

Let's look at Document C – Passenger List

Original, Derivative, or Authored?

WOOD & NICHOLS, Notaries Public and Custom House Brokers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y. Sold by McSpedon & Baker, Stationers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Samuel Gorton* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof I am Master, from *Liverpool*

Sworn to this *31st day of May 1855* Before me *Samuel Gorton* So help me God.

Samuel Gorton is Master, from *Liverpool* whereof burthen *10* tons.

NAMES	Age		SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become Inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage
	Years	Months					
<i>Robert Gardner</i>	<i>45</i>			<i> Gentleman</i>	<i> Scotland</i>	<i> England</i>	
<i>Marius Ouel</i>	<i>21</i>				<i> Ireland</i>	<i> United States</i>	
<i>Thomas Hunt</i>	<i>30</i>			<i> Farmer</i>			
<i>Ludan Jr</i>	<i>30</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>John Stephenson</i>	<i>40</i>			<i> Paint-wright</i>			
<i>Elyza Jr</i>	<i>40</i>			<i> None</i>			
<i>James Jefferson</i>	<i>40</i>						
<i>Castroville Jr</i>	<i>25</i>						
<i>Charles Higgins</i>	<i>25</i>			<i> Draper</i>			
<i>John McFadden</i>	<i>25</i>			<i> Jr</i>	<i> Scotland</i>		
<i>James Croft</i>	<i>22</i>			<i> Stone Maker</i>	<i> Ireland</i>		
<i>Elyza Jr</i>	<i>21</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>Michael Falen</i>	<i>27</i>			<i> Non-Multr</i>			
<i>Patriek Merrall</i>	<i>27</i>						
<i>Benjamin Hartman</i>	<i>20</i>			<i> Butcher</i>	<i> Massachusetts</i>		
<i>Samuel Hurdler</i>	<i>18</i>			<i> Shipman</i>	<i> Ireland</i>		
<i>Harrat Jr</i>	<i>40</i>			<i> Farmer</i>			
<i>Margret Jr</i>	<i>60</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>Theresa Jr</i>	<i>18</i>			<i> None</i>			
<i>Elyza Bonnerford</i>	<i>20</i>						
<i>William Blousley</i>	<i>20</i>			<i> Student</i>			
<i>Arthur Kahan</i>	<i>37</i>			<i> Farmer</i>			
<i>Lions Gledston</i>	<i>60</i>			<i> Tailor</i>	<i> England</i>		
<i>Teresa Jr</i>	<i>56</i>			<i> W. I.</i>			

When Was the Record Created?

WOOD & NEEBURN, Notaries Public and Custom House Brokers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.
 Sold by McSpedon & Baker, Stationers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Samuel Yenton* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof I am Master, from *Liverpool* So help me God.
Samuel Yenton

Sworn to this *31st May 1859*
 Before me

List or Manifest OF ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof *Yenton* is Master, from *Liverpool* burthen *10* tons.

NAMES	Age		SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong	The country to which they intend to become inhabitants	Died on the Voyage
	Years	Months					
<i>Robert Goodwin</i>	<i>15</i>			<i>Seaman</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
<i>Charles D.</i>	<i>25</i>			<i>Draper</i>			
<i>Charles Higgins</i>	<i>25</i>			<i>Dr.</i>	<i>Scotland</i>		
<i>John Mc Kibbin</i>	<i>25</i>			<i>Stone Maker</i>	<i>Ireland</i>		
<i>James Croft</i>	<i>22</i>			<i>Wife</i>			
<i>Elyse D.</i>	<i>21</i>						
<i>Michael Falen</i>	<i>27</i>			<i>Non-Multr</i>			
<i>Patrick Merrall</i>	<i>27</i>						
<i>Benjamin Hearnant</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>Butcher</i>	<i>Monmouthshire</i>		
<i>Samuel H. Hurd</i>	<i>18</i>			<i>Shipman</i>	<i>Ireland</i>		
<i>Barrat D.</i>	<i>40</i>			<i>Farmer</i>			
<i>Margaret D.</i>	<i>60</i>			<i>Wife</i>			
<i>Theresa D.</i>	<i>18</i>			<i>None</i>			
<i>Elyse Bonnerford</i>	<i>20</i>						
<i>William Blousay</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>Student</i>			
<i>Arthur Kahan</i>	<i>37</i>			<i>Farmer</i>			
<i>Lionel Gledastor</i>	<i>60</i>			<i>Taylor</i>	<i>England</i>		
<i>Teresa D.</i>	<i>56</i>			<i>Wife</i>			

Sworn to this *31st May 1859*
 Before me

List or Manifest OF ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof *Yenton* is Master, from *Liverpool* burthen

Who Provided the information?

WOOD & NIMBUER, Notaries Public and Custom House Brokers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.
 Sold by McSpedon & Baker, Stationers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Samuel Gorton* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof I am Master, from *Liverpool* So help me God.

Sworn to this *31st day of May 1855*
 Before me *Samuel Gorton*

List or Manifest OF ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Fidelic*
 is Master, from *Liverpool* burthen *10* *27* whereof tons.

NAMES	Age		SEX	OCCUPATION	The country to which they severally belong.	The country to which they intend to become Inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage
	Years	Months					
<i>Robert Gardner</i>	<i>45</i>			<i> Gentleman</i>	<i> Scotland</i>	<i> England</i>	
<i>Marius Ouel</i>	<i>21</i>				<i> Ireland</i>	<i> United States</i>	
<i>Thomas Hunt</i>	<i>30</i>			<i> Farmer</i>			
<i>Susan</i>	<i>20</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>James Brothly</i>	<i>22</i>				<i> Stone Mason</i>	<i> Ireland</i>	
<i>Elyza</i>	<i>21</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>James Brothly</i>	<i>22</i>				<i> Stone Mason</i>	<i> Ireland</i>	
<i>Elyza</i>	<i>21</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>Michael Falen</i>	<i>27</i>			<i> Stone Mason</i>			
<i>Patriek Mairrall</i>	<i>27</i>						
<i>Benjamin Mearns</i>	<i>20</i>			<i> Butcher</i>	<i> Massachusetts</i>		
<i>Samuel Mearns</i>	<i>18</i>			<i> Shipman</i>	<i> Ireland</i>		
<i>Barrat</i>	<i>40</i>			<i> Farmer</i>			
<i>Margret</i>	<i>60</i>			<i> Wife</i>			
<i>Theresa</i>	<i>18</i>			<i> None</i>			
<i>Elyza Bonnerford</i>	<i>20</i>						
<i>William Blousley</i>	<i>20</i>			<i> Student</i>			
<i>Arthur Kahan</i>	<i>37</i>			<i> Farmer</i>			
<i>Lions Gledastor</i>	<i>60</i>			<i> Tailor</i>	<i> England</i>		
<i>Teresa</i>	<i>56</i>			<i> Wife</i>			

Genealogical Information?

WOOD & NIMBUELL, Notaries Public and Custom House Brokers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y. Sold by McSpedon & Baker, Stationers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Samuel Yeaton* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof I am Master, from *Liverpool* So help me God. *Samuel Yeaton*

Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof *Yeaton* is Master, from *Liverpool* burthen *10*

Sworn to this *31st day of May 1854*
Before me

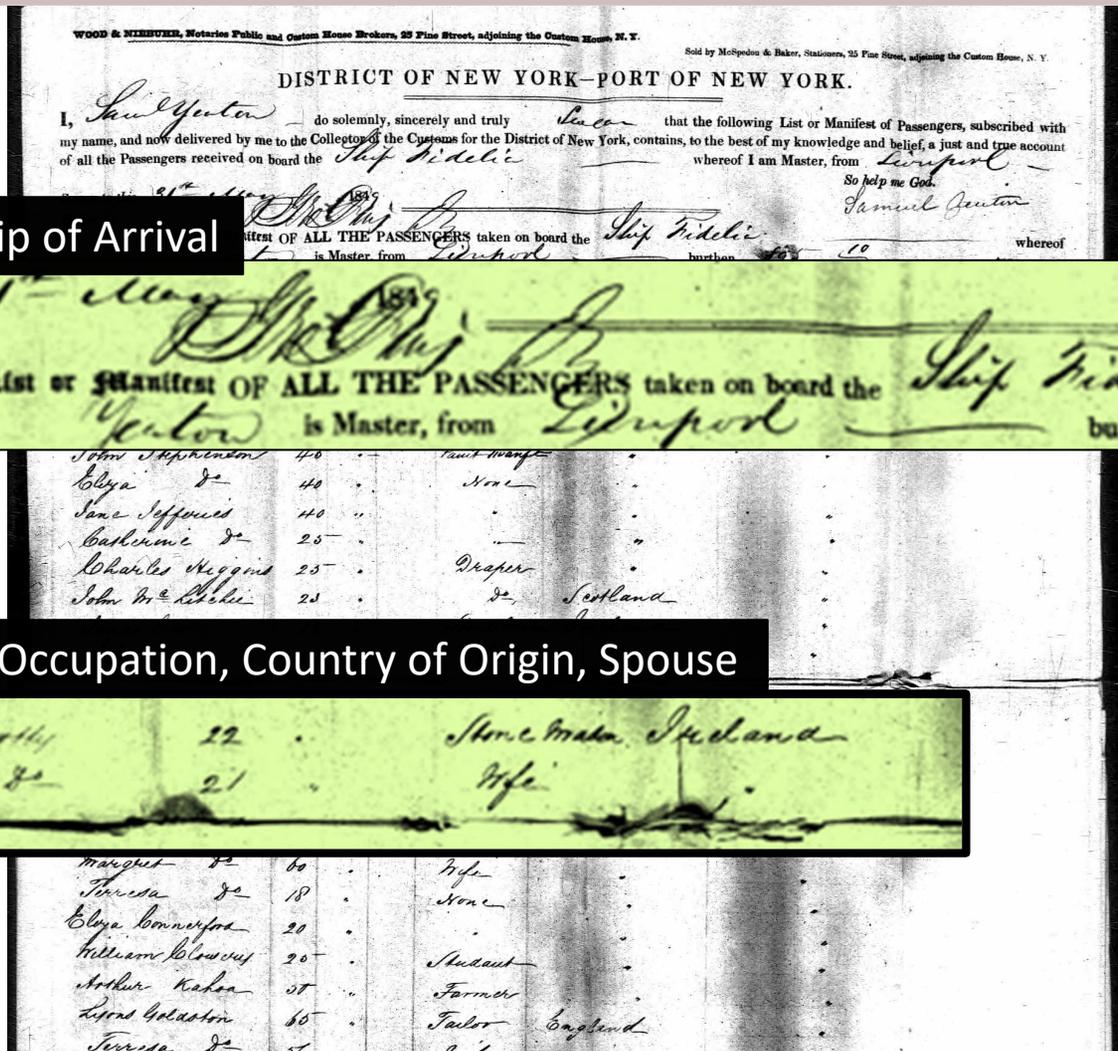
List or Manifest of ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Fidelic*
Yeaton is Master, from *Liverpool* burthen

<i>John Stephenson</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Paul Wright</i>	
<i>Elyza</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>None</i>	
<i>James Jeffries</i>	<i>40</i>		
<i>Charles</i>	<i>25</i>		
<i>Charles Higgins</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Draper</i>	
<i>John M^r Fidelic</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Scotland</i>
<i>James Brothly</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Stone Mason</i>	<i>Ireland</i>
<i>Elyza</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Wife</i>	
<i>Margret</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Wife</i>	
<i>Teresa</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>None</i>	
<i>Elyza Bonnerford</i>	<i>20</i>		
<i>William Blousay</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Student</i>	
<i>Arthur Kaba</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	
<i>Lewis Giddiston</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Taylor</i>	<i>England</i>
<i>Teresa</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>Wife</i>	

Date and Ship of Arrival

Name, Age, Occupation, Country of Origin, Spouse

Information Primary, Secondary, Unknown?



Date and Ship of Arrival

Name, Age, Occupation, Country of Origin, Spouse

Let's look at Document D – Draft Registration

Original, Derivative, or Authored?

Form 1 **30-251** REGISTRATION CARD No. **28**

1 Name in full **George Herman Ruth** Age in yrs. **23**

2 Home address **680 Commonwealth Ave Boston Mass.**

3 Date of birth **Feb 7 1894**

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? **Natural born**

5 Where were you born? **Baltimore Maryland U.S.**

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? **Base Ball - Boston American 28**

8 By whom employed? **Fenway Park -**

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? **None**

10 Married or single (which)? **Married** Race (specify which)? **Caucasian**

11 What military service have you had? Rank **None**; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? **no**

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

George H. Ruth
(Signature or mark)

If person is of alien descent, see of this card.

20-4-8 REGISTRAR'S REPORT **10785**

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? **6' 2"** Slender, medium, or stout (which)? **Medium**

2 Color of eyes? **Brown** Color of hair? **dark** Bald? _____

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? _____

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

WARD **8** *Lewis A. Armstrong*
(Signature of Registrar)

9
Precinct _____
City or County **Boston**
State **Mass**

June 5 1917
(Date of registration)

1078-5

When Was the Record Created?

Form 1 30751 REGISTRATION CARD No. 28

1 Name in full George Herman Ruth Age in yrs. 23

2 Home address 680 Commonwealth Boston Mass.

3 Date of birth Feb 7

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) intention (specify which)? natural born

5 Where were you born? Baltimore Maryland

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Base Ball - Boston American

8 By whom employed? 20 Fenway Park

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? None

10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank None; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? no

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

George H. Ruth
(Signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, mark off this corner

20-4-8, A REGISTRAR'S REPORT 10785

1 Tell, medium, or stout (specify which)? 6' 2" Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Medium

2 Color of eyes? Brown Color of hair? dark Build _____

Ward 8 Signature of registrar George H. Ruth

City or County Boston State Mass Date of registration June 5/1917

1078-5

Who Provided the Information?

Form I 30251 REGISTRATION CARD No. 28

1 Name in full *George Herman Ruth* Age, in yrs. *23*

2 Home *680 Commonwealth Ave Boston Mass.*

20-4-8 REGISTRAR'S REPORT 10785

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? *6' 2"* Stature, medium, or stout (which)? *Medium*

2 Color of eyes: *Brown* Color of hair: *dark* Bald?

Form I 30251 REGISTRATION CARD No. 28

1 Name in full *George Herman Ruth* Age, in yrs. *23*

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? *Base Ball - Boston American Fenway Park -* *28*

8 By whom employed? *Frankie*

9 Where employed? *Frankie*

10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? *Frankie* Race (specify which)? *Russian*

11 Married or single (which)? *Married*

12 What military service have you had? Rank *None*; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? *no*

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

George Herman Ruth
(Signature or mark)

WARD 8 *Lewis A. Armstrong*
(Signature of registrar)

9

City or County *Boston Mass*

State *Mass*

June 5 1917
(Date of registration)

1078-5

What Genealogical Information Is In the Record?

Citizenship

10 78 5

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born

2 Home address (No.) 680 Commonwealth Ave (Street) Boston (City) Mass. (State)

3 Date of birth (Month) Feb (Day) 7 (Year) 1894

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born

5 Where were you born? Baltimore (Town) Maryland (State) U.S. (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Base Ball - Boston American

8 By whom employed? 28 Fenway Park

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? None

10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank None; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? _____

I affirm that I have _____

If person is of African descent, state of this war _____

10 78 5

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born

2 Height (specify which)? 6' 2" Color of eyes? Brown

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? _____

Date and Place of Birth

3 Date of birth (Month) Feb (Day) 7 (Year) 1894

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born

5 Where were you born? Baltimore (Town) Maryland (State) U.S. (Nation)

Occupation

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Base Ball - Boston American

8 By whom employed? 28 Fenway Park

Information Primary, Secondary, Unknown?

Citizenship

Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared you:
intention (specify which)? Natural born

Home address (No.) 680 Commonwealth Ave Boston Mass.
(Street) (City) (State)

Date of birth Feb 7 1894
(Month) (Day) (Year)

Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared you:
intention (specify which)? Natural born

Where were you born? Baltimore Maryland U.S.
(Town) (State) (Nation)

If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Base Ball -

By whom employed? Boston American 28
Where employed? Fenway Park -

Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? None

Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian

What military service have you had? Rank None; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? _____

I affirm that I have _____
If person is of African descent, as of this year _____

REGISTRAR'S REPORT
Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? 6' 2" Slander, medium, or stout (which)? Medium
Color of eyes? Brown
Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? _____

Date and Place of Birth

Date of birth Feb 7 1894
Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared you:
intention (specify which)? Natural born
Where were you born? Baltimore Maryland U.S.

City or County Boston
State Mass
Date of registration June 5/1917

Occupation

What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Base Ball -
By whom employed? Boston American 28
Where employed? Fenway Park -

QUESTIONS?

Session Overview

Analyzing the Information

A light red arrow pointing downwards from the bottom right corner of the first box to the top right corner of the second box.

Evaluating the Evidence

A light red arrow pointing downwards from the bottom right corner of the second box to the top right corner of the third box.

Summing Up

Principles of Analysis

Source

Original

Derivative

Authored

Information

First-hand

Second-hand

Unknown

Evidence

Direct

Indirect

Negative

Information vs. Evidence

- Information = content
 - Raw data or factual statements
- Evidence = interpretation

Definitions: Evidence

- Direct Evidence
 - Straightforward statement of fact
 - Directly answers the genealogical question
 - Caveat: may answer the question, but may not be accurate, e.g. mother's maiden name on a death record
- Indirect Evidence
 - Potentially relevant information
 - Does not answer the question directly
 - Need to assemble pieces of the puzzle to answer the question
- Negative: Absence of information
 - No children on 1820 census, but four children on 1830 census – Provides evidence that children had to have been born after 1820

Not All Information Is Evidence

- Identify the genealogical information in the record and ask:
 - Does this answer my question directly?
 - Can this be used with other evidence to answer my question (indirect evidence)?
- Most records contain multiple pieces of information; only some will be evidence for your question

Maud Bell Plowman's Death Certificate

Information

Evidence for Question...

Date and place of death

Who are Maud's parents?

Cause of death

When did Maud die?

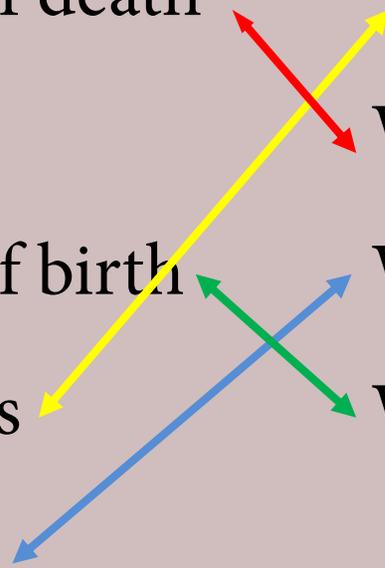
Date and place of birth

Whom did Maud marry?

Names of parents

When was Maud born?

Name of Spouse



Types of Evidence

- Always applies to a specific fact, e.g.
 - Who is the father of Nehemiah Smith?
 - What is the date of birth of Anna?
- Direct: Answers the question by itself, e.g.
 - Record specifies the parent's names
 - Record includes date of birth

Types of Evidence (cont.)

- Indirect: Relevant, but does not stand alone, e.g.
 - Owns a plot of land that was documented as being owned by father, in a time period where land was typically passed father to son
- Negative: Absence of information
 - No children on 1820 census, but four children on 1830 census – Provides evidence that children had to have been born after 1820

Evidence Questions

- Does a single piece of evidence answer my question? (Direct)
- Do multiple pieces of evidence when combined answer my question (Indirect)
- What evidence should have been present if the hypothesis was correct?

Resolving Conflicting Evidence

- State the conflict
- Give possible explanations why the conflict exists
- Solve the conflict through source and information analysis and correlation of different pieces of evidence

When Was George W. Northup Born?

Source	Information	Evidence
<i>Wickford Standard</i> (Wickford, Rhode Island), 13 January 1899, page 3, column 6.	George W. Northup died 7 January 1899 in his 90th year.	Birth year about 1809 (Indirect)
Find a Grave, Elm Grove Cemetery (North Kingston, Rhode Island), memorial for George Washington Northup, memorial number 61202610, created 6 November 2010 by Billy.	Gravestone gives birth year as 1809	Direct for year
U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914	Age as 21 in 1830	Birth year about 1809 (Indirect)

Correlate and Resolve Conflicts

- One piece of evidence directly gives the birth year of 1809
- Two pieces of indirect evidence agree that birth year was 1809. This year is consistent with the direct evidence
- Conclusion? Birth year was 1809.

When Did Elizabeth Northup Die?

Source	Information	Evidence
Ancestry Trees	Died 1855; died 1820	Death in either 1820 or 1855
Will of Samuel Northup, 20 June 1840	“My wife Elizabeth” given bedding and other personal items	She is alive in 1840
U.S. 1840 Census	She is living in North Kingston	She is alive in 1840
U.S. 1850 Census	She is not enumerated	If she were alive, she would have been enumerated. Negative evidence for death before 1850.
<i>Graveyards of North Kingstown, Rhode Island</i> (North Kingstown, RI : A.H. McAleer, 1992).	Cemeteries in North Kingston were family owned. Most plots contain unmarked fieldstones as the community was heavily Baptist and Quaker.	Will not find a gravestone record for her death.

Correlate and Resolve Conflicts

- Two conflicting dates from Ancestry trees. Both trees lack any attached documentation. These dates will be discarded.
- She was alive in 1840 per her husband's will and the 1840 census.
- She is missing from the 1850 census. This is negative evidence.
- Conclusion? Died between 1840 and 1850.

Session Overview

Analyzing the Information

A light red arrow pointing downwards from the bottom right corner of the first box to the top right corner of the second box.

Evaluating the Evidence

A light red arrow pointing downwards from the bottom right corner of the second box to the top right corner of the third box.

Summing Up

Written Summary: Putting It All Together

- Clearly state the question you are trying to answer
- Assemble your evidence (*related to question*)
- Plan for writing (Choose one)
 1. Building blocks – lead with strongest piece of evidence; support with additional pieces
 2. Syllogism (If A=B and B=C then A=C)
 3. Multiple hypotheses (useful for same name situations)

When Was George W. Northup Born?

Information	Type of Evidence	Quality of Source and Information
Obituary state age of "in 90 th year"	Indirect for year	Original source, notice created soon after death, informant unknown
Gravestone gives birth year as 1809	Direct for year	 <p>Original tombstone, modified in 1930's, unknown date of creation and informant</p>
Army enlistment gives age as 21 in 1830	Indirect for year	Original source, informant known (George W.), creator known (army clerk), date of creation not known

Outline: Presenting the Evidence

- Overview and research question
- Item 1 – analysis and correlation
- Item 2 – analysis and correlation
- Item 3 – analysis and correlation
- Conflict resolution (if you haven't yet woven it in)
- Final statement

Written Summary – Samuel Northup Death

Overview with Question

Neither a vital record nor a gravestone with a date of death has been located for Samuel Northup. Nonetheless, his death date is known thanks to the Smith family and a book by Marston Watson, corroborated by a probate filing and the existence of a family cemetery plot.

Item 1

Samuel Northup died 13 November 1841 according to a Smith family compilation of old almanacs. The compilation was undertaken after a fire destroyed most of North Kingston's vital records in 1870. Marston Watson also gives a 13 November 1841 death date in his book *Royal Families - Americans of Royal and Noble Ancestry*. The informant for both these works is unknown.

Written Summary (cont.)

- Item 2 A death date of 13 November 1841 is supported by the proving of his will on 10 January 1842 when he names his wife Elizabeth, six sons, and one daughter who all were still living. Since courts usually met quarterly, the first opportunity to file probate for a November death would be the January 1842 court.
- Item 3 Early cemeteries in North Kingstown are family plots. It wasn't until 1851 that a town cemetery was opened. The McAleer book, *Graveyards of North Kingstown, Rhode Island* notes that since many settlers of the area were Baptist or Quaker and thus prohibited from making "graven images," many of the family graveyards lack names and dates on a sizeable number of stones. The book notes that the graveyard where Samuel's father Zebulon is buried has between 14 and 20 unmarked fieldstone graves. Zebulon died in October of 1841. His grave has a marker. Samuel's grave is probably one of the 14 to 20 unmarked fieldstone graves mentioned in the McAleer book.

Written Summary (cont.)

Conclusion Although a gravestone with a date has not been located for Samuel Northup, his death date is known thanks to the Smith family and Watson's book. It is highly likely that Samuel and his wife Elizabeth are buried in the same graveyard as Zebulon, but with a simple, undated, fieldstone marker. The evidence consistently points to a death date for Samuel Northup of 13 November 1841.

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.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

Session Summary

- Evaluate each piece of information in a record:
 - How soon after the event was it captured?
 - Who was the informant?
 - Is the information first- or second-hand?
- Not all information is evidence
 - Evidence is specific to your question
- Is the evidence direct, indirect, or negative?
- To write up your proof – state your question and introduce the evidence a piece at a time, evaluating the quality of the source and information for each piece.

QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education