

Genealogy Boot Camp

Session #3: Broadening your Scope: Employing Ancestral Associates in Your Research

Melanie McComb, melanie.mccomb@nehgs.org

Reasons to Research Associates

1. Tracing group migrations to identify a place of origin
2. Researching minorities and women not well documented
3. Discovering more about military service
4. Study of a particular place or event
5. Develop a more holistic view of an ancestor

Your Ancestor's Network

- Who – Noting individuals that appear in your ancestor's records
- What – One event? Multiple?
- Where – Did their interactions occur in one place? Multiple?
- When – For how long were the individuals associated?
- Why – Why were they interacting?

Networks to Consider: Things to Note

1. Religious
 - a. Pastors/ministers/priests, rabbis, etc.
 - b. Witness to religious family events
 - c. Godparents
 - d. Church organizations
2. Educational
 - a. People that graduated in the same class
 - b. Participants in the same sports or clubs
 - c. Friends that signed your ancestor's yearbook
 - d. Teachers or professors in their field at the time they attended



- e. Colleagues that published with an ancestor
-
- 3. Occupational
 - a. When searching census records, note those close by with the same or similar occupation
 - b. Research the employers/owners of the institutions where your ancestor worked
 - c. Labor Unions or Workmen's Organizations
 - d. Note the history of the industry in the area (this could reveal if they moved there for that occupation)
-
- 4. Social
 - a. Fraternal organizations
 - b. Genealogical organizations
 - c. Hobby organizations
-
- 5. Political
 - a. Political Organizations
 - b. Political Involvement of your ancestor (if any)
 - c. Tribal affiliations
 - d. Loyalists
-
- 6. Place and/or migration
 - a. Did your family reside in the same place for a number of generations? What other families did as well?
 - b. Did your family migrate somewhere? What other families made the same migration?

Organizing and Processing Information

Tip: Limit your scope first and then expand if necessary

Find a method that works for you! You want it to do the following:

- 1. Make it easy to collect information
- 2. Be "at-a-glance" so you can easily compare information
- 3. Documents where information came from
- 4. Provides a section for noting anomalies

Rings of Associates

Tip: Note Associates of Associates

Your Ancestor → Family → Neighbors and Associates → Associates of Associates

Migration Studies

- *The Great Migration Begins Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* - Robert Charles Anderson
- *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635* - Robert Charles Anderson
- *Early New England Families 1641-1700* - Alicia Crane Williams
- *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent* - Frank J. Doherty

Websites

American Ancestors www.americanancestors.org

Ancestry.com www.ancestry.com

FamilySearch www.familysearch.org

Freedmen's Bureau Project – <http://discoverfreedmen.org>

Internet Archive – www.archive.org

Newspapers.com www.newspapers.com