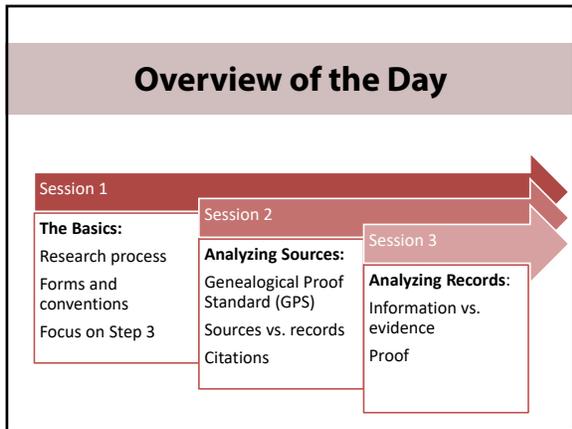
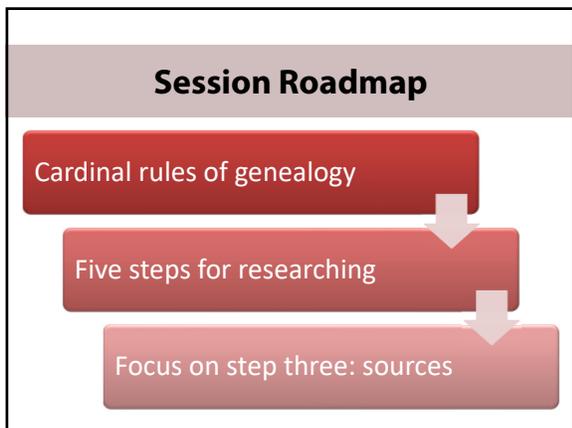


1



2



3

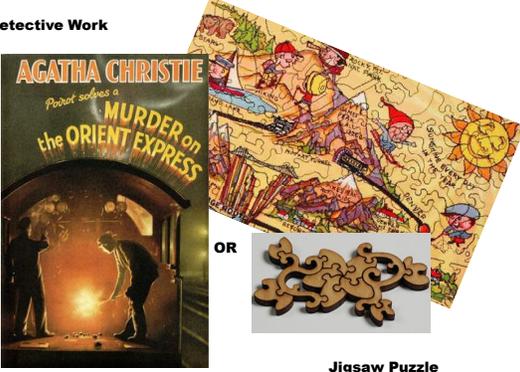
What is Genealogy?

ge-ne-al-o-gy (jēnē'älājē)

- 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

4

Detective Work



OR

Jigsaw Puzzle

5

Why study family history?

- Learn about new people and new places
- Connect your family story to notable events in history
- A window into history – glimpses into other occupations, places, and times



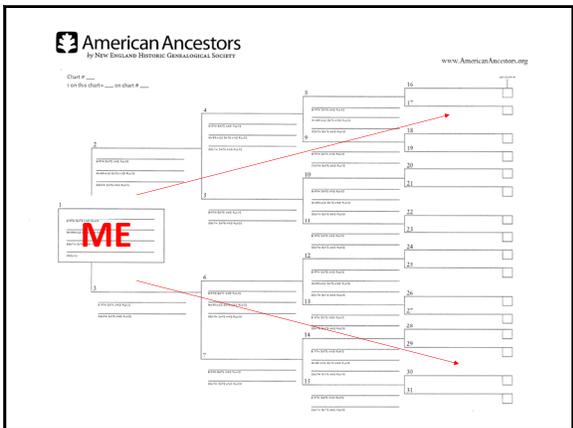
6

Cardinal Rules of Genealogy

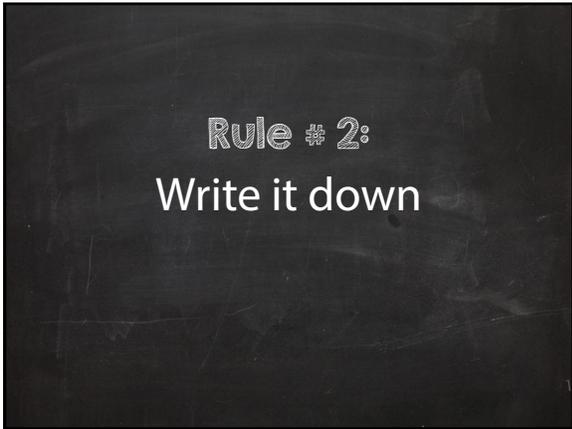
7

Rule #1:
Work from the known
to the unknown

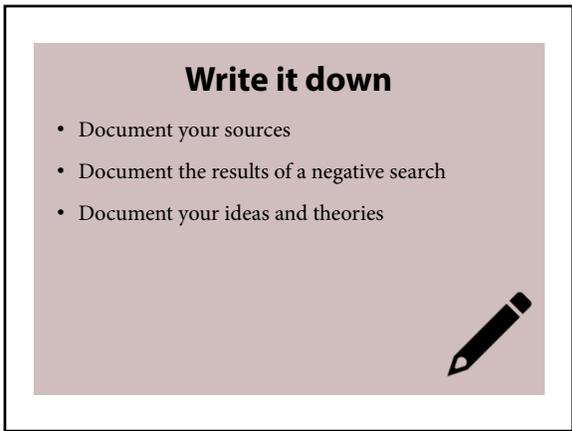
8



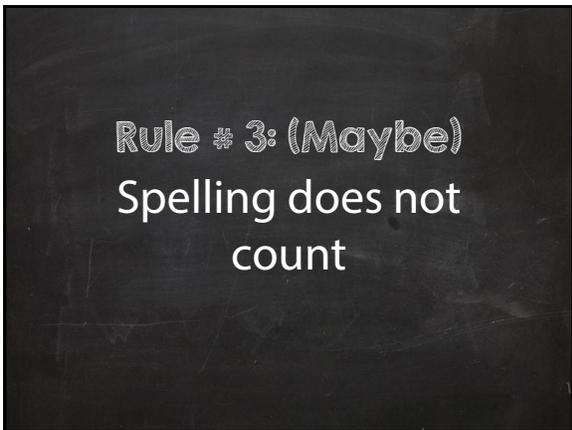
9



10



11



12

Spelling doesn't count

- (Particularly true when it comes to transcriptions)
- von Borstel
- Vonborstel
- Vonbeutel
- Vanborstel/Van Borstel
- Von Vorstel
- Vomboretel
- Von Borstal

13

Session Roadmap

Cardinal rules of genealogy

Five steps for researching

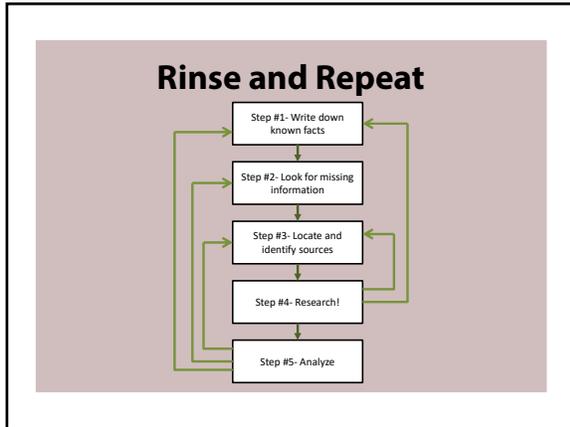
Focus on step three: sources

14

Steps for Researching Your Family

- Step 1 • Identify what you know
- Step 2 • Decide what you want to learn (research goal)
- Step 3 • Identify and locate your sources
- Step 4 • Research!
- Step 5 • Analyze

15



16

Step 1: Identify What You Know

- Plan to record data using a family group sheet, chart, or genealogical software
- Interview yourself
- Talk to relatives—What do they know? What family stories were they told?
 - Take notes or record the conversation

17

The Essential Toolkit

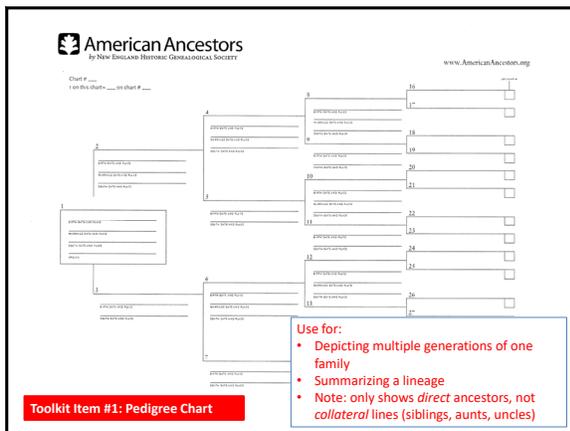
- Notebook – paper or Evernote or One Note
- Pedigree chart
- Family Group Sheet
- Research Plan
- Research Log
- Genealogical software program (optional)

Tip
Always Use Pencil!!

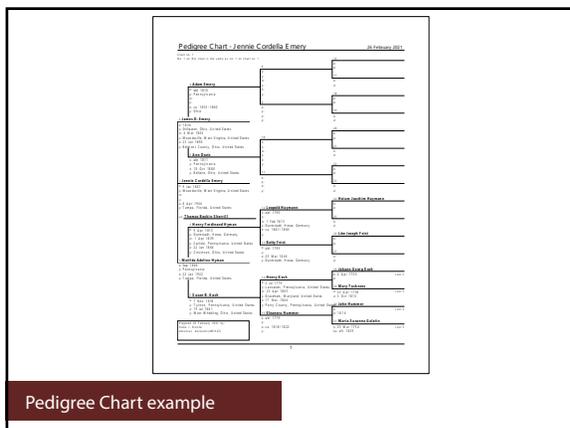
18



19



20



21

22

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?

Bonus Toolkit Item: Interview Questions

23

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

24

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
- If there is ambiguity about a date, copy it exactly as it appears in the original source
- DON'T:
 - Use slash marks: 3/12/1823
 - Use a two-digit year: 3/12/23

25

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

26

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

27

AmericanAncestors
www.AmericanAncestors.org

Hallie Borstel Pedigree Chart

Identify missing information

28

AmericanAncestors
www.AmericanAncestors.org

Family Group Sheet

Lane Family Group Sheet

Identify missing information

29

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?

30

Tip

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.

31

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



32

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

33

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



34

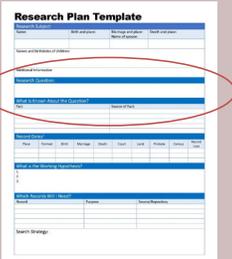
Sample Question

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

35

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



Course Materials: Research Plan Template

36

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 

37

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			

38

What is Known About the Question?

Research Question:
Who are the parents of Elizabeth Harris?

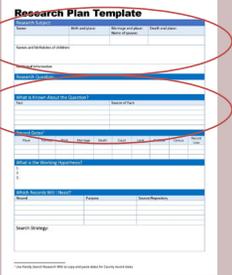
What is Known About the Question?

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

39

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



40

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?



41

Learning About a Place

- Date community was founded
- Dates of earliest records
- Any record loss issues

42

Bennington County, Vermont Record Dates [\[edit | edit source \]](#)

Known Beginning Dates for Major County Records ⁽¹⁾						
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 [view]

- 1 Description
- 2 Bennington County, Vermont Record Dates
- 3 County Courthouse
- 4 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

46

Cut and Paste Dates from Wiki to Template

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

47

Hypothesis Example

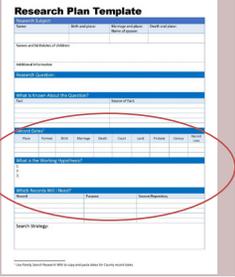
What is the Working Hypothesis?

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

48

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



49

Which Records (General)

Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Marriage records of Manchester, VT	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

50

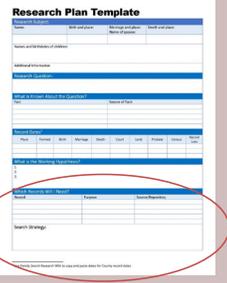
Which Records (Specific)

Which Records Will I Need?		
Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Card index to vital statistics in the early land and town records books, Manchester, VT	First marriage of Elizabeth Harris	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/664510?availability=Family%20History%20Library
Vital records, 1749-1786 of Amenia, NY	First marriage or any mention of Harris family	https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/380341?availability=Family%20History%20Library
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	https://vermonthistory.org/journal/misc/EarlvHistoryOfManchester.pdf

51

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



52

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



53

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!"

54

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

55

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

56

Finding Aids	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research</i> • <i>New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer</i> • <i>Red Book</i> • <i>The Source</i> • <i>American Genealogical and Biographical Index</i> • County and town histories 	

57

Step 5: Analyze

- Don't just read, examine
 - Does the record bring up new questions?
 - How accurate is the record?
 - How accurate is the source?
- Record the information you have
- Record the sources you use

64

Analyze

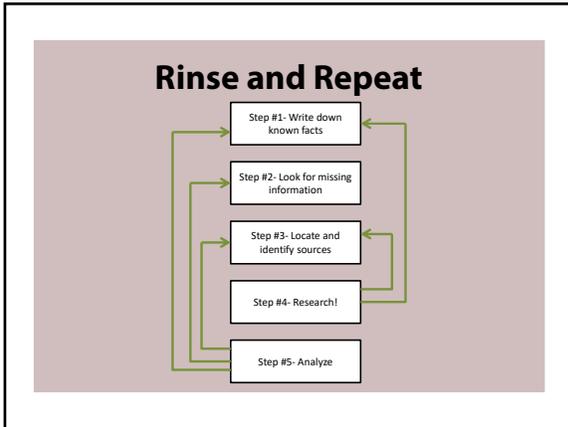
- Evaluate the **Source**
 - Original: first recorded form
 - Derivative: from something already written or spoken
 - Authored: compiled
- Evaluate the **Information**
 - Primary: first-hand (participant)
 - Secondary: secondhand (non-participant)
- Evaluate the **Evidence**
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Negative

65

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?

66



67

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.

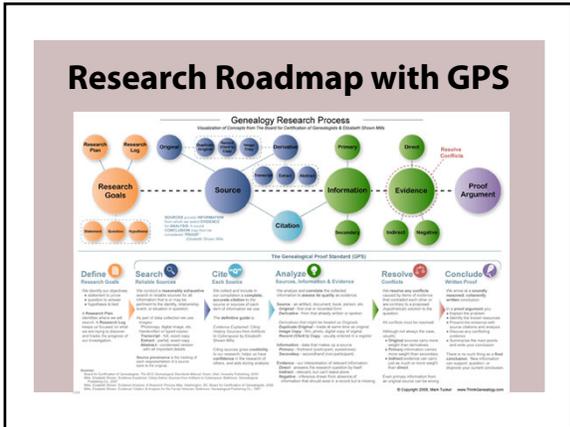
<http://www.bgc certification.org/resources/standard.html>

68

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.

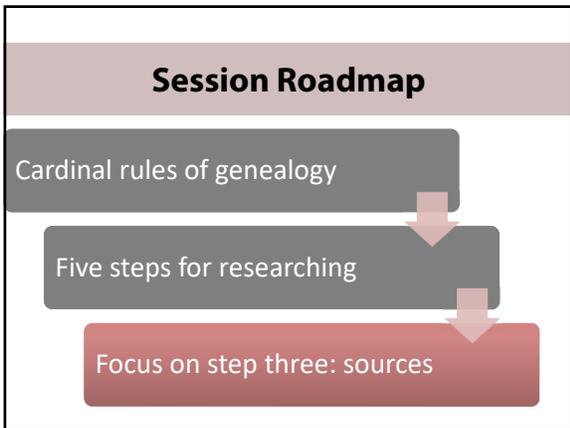
69



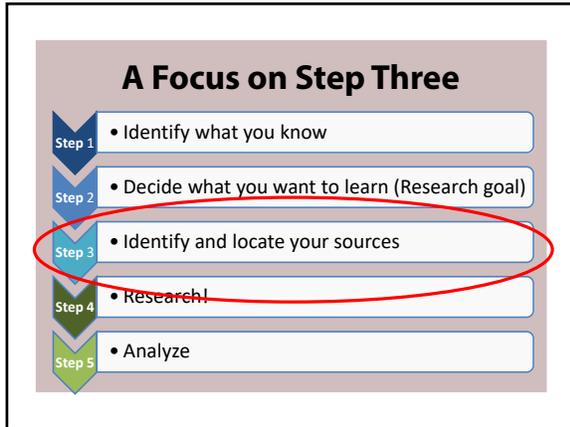
70



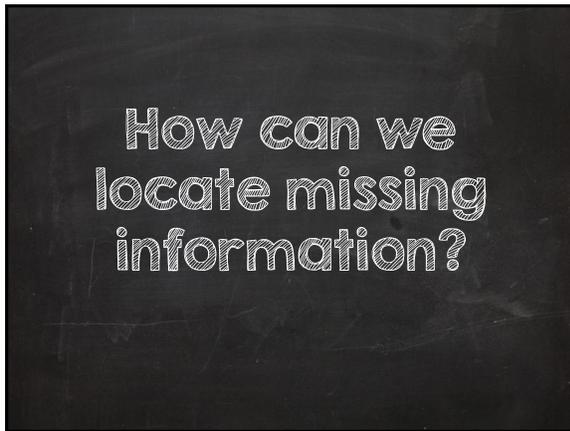
71



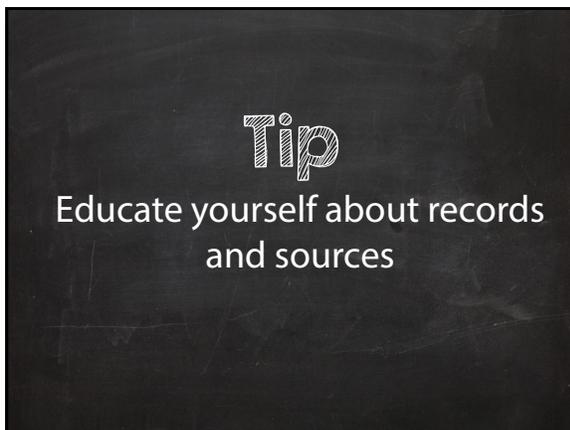
72



73



74



75

Definitions: Sources and Records

- A **source** is a coherent collection of **records** created by a single jurisdiction or a single author for a defined purpose.
- A **record** is that portion of a **source** which pertains to a single event.

Robert Charles Anderson, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis* (Boston: NEHGS, 2014) p. 1

76

Sources and Records

Source: US Federal Census.
Record ?

Source: Church Register.
Record ?

Source: Cemetery.
Record ?

Source: County Court House.
Record ?

77

Standard Records and Sources

78

Genealogists use LOTS of types of records!

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

79

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

80

Tip

What a vital record looks like depends on time and place

81

Rev. Daniel of Grafton and Deborah [d. David c.r.] Hall, May 9, 1776.

GROUT, Betsy of Westborough and Jonas Gale Jr., Nov. 1, 1795. In Westborough.
Jonathan and Sarah De Wolf, Nov. 13, 1811.
Martha, resident in Shrewsbury, and Charles Roberts, Nov. 27, 1744. In Shrewsbury.*

GROVER, Almira H. [of Richmond, N.H., in int.] and Caleb Chase, Sept. 1, 1840.

GROSVENOR, Asa of Pomfret and Hannah Hall, April 24, 1766.*
Chloe of Pomfret, Ct. and Joseph Hall, int. Sept. 4, 1785.
Rev. Daniel of Grafton and Deborah [d. David c.r.] Hall, May 9, 1776.

Phebe D. and William Newton Jr. of Millbury, int. Aug. 20, 1827.

GUNN, Samuel H. of Mendon (s. Justin and Saphronia, a. 20)

Vital Records – published town records

85

Tip

Use the census to anchor your ancestor to a place and time

86

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

87

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

88

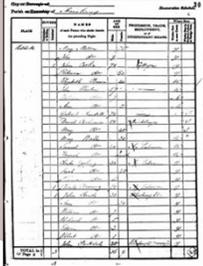
1840 Census Record

89

90

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*
 - *Familysearch.org*
 - *Scotlandspeople.gov.uk*
 - *FindMyPast.com*



94

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/>

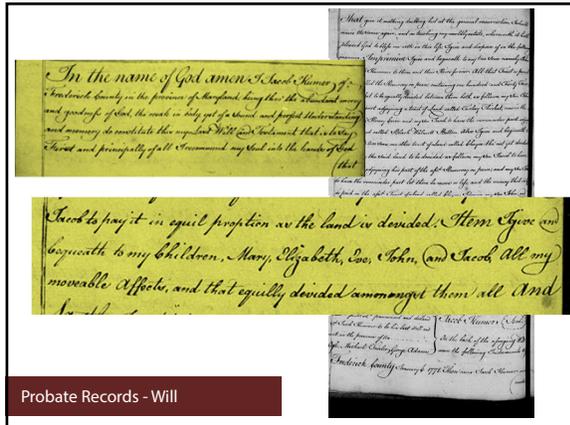


95

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

96



97

Probate Boilerplate

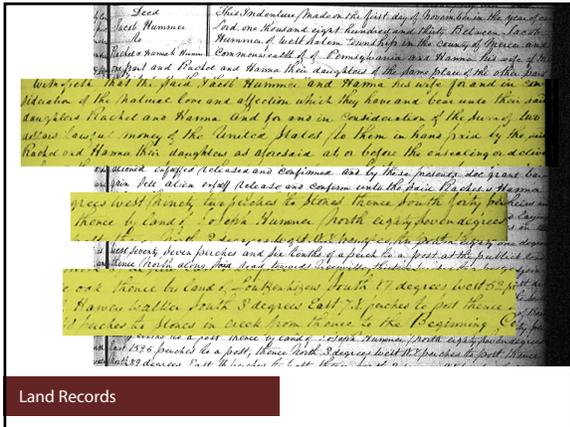
- “In the name of God, Amen I [name] of [County] in [State/Province] being thro’ the abundant mercy and goodness of God, tho weak in body, yet of a sound and perfect understanding and memory do constitute this my Last Will and Testament...”
- “Then came [name 1] and [name 2] the subscribing witnesses 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....”

98

Land Records

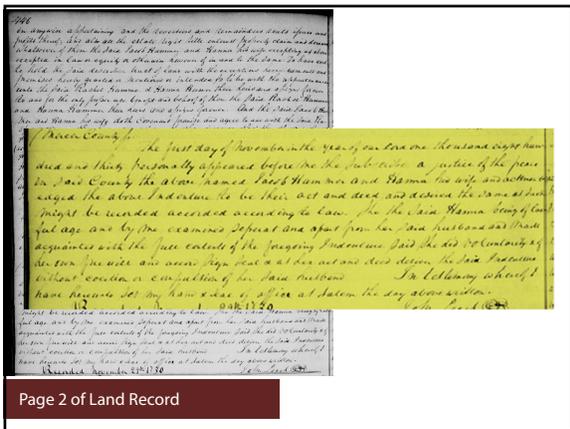
- Use to anchor an ancestor in a time and place
- Can offer clues about economic status, occupation, or standing in the community
- Can be used to confirm family relationships

99



Land Records

100



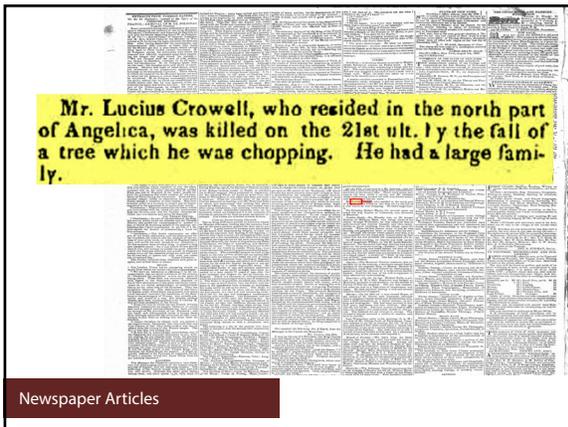
Page 2 of Land Record

101

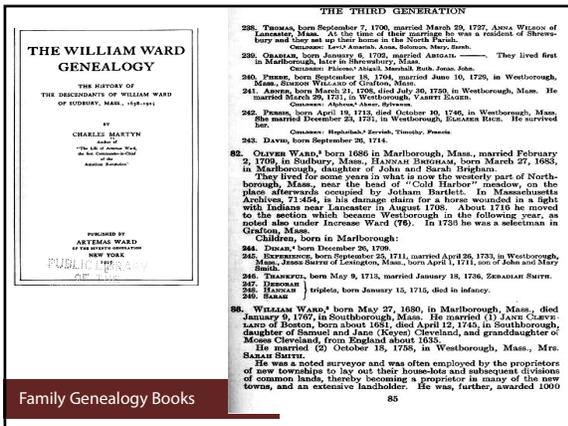
Military Records

- 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

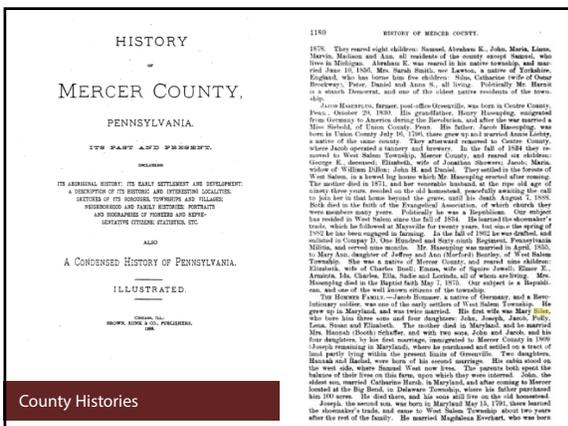
102



109



110



111

Bible Records



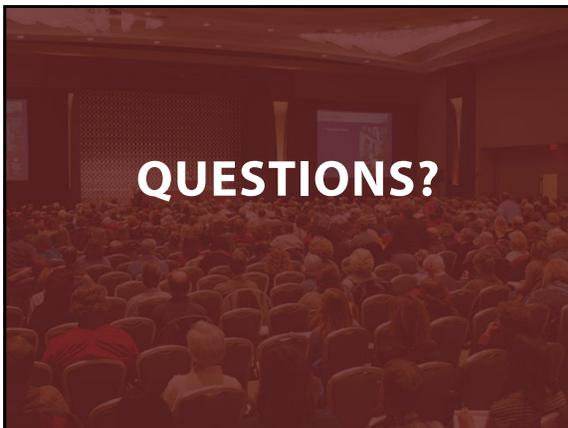
- Rare, but helpful
- Maintained by local historical societies, archives, or genealogical societies (NEHGS)
- Large collection at DAR library in Washington, D.C

115

Summary

- Rule #1 – Work from the known to the unknown
- Rule #2 – Document what you find – write it down, preferably on standard forms
- Five steps
 - Identify what you know
 - Decide what you want to learn
 - Identify and locate your resources
 - Research
 - Analyze
- Records – Contain one or more pieces of genealogical information
- Sources – Contain multiple records

116



QUESTIONS?

117



118
