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The FAN (or FFAN) Club

- Cluster research
- Network of Friends, Associates, and Neighbors
 - Or call it FFAN: Family, Friends, Associates, and Neighbors
- Reach outside the tree to include individuals who had an established relationship with your ancestors, but not necessarily a familial relationship



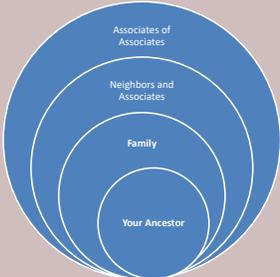
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Reasons to Research Neighbors

- Provide clues about migration patterns and earlier origins
- Inform us of our ancestor's immigrant origins
- Supply missing information about our ancestors
- Help us trace women and may reveal maiden names

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Expanding your search



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Neighbors

- Individuals living at neighboring addresses
- People enumerated before/after your ancestor in the census
- People living on the same street as your ancestor
- Abutters named in deeds
- Adjacent owners on property maps



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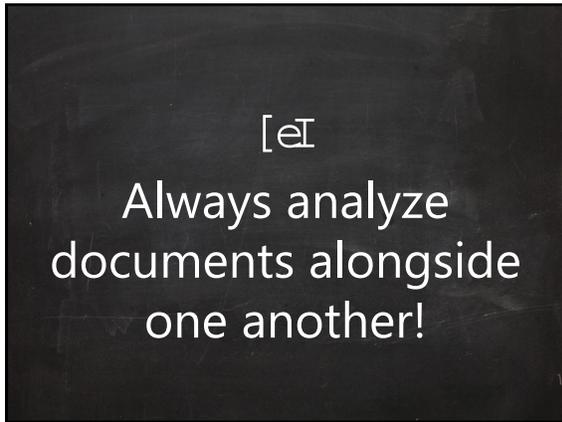
What sources identify neighbors?

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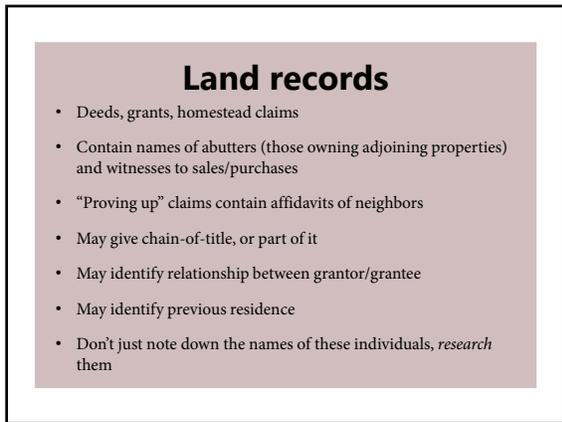
Sources

• Census records	• Town records
• City Directories	• Military pensions
• Land records	• Court records
• Maps	• Probate records
• Atlases	• Vital records
• Tax records	• Diaries
• Newspapers	• Cemeteries
• Societies	• Church records

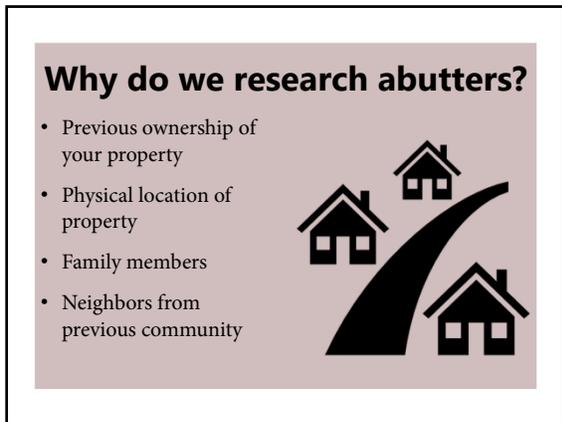
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Land is also passed through probate – check both when doing a chain-of-title!

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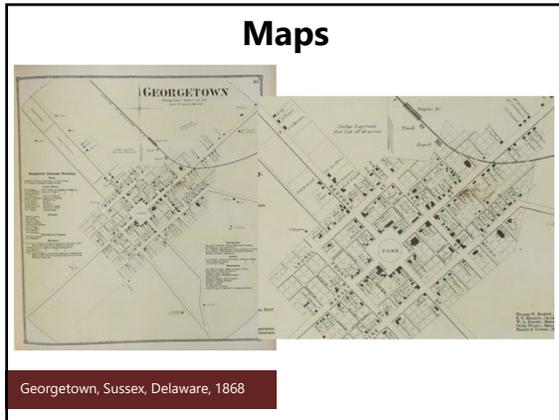
Tips for Land Records

- Make sure you have an understanding of where the property is located geographically
- Take note of roads, buildings, bodies of water, or geographic features
- Atlases and maps can help place parcels
- Keep track of the abutters to the property
- Federal land sales recorded separately
- State grants recorded separately

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glorecords.blm.gov

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Military Pensions

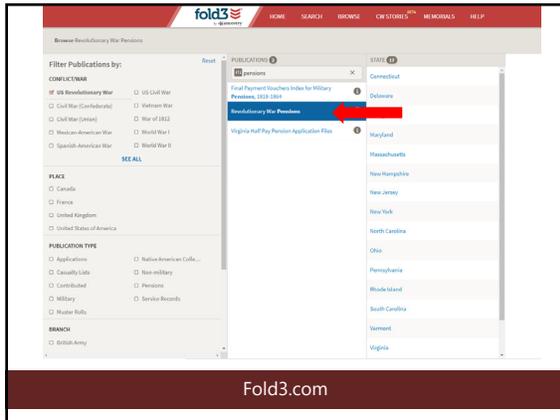
- Affidavits of fellow soldiers can provide place of birth or place of enlistment
- Additional detail about military service

James Hearsey Rev. War pension,
Sumner, Maine

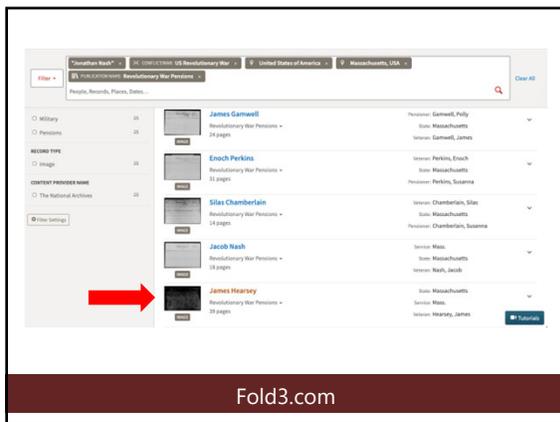
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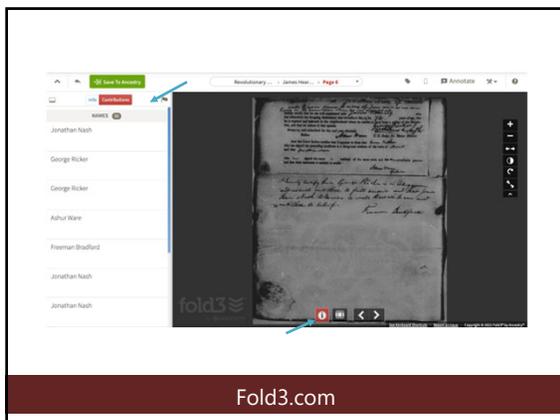
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James Hearsey Affidavits

- Served with Jacob Beal in Captain Joseph Trefant's Company - Stationed at Hull
- Stationed with Jonathan Nash at Roxbury in 1775
- Stationed with Jonathan Bates at Hull
- Served with Joshua Poole in Captain Packard's Company

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Town Records: Land Grants



- Can appear in early town records
- New communities
- May reveal a migration pattern

Sturbridge, Mass. Town Records, 1729

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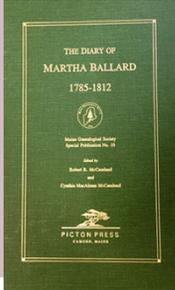
Diaries and Day Books

- Diaries and Day Books can reveal information about the greater community
- Birth, death, and marriage information
- Biographical information
- Movements of neighbors
- Notable events
- Published or unpublished



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Martha Ballard



- Born in Oxford, Massachusetts in 1735
- Settled in Hallowell, Maine
- Midwife
- Diary spans from 1785-1812

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OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 1792 249

30 3 Clear & pleas. mr Ballard been to Col^s Sewalls & the Hook. I have been at home. Sally & the Girls put a Bed quilt in to y^e train for Parthenia. Sarah Denmore & Dolly here this Evng. *at home. ousted a Turkey.*

31 4 Clear. mr Ballard went to pittsⁿ. Polly Pollard, mrs Damsin & my Dagt Dolly quilted all day, mrs Livermore after^s. I have been at home. mr Town Sleeps here. *at home.*

NOVEMBER

1 5 X. Birth Ezra Hodges Son. XX. Cloudy & Some rain. mr Town left here after breakfast. the Girls had the Ladies to help them quilt. I was Child to see mrs^s Hodges at 4h pm, Shee was Safe Deld at 11^h Evn off a very fine Son, her Sixth Child. mr Ballard Came home. *at mr Hodges. Birth 38th. Son Town went home.*

2 6 X. Birth Ben^s Stickneys Dag. XX. Clear fore^s, Cloudy aft^s, rain at Evn^s. I receivd 6/ of mr Hodges & returnd home at noon, left my patient Cleverly. Calld at mr Burtons, his Lady is Cleverly. I Bro^d off him 2 iron kettles which Cost 7/1, 1 Spiker @ 3/6, 2 pepper boxes & 2 Dippers @ /6 Each, 2/; 1 yd binding /1, Ginn 2/6 total 15/1. I went to mag^s Stickneys at 9^h Evn, his wife Deld at 11^h 5^h off a Dagt. I married all night. *at Dams & mr Burtons & mag^s Stickneys. Birth 39. Bizar Benjamin wife Deld of 2 Sons, Both Dead.*

Diary of Martha Ballard, 1792

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Search local repositories for diaries

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Locating Diaries and Day Books

- ArchiveGrid.org
- Family papers
- Regional libraries
- State Archives
- State Libraries
- Local Historical Societies
- Archives of Universities and Colleges

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Archivegrid.org

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Church Records

- Church rented pews to generate income
- Pew Rentals and Registers show church community
- Great source to determine neighbors

Christ Church Seating Plan,
Philadelphia, 1760 (circa)

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Probate Records

- Will
- Administration
- Inventory
- Account documents
- Claims against estate
- Debts owed to the estate

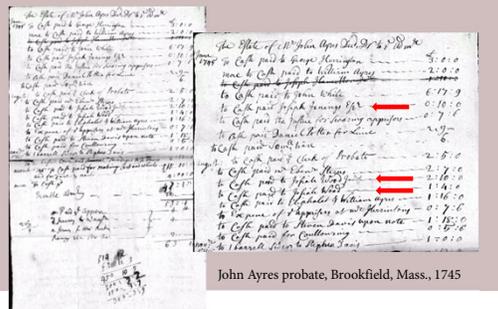
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Important Questions

- Who was the administrator?
- Who was the bondsman?
- Who were the appraisers of the estate?
- Who witnessed the will?
- Which individuals appear on multiple occasions?

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Accounts



John Ayres probate, Brookfield, Mass., 1745

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Claims against estate

Abiel Barney, Chester, Vermont, 1794

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Cemeteries

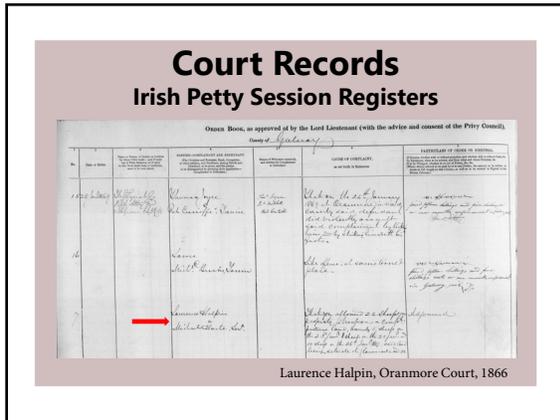
- Are there contemporaries of my ancestor buried here?
- What other early families are buried here?
- Can I uncover any patterns?

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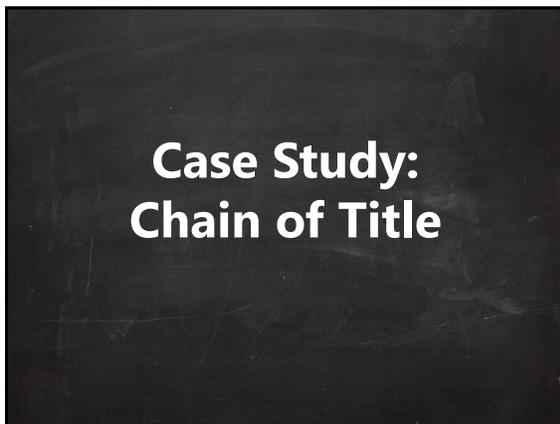
Landsmanshaftn

- Established by Mutual Aid Societies and Hometown Societies
- Provided services and social structure to new immigrants
- Place of burial

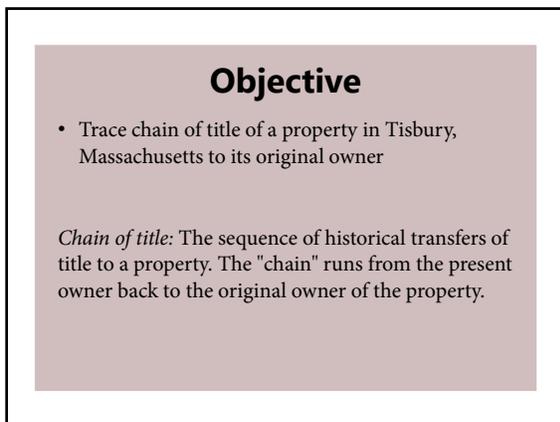
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What we learned

- Successfully traced chain of title to 1962, when Eva S. Birdsall received 25 acres of land and a camp located on Lake Tashmoo in Tisbury
- Willed from her husband, Elmer S. Birdsall upon his death
- Could not find a single instance of Elmer S. Birdsall buying or selling land in Dukes County, Massachusetts

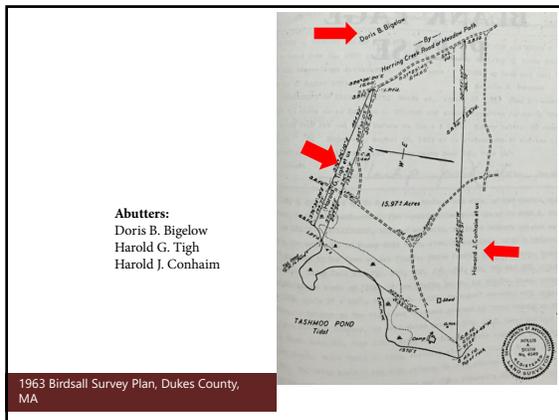
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TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. SCHEDULE No. 1—POPULATION. Tisbury, Massachusetts. 1900.

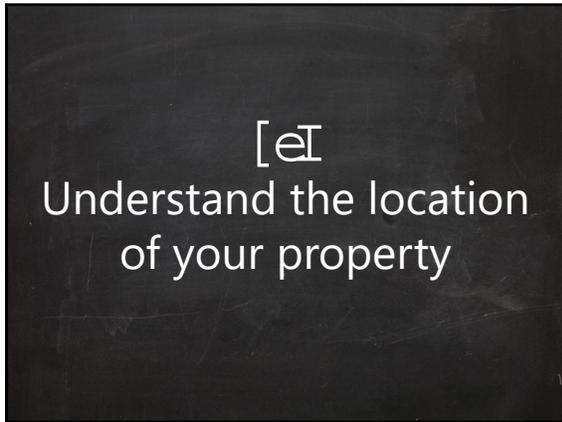
NAME	SEX	AGE	MARRIAGE	INDUSTRY	EDUCATION	RELIGION	ETHNICITY	PROPERTY	RENT	VALUE	LAND	IMPROVEMENT	PERSONAL	REAL	PERSONAL	REAL	PERSONAL	REAL
Elmer S. Birdsall	M	42	Married	Farmer	High School	Methodist	White	1000	500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

1900 US Federal Census, Tisbury, MA

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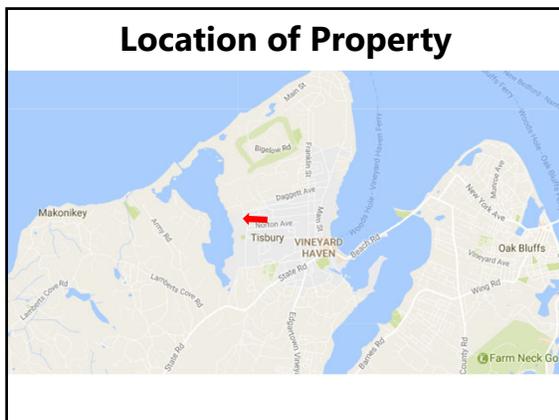


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Tips to Remember

- Make sure you understand where the property is located geographically
- Take note of roads, buildings, bodies of water, or geographic features
- Atlases and maps can help place parcels
- Keep track of the abutters to the property

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F.A.N

- Neighbors
 - Who are the Neighbors enumerated with Annie?
What do they have in common?
 - Place of birth?
 - Year of Immigration?
 - Occupation?
 - What records for the Neighbors could help to determine place of birth?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

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TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES
SCHEDULE No. 1—POPULATION

1900 US Federal Census, Reading, Mass.

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**Group Work-
Who are the
interesting
neighbors?**

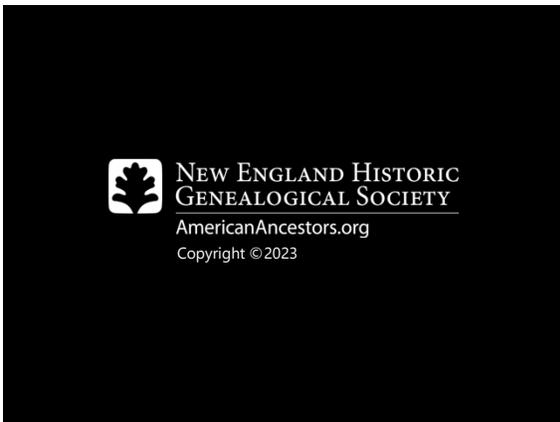
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