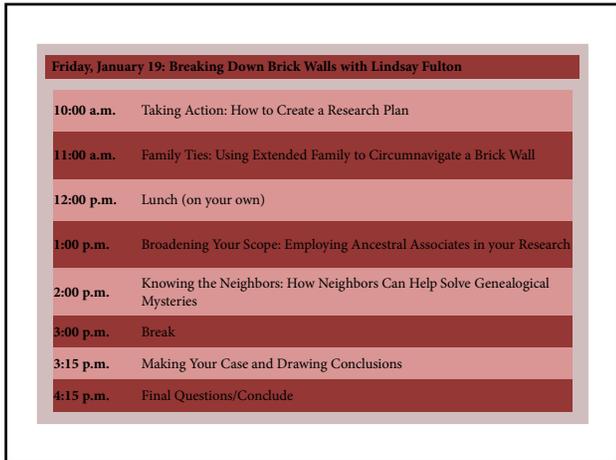


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2



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4



5

What is Cluster Research?

A research technique used to learn more about an ancestor by examining records left by the ancestor's *cluster*

- Family
- Associates
- Neighbors

6

Family

- Family members with the same surname
- Consider others:
 - Maiden name of spouse
 - In-laws
 - Cousins (1st and others)
 - Grandparents
 - Great-Grandparents
 - Step-Parents/Siblings

7

Associates

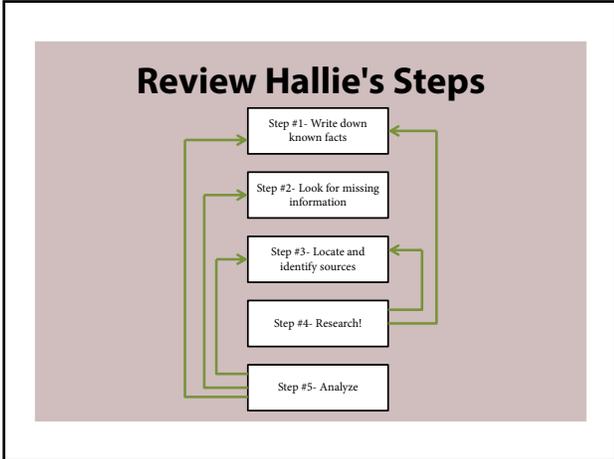
- Associated Persons
 - Politics
 - Occupation
 - Education
 - Religion
- Associated Places
 - Place of Birth
 - Death Details

8

Neighbors

- Persons who share the same address
 - Tenement
 - Abutters
- Persons from the same town or county
- Persons in Neighboring Cemetery Plots OR Church or church Pews

9



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- ### Lindsay's Steps
1. Get Organized
 2. Define Your Objective
 3. List records that will aid in your research
 4. Find the Resources
 5. Research
 6. Draw a Conclusion

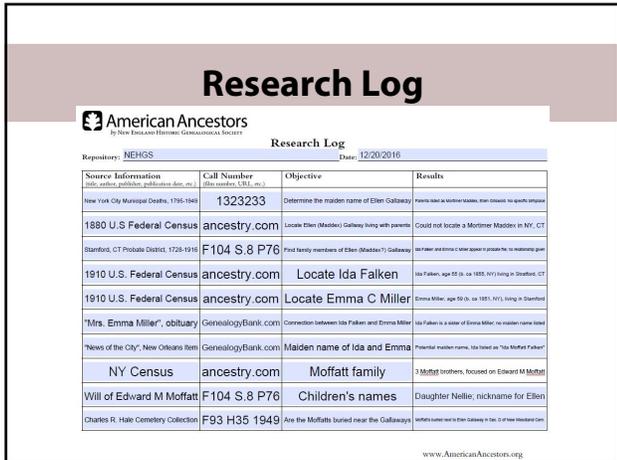
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Step #1
**Get Organized
 (or re-organized)**

12



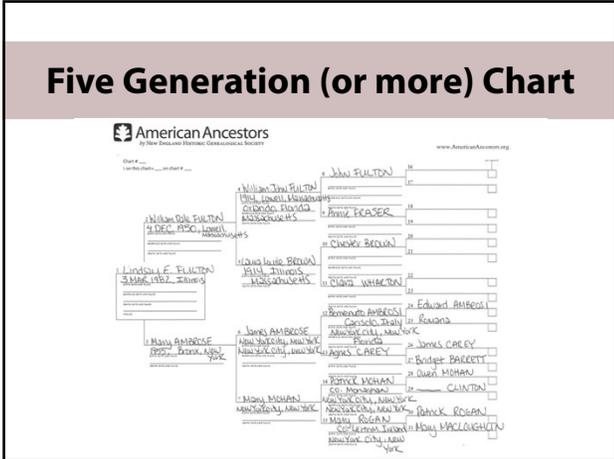
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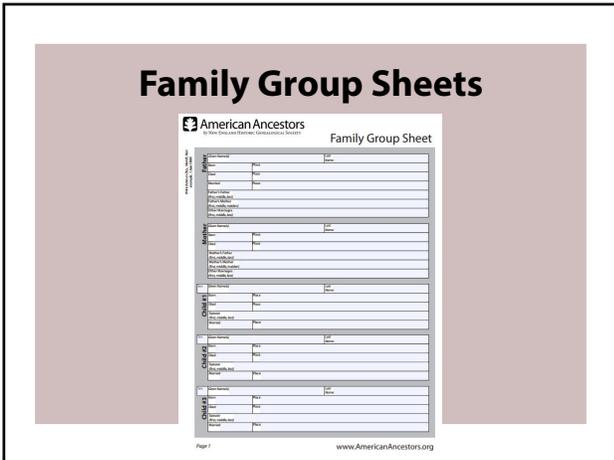
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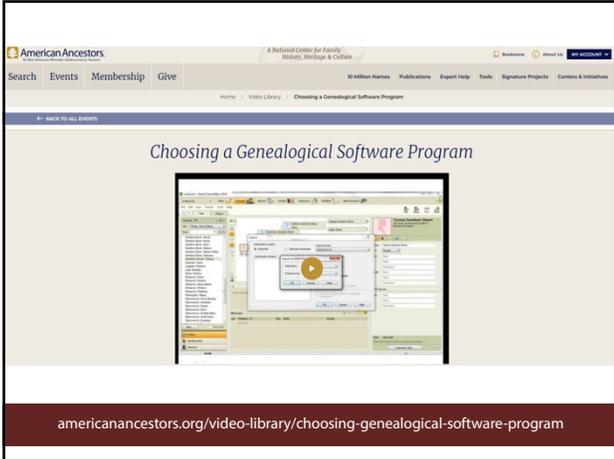


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Genealogical Software

- Ancestral Quest (Windows)
- Brother's Keeper (Windows)
- Family Tree Builder (Windows)
- Family Tree Maker (Windows and Mac)
- Heredis (Windows and Mac)
- iFamily (Mac)
- Legacy Family Tree (Windows)
- MacFamilyTree (Mac)
- Reunion (Mac)
- RootsMagic (Windows and Mac)
- AncestralTrees

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Annotated Research Log						
Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes	Objective
Vital Records						
Birth record	William Henry Brown	unknown	unknown			Birth record may contain the names of William Henry Brown's parents
Marriage record	William Henry Brown and Emma Henry	before 1880	unknown			name of William Henry Brown's parents
Census Records						
1900 United States Federal Census (www.ancestry.com)	Chester Brown/William Henry Brown/Emma (Elizabet) Brown	1900	Lamar, Wayne, Illinois	752	Enumerated with birth place: Illinois; Jan 1850; Married 1877; Father born Ohio; Mother born Tennessee	Determine place and approximate year of birth to help narrow our search for a vital record
1880 United States Federal Census (www.ancestry.com)	Chester Brown/William Henry Brown/Emma (Elizabet) Brown	1880	probably Illinois			Determine place and approximate year of birth to help narrow our search for a vital record
Probate/Wills						
Probate record		unknown	unknown			Will for William Henry Brown's father or mother may name WHEB as an heir. We cannot proceed with this step until names are known.
Newspapers						
Obituary for William Henry Brown	William Henry Brown	unknown	unknown			Obituary may name WHEB's parents; death date/place is necessary for a proper search.
Published Genealogies						
unknown	Brown	unknown	unknown			Because of the popularity of the Brown surname, we need more information to narrow this catalog search.

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Virtual Genealogical Skills Bootcamp - Winter 2024

American Ancestors
by New England Historic Genealogical Society

Chart # _____
1 of this chart _____ on chart # _____

1 William Dale FULTON
4 DEC 1850, Lowell, Massachusetts

2 Annie KRASER

3 Mary AMBROSE
1852, Bronx, New York

4 James AMBROSE
New York City, New York

5 William John FULTON
1814, Lowell, Massachusetts

6 Charles Edward FULTON
Massachusetts

7 Long Louis BROWN
Waltham, Illinois
Massachusetts

8 Clara Whitton

9 Benjamin Ambrose
Canaan, Maine

10 James Carey
Albany City, New York

11 Patrick Mohan
Co. Monaghan

12 Mary Mohan
Waltham, New York

13 Mary Rogan
Co. Kerry, Ireland

14 Edward Ambrose
22 Rowland

15 James Carey
16 Bridget Barrett

17 Queen Mohan

18 CLINTON

19 Patrick Rogan

20 Mary MacLaughlin
New York City, New York

25

Define what you are looking for:

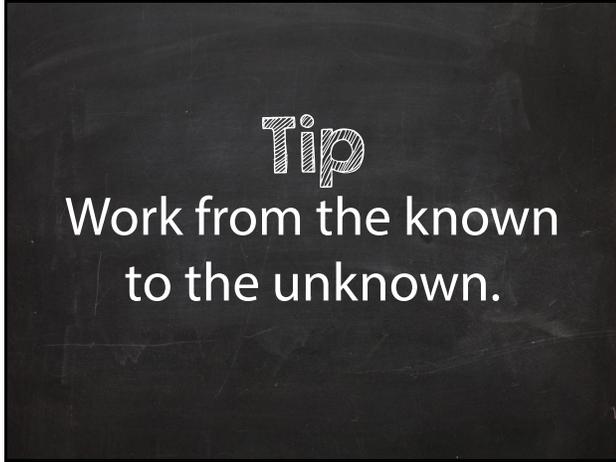
- Birth date/place
- Marriage date/place
- Death date/place
- Maiden name
- Military service
- Education
- Parent's names
- Parent's place of birth
- Immigration year
- Naturalization status
- Siblings' names
- Children's names

26

What information is needed

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
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

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Records

- What is the earliest record that you have located for your ancestor?
 - This will give you a starting point
- What is the last record that you have located for your ancestor?
 - This is not always the end of the trail

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Use these Records to Create a timeline

Purse & Person, John Bagwell, son of Thomas Bagwell.	Deed, Levi & Ebenezer Spencer, Sussex Co., DE, 10 AUG 1769	Will, John Bagwell, Sussex Co., DE, 4 FEB 1766	Census, John Bagwell, Shelby Co., KY, 1839	Pension File, Robert Nutter & Sarah Bagwell, Scott Co., KY, 1844
Deed, John & Elizabeth Bagwell, Sussex Co., DE, 10 JUL 1769	Deed, Levi & Ebenezer Spencer, Sussex Co., DE, 4 SEP 1759	Guardianship, John Bagwell, Sussex Co., DE, 7 MAY 1762	Pension File, David Nutter, Shelby Co., KY, 1 JUL 1839	

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Step #3

List records that will aid in your research

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Types of Records

- Vital Records
- Church Records
- Census
- Cemetery Records
- Immigration Records
- Naturalization Records
- Land and Property
- Probate
- Taxation
- Military
- Newspapers
- Compiled genealogies
- Finding aids
- Local histories
- Family papers

...and more!

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What will help us find what we are looking for?

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
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

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Set up your research log

Source	Name (and include surnames)	Date acquired	Place	Relevant Record	Name	Objective
Civil Records						
Census Records						
Naturalization Records						
Newspapers						
Church Records						
Other						
Probate, Will, and Other Court						

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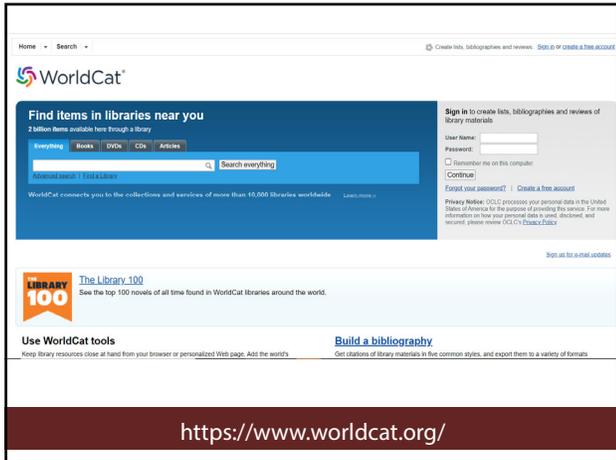


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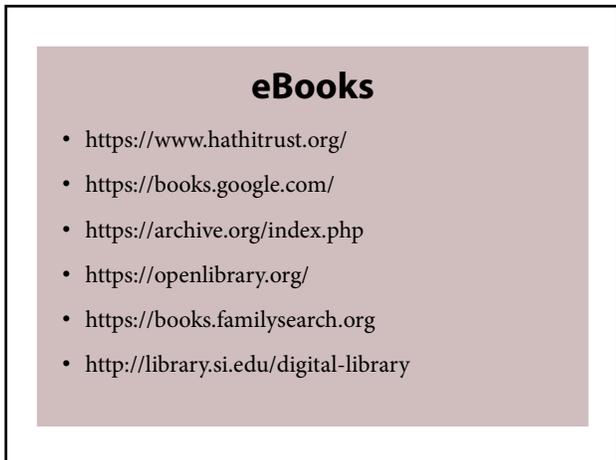
<http://library.nehgs.org/>

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<https://www.worldcat.org/>

38

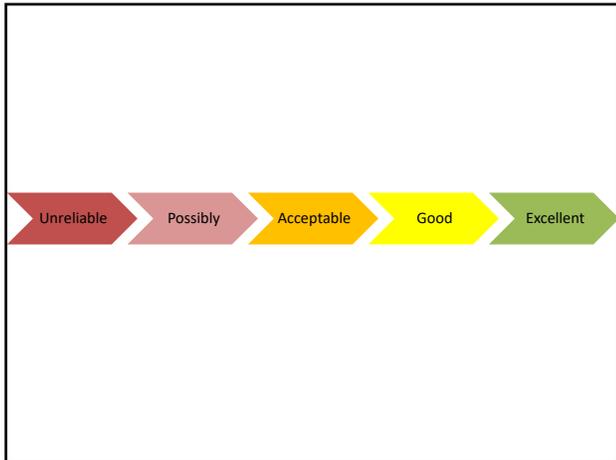


- <https://www.hathitrust.org/>
- <https://books.google.com/>
- <https://archive.org/index.php>
- <https://openlibrary.org/>
- <https://books.familysearch.org>
- <http://library.si.edu/digital-library>

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Return to your Research Log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes	Objective
Birth record	William Henry Brown	Jan 1890	Illinois			Birth record may contain the names of William Henry Brown's parents
Death record	William Henry Brown	after 1900	Illinois, Effingham, Illinois	yes	Original 10 June 1915 death record indicated WHB was son of Emanuel Brown and Alice Baker. He was born in Jefferson, IL.	Death record may contain the names of William Henry Brown's parents
Marriage record	William Henry Brown and Emma Maery	25 Dec 1876	Clay City, Clay, Illinois	yes	Does not provide names of parents, however the record does show WHB as resident of Wayne County and Emma from Clay County, IL.	Marriage record may contain the names of William Henry Brown's parents
Census Records						
1900 United States Federal Census (www.ancestry.com)	Chester Brown/William Henry Brown/Emma (Maery) Brown	1900	Lemard, Wayne, Illinois	yes	Enumerated with both place: Illinois, Jan 1900. Married 1877. Father born Ohio; Mother born Tennessee	Determine place and approximate year of birth to help narrow our search for a vital record
1880 United States Federal Census (www.ancestry.com)	Chester Brown/William Henry Brown/Emma (Maery) Brown	1880	Lemard, Wayne, Illinois	yes	Enumerated with both place: Illinois, about 1850. Father born Ohio; Mother born Tennessee	Determine place and approximate year of birth to help narrow our search for a vital record
Newspapers						
Obituary for William Henry Brown, Published Genealogies	William Henry Brown	1915	Illinois, Effingham, Illinois	yes	named his parents Emanuel Brown and Alice Baker	Obituary may name WHB's parents; death date/place is necessary for a proper search
Wayne County, Illinois - Local Histories (NHL1425)	Emanuel and/or William Henry Brown	1840s-1900s	Wayne County, Illinois	yes	Named his parents Emanuel Brown and Alice Baker and identified his grandparents and great-grandparents	Because of the popularity of the Brown surname, we need more information to narrow our catalog search for a published genealogy; however, we might find a local history

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Research Summary

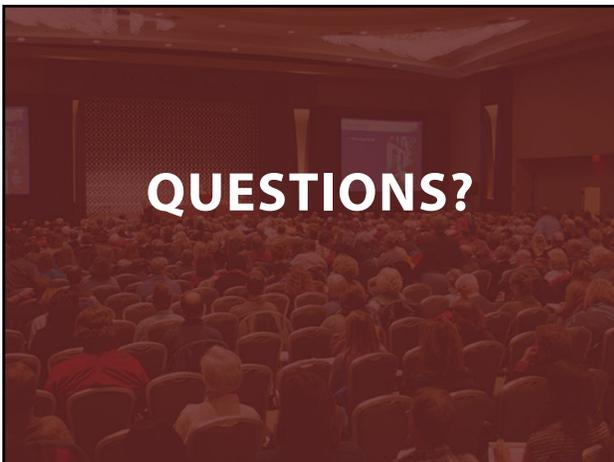
- Address anomalies or mistakes in the research process
- Suggest Alternative Possibilities
- Conclusion
- Provide a Genealogical Summary
- Clearly stated Objective
- Recognition of Earlier Scholarship (Correct or Incorrect)
- Research Summary
 - What did you find?
 - What didn't you find?

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Finalizing the Steps

1. Organize
2. Define your objective
3. List records that will aid in your research
4. Find the resources
5. Research
6. Analyze and make your conclusions

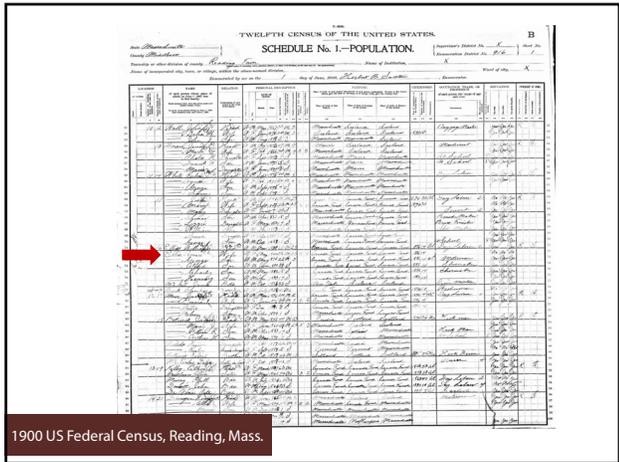
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Activity Part 1 Let's Make a Plan

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59

Objectives

- Obtain the birth record of Annie (_____) Ellis of Reading, Massachusetts
- *We know:*
 - Born in Canada circa 1844
 - First enumerated in the 1900 US Federal Census in Reading, Massachusetts.

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Remember the Steps

1. Organize
2. Define your objective
3. List records that will aid in your research
4. Find the resources
5. Research
6. Analyze and make your conclusions

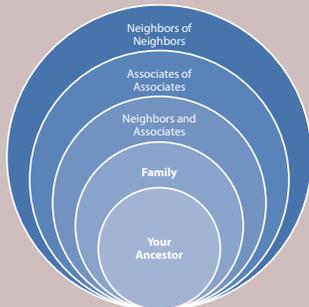
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Set up your research log

Source	Name (and include spellings)	Date acquired	Place	Relevant Record	Notes	Objective
Other Records						
Local Records						
International Records						
Newspapers						
Church Records						
Other						
Website, Wiki, and Other Content						

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Expanding your search



63

F.A.N

- Family
 - Who are the other family members listed with Annie?
 - What records for the family members could help to determine maiden name?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

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What will help us find what we are looking for?

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
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

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Group Work Review

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