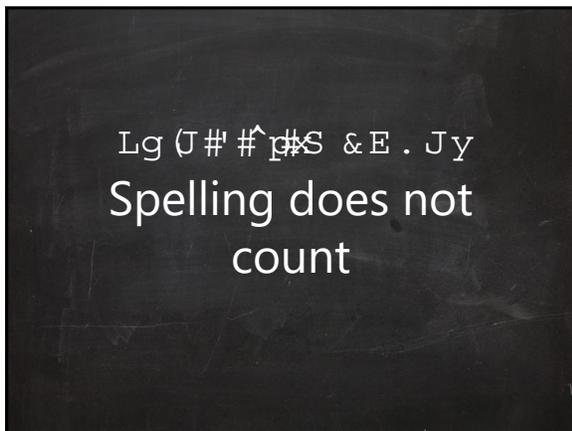
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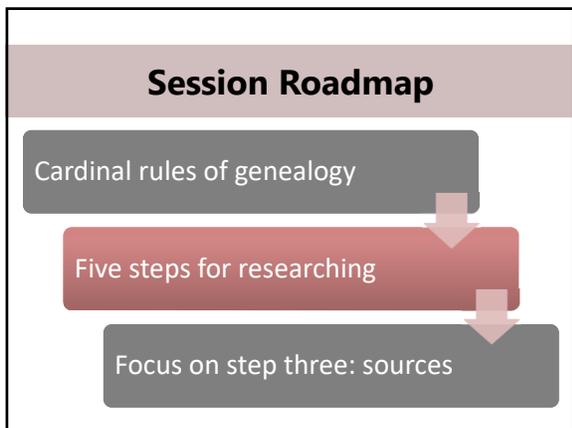
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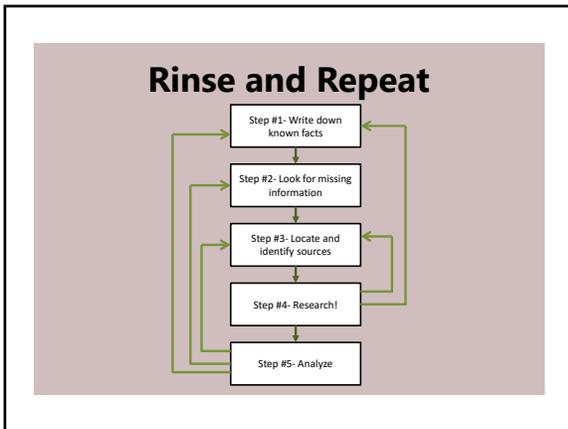
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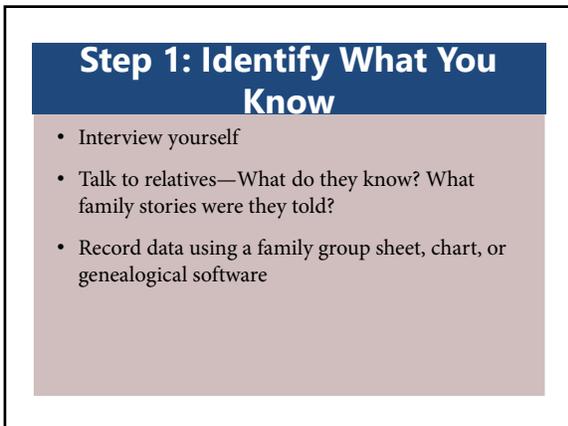
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**Example: Family Interview Questions**

- Where did you live when you were growing up?
- How did your family come to live there?
- Were there other family members in the area? What were their names?
- What was your family religion?
- What family stories have you heard about your parents? Your grandparents? More distant relatives?
- What stories have you heard about the European (or other) origins of your family members and their immigration to America?

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**The Essential Toolkit**

- Notebook – paper or Evernote or One Note
- Pedigree chart
- Family Group Sheet
- Research Plan
- Research Log
- Genealogical software program (optional)

**Tip**  
Always Use Pencil!!

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<https://www.americanancestors.org/tools/research-templates>

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American Ancestors  
By New England Historic Genealogical Society  
www.AmericanAncestors.org

Chart # \_\_\_\_\_  
I on this chart \_\_\_\_\_ of chart # \_\_\_\_\_

Use for:

- Depicting multiple generations of one family
- Summarizing a lineage
- Note: only shows direct ancestors, not collateral lines (siblings, aunts, uncles)

Toolkit Item #1: Pedigree Chart

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Pedigree Chart - Leonie Cordella Emery  
1870-1940

Use for:

- Summarizing one family unit
- Recording information about collateral ancestors (siblings)
- Note: provides more space for details

Toolkit Item #2: Family Group Sheet

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American Ancestors  
www.AmericanAncestors.org

Family Group Sheet

Use for:

- Summarizing one family unit
- Recording information about collateral ancestors (siblings)
- Note: provides more space for details

Toolkit Item #2: Family Group Sheet

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### Genealogical Recording Conventions: Names

- Write surnames in all CAPITAL LETTERS
- Record a woman with her maiden name
- When the maiden name is unknown use:
  - [--?--] can be used
  - MNU
  - Just the given name

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### Genealogical Recording Conventions: Dates

- Record dates as DD-MMM-YYYY (e.g. 23 MAR 1823)
- Note: Some journals use the date written out in letter form – March 23, 1823
- DON'T:
  - Use slash marks: 3/12/1823
  - Use a two-digit year: 3/12/23

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### Genealogical Recording Conventions: Places

- Note smallest to largest geographic division (e.g. Orleans, Orange County, Indiana)
- For outside the U.S.:  
townland/parish, county, country
- Be sure to identify counties
- Use a consistent style

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### Step 2: Decide What You Want to Learn

- Examine the information you have
- What is missing?
- What individuals or families intrigue you the most?
- Create a list of questions or objectives to research

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Hallie Borstel Pedigree Chart

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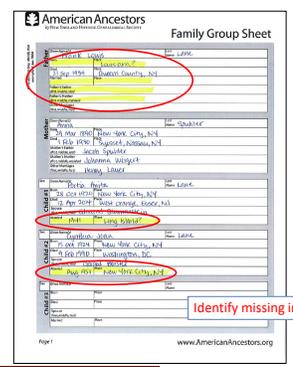
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Lane Family Group Sheet

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**Typical Genealogical Questions**

- Genealogical Data
  - Identity
  - Events
  - Relationships
- For example:
  - Who are the parents?
  - What is the date or place of birth?
  - What is the date or place of marriage?
  - What is the date or place of death?
  - What is the spouse's name, or maiden name?
  - Who are the siblings?

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[eI]

**Start slowly.** Don't rush to answer all your questions at once.

**Don't skip generations** in planning your research; it only leads to misattributed people.

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**Toolkit Item #3: Research Plan**

- Research Plan: A roadmap for research
- Components:
  - A general goal
  - Specific research objectives
  - List of potential records and sources
  - List of repositories




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**Make a Plan**

• What do you want to learn? (Goal)

**Step 1**

• What do you already know?

**Step 2**

• Do your background homework

**Step 3**

• Create your plan

**Step 4**

• Execute and fine tune your plan

**Step 5**

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**Step 1: Creating Good Research Questions**

- Make the question specific, answerable, realistic, timely
- Include name, place and date in the question
- Focus on genealogical questions, e.g.:
  - Identity
  - Kinship
  - Events
- Focus on a person

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**Sample Question**

- Who are the parents of Elizabeth Harris who married Martin Powell in Manchester, Vermont in 1778?
  - Name(s)
  - Place
  - Date

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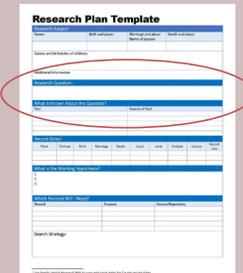
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## Research Plan Template

- Research subject
- ✓ Research question
- What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- Record dates – for reference
- Working hypotheses
- Which records will I need?
- Search strategy




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## Step 2: What Do You Already Know?

- About Subject?
  - Identify the *Where* and the *When* for your subject
    - Helpful to list vital events – with *place*
    - Name of spouse(s)
    - Names and DOB(s) for children
- About the Question?
  - Not just what you know, but **HOW** you know it
  - Focus on what is relevant to the Research Question




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## What is Known About Subject?

Name:	Birth and place:	Marriage and place: Name of spouse:	Death and place:
Elizabeth Harris	Ca 1738, place unknown	1 Mar 1778, Manchester, Vermont Martin Powell	Unknown
Names and birthdates of children: Silas b. ca 1779 – Manchester, VT Electa b. ca 1781 – Manchester, VT Sarah b. ca 1782 – Manchester, VT			
Additional Information			

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## What is Known About the Question?

**Research Question:**  
Who are the parents of Elizabeth Harris?

**What Is Known About the Question?**

Fact:	Source of Fact:
Her husband, Martin Powell was born in Amenia, NY	Find a Grave
Martin's first wife was Rhoda Thompson who died in 1777 in Manchester, VT	Vermont Vital Records
Rhoda may have married Martin in Amenia, NY	Ancestry tree

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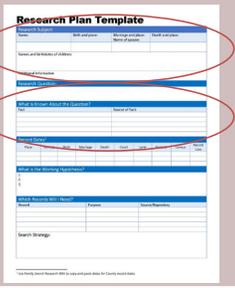
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## Research Plan Template

- ✓ Research subject
- Research question
- ✓ What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- Record dates – for reference
- Working hypotheses
- Which records will I need?
- Search strategy




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## Step 3: Background Homework



- Learn about the place and time
- Learn about the geography (get a map)
- What do we think happened? (Hypothesis)
- Which records are most likely to have the answer?
- Where are those records? Which repositories?




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**Dutchess County New York Historical Facts** [edit] [edit source]

**Description** [edit] [edit source]

The County was named for Mary of Modena, Duchess of York - the term Dutchess is an archaic form of the word duchess. The

**Dutchess County, New York Record Dates** [edit] [edit source]

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records <sup>[2]</sup>						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
1880	1908	1880	1730	1718	1752	1663

\*Statewide registration for births and deaths started in 1880. General compliance for bi-

**Contents** [hide]

- Dutchess County New York Historical Facts
- 1.1 Description
- 1.2 Dutchess County, New York Record Dates
- 1.3 Parent County
- 1.4 Neighboring Counties
- 1.5 Boundary Changes
- 1.6 Record Loss
- 1.7 Populated Places

**Record Loss** [edit] [edit source]

The county courthouse in Poughkeepsie was burned in an 1806 fire. No public records were destroyed.<sup>[2]</sup>

**Dutchess County, NY**

**Dutchess County, New York**

**Map**

Location in the state of New York, United States Genealogy

Location of New York in the U.S.

**Facts**

**Founded** 1683

**County Seat** Poughkeepsie

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**Bennington County, Vermont Record Dates** [edit] [edit source]

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records <sup>[2]</sup>						
Birth*	Marriage	Death*	Court	Land	Probate	Census
at town creation	at town creation	at town creation	1861	1782	1778	1790

\*Statewide registration for births and deaths began in 1857. General compliance year is unknown.

**Contents** [hide]

- Description
- Bennington County, Vermont Record Dates
- County Courthouse
- Quick Facts
- 4.1 Parent County
- 4.2 Boundary Changes
- 4.3 Record Loss

**Record Loss** [edit] [edit source]

There is no known history of courthouse disasters in this county.

**Bennington County, Vermont**

**Map**

Location in the state of Vermont, United States Genealogy

**Facts**

**Founded** February 11, 1779

**County Seat** Bennington

**FamilySearch Wiki: Bennington County, VT**

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**Cut and Paste Dates from Wiki to Template**

Record Dates									
Place	Formed	Birth	Marriage	Death	Court	Land	Probate	Census	Record Loss
Bennington, VT	1779	at town creation	at town creation	at town creation	1861	1782	1778	1790	None
Dutchess, NY	1663	1880	1908	1880	1730	1718	1752	1663	None

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## Hypothesis Example

**What is the Working Hypothesis?**

1. Elizabeth Harris was a widow in Manchester, Vermont, when she married Martin Powell in 1778
2. Elizabeth Harris was a spinster when she married Martin Powell

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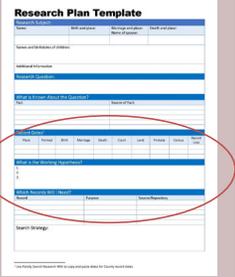
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## Research Plan Template

- Research subject
- Research question
- What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- ✓ Record dates – for reference
- ✓ Working hypotheses
- Which records will I need?
- Search strategy



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## Which Records (Basic)

Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Marriage records of Manchester Vermont	First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	FamilySearch.org, AmericanAncestors.org or Ancestry.com
Vital records of Amenia, NY	First marriage or any mention of Harris family	FamilySearch.org, AmericanAncestors.org or Ancestry.com
Town history of Manchester, VT	Any mention of the Harris family	HathiTrust.org or local historical society

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## Which Records (Advanced)

Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Card index to vital statistics in the early land and town records books, Manchester Vermont	First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/664510?availability=Family%20History%20Library">https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/664510?availability=Family%20History%20Library</a>
Vital records, 1749-1786 of Amenia, NY	First marriage or any mention of Harris family	<a href="https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/380341?availability=Family%20History%20Library">https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/380341?availability=Family%20History%20Library</a>
John S. Pettibone, "Early History of Manchester," Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society 1930 Vol 1 (4), page 158	Any mention of the Harris family	<a href="https://vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/EarlyHistoryOfManchester.pdf">https://vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/EarlyHistoryOfManchester.pdf</a>

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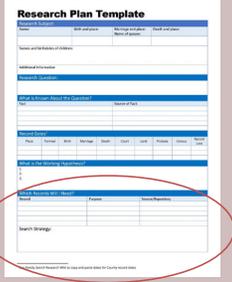
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## Research Plan Template

- Research subject
- Research question
- What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- Record dates – for reference
- Working hypotheses
- ✓ Which records will I need?
- ✓ Search strategy



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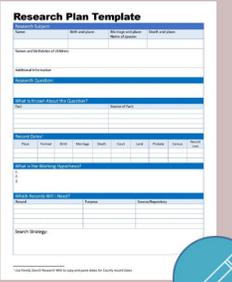
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## Put it Together

- ✓ Research subject
- ✓ Research question
- ✓ What is known about the question (and how it is known)
- ✓ Record dates – for reference
- ✓ Working hypotheses
- ✓ Which records will I need?
- ✓ Search strategy



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### Step 3: Identify and Locate Your Sources

- Educate yourself – what types of records will supply the information you need?
- Make a list of records that will aid in your specific research
- Find resources in repositories and online
- Map out your plan of action
- Don't forget the "Family Archives!"

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### Records

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date and place	Vital Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Census
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records

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### More Records

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

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**Finding Aids**

- *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*
- *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*
- *Red Book*
- *The Source*
- *American Genealogical and Biographical Index*
- County and town histories

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**Step 4: Research!**

- Begin answering your questions
- General principles
  - Consult multiple sources
  - Gather as many records about a family or individual that you can find
  - Track your work!

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**Toolkit Item #4: Research Logs**

- Keep track of what you have researched
- Categories of research logs
  - Person
  - Place
  - Family
  - Event
  - Repository
  - General
- What to include on a research log
  - Date of search
  - Source searched
  - Search objective
  - Search string
  - Results of search

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**AmericanAncestors**  
 The New England Historic Genealogical Society

**Research Log**

Source Information: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Objective: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Results: \_\_\_\_\_

Toolkit Item #4: Research Log

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**Research Log for Land Records**

**Research Log - Land**

Name of person, place, family, or other entity	Location	Book and Page #	Date of deed	Other notes
Watkins	Fred Co. MD	12/451	1850	
...	...	...	...	...

AmericanAncestors

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**Data Abstraction Form**

**Land Abstract Form**

Country and State: Frederick, MD

Grantor: Wm. W. Watkins

Grantee: William Watkins

Date of deed: 16 March 1850

Date recorded: 1850

Consideration: \$12.50

Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

Pertinent physical features, e.g. water courses:  
Lot 53 one half of it in Berlin

Neighbors: \_\_\_\_\_

Other pertinent facts:  
witness HT Deener & JH Crampton

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**Principles of Analysis**

- Are you looking at an original or derivative source?
- When was the record created, i.e. how soon after the event it is capturing?
- Who created the record? A participant? Someone else?
- Who provided the information?
- Which information is primary (firsthand knowledge) and which is secondary (secondhand knowledge)?
- What information do I need to capture for a citation?

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**Rinse and Repeat**

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graph TD
    S1[Step #1- Write down known facts] --> S2[Step #2- Look for missing information]
    S2 --> S3[Step #3- Locate and identify sources]
    S3 --> S4[Step #4- Research!]
    S4 --> S5[Step #5- Analyze]
    S2 --> S1
    S3 --> S2
    S4 --> S3
  
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**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.bgcercertification.org/resources/standard.html>

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### Why Bother With A Proof Standard?

- Guides your evaluation of evidence
- Provides a framework for putting together a credible argument for a genealogical fact, e.g. who are the parents of Jacob Homer?
- Helps you feel secure with your conclusions, especially when your only evidence is indirect.

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### Research Roadmap with GPS

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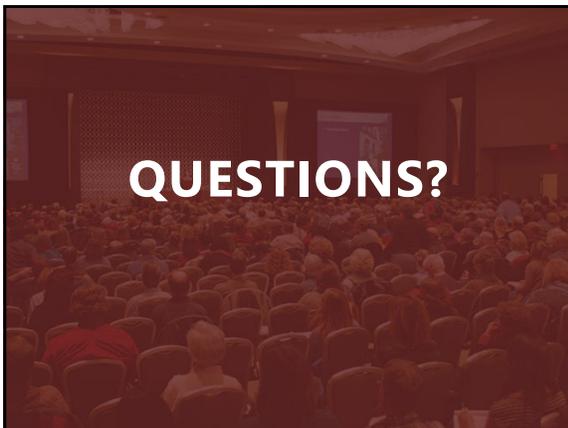
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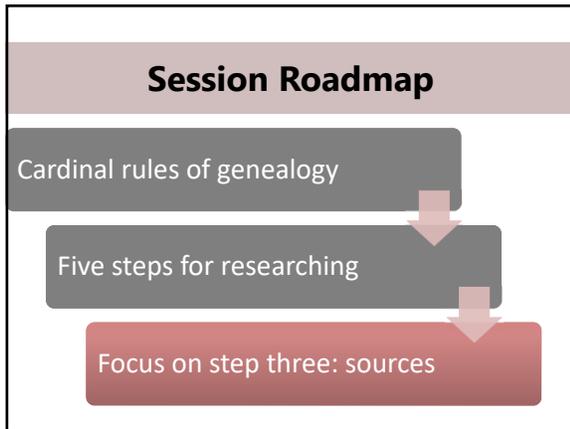
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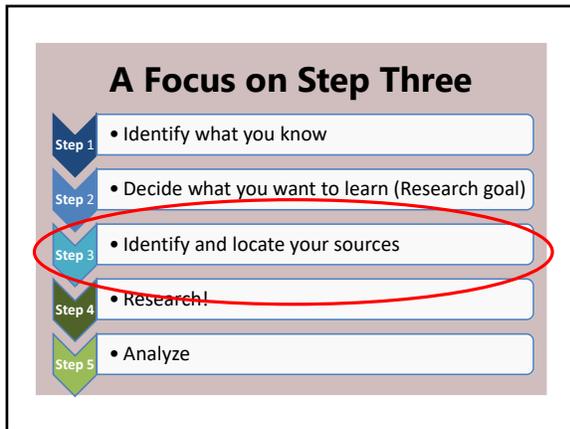
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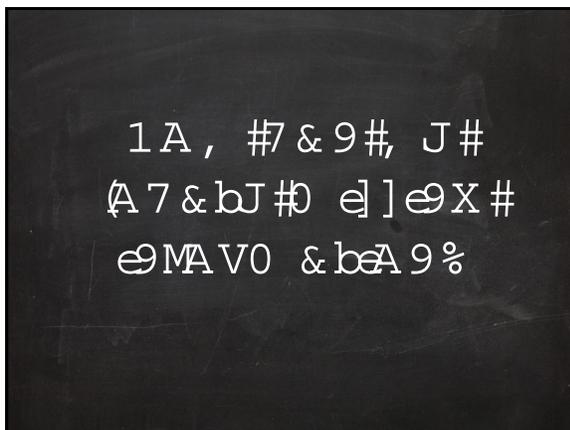
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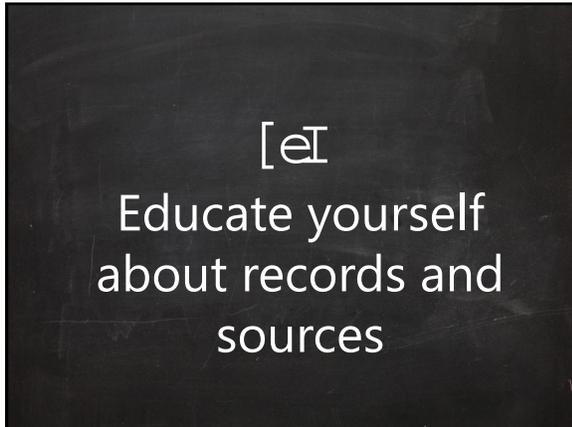
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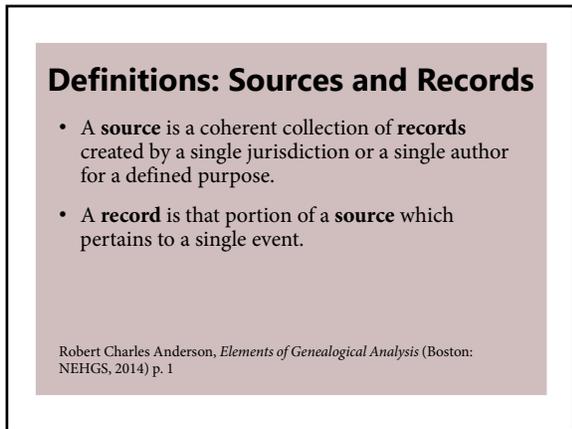
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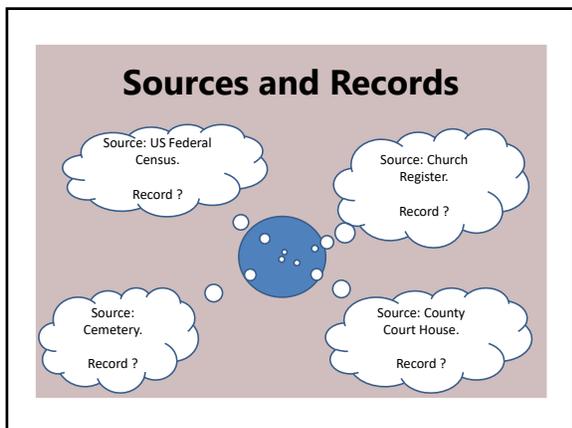
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# Standard Records and Sources

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**Genealogists use LOTS of types of records!**

- Vital records
- Census records
- Probate records
- Land records
- Military records
- Immigration records

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**Vital Records**

- Establish identity and link generations
- Birth, marriage, and death records
- Often provide the names of the individual's parents and/or spouse
- Depending on the state, records may be held on the state, county, and/or town/city level
- Privacy restrictions may limit access
- Widely introduced +/- 1900 in the US
- Certified vs. genealogical or informational copies

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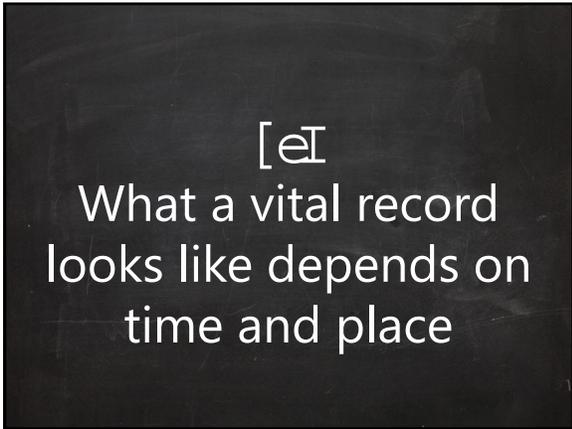
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Vital Records (20<sup>th</sup> c)

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Vital Records (early)

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**Census-Taker (U.S.)**

- Didn't have to talk to anyone in the house
- Could talk to a neighbor if no one home
- What we view are copies of originals
- Families were not asked to spell their name

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**Knowing the Family (U.S. Census)**

- 1790–1840: lists only the name of the head of the household
- 1850–1870: lists everyone in household, but not how they are related  
*Generally, can assume people in same household are family (assumed or inferred relationship)*
- 1880–1950: relationships listed

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**1840 Census Record**

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## Canadian Census

- Enumerated in 1825, 1831, 1842, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916, and 1921
- Online resources:
  - [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
  - [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)




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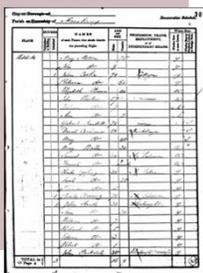
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## UK Census

- England/Wales- 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921
- Scotland- 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911
- Online resources:
  - [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
  - [Familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
  - [Scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk)
  - [FindMyPast.com](https://www.findmypast.com)




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## Ireland Census

- Survived and available for 1901 and 1911
- A small number survive for 1821, 1831, 1841, and 1851
- Census “Search Forms” for 1841 and 1851
- Online resources:
  - <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>




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## Probate Records

- Specific type of court record
- Wills and other estate administration documents
  - Letters of administration
  - Inventories
  - Receipts
  - Accounts of settlement
- Can help estimate death date and identify family members
- Can build FAN club using neighbors/witnesses

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## Probate Boilerplate

- “In the name of God, Amen I [name] of [County] in [State/Province] 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...”
- “Then came [name 1] and [name 2] the subscribing witnesses to the Last Will and Testament of [name] late of [place name] deceased and made under oath on the Holy Evangels of God that they did see the testor therein named sign and seal this will....”

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## Land Records

- Use to anchor an ancestor in a time and place
- Can offer clues about economic status, occupation, or standing in the community
- Can be used to confirm family relationships

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**Land Records**

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**Page 2 of Land Record**

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## Military Records

- Draft records
- Enlistment records
- Service records
- Pension records
- *Each will vary based on time period/military engagement!*
- Online resources:
  - Ancestry.com
  - FamilySearch.org
  - Fold3.com
  - NARA

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Military Records

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## Immigration Records

- Passenger lists
- Visa files
- Citizenship applications
- All will provide basic details about name, age, and place of origin
- May contain details about family members
- *Later (post-1906) records typically contain more information*
- Online resources:
  - Ancestry.com
  - FamilySearch.org
  - NARA website for info on where to find

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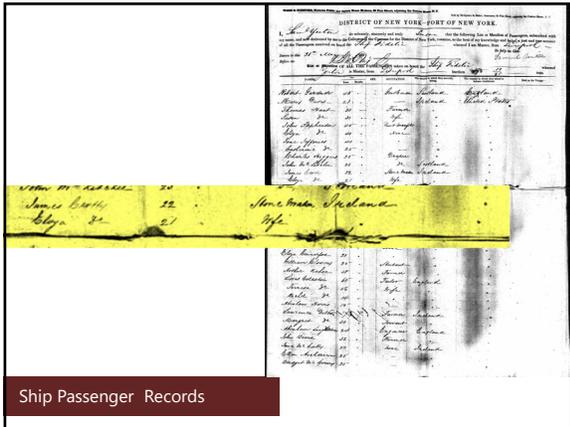
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Ship Passenger Records

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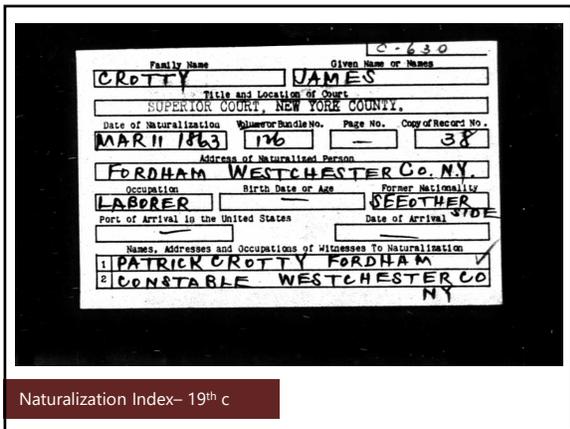
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Naturalization Index- 19<sup>th</sup> c

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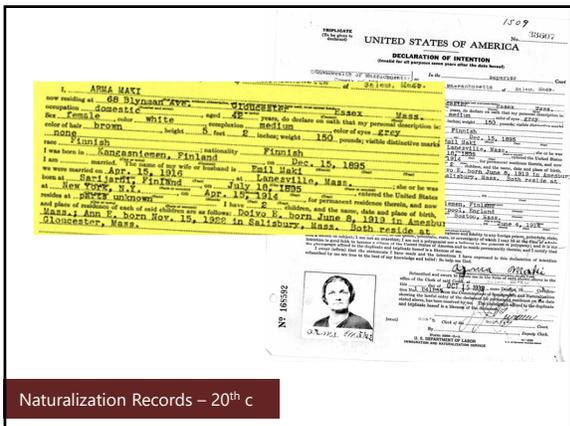
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Naturalization Records - 20<sup>th</sup> c

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## Other Sources of Information

- Newspapers
  - Birth and marriage notices, obituaries, and feature articles
- Published genealogies
- Town and county histories
- Cemetery and burial records
- Tax records
- City directories
- Town records
- And more!

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**Mr. Lucius Crowell, who resided in the north part of Angelica, was killed on the 21st ult. by the fall of a tree which he was chopping. He had a large family.**

Newspaper Articles

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**THE WILLIAM WARD GENEALOGY**

THE HISTORY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM WARD OF FRODOBY, MASS., 1728-1911

BY CHARLES MARTYN

PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

**THE THIRD GENERATION**

238. **TANMAN**, born September 7, 1708, married March 29, 1727, **ANNA WIGGINS** of Lancaster, Mass. At the time of their marriage he was a resident of Shrewsbury and they set up their home in the North Parish.

239. **CRANFORD**, born August 8, 1702, married \_\_\_\_\_, They lived first in Marlborough, later in Shrewsbury, Mass. **ABRAHAM** \_\_\_\_\_.

240. **PERREN**, born September 18, 1704, married June 10, 1729, in Westborough, Mass. **ELIZABETH** \_\_\_\_\_, daughter of Grafton, Mass.

241. **ANSON**, born March 21, 1708, died July 30, 1729, in Westborough, Mass. He married March 29, 1721, in Westborough, **VANNEY EGDEN**.

242. **PERREN**, born April 19, 1712, died October 30, 1746, in Westborough, Mass. She married December 25, 1731, in Westborough, **ELIZABETH HICK**. He survived 267.

243. **DAVIS**, born September 20, 1714.

244. **OLIVER WARD**, born 1686 in Marlborough, Mass., married February 2, 1709, in Shelburne, Mass., **ELIZABETH BOSTON**, born March 27, 1683, in Marlborough, daughter of John and Sarah Brigham. They lived for some years in what is now the westerly part of Northborough, Mass., near the head of "Cold Harbor" meadow, on the place afterwards occupied by Joshua Berdick. In Massachusetts Archives, 71-454, is his damage claim for a horse wounded in a fight with Indians near Lancaster in August 1708. About 1710 he moved to the section which became Westborough in the following year, as noted also under Increase Ward (76). In 1728 he was a selectman in Grafton, Mass.

**Children, born in Marlborough:**

244. **DORIAN**, born December 20, 1709.

245. **ELIZABETH**, born September 26, 1711, married April 26, 1733, in Westborough, Mass., **Jesse Burr** of Lexington, Mass., born April 1, 1711, son of John and Mary Smith.

246. **THOMAS**, born May 9, 1713, married January 18, 1738, **Estimian Burr**.

247. **DEBORAH** \_\_\_\_\_

248. **REBECCA** \_\_\_\_\_

249. **SARAH** \_\_\_\_\_

250. **SARAH** \_\_\_\_\_

251. **WILLIAM WARD**, born May 27, 1689, in Marlborough, Mass., died January 9, 1767, in Southborough, Mass. He married (1) **JANE CLAVEL** of Boston, born about 1681, died April 12, 1748, in Southborough, daughter of Samuel and Jane (Keyes) Cleveland, and granddaughter of Moses Cleveland, from England about 1535.

He married (2) October 18, 1758, in Westborough, Mass., **Mrs. SARAH BERRY**.

He was a noted surveyor and was often employed by the proprietors of new townships to lay out their house-lots and subsequent divisions of common lands, thereby becoming a proprietor in many of the new towns, and an extensive landholder. He was, further, awarded 1000

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Family Genealogy Books

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