Mapping Ancestors on the Move: A Demonstration

Melanie McComb
Genealogist

August 2023

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

American Ancestors
by New England Historic Genealogical Society

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Why use maps in genealogy?

- Piece together your family puzzle
  - Visualize the land on which they lived
  - Provide context for their surroundings
  - Follow family groups through the years
  - Travel and migration routes
  - Use maps to present information
- Think broadly: shift your focus away from an individual to a ***place*** to break down brick walls and provide context

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Types of Maps

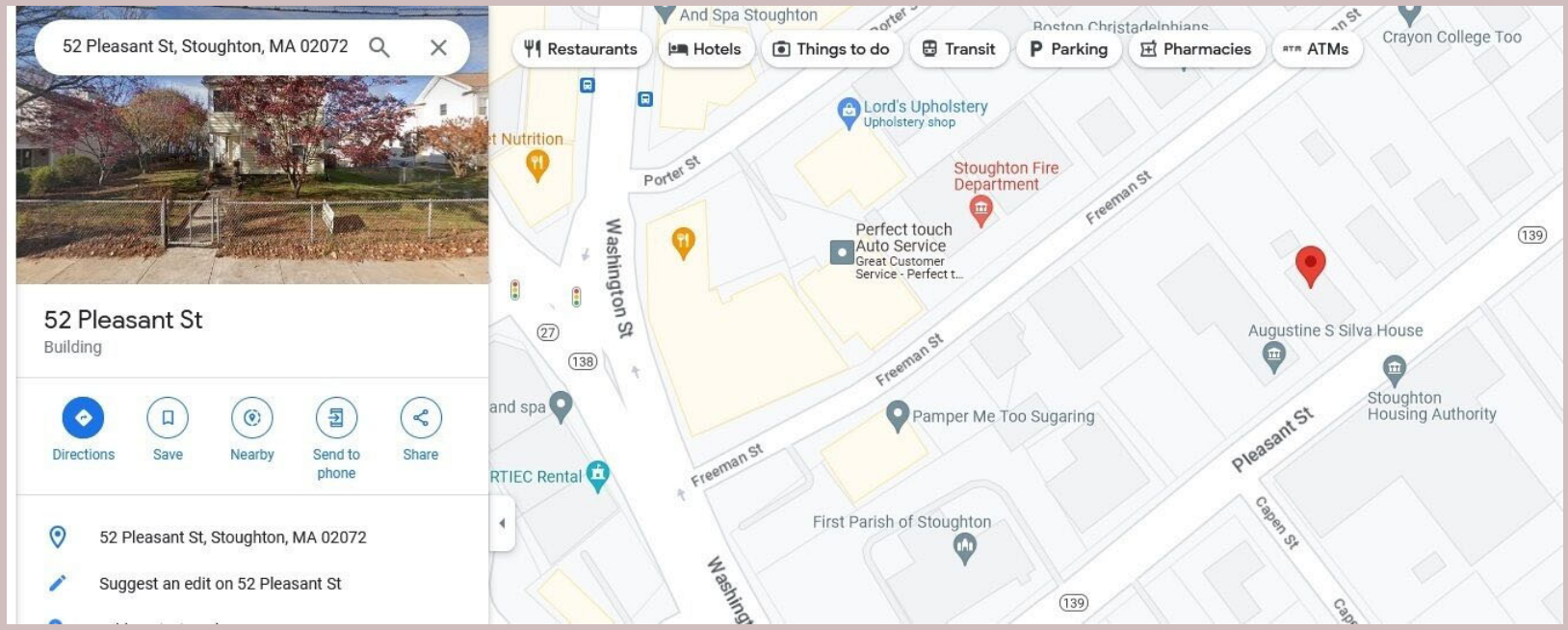
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Types of maps

- Different types of maps may be available depending on whether your research subject is urban or rural, and the time period
- Cadastral maps (land/property ownership)
- Topographical maps (geographic features)
- Insurance (Sanborn)/real estate maps
- Ward and enumeration district maps
- Land surveys or plat maps
- Road maps
- Consider the *purpose* of the map – why was it created, who created it?

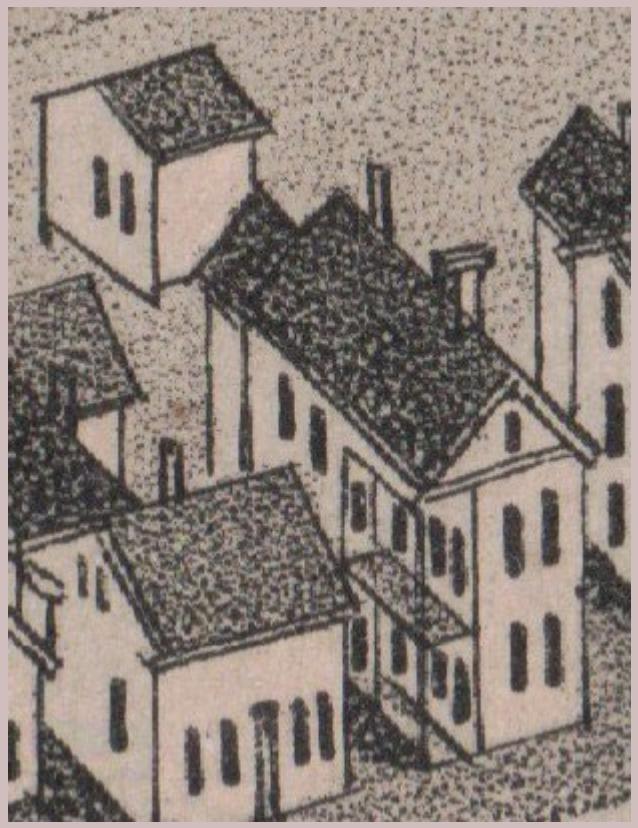
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Google Maps – Stoughton, Massachusetts



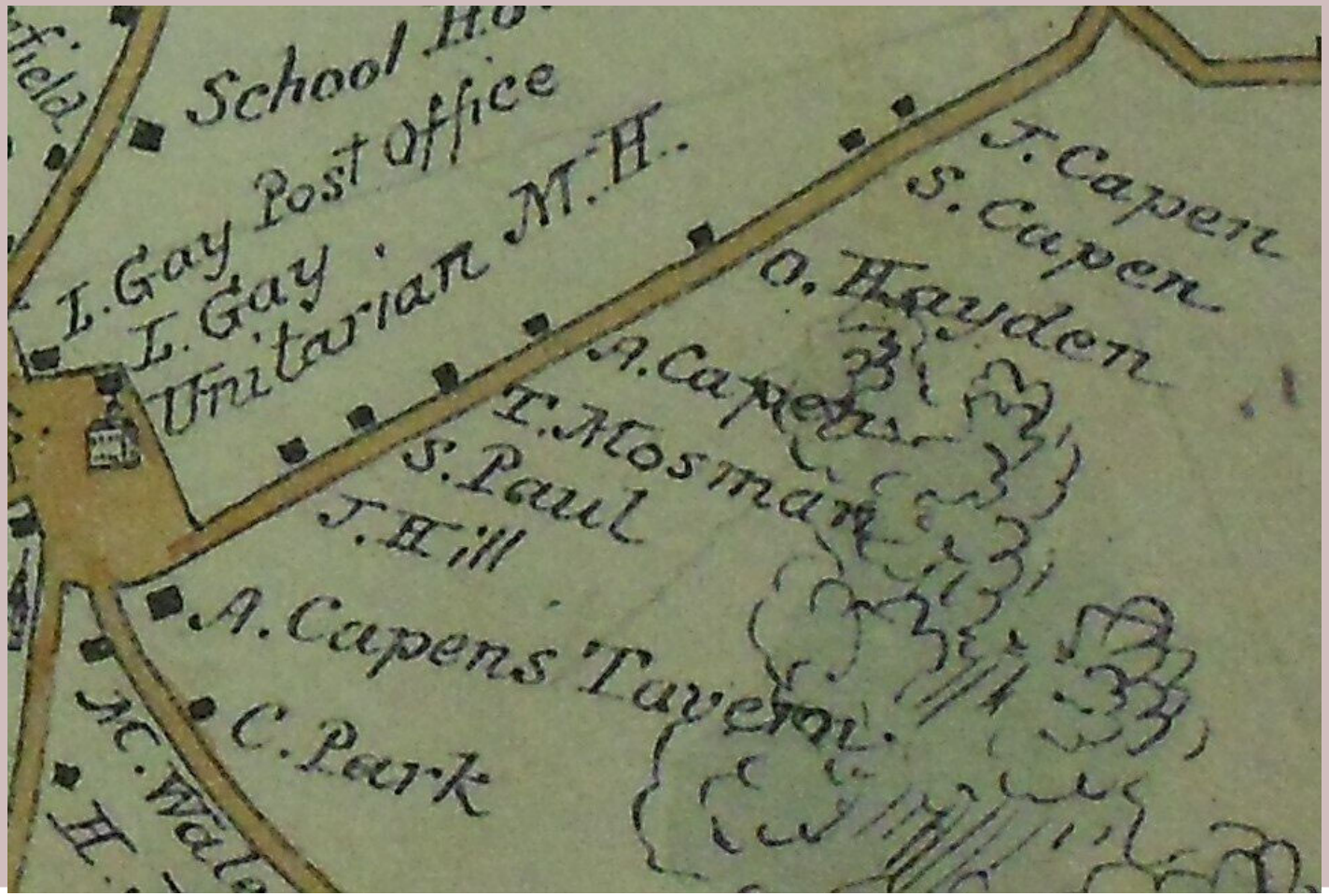
2011 Photo – Stoughton, Massachusetts

1879 Aerial Map – Stoughton, Massachusetts



©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

1831 Map – Stoughton, Massachusetts



©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Cadastral Maps

- Otherwise known as land ownership maps or plat maps
- Shows the amount of land and owner's name
- Maps are used for taxation purposes, land ownership claims, mortgage planning, urban planning, and more

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

UNIVERSITY of Prince Edward ISLAND | ISLANDARCHIVES

Search the archives...

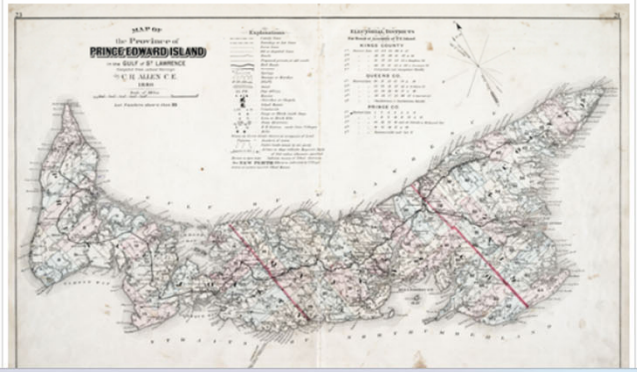
ISLANDIMAGINED

HISTORIC MAPS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Map Archive ▾ Interactive ▾ Learn more ▾

HOME / MAP ARCHIVE / ATLASES

MEACHAM'S ATLAS - 1880



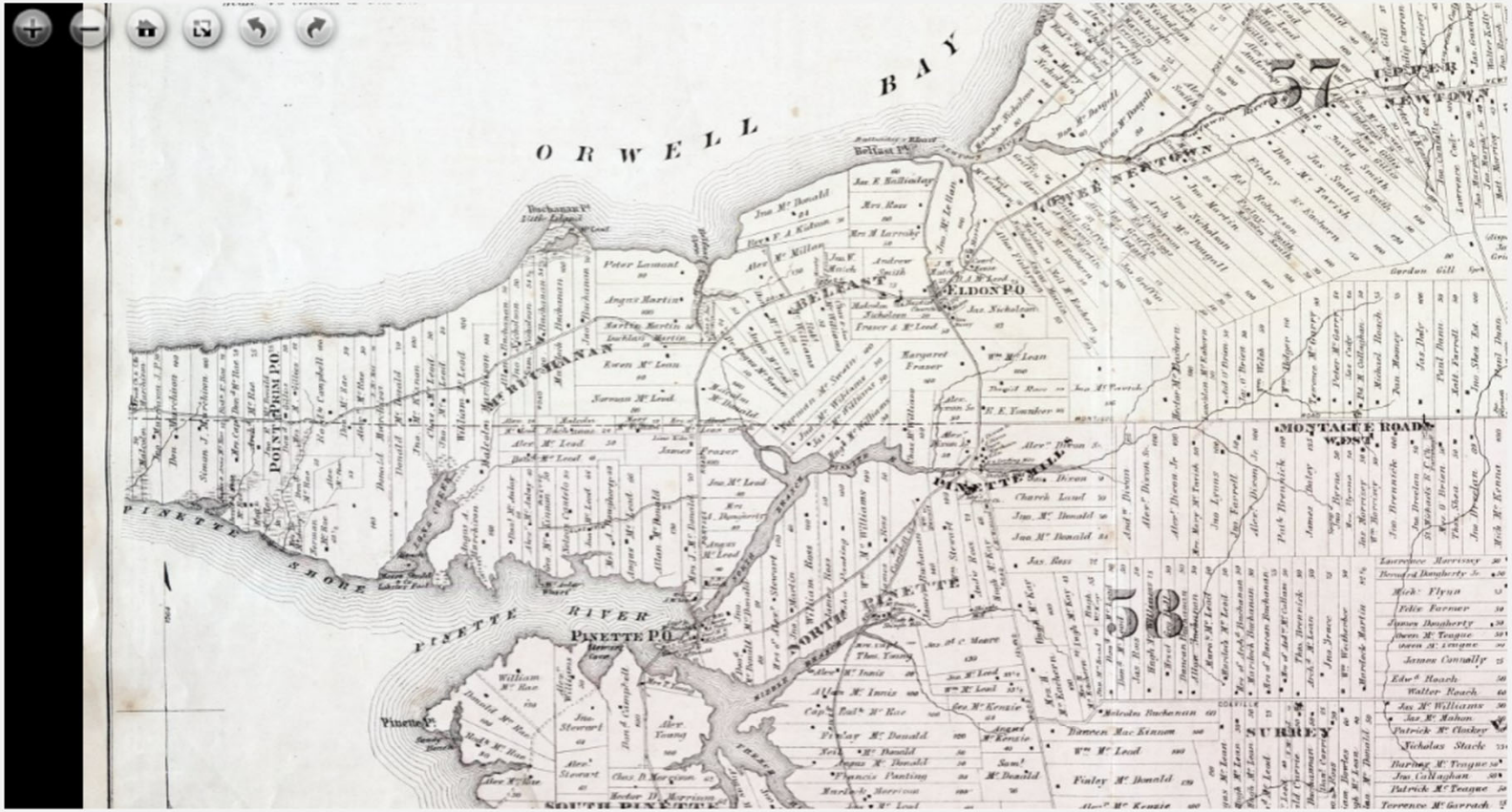
Published in 1880 by the J. H. Meacham Company, the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the Province of Prince Edward Island* contains maps of each Lot on the Island, maps of Charlottetown and various towns and villages, and engravings of prominent citizens, properties and businesses. The maps are based on surveys made under the direction of C. R. Allen, C.E.

Included in this atlas is a Historical Sketch of the Province of Prince Edward Island and a Patron's Directory. The Historical Sketch covers the history of the Island from the first settlements and treaties to governance and Confederation. The Patron's Directory, located at the back of the atlas, gives biographical information about principal businessmen and professionals across the Island. This directory includes information such as their profession, nativity, and date of settlement.

https://www.islandimagined.ca/meachams_atlas

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

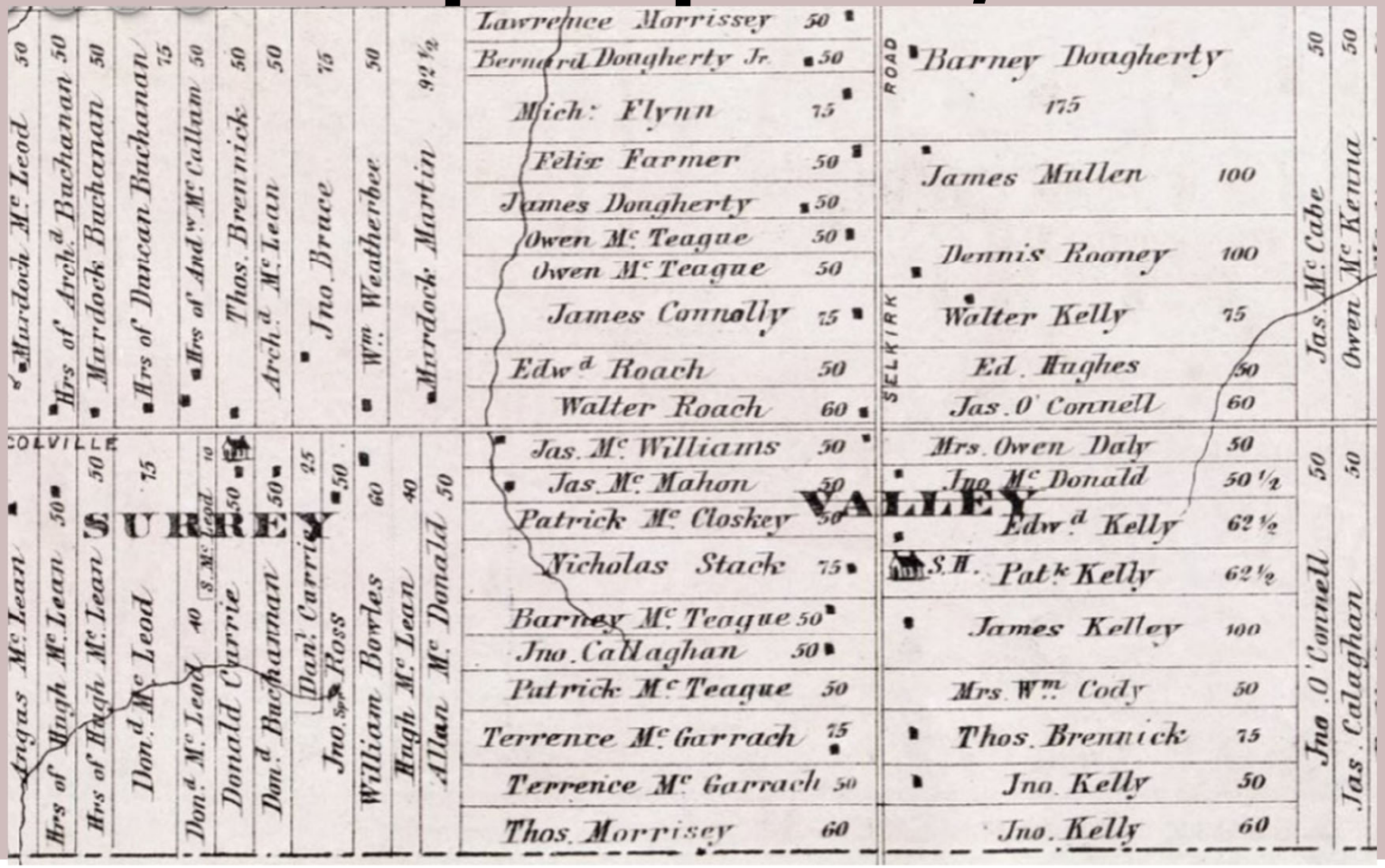
Plan of Lots Fifty Seven & Fifty Eight



www.islandimagined.ca

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Close-up of a Cadastral/Land Ownership Map – PEI, Canada



Topographical Map – Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Fire Insurance Maps

- Originated in London, England towards the end of the eighteen century
- Used by insurance companies to assess potential risk of a building based on several factors:
  - Building material
  - Proximity to other buildings
  - Proximity to gas lines

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

The Library of Congress >> Researchers

Geography & Map Reading Room

GEOGRAPHY & MAP DIVISION

Home >> **Sanborn Maps** Find in Geography and Map Pages go

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Search by:

Countries (excluding United States)
-- Select a Country -- Go

Please note: There are over 50,000 hits for **United States** in this database. Browse U.S. maps by state using the form below.

U. S. State
-- Select a State -- SEARCH

Building Types
-- Select a Building Type -- SEARCH

Full Text Fields (city, county, other geographic areas)
Enter Keywords All full-text fields SEARCH

» Full-text Search Hints

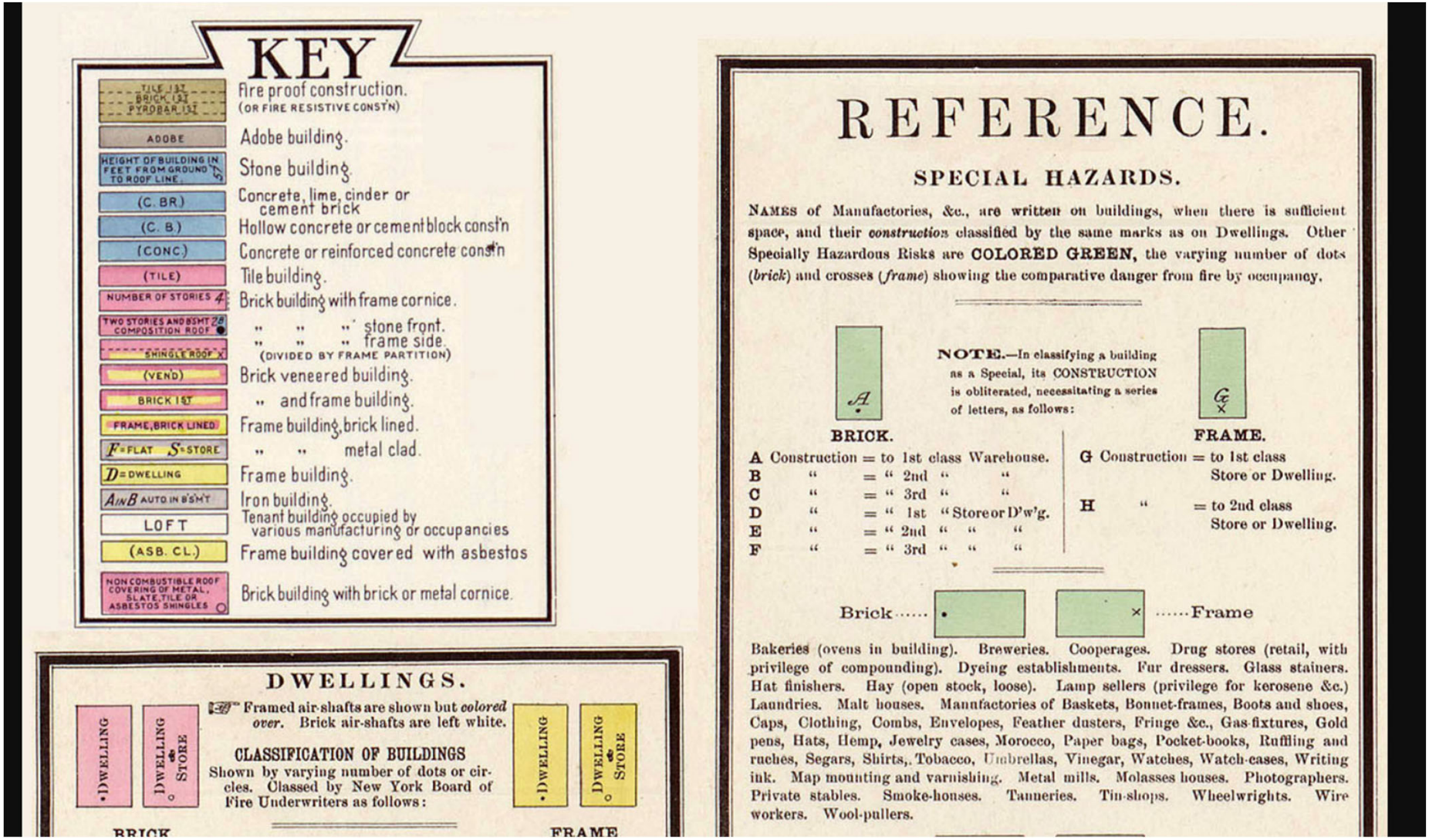
Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress. 1981

The ***Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps Online Checklist*** provides a searchable database of the fire insurance maps published by the Sanborn Map Company housed in the collections of the Geography and Map Division. The online checklist is based upon the Library's 1981 publication *Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress* and will be continually updated to reflect new acquisitions. The online checklist also contains links to existing digital images from our collection and will be updated as new images are added. If you have any questions, please Ask A Librarian.

NOTE: The online presentation includes entries from all 50 United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, Cuba sugar warehouses, and U.S. whiskey warehouses. Geographic locations may have changed due to boundary moves of counties or cities becoming independent or merging into other cities.

www.loc.gov

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



KEY

TILE 1ST / BRICK 1ST / PYROBAR 1ST — Fire proof construction. (OR FIRE RESISTIVE CONST'N)

ADOBE — Adobe building.

HEIGHT OF BUILDING IN FEET FROM GROUND TO ROOF LINE. 57 — Stone building.

(C. BR.) — Concrete, lime, cinder or cement brick

(C. B.) — Hollow concrete or cement block const'n

(CONC.) — Concrete or reinforced concrete const'n

(TILE) — Tile building.

NUMBER OF STORIES 4 — Brick building with frame cornice.

TWO STORIES AND B'SMT 2B COMPOSITION ROOF — " " " stone front.

SHINGLE ROOF X — " " " frame side. (DIVIDED BY FRAME PARTITION)

(VEN'D) — Brick veneered building.

BRICK 1ST — " and frame building.

FRAME, BRICK LINED — Frame building, brick lined.

F = FLAT S = STORE — " " metal clad.

D = DWELLING — Frame building.

A IN B AUTO IN B'SM'T — Iron building.

LOFT — Tenant building occupied by various manufacturing or occupancies

(ASB. CL.) — Frame building covered with asbestos

NON COMBUSTIBLE ROOF COVERING OF METAL, SLATE, TILE OR ASBESTOS SHINGLES — Brick building with brick or metal cornice.

DWELLINGS.

DWELLING / DWELLING & STORE

Framed air-shafts are shown but *colored over*. Brick air-shafts are left white.

CLASSIFICATION OF BUILDINGS

Shown by varying number of dots or circles. Classed by New York Board of Fire Underwriters as follows:

DWELLING / DWELLING & STORE

BRICK FRAME

REFERENCE.

SPECIAL HAZARDS.

NAMES of Manufactories, &c., are written on buildings, when there is sufficient space, and their *construction* classified by the same marks as on Dwellings. Other Specially Hazardous Risks are **COLORED GREEN**, the varying number of dots (*brick*) and crosses (*frame*) showing the comparative danger from fire by occupancy.

NOTE.—In classifying a building as a Special, its CONSTRUCTION is obliterated, necessitating a series of letters, as follows:

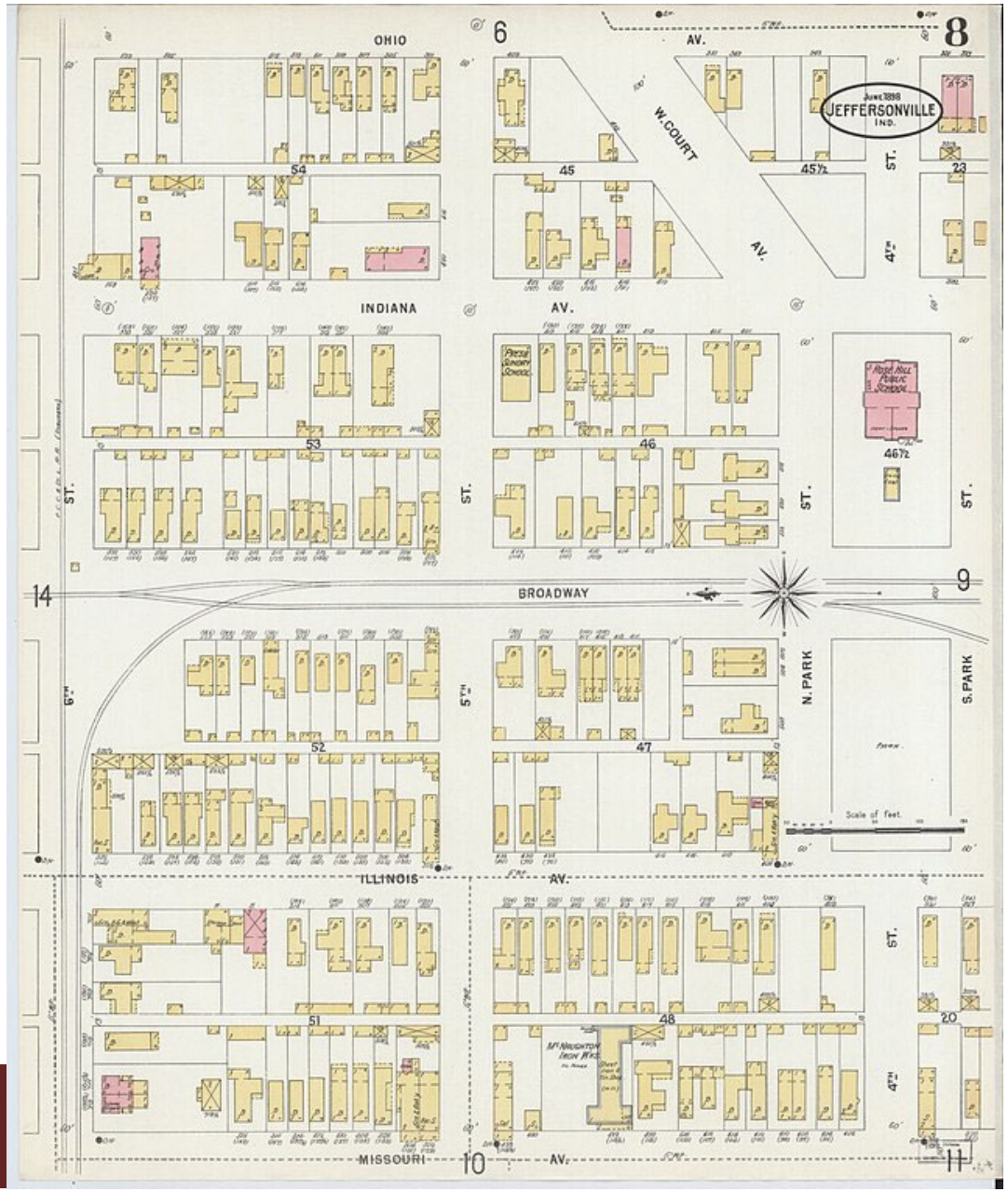
BRICK.		FRAME.	
A Construction = to 1st class Warehouse.		G Construction = to 1st class Store or Dwelling.	
B " = " 2nd " "			
C " = " 3rd " "		H " = to 2nd class Store or Dwelling.	
D " = " 1st " Store or D'w'g.			
E " = " 2nd " " "			
F " = " 3rd " " "			

Brick ..... • × ..... Frame

Bakeries (ovens in building). Breweries. Cooperages. Drug stores (retail, with privilege of compounding). Dyeing establishments. Fur dressers. Glass stainers. Hat finishers. Hay (open stock, loose). Lamp sellers (privilege for kerosene &c.) Laundries. Malt houses. Manufactories of Baskets, Bonnet-frames, Boots and shoes, Caps, Clothing, Combs, Envelopes, Feather dusters, Fringe &c., Gas-fixtures, Gold pens, Hats, Hemp, Jewelry cases, Morocco, Paper bags, Pocket-books, Ruffling and ruches, Segars, Shirts, Tobacco, Umbrellas, Vinegar, Watches, Watch-cases, Writing ink. Map mounting and varnishing. Metal mills. Molasses houses. Photographers. Private stables. Smoke-houses. Tanneries. Tin-shops. Wheelwrights. Wire workers. Wool-pullers.

www.loc.gov

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



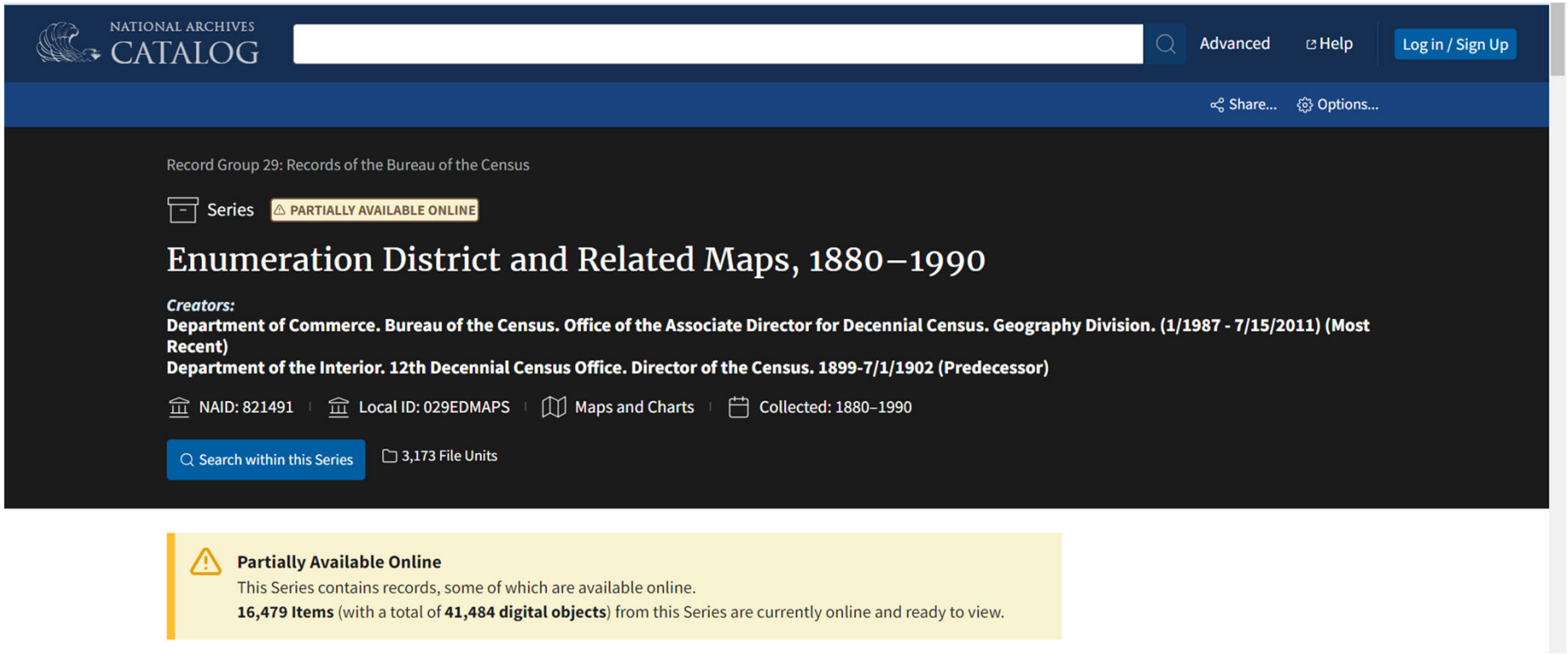
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map – Jeffersonville, Indiana

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Enumeration District Maps

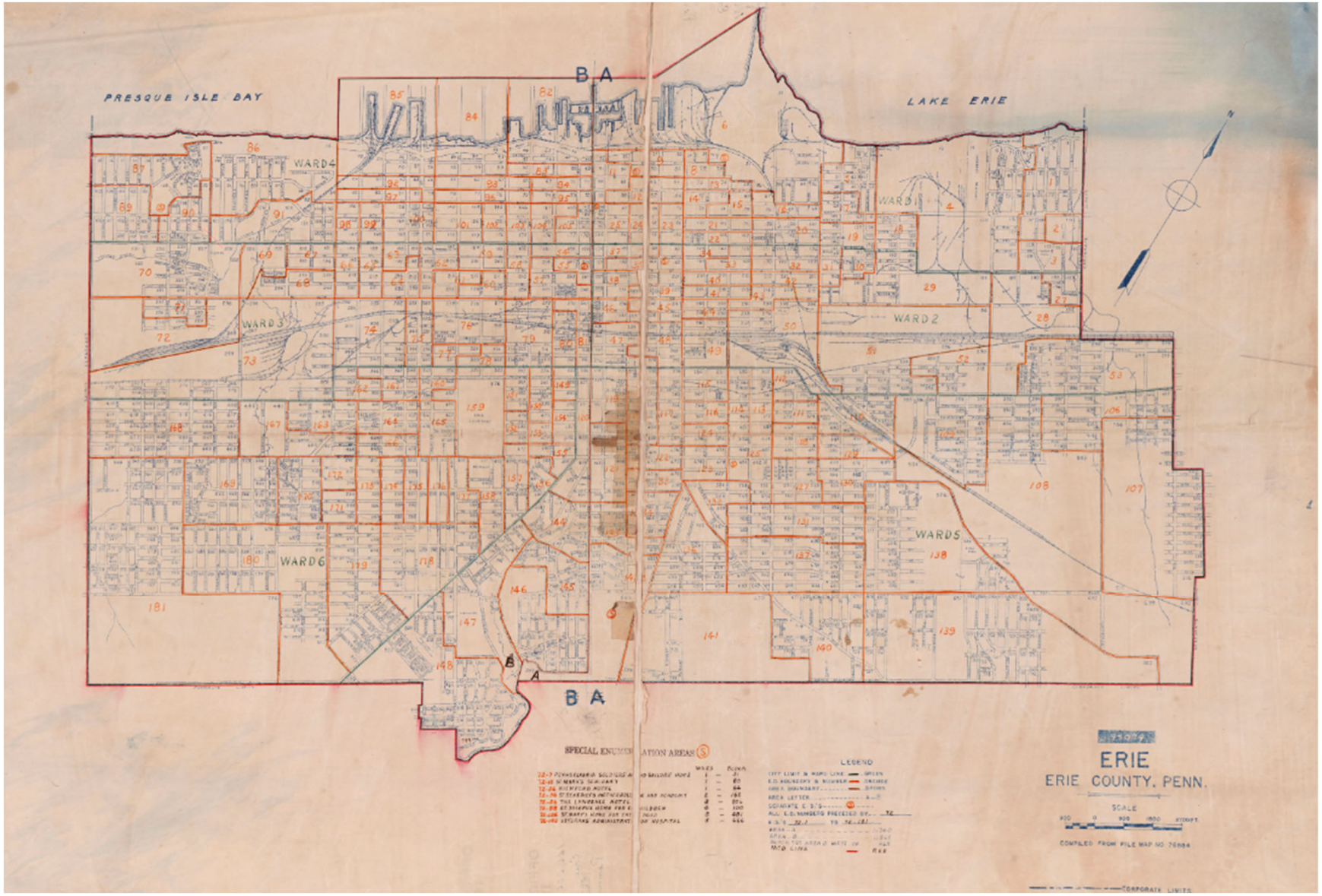
- An enumeration district was an area that a census taker could cover in two weeks in cities and four weeks in rural areas.
- The U.S Census Bureau started using enumeration districts in 1880.
- The maps illustrate the district's boundaries
- They provide a visual representation on how enumerators travelled from house to house.
- They include landmarks like schools, churches, parks, etc.

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



catalog.archives.gov

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



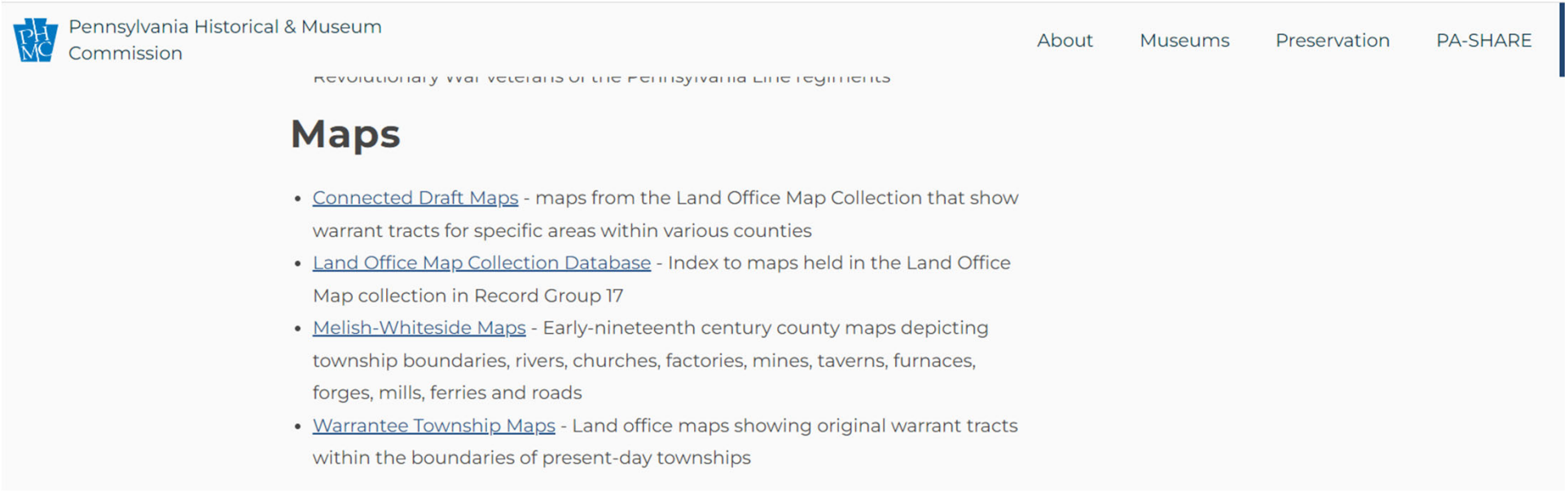
1950 U.S. Census Enumeration Map, Erie County, Pennsylvania

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Warrantee Township Maps

- Show original land purchases from proprietors of a colony or commonwealth
- Show the following information:
  - Name of warrantee
  - Name of patentee
  - Number of acres
  - Name of tract
  - Dates of warrant, survey, and patent
  - Survey and patent #'s

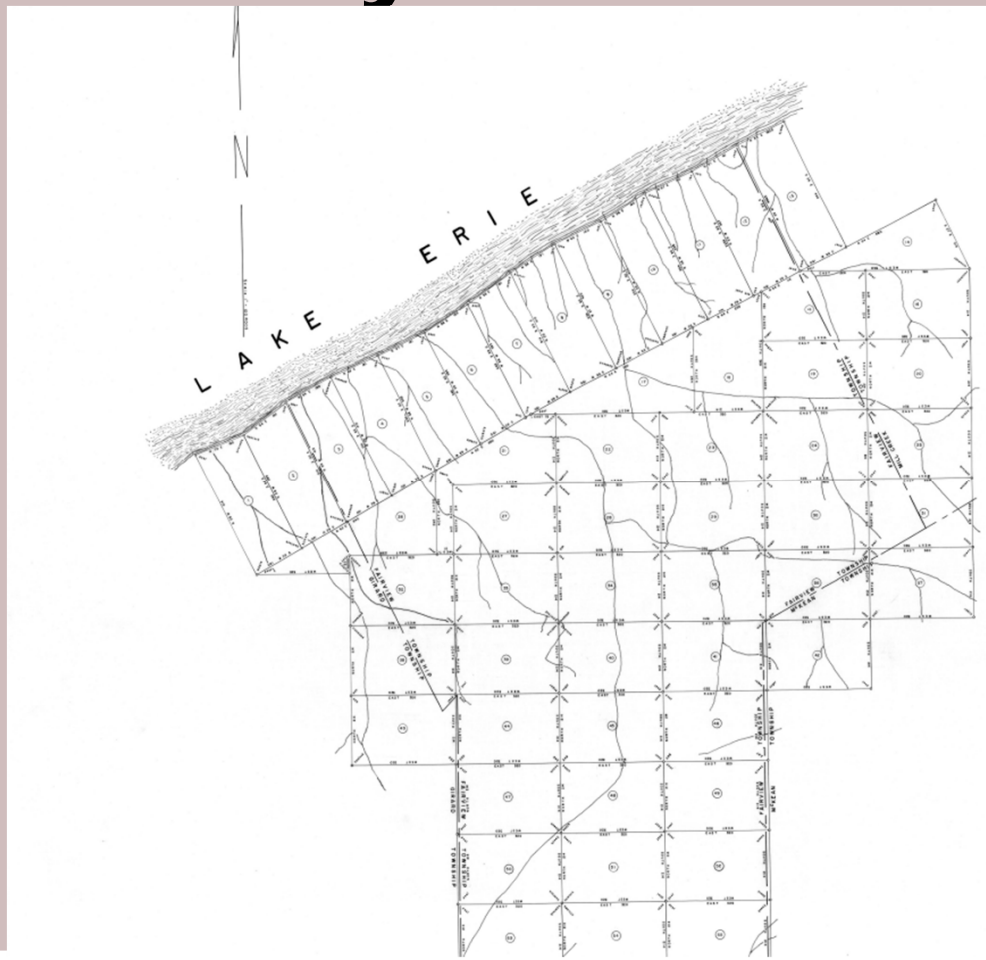
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



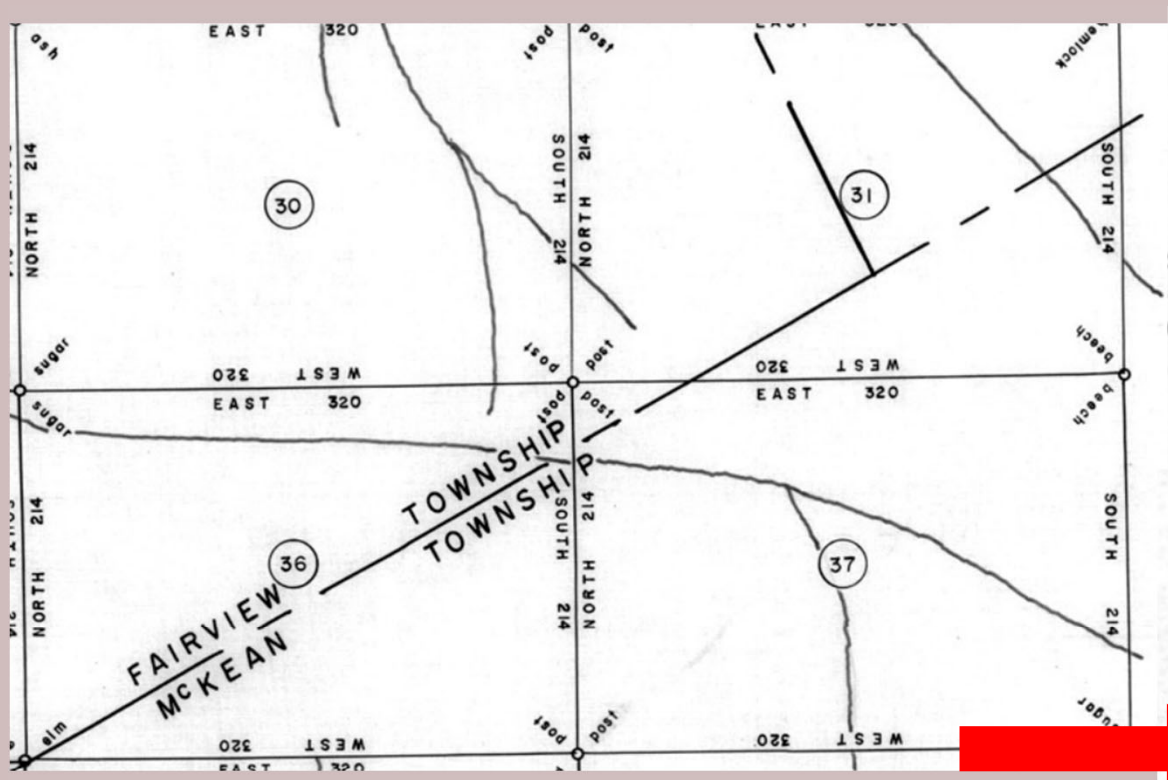
https://www.phmc.pa.gov

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Fairview, Erie County, Pennsylvania Warrantee Map



Fairview, Erie County, Pennsylvania Warrantee Map



31

A-15-51

ROWLAND PARRY

403 As.80 Ps.&ALL.

WARRANT	APR. 13,1792
SURVEY	JUNE 8,1794
PATENT	MAR. 12,1799

To-John Field Et.Al.(in trust)

P-39-54

"Chester"

37

A-15-52

MARY PARRY

403 As.80 Ps.&ALL.

WARRANT	APR. 13,1792
SURVEY	JUNE 8,1794
PATENT	MAR. 12,1799

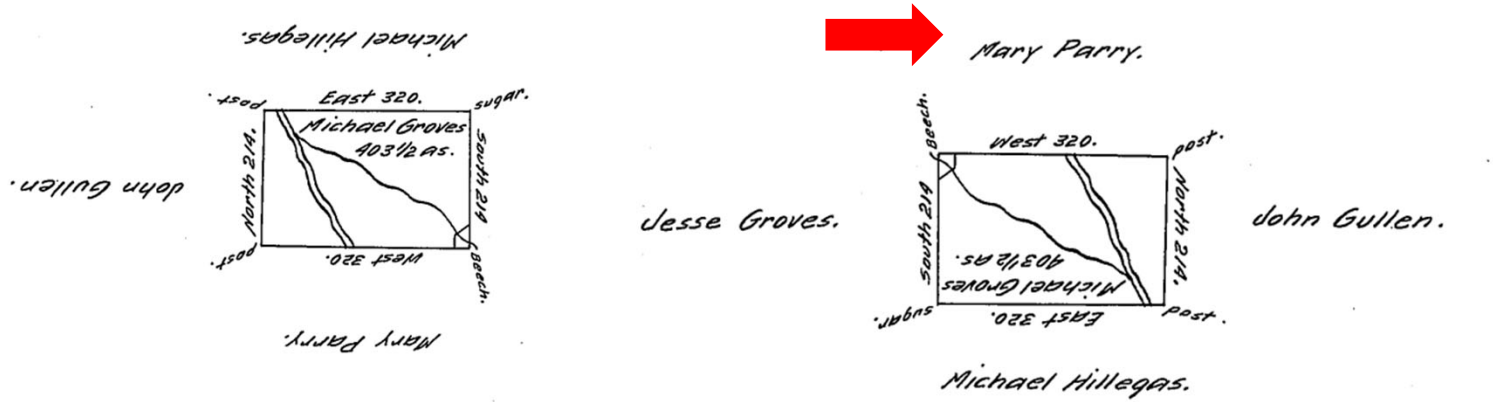
To-John Field Et.Al.(in trust)

P-39-13

"Dover"

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Survey of Land on Waters of Lake Erie – Mary Parry



Situate on the waters of Lake Erie in Allegheny County No. 1. Survey'd 21 June 1799 to Michael Groves on his warrant dated 13 April, 1792. Containing four hundred three Acres an half & allowe.

Danl. Brodhead Esqr. Survr. Genl.

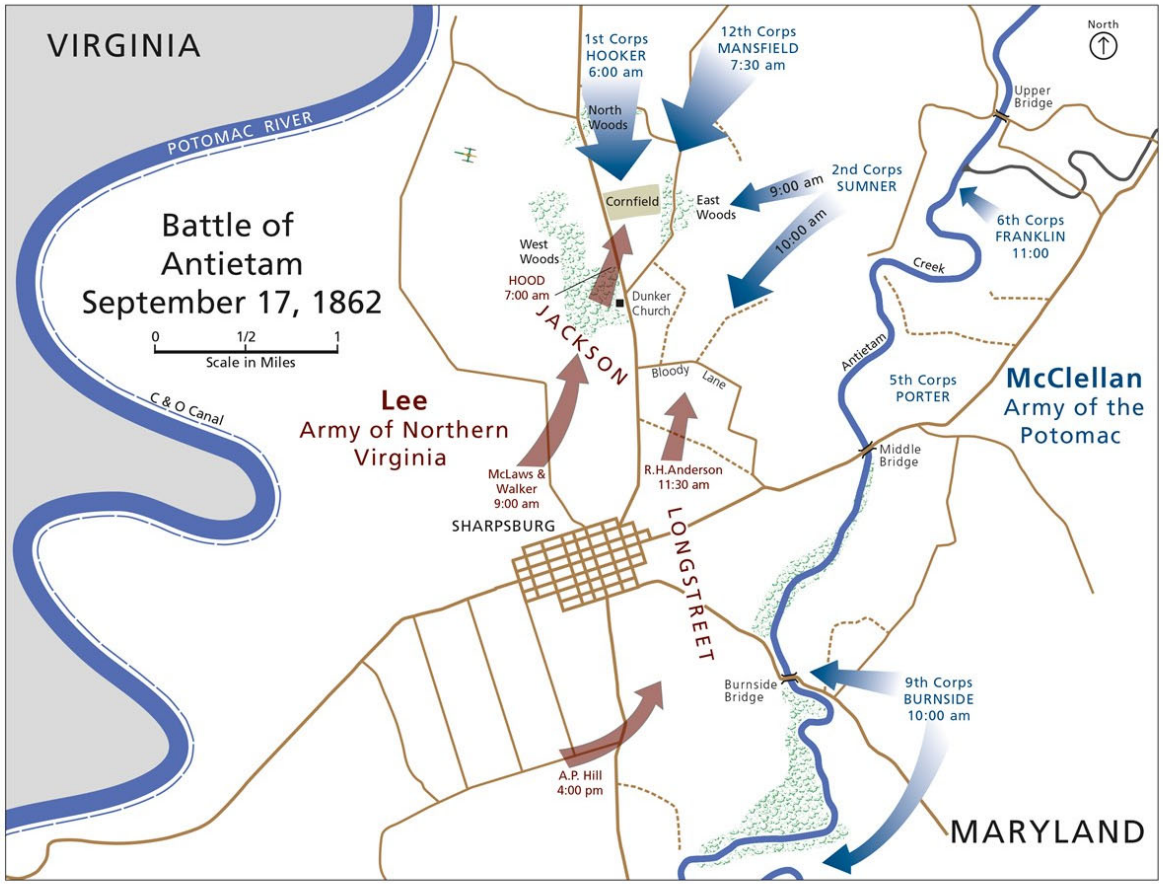
Thos. Rees. D.S.

Military Maps

- Helpful to understand battles that your ancestors fought in and follow a regiment
- Some maps show property owners

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

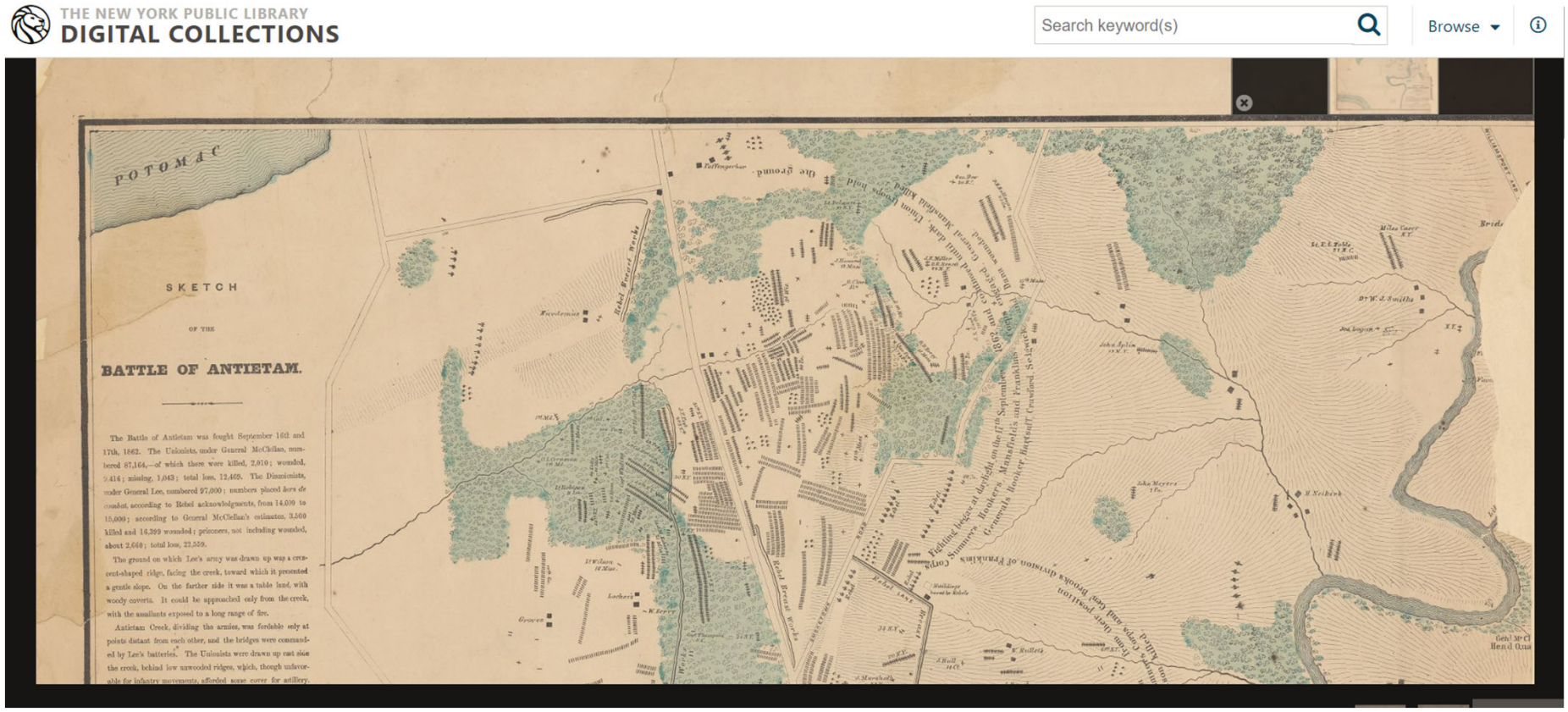
Battle of Antietam (Civil War) Map



nps.gov

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

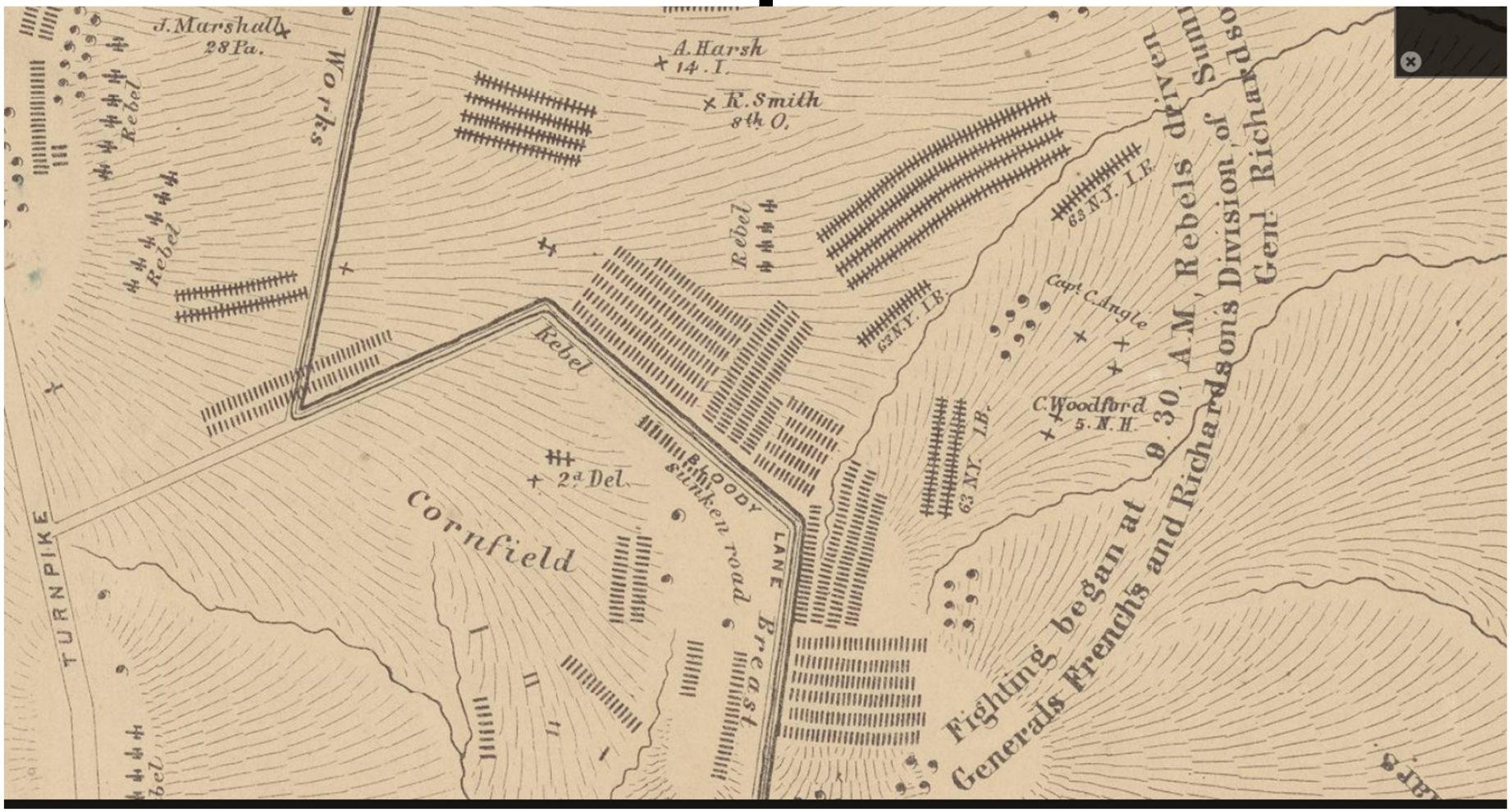
Battle of Antietam Cemetery Map



digitalcollections.nypl.org

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Battle of Antietam Cemetery Map



digitalcollections.nypl.org

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Mapping a Migration Route: Case Study (Elias Leonard)

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Steps

1. Summarize What You Know
2. Create a Research Plan
3. Research
4. Create a Timeline
5. Create a Map

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Step 1: Summarize What You Know

- Elias Leonard
  - b. circa 1758
  - m. Mary Ervin on 18 Feb. 1779 in New Jersey
  - Settled in Springfield, Burlington, New Jersey (1810 and 1830 U.S. Census)
  - Was on the 1835 pension roll, living in Burlington, New Jersey (age 77 years old)
    - Served in the Pennsylvania Militia

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Step 2: Create a Research Plan

- Objective: Create a migration map for Elias Leonard, who married Mary Arvin in New Jersey.
- Strategy:
  - Search Fold3 for a pension file for Elias Leonard for the Revolutionary War that may include an affidavit from Elias detailing his movements before and after the war.
  - Search for any relevant land deeds and create a map of his migration

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Step 3: Research

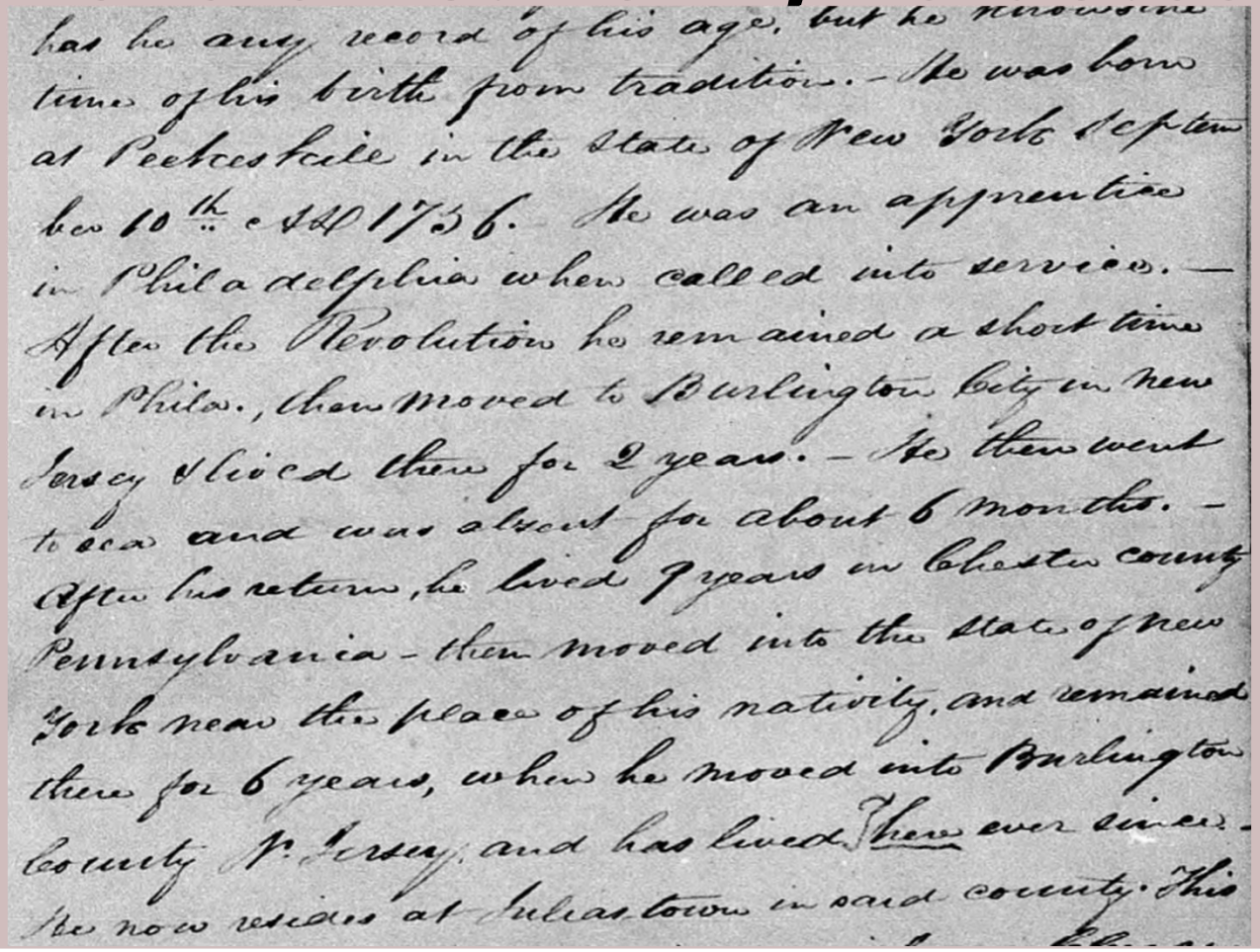
- Search for a pension file for Elias Leonard
  - Pension file S.4542 was found on Fold3.com under Revolutionary War Pensions.

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Fold3.com

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Affidavit of Elias Leonard, Pension S. 4542, Fold3.com



has he any record of his age, but he recollects time of his birth from tradition. – He was born at Peekskeile in the State of New York Septem ber 10th A.D. 1756. He was an apprentice in Philadelphia when called into service. – After the Revolution he remained a short time in Phila., then moved to Burlington City in New Jersey & lived there for 2 years. – He then went to sea and was absent for about 6 months. – After his return, he lived 7 years in Chester county Pennsylvania – then moved into the State of New York near the place of his nativity, and remained there for 6 years, when he moved into Burlington County N. Jersey, and has lived there ever since. – He now resides at Julias town in said county. This

Transcription of Affidavit of Elias Leonard, 6 Nov. 1831

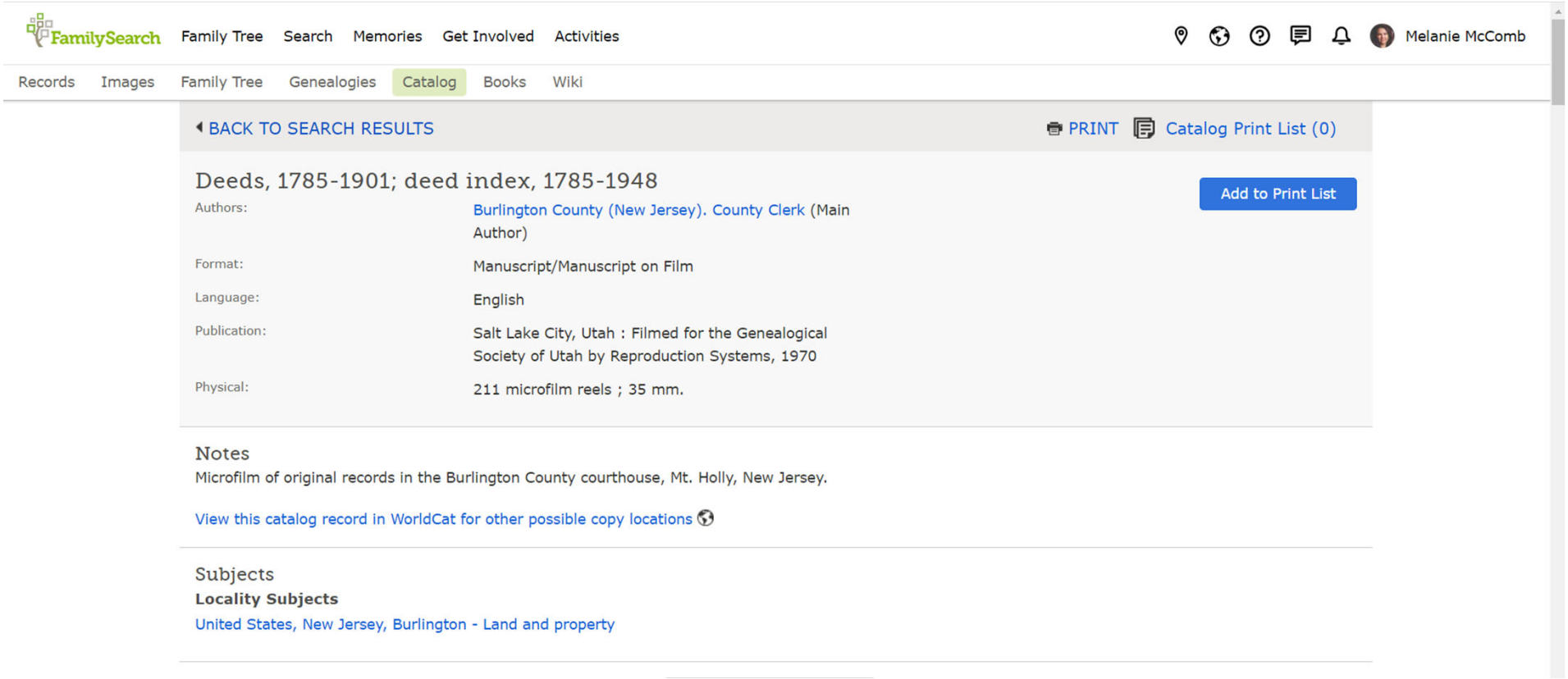
- "He was born in Peekskill in the State of New York September 10th AD 1756. He was an apprentice in Philadelphia when called into service. After the Revolution he remained a short time in Phila., then moved to Burlington City in New Jersey & lived there for 2 years. He then went to sea and was absent for about 6 months. After his return, he lived 9 years in Chester County Pennsylvania – then moved into the State of New York near the place of his nativity, and remained there for 6 years, when he moved into Burlington County New Jersey, and has lived there since. He now resides in Juliustown in said county."

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Step 3: Research Cont'd

- Search for land deeds/mortgages and land grants that your ancestor had
  - Many are kept at the county level
  - Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island – town level

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



familysearch.org

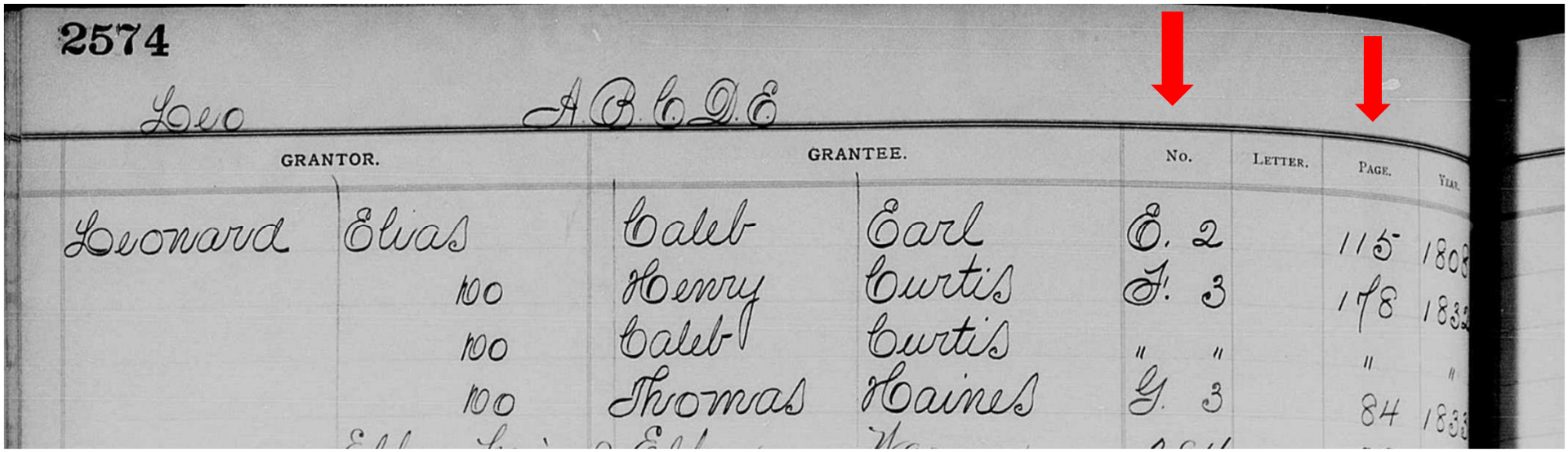
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Grantee index, A-B 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842375	8351824	
Grantee index, C-D 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842376	8139751	
Grantee index, E-G 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842377	8139752	
Grantee index, H 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842378	8217379	
Grantee index, I-L 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842379	8139753	
Grantee index, M 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842380	8351823	
Grantee index, N-Q 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842381	8271792	
Grantee index, R-Se 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842382	8351822	
Grantee index, Sh-Sy 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842383	8217380	
Grantee index, T-Wh 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842384	8351821	
Grantee index, Wi-Z 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842385	8351820	
Grantee index corporations, A-Q 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842386	8351819	
Grantee index corporations, R-Z 1785-1921	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	842387	8351818	

familysearch.org

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



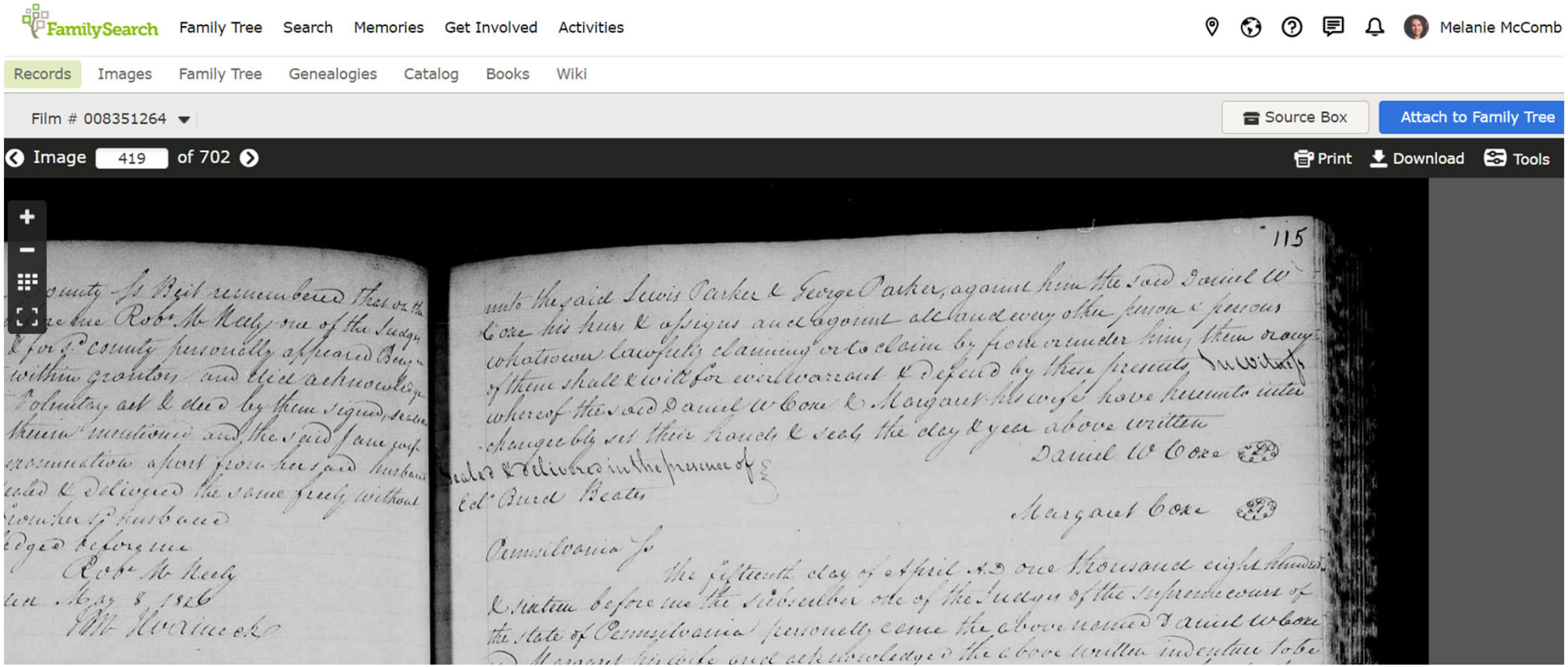
2574

Leo A.B.C.D.E

GRANTOR.		GRANTEE.		No.	Letter.	Page.	Year.
Leonard	Elias	Caleb	Earl	E. 2		115	1808
	ditto	Henry	Curtis	F. 3		178	1832
	ditto	Caleb	Curtis	" "		"	"
	ditto	Thomas	Haines	G. 3		84	1833

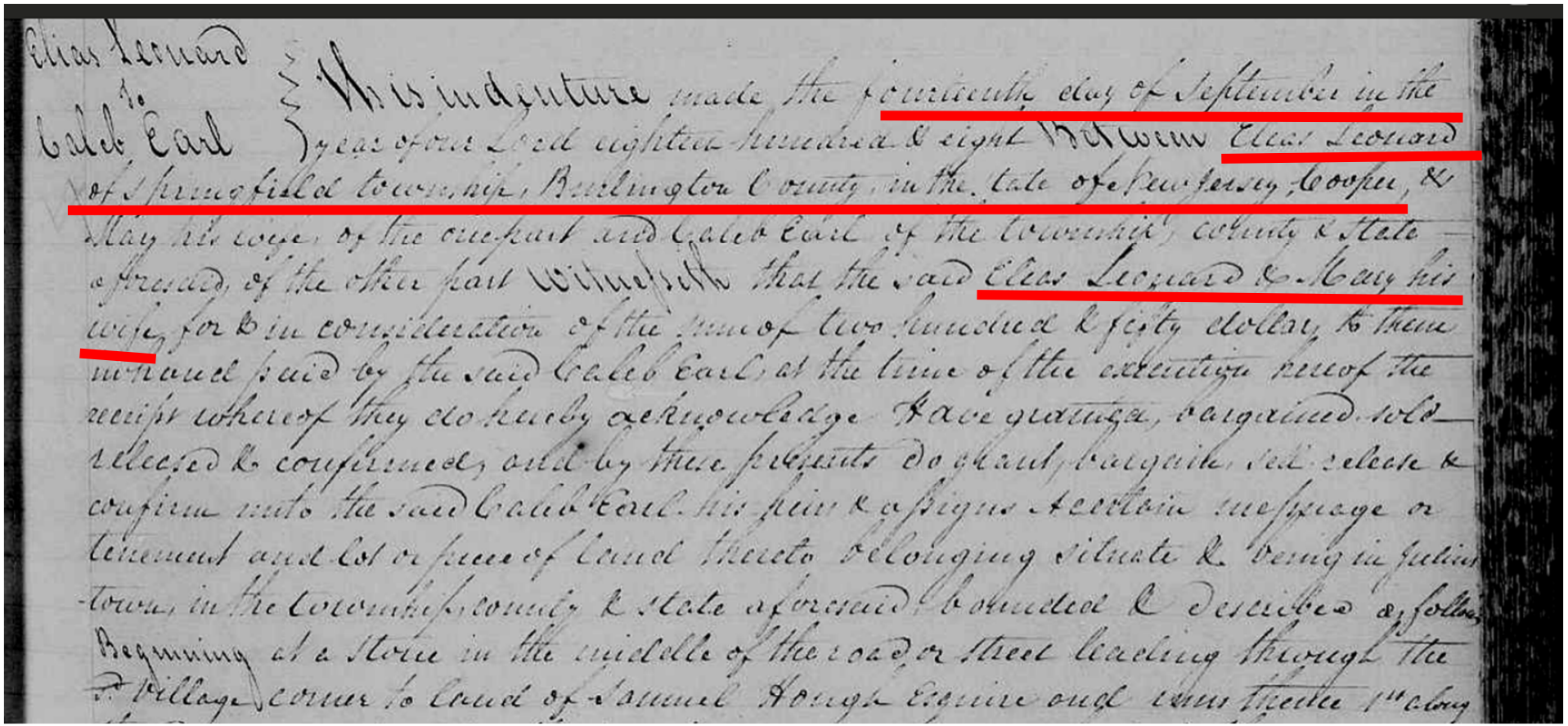
familysearch.org

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



familysearch.org

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

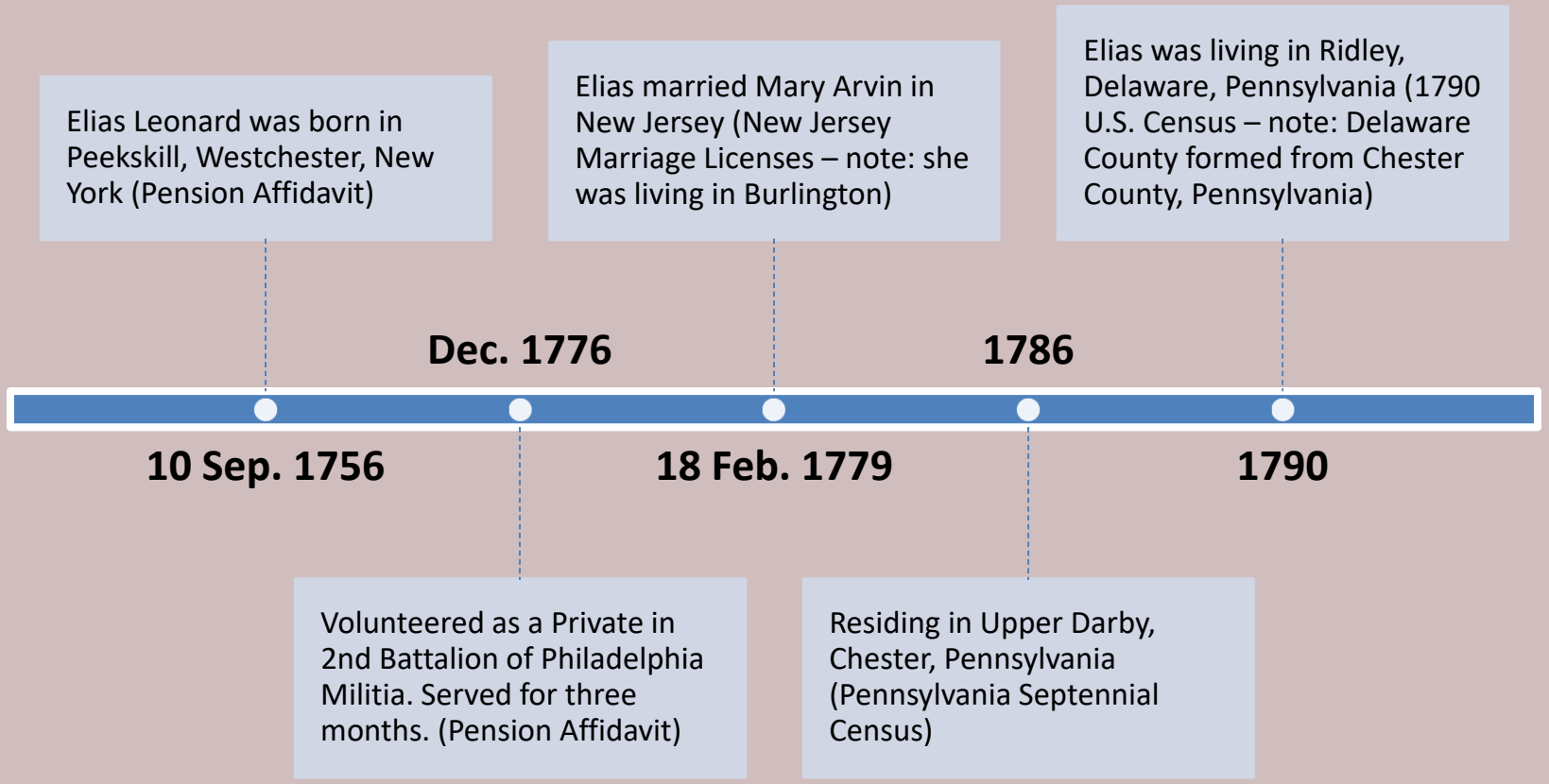

Elias Leonard
to
Caleb Earl

This Indenture made the fourteenth day of September in the
year of our Lord eighteen hundred & eight Between Elias Leonard
of Springfield township, Burlington County, in the State of New Jersey, Cooper, &
Mary his wife of the one part and Caleb Earl of the township, county & State
aforesaid, of the other part Witnesseth that the said Elias Leonard & Mary his
wife for & in consideration of the sum of two hundred & fifty dollars to them
in hand paid by the said Caleb Earl at the time of the ensealing hereof the
receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge Have granted, bargained, sold
released & confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell release &
confirm unto the said Caleb Earl his heirs & assigns a certain messuage or
tenement and lot or piece of land thereto belonging situate & being in Julius-
town, in the township, county & State aforesaid bounded & described as follows
Beginning at a stone in the middle of the road or street leading through the
said village corner to land of Samuel Hough Esquire and runs thence [illegible] along

Elias Leonard Deed to Caleb Earl, 14 Sep. 1808, Burlington, New Jersey, FamilySearch

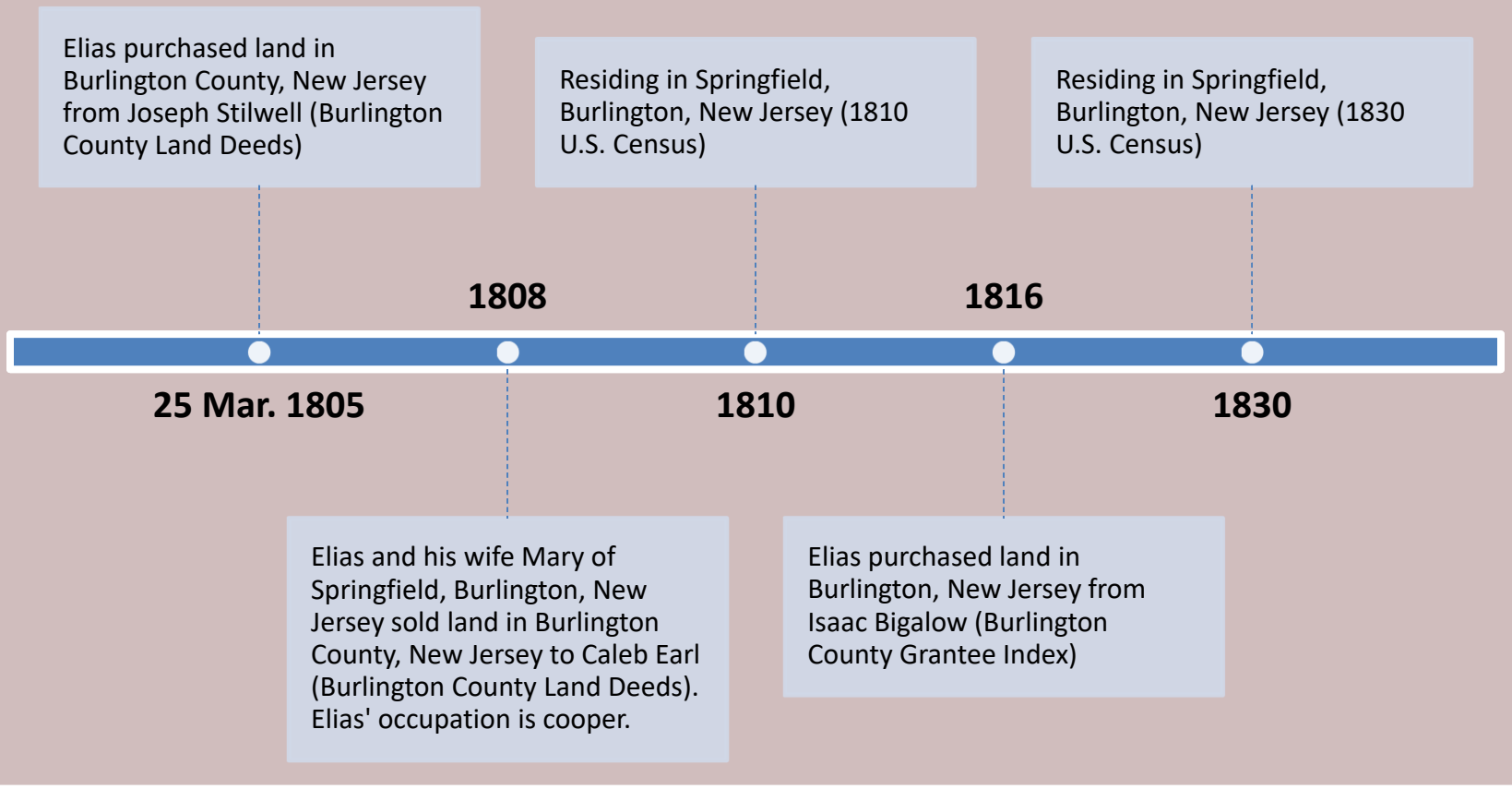
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Step 4: Create a Timeline



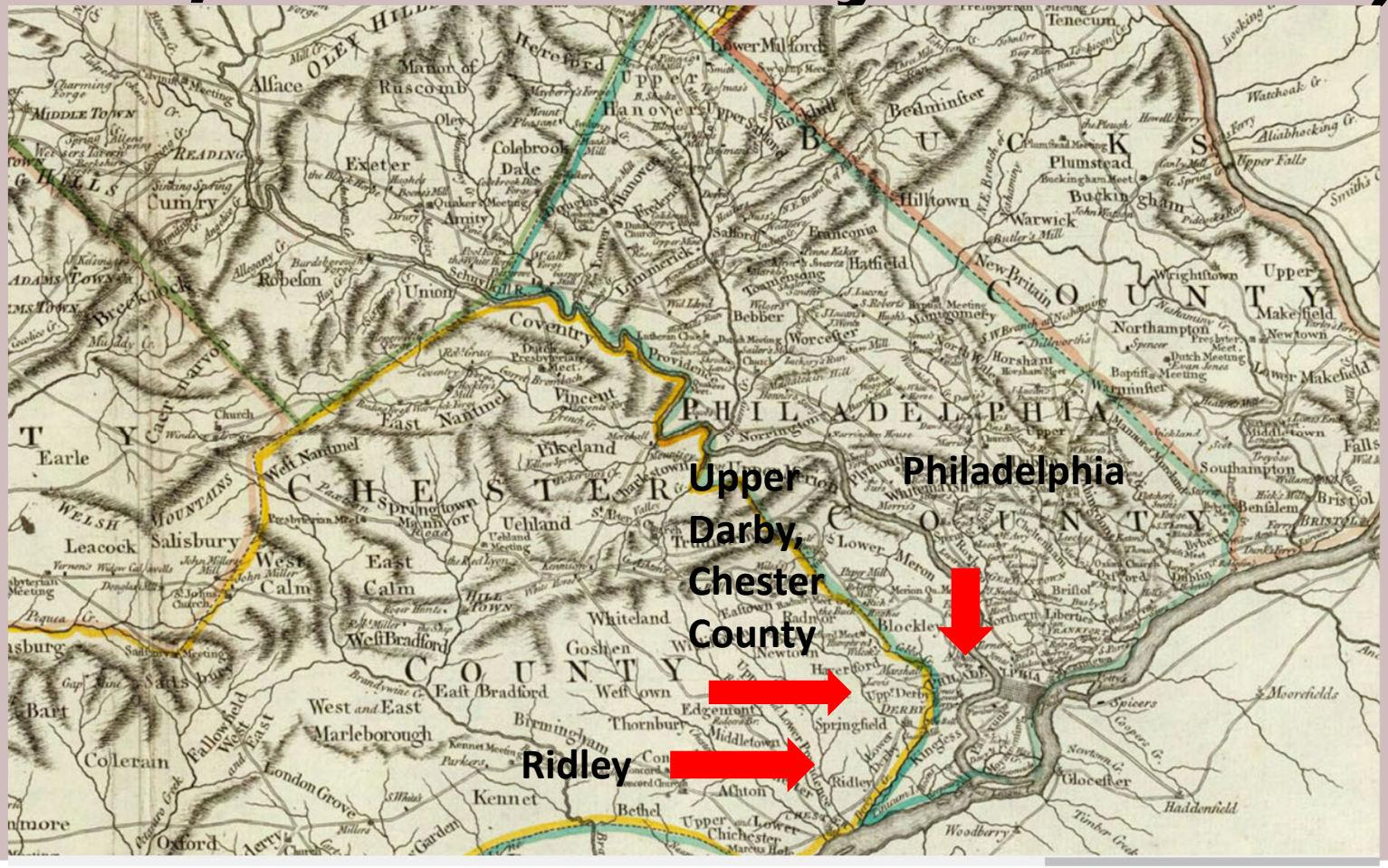
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Step 4: Create a Timeline Cont'd

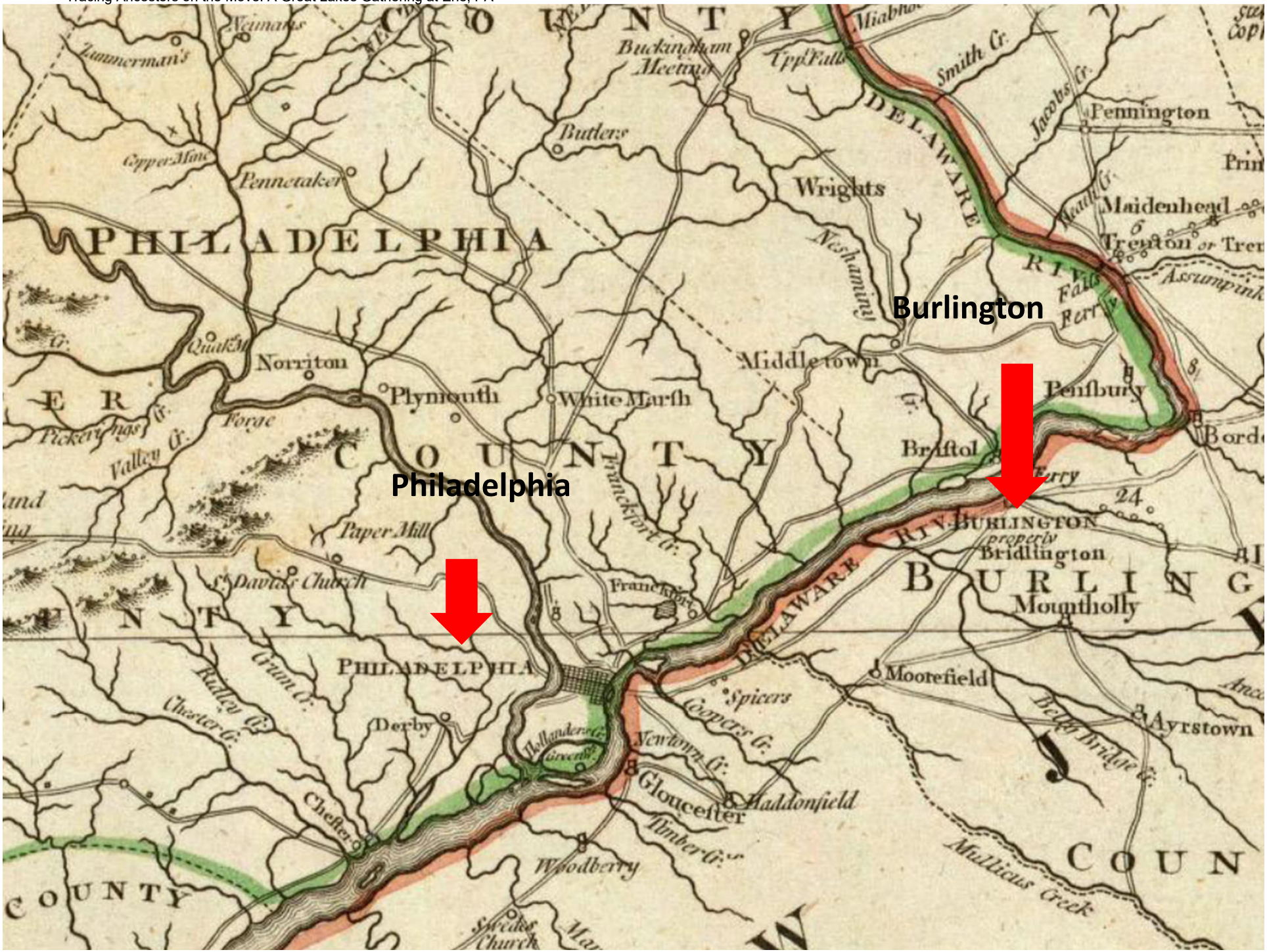


©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Create a Map (Historical Atlas, 1776, David Rumsey Collection)



©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center


Burlington
Philadelphia
PHILADELPHIA
Norriton
Plymouth
White Marsh
Middletown
Wrights
Pennington
Maidenhead
Trenton
Bristol
Penbury
Bridlington
Mountholly
Moorefield
Ayrstown
Haddonfield
Gloucester
Woodbery
Derby
Chester
Paper Mill
Pennebaker
Butlers
Buckingham Meeting
Delaware River
Burlington properly

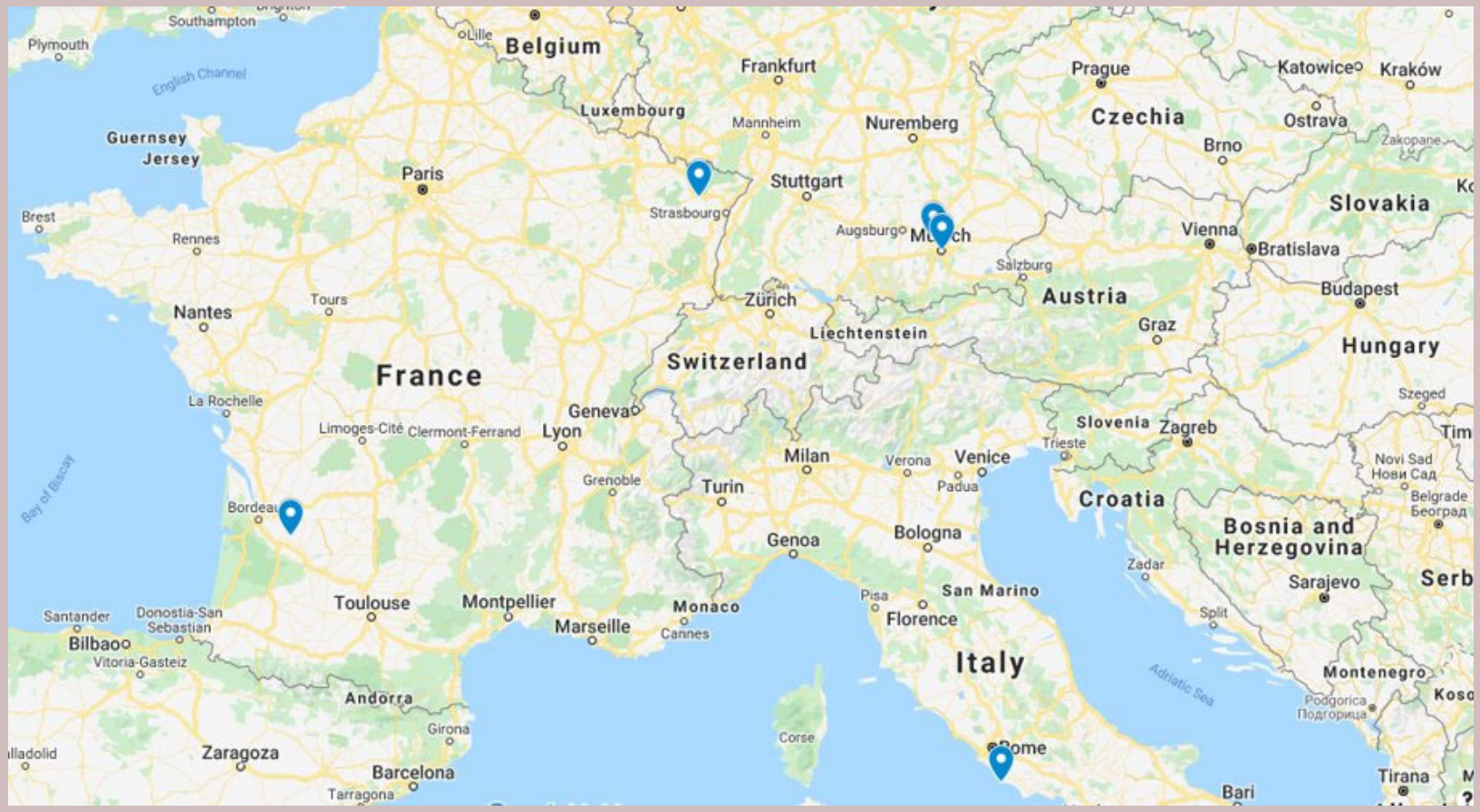
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Create your own maps

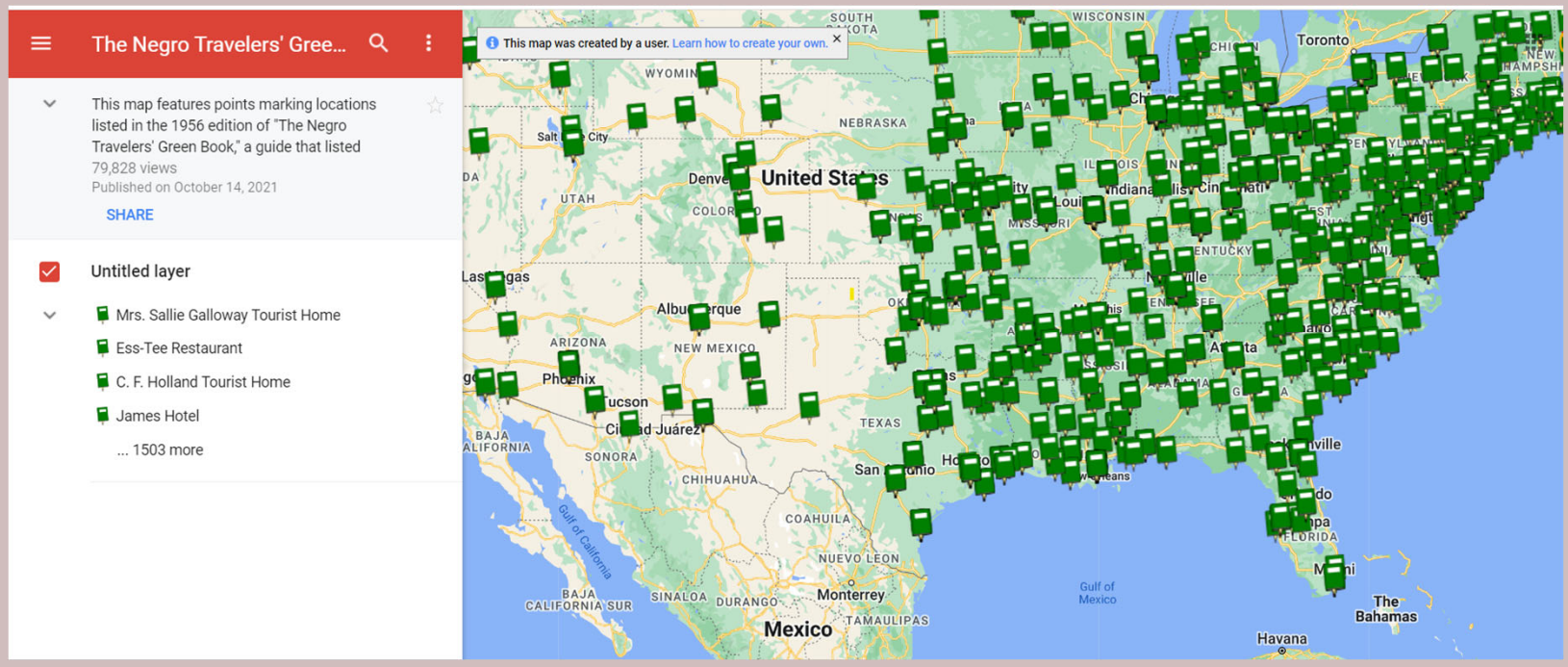
- On the computer or by hand
  - Google Maps
  - Google Earth
  - ArcGIS
  - StoryMaps
  - DeedMapper
  - Print-outs of (blank) maps

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

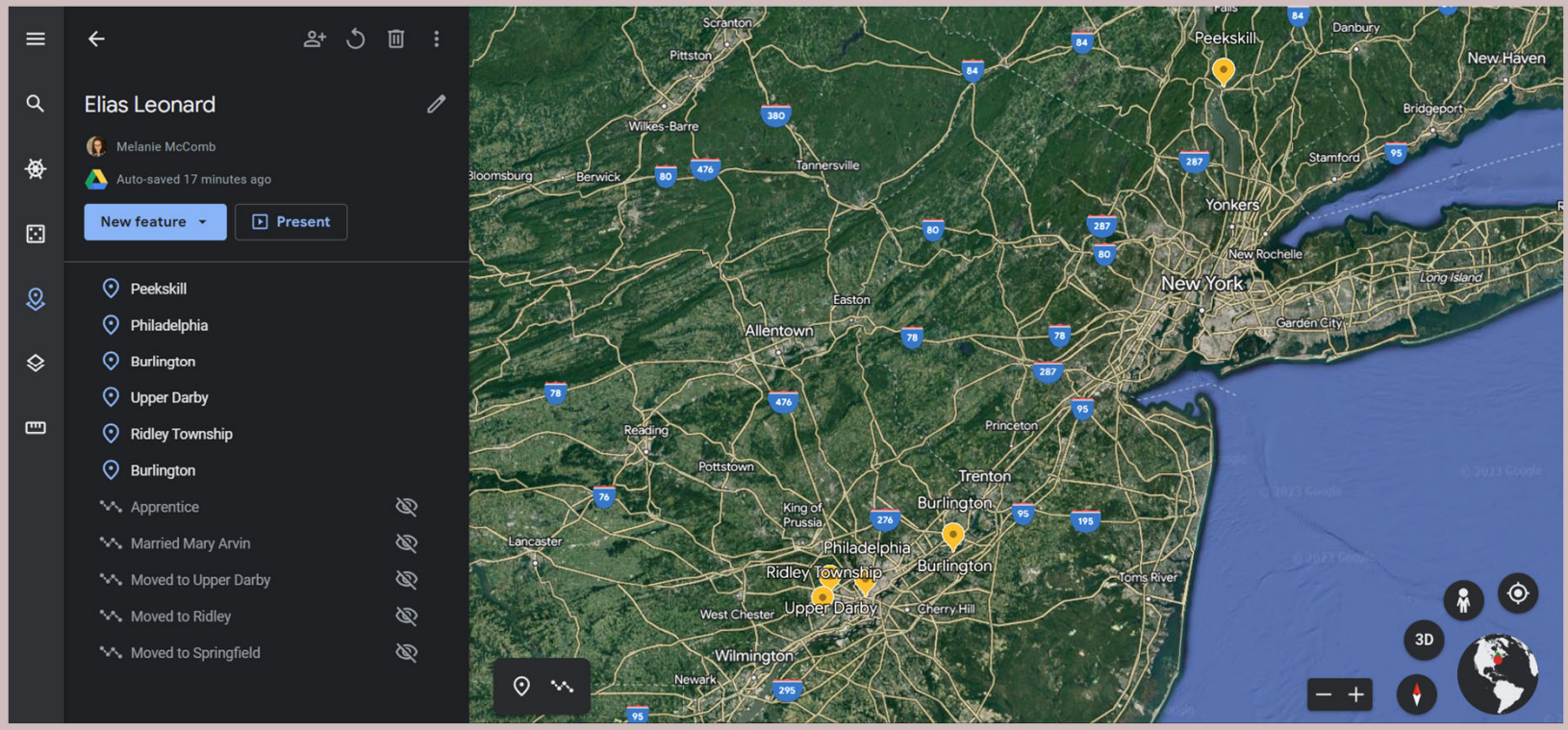
Google Maps


Southampton
Plymouth
English Channel
Guernsey
Jersey
Brest
Rennes
Nantes
Tours
La Rochelle
Bay of Biscay
Bordeaux
Santander
Donostia-San Sebastian
Bilbao
Vitoria-Gasteiz
Valladolid
Zaragoza
Andorra
Girona
Barcelona
Tarragona
Toulouse
Montpellier
Marseille
Monaco
Cannes
Corse
Limoges
Clermont-Ferrand
Lyon
Grenoble
Geneva
Zürich
Liechtenstein
Switzerland
France
Paris
Lille
Belgium
Luxembourg
Frankfurt
Mannheim
Nuremberg
Stuttgart
Strasbourg
Augsburg
Munich
Salzburg
Austria
Graz
Vienna
Prague
Czechia
Brno
Ostrava
Katowice
Kraków
Zakopane
Slovakia
Bratislava
Budapest
Hungary
Szeged
Slovenia
Zagreb
Trieste
Milan
Verona
Venice
Padua
Turin
Genoa
Bologna
Pisa
San Marino
Florence
Rome
Italy
Adriatic Sea
Croatia
Zadar
Split
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Sarajevo
Montenegro
Podgorica
Tirana
Bari
Novi Sad
Belgrade

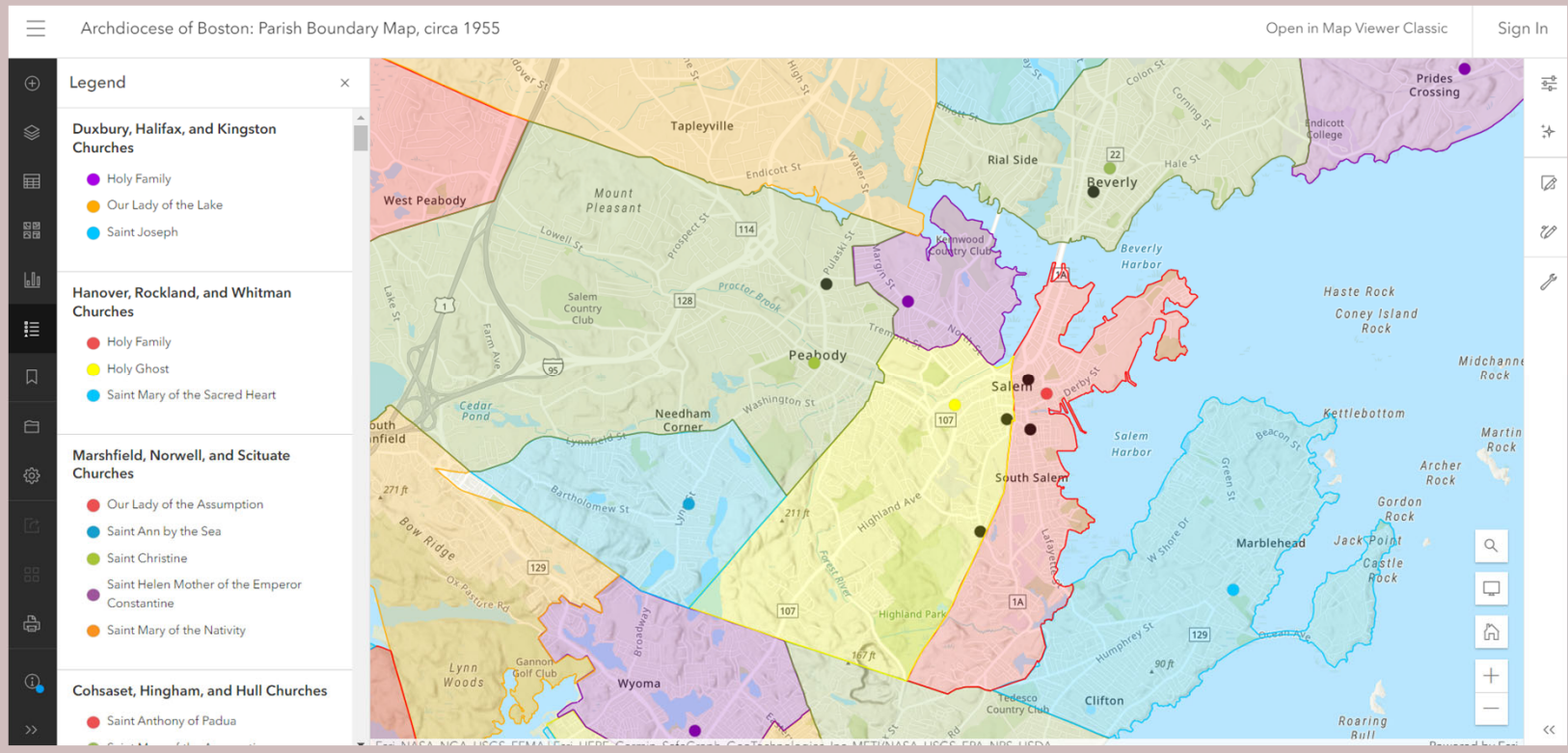
Negro Travelers' Green Book, 1956 from South Carolina Library



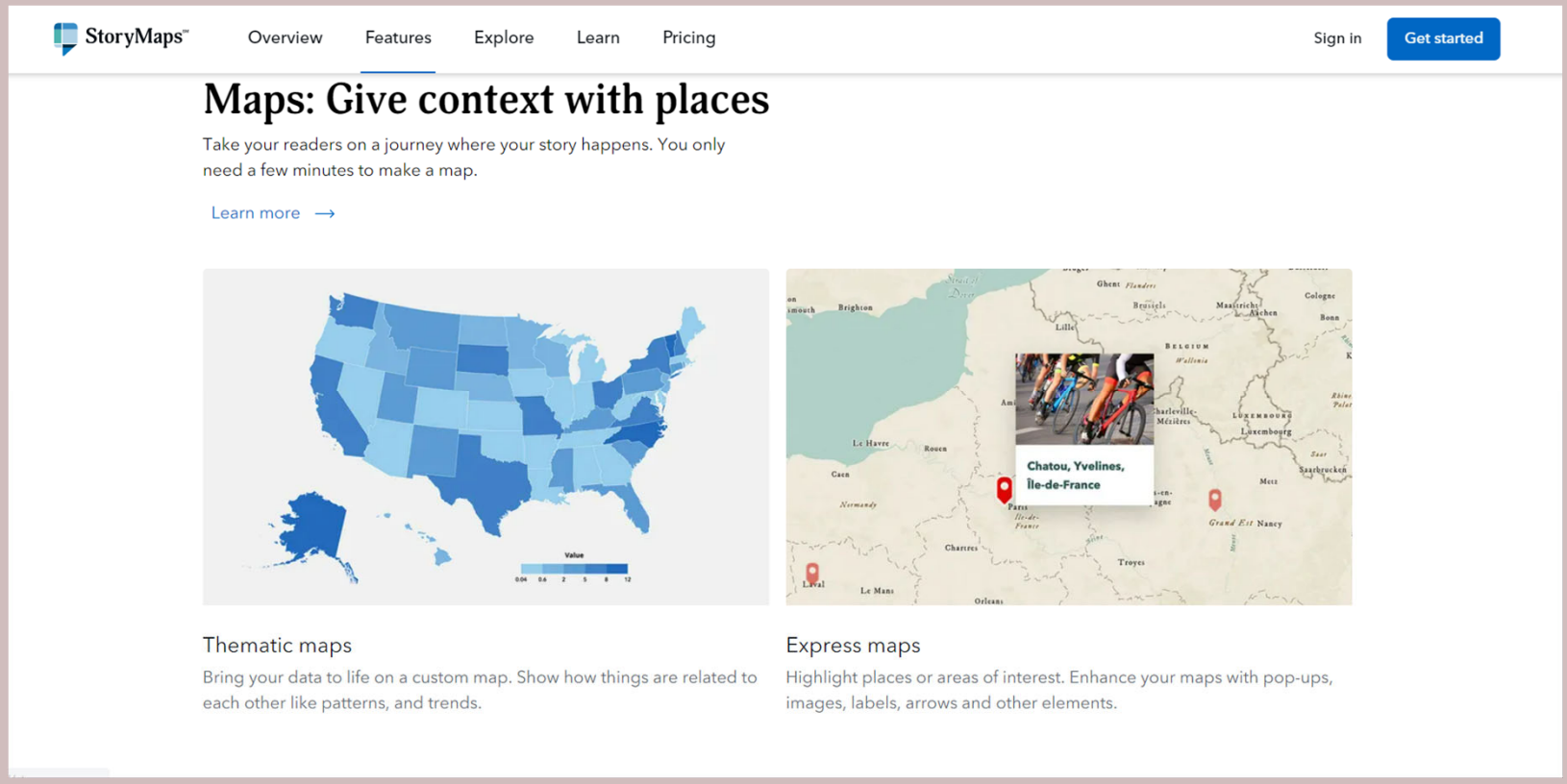
Google Earth



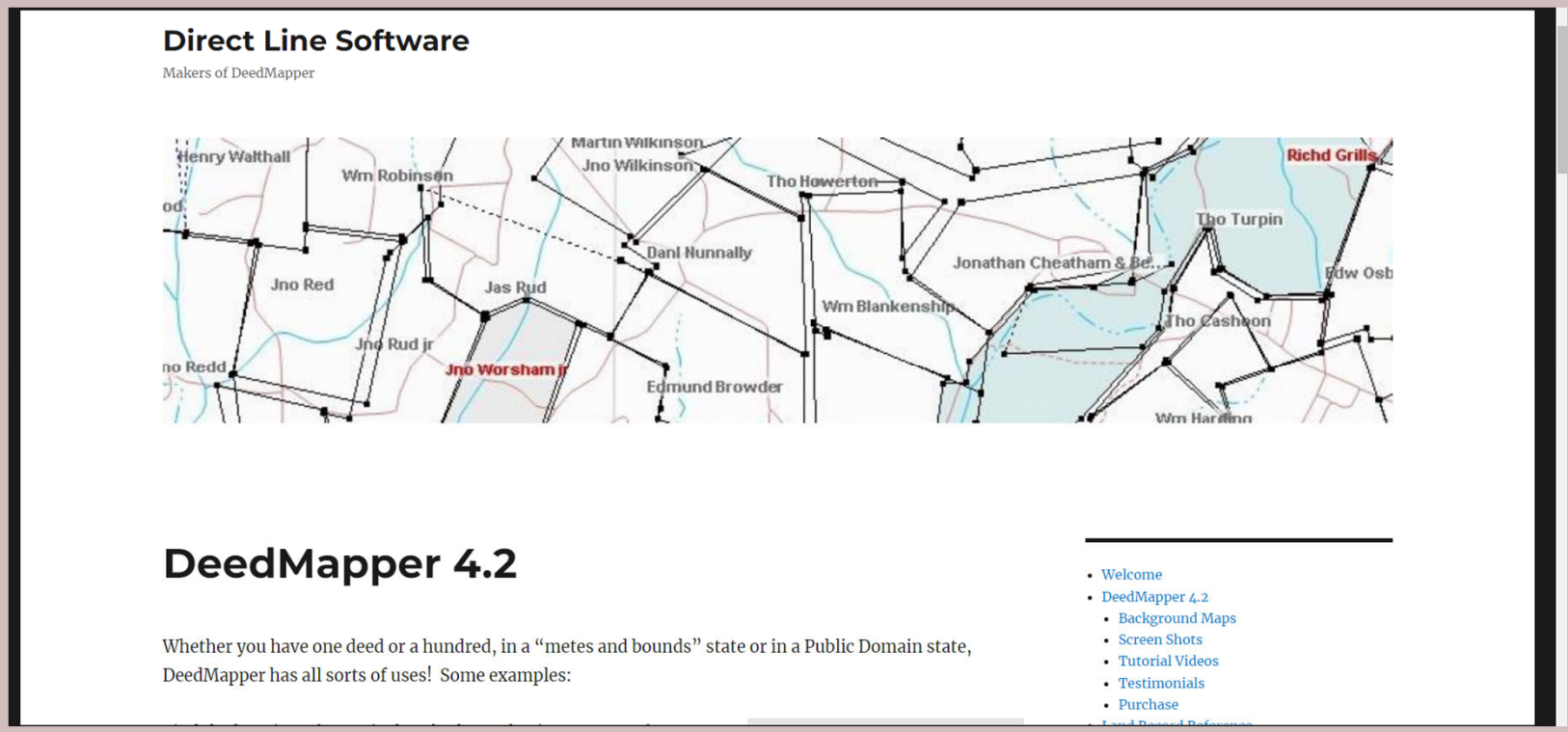
ArcGIS


Archdiocese of Boston: Parish Boundary Map, circa 1955
Open in Map Viewer Classic
Sign In
Legend
Duxbury, Halifax, and Kingston Churches
Holy Family
Our Lady of the Lake
Saint Joseph
Hanover, Rockland, and Whitman Churches
Holy Family
Holy Ghost
Saint Mary of the Sacred Heart
Marshfield, Norwell, and Scituate Churches
Our Lady of the Assumption
Saint Ann by the Sea
Saint Christine
Saint Helen Mother of the Emperor Constantine
Saint Mary of the Nativity
Cohsaset, Hingham, and Hull Churches
Saint Anthony of Padua
Tapleyville
West Peabody
Mount Pleasant
Rial Side
Beverly
Prides Crossing
Peabody
Salem
South Salem
Marblehead
Needham Corner
Wyoma
Lynn Woods
Clifton
Haste Rock
Coney Island Rock
Kettlebottom
Salem Harbor
Beverly Harbor
Highland Park
Salem Country Club
Kernwood Country Club
Gannon Golf Club
Tedesco Country Club

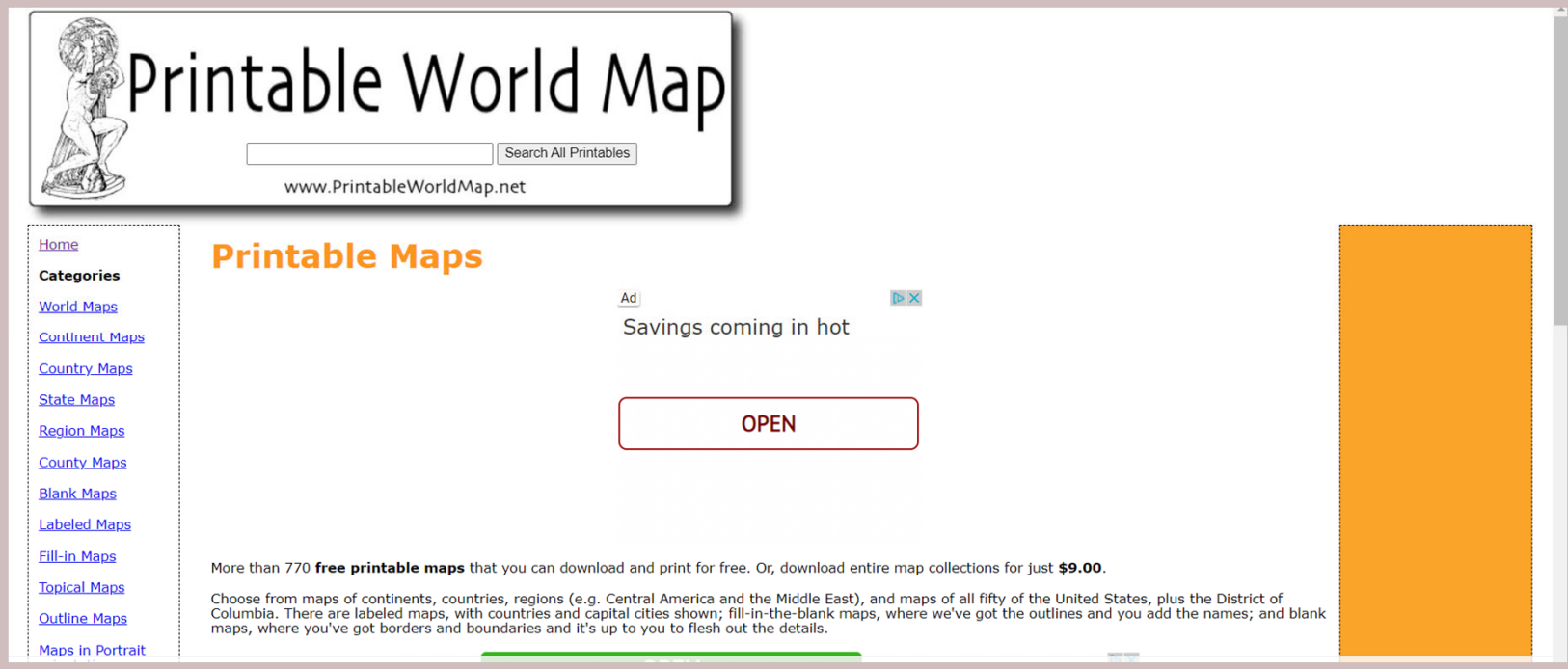
StoryMaps


StoryMaps
Overview
Features
Explore
Learn
Pricing
Sign in
Get started
Maps: Give context with places
Take your readers on a journey where your story happens. You only need a few minutes to make a map.
Learn more →
Value
Chatou, Yvelines, Île-de-France
Thematic maps
Bring your data to life on a custom map. Show how things are related to each other like patterns, and trends.
Express maps
Highlight places or areas of interest. Enhance your maps with pop-ups, images, labels, arrows and other elements.

DeedMapper

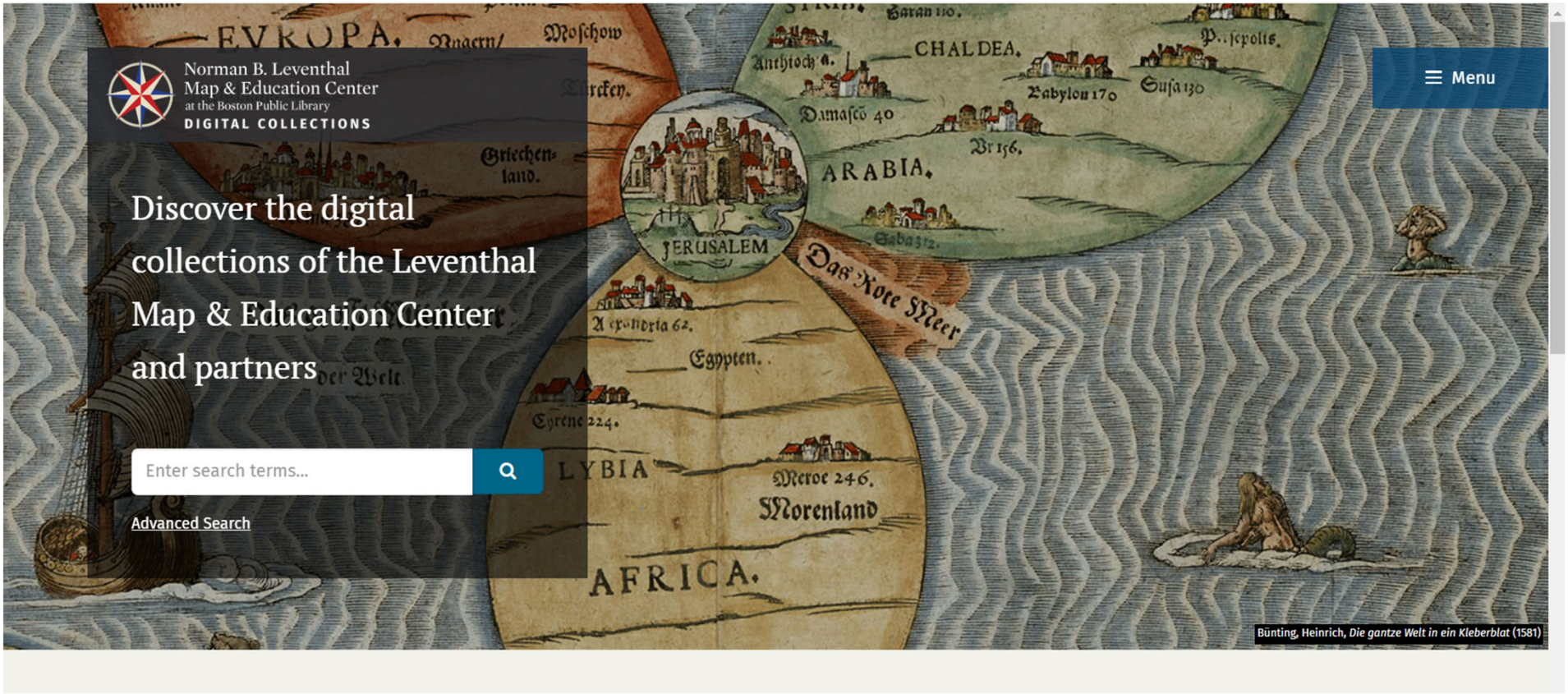

Direct Line Software
Makers of DeedMapper
Henry Walthall
Wm Robinson
Martin Wilkinson
Jno Wilkinson
Tho Howerton
Richd Grills
Tho Turpin
Danl Nunnally
Jonathan Cheatham & Be...
Jno Red
Jas Rud
Wm Blankenship
Tho Cashoon
Jno Rud jr
Jno Worsham jr
Edmund Browder
DeedMapper 4.2
Whether you have one deed or a hundred, in a "metes and bounds" state or in a Public Domain state, DeedMapper has all sorts of uses! Some examples:
Welcome
DeedMapper 4.2
Background Maps
Screen Shots
Tutorial Videos
Testimonials
Purchase

Printable Maps



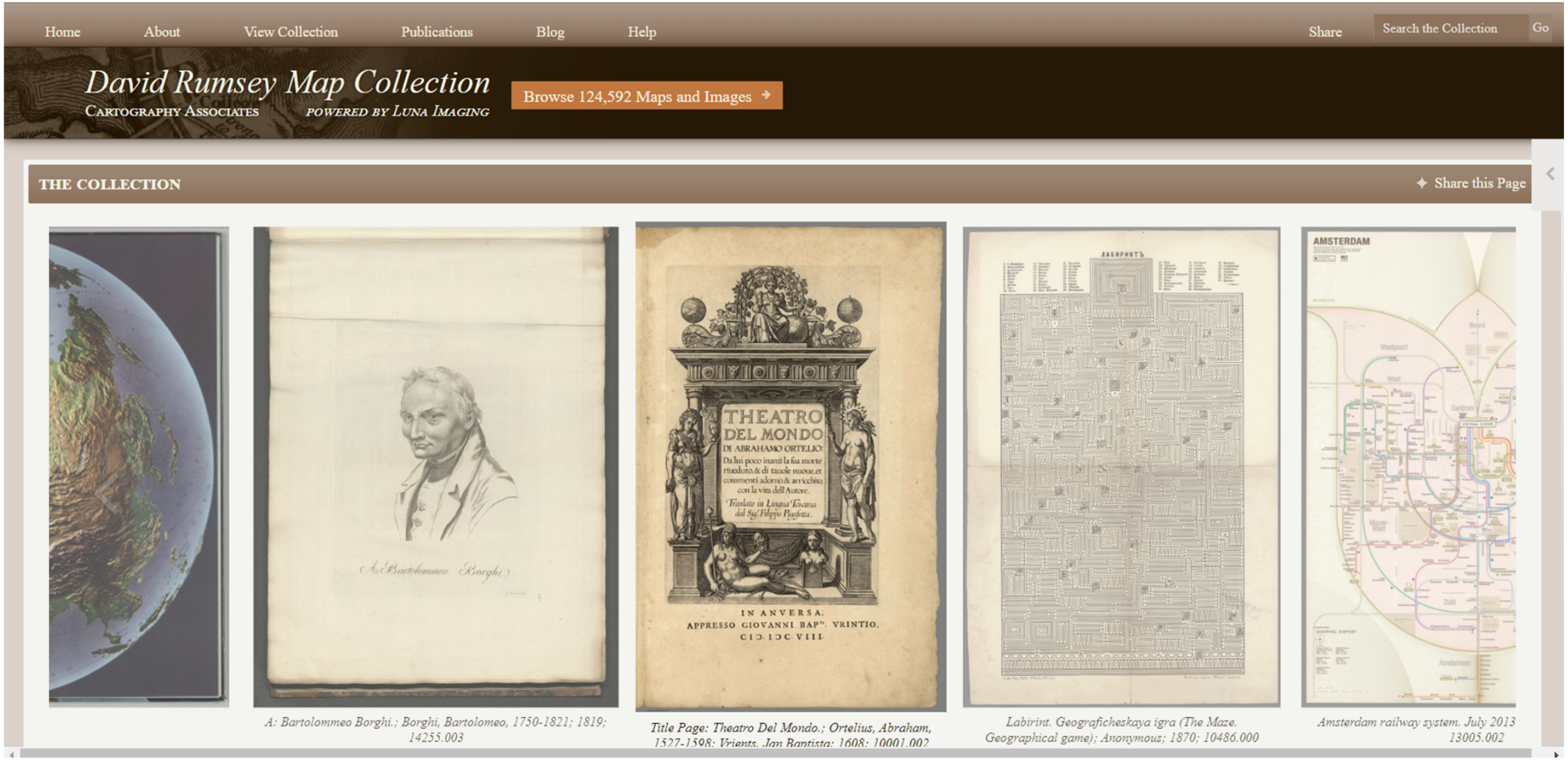
©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Other Map Resources



collections.leventhalmap.org

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center



A: Bartolommeo Borghi.; Borghi, Bartolomeo, 1750-1821; 1819; 14255.003

Title Page: Theatro Del Mondo.; Ortelius, Abraham, 1527-1598; Vrients, Jan Baptista; 1608; 10001.002

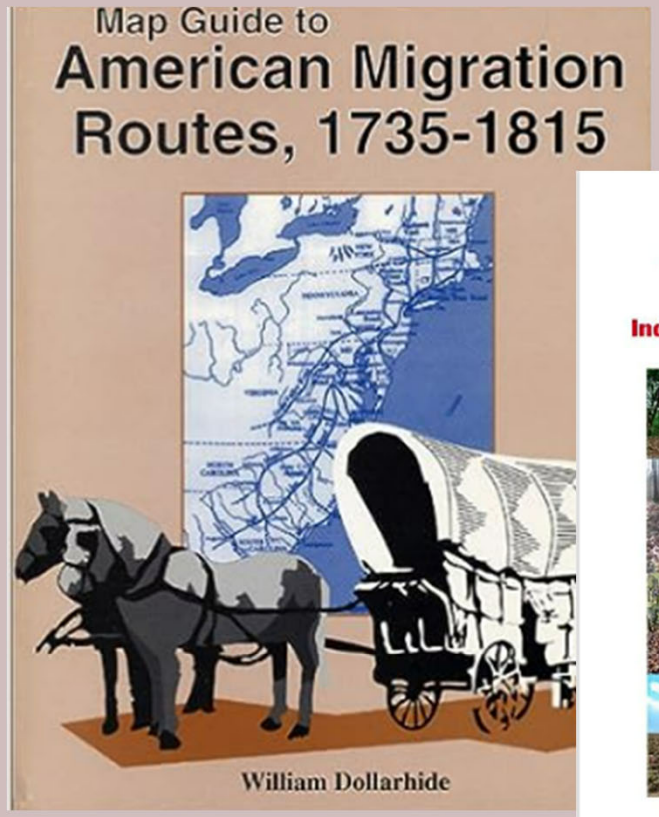
Labirint. Geograficheskaya igra (The Maze. Geographical game); Anonymous; 1870; 10486.000

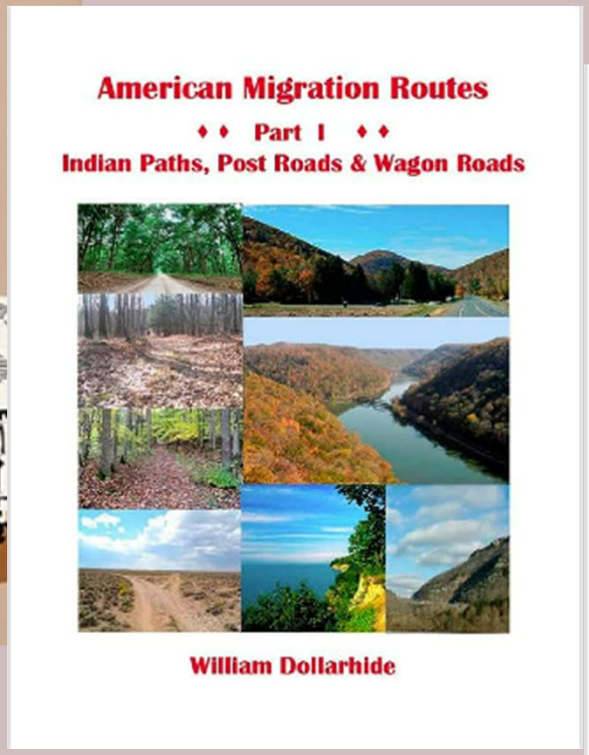
Amsterdam railway system. July 2013 13005.002

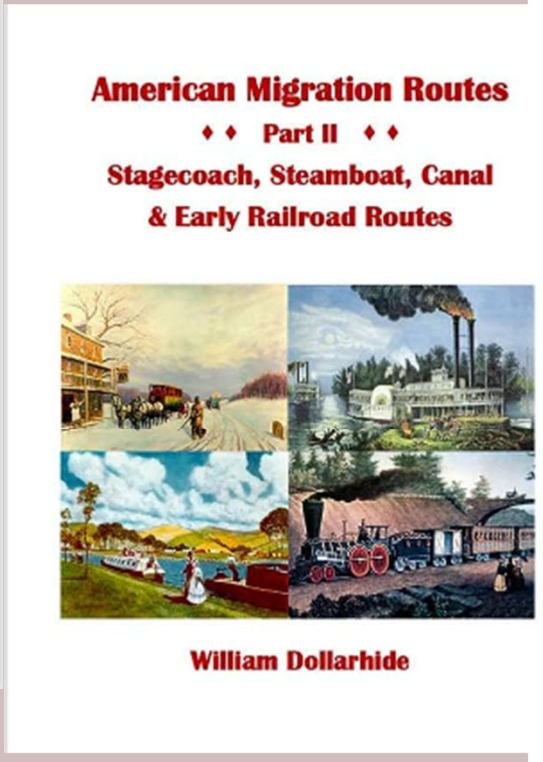
davidrumsey.com

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

Published Resources







Live Demonstration

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

©New England Historic Genealogical Society, AmericanAncestors.org; produced by The Brue Family Learning Center

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

Copyright © 2023