

1

---

---

---

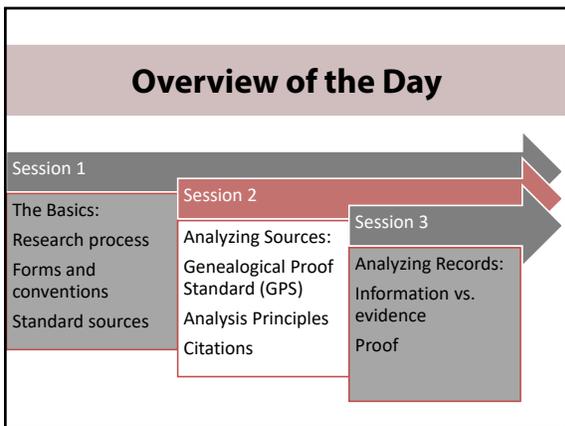
---

---

---

---

---



2

---

---

---

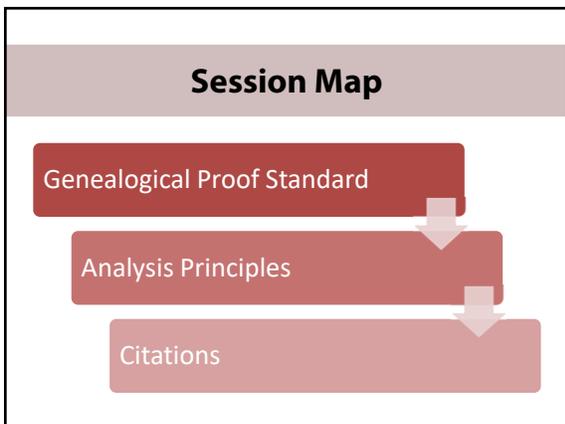
---

---

---

---

---



3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Genealogical Proof Standard**

- Minimums for credible research
- Particularly useful for indirect evidence
- Sometimes needed for lineage society applications
- A good way to “check in” about where your research stands



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

4

**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>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

5

**Reasonably Exhaustive Search**



- Not “exhaustive”
- Sources that a reasonable genealogist would use

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

6



**Analysis**

- Analysis is layered
- What is the quality/type of the...
  - Source?
  - Information?
  - Evidence?

10

---

---

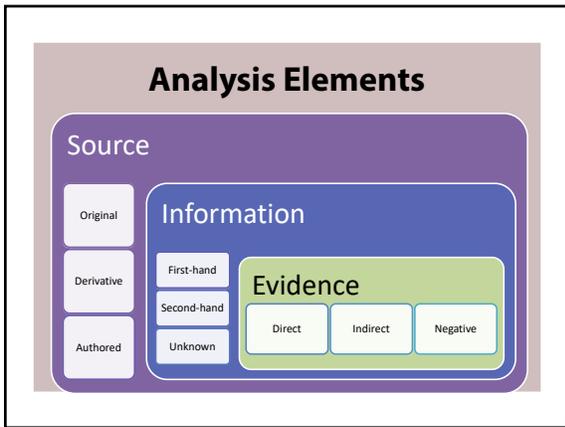
---

---

---

---

---



11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Analyze the Source**

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

13

---

---

---

---

---

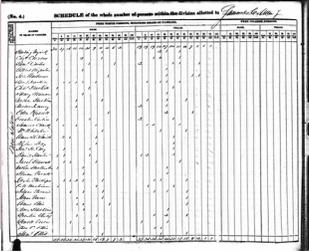
---

---

---

**Analysis**

- First question: is it original or derivative?



14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Original Sources**

- Original – From the time period being researched. Includes:
  - Duplicate original
  - Record (Clerk's) copy
  - Image copy
- Digital copies, microfilm, microfiche **considered original for analysis purposes**

• BCG Article - QuickLesson 10

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Derivative Sources**

- Derivative – Written by someone who did not experience the events or time period. Includes:
  - Transcripts
  - Extracts
  - Abstracts
- [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Primary\\_sources](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Primary_sources)

16

---

---

---

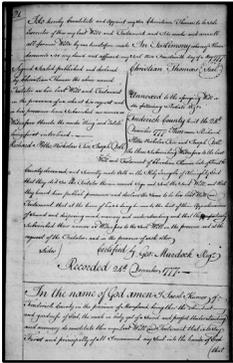
---

---

---

---

---



**Original Probate** Frederick County Maryland Probate Records

17

---

---

---

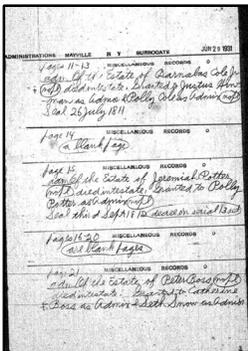
---

---

---

---

---



**Derivative Probate** AmericanAncestors Database

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Special Class of Sources

- Authored works
  - Compiled genealogies

The image shows two book covers. On the left is 'THE Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635, VOLUME I A-B' by Robert G. Smith, Andrew G. Smith, and Jeffrey J. Brantley. On the right is 'MAYFLOWER FAMILIES Through Five Generations' by Thomas Rogers, Second Edition.

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Summary of Source Analysis

- Is it...?
  - Original
  - Derivative
  - Authored

The image displays historical documents. On the left is a 'SCITUATE BIRTHS' record for 1634. On the right is a 'RETURN OF A BIRTH' record for 1634. In the foreground is the cover of 'MAYFLOWER FAMILIES Through Five Generations' by Thomas Rogers.

23

---

---

---

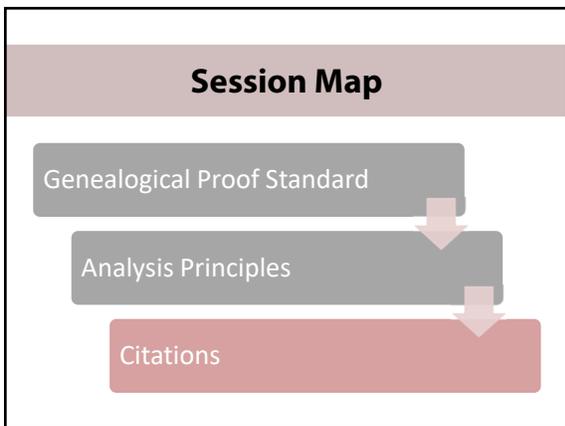
---

---

---

---

---



24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Why Bother With Citations?

1. Knowing the source of a fact allows you, or someone else, to go back and find it again
2. Knowing the source of a fact helps you evaluate its credibility
3. Citations are part of the Genealogical Proof Standard

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

25

### 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>

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

26

## Tip

Cite everything that is not common knowledge

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

27

**Citation Principles**

- Capture enough information about the source and its record so you can find the record a second time.
- Thomas W. Jones, noted genealogist, has said,
  - “This idea that there is one way to cite a source is **false**.” [emphasis added] (2015, APG Conference\*)
- Pick a style and stick with it – consistency is key.

\*Thomas W. Jones, Mastering Genealogical Proof, Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013, pp38-40.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

28

**Capturing Enough to Find Again  
Nesting Doll Principle**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

29

**Citation is an Art**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

30

**Citation Elements**

- **Who** (or what) created the source?
  - Author
  - Organization
- **What** is the source?
  - Book title
  - Database name
  - Not the website name – that is the publisher
- **When** was the source created?
  - Date the source was created
  - Date the record within the source was created
  - Date the record was accessed

\*Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof*, Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013, p40.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

31

**Citation Elements (cont.)**

- **Where IS** the source now?
  - Publisher
  - Geographic location
  - Repository
  - Web address
- **Where IN** the source is the item?
  - Volume and page number
  - NARA roll
  - Certificate number
  - Person and event

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

32

**General Citation Format**

Who

→

What

→

Where IS

→

Where IN

When



Velcro Principle – Don't separate items that ought to stick together

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

33

**Documentation Conventions**

- Book titles and journal names are *italicized*
- Database names, article titles are in "quotes"
- Parentheses for publication details (print and online)
- Semicolons divide complex citations with two or more layers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

34

**Citation Examples**

- Book – One layer
- Draft Card – Two layer
  - Website information and record of interest
  - Source of the Source (Original record)
- Census – Three layer
  - Original source that has been digitized and record of interest
  - The website provider information
  - The Source of the Source (where the website found the information)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

35

**Citation Example**

- Find A Grave –Two layer
  - Website information and record of interest plus creator of memorial
  - Source of the Source – Cemetery information
- Cemetery – One layer
  - Cemetery information and record of interest
- Newspaper – Two layer

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

36

### Source Citations - Books

**Who**  
Author (first name first)

**What**  
Title, followed by subtitle, in italics

Martin E. Hollick, *New Englanders in the 1600s: Expanded Edition* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 125.

**Where IS and When**  
Location within parentheses (City, Publisher, year). When the city is well known, you can omit the state.

**Where IN**  
Page number

End with a period.

37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Tip

Most citations will have several layers

38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Two Principles for Writing a Citation

**Velcro**      **Nesting Dolls**



39

---

---

---

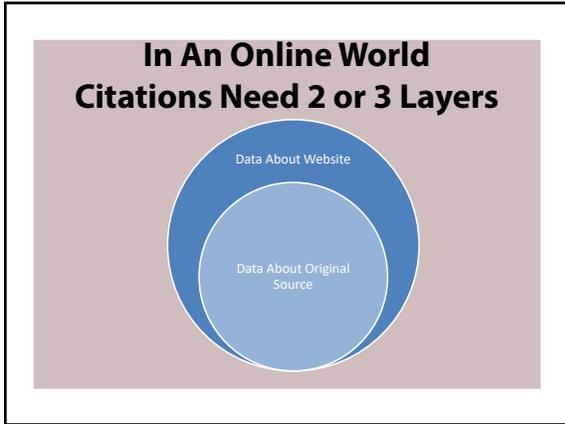
---

---

---

---

---



40

---

---

---

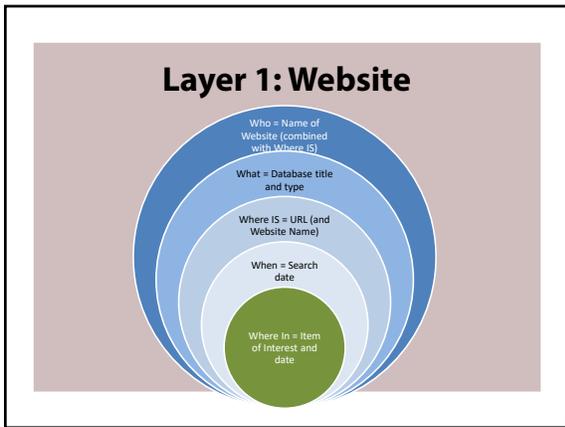
---

---

---

---

---



41

---

---

---

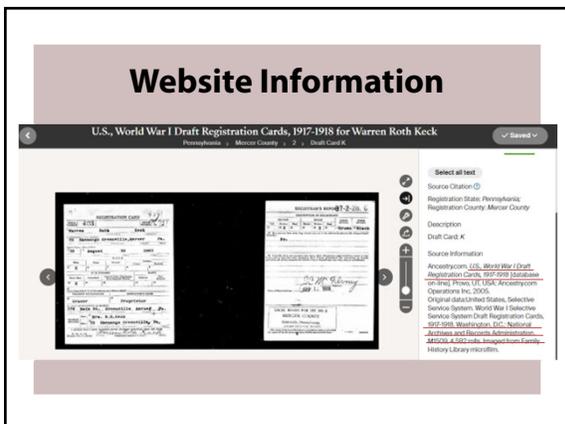
---

---

---

---

---



42

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Website Information – Cont.

Who	Website Name	Ancestry
What	Database Name	"U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," digital Images
Where IS	URL	<a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a>
When	Date Accessed	20 April 2022
Where IN	Record of interest	Draft card for Warren Roth Keck, serial no. 423, order no. 4721, Draft Board Division 2, Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania

43

---

---

---

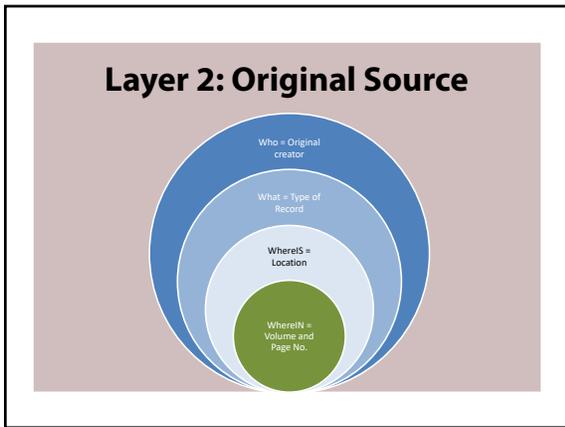
---

---

---

---

---



44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Selective Service Information

Who	Author	U.S. Selective Service System
What	Title	Draft Board Division 2
Where IS	Location	Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania
Where IN	Details	NARA Microfilm M1509
When	Often omitted	12 September 1918



Registration State: Pennsylvania  
Registration County: Mercer County

Description  
Draft Card: K

Source Information  
Ancestry.com, U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 (database on-line), Plover, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2025.  
Original data: United States, Selective Service System, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, M1509, 4,502 rolls, traced from Family History Library microfilm.

45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Citations - Online Database

Layer 1: The Website information

“U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” digital images at Ancestry (www.ancestry.com : accessed 20 April 2022), draft card for Warren Roth Keck, serial no. 423, order no. 4721, Draft Board Division 2, Greenville, Mercer County, PA; citing NARA microfilm M1509, no roll number given.

Layer Divider

Layer 2: The Original Record

---

---

---

---

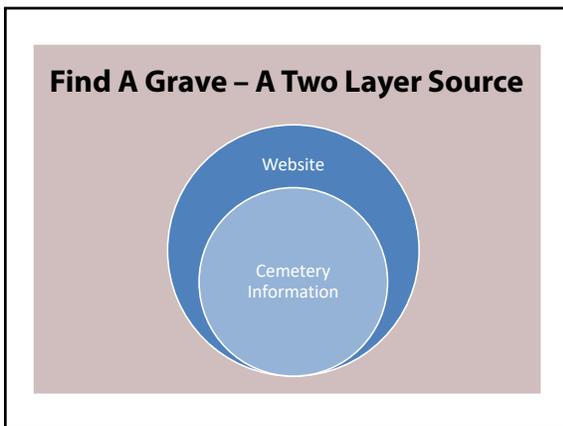
---

---

---

---

46




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

47

### Layer 1: Website Information

Who	Author/Creator	Find A Grave
What	Title	omitted
Where IS	Location /Repository /Web Address	www.findagrave.com
Where IN	Memorial Page	154008051 for Louisa Thaxter Danielson <b>added by Elizabeth on 20 Oct 2015</b>
When	Date Accessed	3 January 2018

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

48

### Layer 2: Cemetery Information

Who	Omitted	
What	Cemetery Name	Limington Village Cemetery
Where IS	Location /Repository /Web Address	Limington, York, Maine
Where IN	Omitted	
When	Omitted	

**Louisa Thaxter Danielson**  
 Created by: Elizabeth  
 Added: 20 Oct 2015  
 Find A Grave Memorial 15408051

BIRTH: 1 Sep 1823  
 DEATH: 2 May 1898 (aged 64)  
 BURIAL: Limington Village Cemetery, Limington, York County, Maine, USA  
 MEMORIAL ID: 15408051 - View Source

SAVE | SAVE TO | SUGGEST EDITS

MEMORIAL | PHOTOS | FLOWERS

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

49

### Citations – Find A Grave

*Find A Grave*, digital image ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) : viewed 3 January 2018) memorial # 15408051 for Louisa Thaxter Danielson, added by “Elizabeth,” 20 October 2015; citing Limington Village Cemetery, Limington, York County, Maine.

Creator information velcroed to memorial number

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

50

### Evidence Explained Template Online Source

- “Name of Database” in quotation marks
- Type of database (BMD/land, etc.)
- *Title of Website in Italics* (URL : access date)
- specific item of interest
- SOURCE-OF-THE-SOURCE DATA.

QuickLesson 26: Evidence Explained

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

51

**Exceptions to the Rule**

- Census – Original record first with extra detail
- Newspapers – Original record first

---

---

---

---

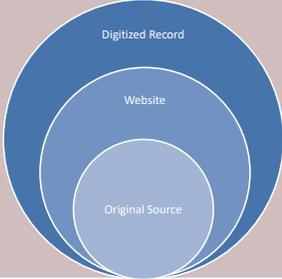
---

---

---

52

**Census Records – Three Layers**



---

---

---

---

---

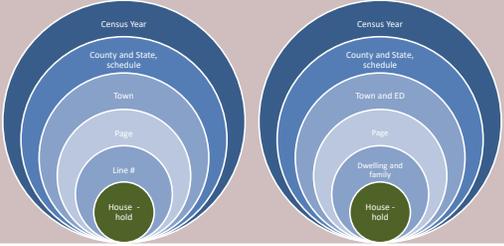
---

---

53

**Layer 1: Digitized Record**

**1790-1840**      **1850 onward**



---

---

---

---

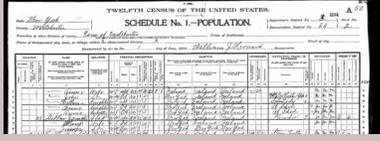
---

---

---

54

### Digitized Record Information



<b>Who</b>	Omitted	
<b>What</b>	Title and schedule	1900 U.S. Federal Census, Population Schedule
<b>Where</b>	County, State, Town, ED	Westchester, New York, Eastchester, ED 64
<b>Where IN</b>	General to Specific	Page 2A, dwelling 20, family 26, household of James Bellew
<b>When</b>	Omitted	

55

---

---

---

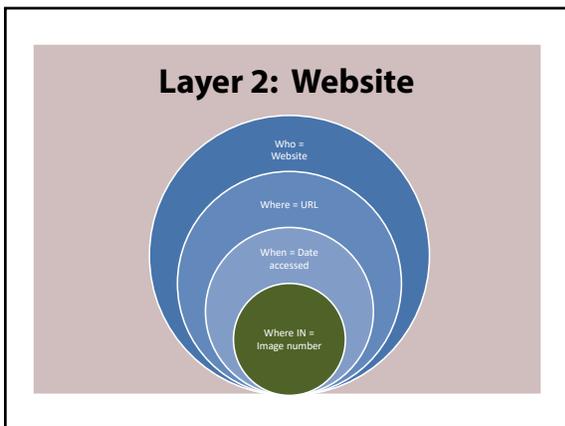
---

---

---

---

---



56

---

---

---

---

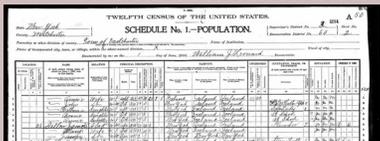
---

---

---

---

### Census Website Information



<b>Who</b>	Website	Ancestry
<b>What</b>	Title	Covered in Layer 1
<b>Where IS</b>	Web Address	Ancestry.com
<b>Where IN</b>	General to Specific	Covered in Layer 1
<b>When</b>	Date Accessed	26 March 2020

57

---

---

---

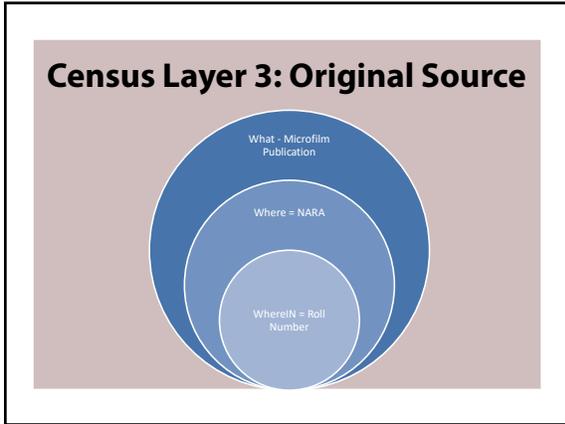
---

---

---

---

---



58

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Layer 3: Original Source

Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

Who	Omitted	
What	Title	NARA Microfilm T623
Where IS	Omitted	
Where IN	Roll Number	Not given
When	Omitted	

59

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Citation – Census Record

Enumeration District (ED) "velcroed" to Town
Exact spelling on census

"1900 U.S. Federal Census," Westchester, New York, population schedule, Eastchester, ED 64, page 2A, dwelling 20, family 26, household of James Bellew; digital image at *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) : accessed 27 March 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, no roll number given.

Semi-colon layer divider

60

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Tip**

Use exact name spelling as it appears on the original

61

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Newspaper Citations

**THE DEATH ROLL.**

**FRED HOMER.**

Word was telegraphed here Saturday evening of the death, at Copitan, New Mexico, of Fred Homer, of Greenville and Cleveland. The remains will be brought here for burial and are expected to arrive on Wednesday, when the Knights of Pythias, of which he was a member, will take charge of the funeral arrangements.

Mr. Homer was born in this place about 38 years ago, and was the youngest son of Josiah Homer, Clarksville street. A few years ago he married Miss Jennie Stinson, of this place, and they went to Cleveland to reside, where he was engaged in the electrical business. The wife and one son survive.

Mr. Homer was a young man of sterling qualities and will be mourned by a host of friends.

The immediate cause of death was pneumonia, although he had been ailing from lung trouble for some time, and his trip to New Mexico was for the benefit of his health.

- Article Title: "The Death Roll"
- Newspaper: Record-Argus
- Location (Greenville, Mercer, PA)
- Website: Newspapers.com
- Accessed: 2 Feb 2005

62

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Newspapers – Original Source First

Original Source		
What	Article Title	"The Death Roll"
What	Newspaper	Record-Argus
Where IS	Location	Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania
When	Publication Date	2 Feb 1903
Where IN	Page and Column	Page 5, column 4

Website		
Who	Website	Newspapers.com
What	Image or transcription	Digital image
Where IS	URL	www.newspapers.com
When	Date accessed	25 Feb 2005

63

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Citation - Newspaper**

- “Death Roll,” Record-Argus (Greenville, Mercer, Pennsylvania), 2 February 1903, page 5, column 4; digital image viewed at Newspapers.com (www.newspapers.com : accessed 25 Feb 2005).

64

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Tip**  
Cite as you write!

65

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**QUESTIONS?**

66

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Group Discussion**

1. Citing a death certificate
2. Citing a newspaper death notice
3. Citing a census record

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

67

**Death Certificate from NYC Municipal Archives**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

68

**Newspaper notice from GenealogyBank.com**

---

---

---

---

---

---

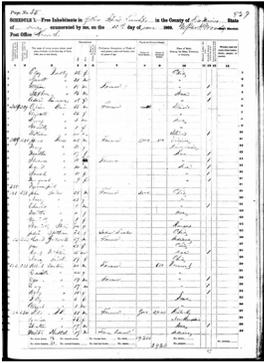
---

---

---

---

69



1860 Census from Ancestry.com

From Ancestry.com:

**Source Citation**  
 Year: 1860; Census Place: Yellow Springs, Des Moines, Iowa; Roll: M653\_319; Page: 35; Family History Library Film: 803319.

**Description**  
 City: Yellow Springs.

**Source Information**  
 Ancestry.com. 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.  
 Original data: 1860 U.S. census, population schedule. NARA microfilm publication M653, 1,438 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

70

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Citations Summary**

- Citations help you find the record again and help you evaluate the quality of what you found
- Capture Who (Author, Organization), What (Title), Where IS (Publisher, location), Where IN (Record of Interest), When (date – velcroed to item)
- Think of nesting dolls and moving from general to specific
- Remember to Velcro dates to appropriate element
- Citations are an art; do not get tied in knots over them

71

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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>

72

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

1/17/2024



73

---

---

---

---

---

---

---