

Writing and Publishing Your Family History

Class 3: Adding Story to Family History

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Kyle Hurst

Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

Introduction

Americans tend to enjoy rags-to-riches stories and the idea of the self-made man, but as a famous philosophy thesis posits, nothing comes from nothing. A successful person who overcame hardships still came from a web of families that passed on their talents, values, and work ethic. This book, *Ancestors of Albert James Zdenek, Sr. and Rose Marie Mildred Prince*, shows how a diverse background led to the many accomplishments of Albert J. Zdenek, Jr.

These woven-together families came from different places. The ancestors of Albert James Zdenek, Sr. and Rose Marie Mildred Prince emigrated from four European countries: Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, and England. Two families—Zdenek and Janoušek—hailed from South Bohemia; four—Prince, Molitor, Hitt, and Huber—came from Germany, the regions of Trier, perhaps Westphalia, and Swabia, respectively. The English families included Bailey, Fletcher, and Wine/Wines, while the Irish contingency included the Kennedy, Johnston, Grew, McGinnis, and Hagerty families.

The families met and blended together in the America “melting pot.” Having arrived in P York, Delaware, and Virginia, the descendants eventually made Philadelphia ily (in Delaware by 1790), the Huber family (in ew York by 1790 and probably as early as 1661) all o and then to Indiana. In Illinois, a Kennedy bride in 1909. During the Great Depression, the couple moved their family to Philadelphia. On Rose Marie’s side, families like Prince, Molitor, Johnston,



Voice of
Kyle Hurst
Senior Genealogist

Components

- Family = genealogical sketches
- History = context
- Story = combine genealogical, biographical, contextual facts

Justice Bayless/Bailey was born probably in New York, about 1760, and died after 1850. He married by 1788, **Sarah _____**, born in New York, about 1766.



Orange County, New York was just over the river from Upper Smithfield Township. Originally, the township was in Wayne County, then in Pike County when that divided, and finally in Monroe County.



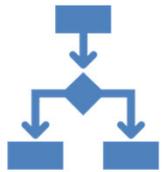
Justice Bailey, like many who lived through the formation of the United States of America, was quite mobile. As new lands and new transportation options opened up, Justice continually moved westward across his new country.

Get organized... again

Review

1. Organize ideas then data
2. Table of contents
3. Structure
4. Consider deadlines
5. Consider audience

Incorporating narrative into genealogy



Insert after birth-death-marriage info, **within** a genealogical sketch.



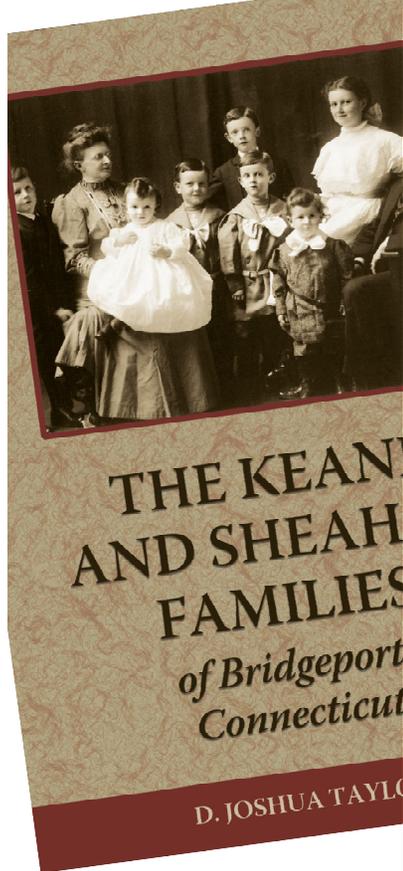
Include narrative chapters **before** and/or **after** the genealogical presentation.



Insert narrative or explanatory information in **features** / sidebars / boxed inserts.



Provide transcriptions of wills, interviews, or letters in one or more **appendixes**.



FIRST GENERATION

1. **DANIEL¹ KEANE** was born in County Clare, Ireland, about 1832.¹ He died at Sandy Hook in Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut, 19 March 1886, and was buried at St. Rose Cemetery in Newtown.² He married, likely in County Clare, about 1854, **MARGARET KEANE**,³ who was born in County Clare in January 1828, daughter of Michael and Mary (Lynch) Keane. She died, likely in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, on 18 August 1906, though her death is recorded in the vital records of Newtown.⁴ She was buried at St. Rose Cemetery.⁵

From April 1857 until 1863, Daniel leased just over 41 acres in the townland of Kilcloher, County Clare, from Marcus Keane, valued at 15 pounds, 15 shillings.⁶ Sometime in 1863, Daniel, Margaret, and at least two of their children left Kilcloher for the United States. The family had settled at Sandy Hook by January 1865.⁷ Daniel worked for the New York Belting and Packing Company in Newtown.

At the time of the 1870 U.S. Census, the family included Daniel, 38, who was working in a rubber factory; Margaret 40, who was keeping house; and Hannah [Anna], 13, Bridget, 10, John, 7, Michael, 5, and Daniel, 2. The youngest two children were recorded as having been born in Connecticut; all others were born in Ireland. Daniel and his family were living in the same house as Patrick Haugh and George Malee [Malley], both Irish and likely from County Clare, and both rubber factory workers.⁸

In 1880, Daniel and Margaret were still living at Sandy Hook with their two youngest children, Daniel and Michael.⁹

In 1900, fourteen years after Daniel's death from pneumonia, Margaret was living in Newtown with her daughter Anna (Keane) Keating.¹⁰ In 1902 she was living with her son Daniel, boarding at 582 Myrtle Avenue in Bridgeport. She lived there until her death in 1906 from cirrhosis of the liver.¹¹

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CHAPTER ONE

ON THE COAST OF IRELAND

*The Keane Family of Kilcloher,
Kilballyowen Parish, County Clare*

THE MANY markers scattered in St. Rose Cemetery in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, rests the tombstone of Daniel Keane, progenitor of the Francis Keane family of Bridgeport. Inscribed on the stone is "Kilclagher," the ancestral homeland of the Keane family. Kilcloher (as it is known in Ireland), is in the southwestern part of County Clare's southern peninsula, sitting just a few miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Situated in the civil parish of Kilballyowen, the townland of Kilcloher was home to only twenty-two families. Francis Keane, Sr., was born there in 1861. He left in 1863, just two years old. Owing to the coastal location, many parishes and townlands of County Clare have a strong maritime history, though some — like Kilcloher — have been home to many generations.

For a destination for tourists, County Clare is perhaps most famous for the Cliffs of Moher. In his 1780 publication, *A Short Tour in Ireland*, John Lloyd remarks, "From its agreeable situation, the air is remarkably wholesome, the air clear and temperate, and the view pure and delightful."¹ Though the Keane family would not emigrate to the United States by 1863, they undoubtedly lived there for many generations before in Kilcloher and surrounding areas. To explore the history of the Keane family in Ireland, it is fitting to explore the rich cultural heritage of County Clare and its many parishes.

Before the Norman Conquest in the eleventh century, the area now known as County Clare was the home of the O'Brien family, who

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Narrative chapters and within sketches

WILLIAM FRANCIS MEEHAN, N° 12

An inspector for the U.S. Customs office in New York City, William Francis Meehan also served in the military for five years. On March 5, 1906 he enlisted with the 69th Infantry, Company D, and was honorably discharged April 3, 1911.

The 69th Infantry — sometimes called the “Fighting Sixty-Ninth”— is part of the New York Army National Guard. The unit’s lineage dates to the 1840s and the Irish revolutionary movement in New York City. After the unsuccessful Young Irelander Rebellion in Ireland in 1848, a group of Irish patriots in New York started to gather independent military companies. By the end of 1849, the First Irish Regiment had been acknowledged by the state; in 1850 mustered into the New York State Militia as the 9th Regiment. Over the

next few years, additional Irish regiments were formed and, in 1858, consolidated as the 69th Infantry.¹

With the Gaelic battle cry of *Faugh an Bealach* (“clear the way”), the Sixty-Ninth fought in a number of battles during the American Civil War, including Manassas, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. It has been involved in every major war since the Civil War and is still active.

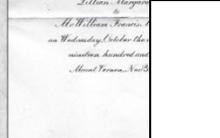
Although the unit’s revolutionary beginnings were a distant past when William Meehan enlisted with the regiment in 1906, his involvement with them shows both a level of American patriotism and a pride in his Irish heritage.



William F. Meehan, ca. 1906.

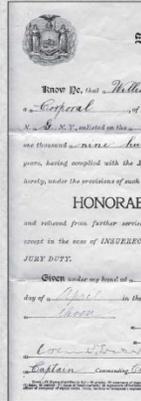


William F. Meehan in the 69th Regiment, second man from the right, ca. 1908.



Wedding announcement of Lillian Margaret Downing and William Francis Meehan.

Right: 288 Rivendale Ave., Yonkers, New York, home of William F. and Lillian Meehan from 1915 to at least 1925. By the 1930 US Census, the family was living on S. 7th Ave. Photo by Ann (Carter) Alexander.



SEVENTH GENERATION

128. **THADDEUS CARTER** was born at Wallingford, New Haven County, Connecticut, 8 April 1735. He married Lucy Andrews. Thaddeus and his family moved to Litchfield, Connecticut prior to 1783.¹¹⁴

129. **LUCY ANDREWS** was born ca. 1744.¹¹⁵

Children of Thaddeus and Lucy (Andrews) Carter, born at Wallingford, (order unknown):¹¹⁶

- 64 i. Samuel Carter, b. 8 Aug. 1764.
- ii. Noah Andrews Carter, b. 1777; d. Barkhamstead, Litchfield Co., Conn., 31 May 1830; m. Lydia Gaylord, daughter of Joseph.
- iii. _____ Carter, b. 27 Dec. ____.
- iv. Mehitabel Carter, b. 29 Aug. ____.

130. **AARON STODDARD** was born at Litchfield, Litchfield County, Connecticut, 15 July 1739. He died at New York City, New York, 12 January 1777. He married first, Ann Kilbourn. He married second, Philena ____.¹¹⁷

131. **ANN KILBOURN** was born at Litchfield 2 July 1743.¹¹⁸

Children of Aaron and Ann (Kilbourn) Stoddard:¹¹⁹

- i. Ruth Stoddard; d. Litchfield, June 1795; m. 1788, James Tryon.
- ii. Sarah Stoddard, m. Ephraim Spencer.
- iii. Lydia Stoddard, m. Abner Gilbert.
- 65 iv. Anna “Diana” Stoddard, b. ca. 1768.

Children of Aaron and Philena (____) Stoddard:

- v. David Stoddard, b. Litchfield, 15 Nov. 1773; d. Groton, Tomkins Co., N.Y.; m. 1793, Dorcas Kent.
- vi. Sibyl Stoddard.
- vii. Mary Stoddard, b. Litchfield, 10 Jan. 1777; m. Herman Stone.

132–135. _____.

136. **HENRY COONS** was born between 1745 and 1750. He died in Fayette County, Kentucky, between 5 June 1821, when his will was written, and August 1823, when the will was recorded. He married Mary Ann ____.¹²⁰

137. **MARY ANN** _____.

Children of Henry and Mary Ann (____) Coons:¹²¹

- i. Samuel Coons.
- ii. John Coons, d. before 5 June 1821.
- 68 iii. Joshua Coons, b. 10 Oct. 1781.
- iv. James Coons.
- v. Martin Coons.

THADDEUS CARTER, N° 128

Thaddeus Carter was listed under Captain Hall’s Company, New York Regiment, in 1755, during the French and Indian Wars.¹ In 1775 during the American Revolution, Thaddeus Carter served in Captain Isaac Cook’s Company — a unit made up of minutemen from Wallingford, Connecticut. In September 1775, the regiment was engaged in operations along Lake George and Lake Champlain. They helped in the siege of St. John’s and were stationed in Montreal.²

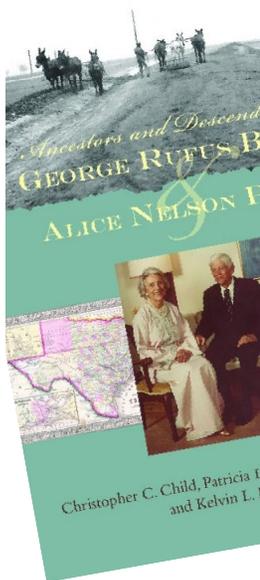
AARON STODDARD, N° 130

Aaron Stoddard enlisted in 1776 in the Continental Army under the command of Captain Bezaleel Beebe.¹ He was taken prisoner at the Battle of Fort Washington in New York on 16 November 1776 and confined at a sugar house in Manhattan. (During the war, sugar houses throughout New York City were used by British forces as makeshift prisons.) More than 2,600 prisoners were taken by the British after the battle, and over the following months, more than 1,900 would die.² Aaron perished in January 1777. Only six of his company survived the poor conditions.³



Map showing the military movements of the Battle of Fort Washington at the northern end of Manhattan. Claude Joseph Sauthier, 1777. Courtesy of Norman B. Leventhal Map Center, Boston Public Library.

Narrative then genealogy



training, of which he made admirable use. In 187[7] he concluded to try his fortune in the great State of Texas. After traveling over the greater portion of the State, and living one year in Waco, he concluded Bell County was the best County in the State and Belton the best town. So he settled there, where from a very modest beginning he built up one of the largest and most prosperous businesses in central Texas, in what was known as a "Wholesale and Retail Department Store." His stock embraced every conceivable article used in the home.⁶⁰

According to the book *Builders*, a biography of Riney's sons Herman and Geo Belton was "a world not far removed from the frontier." At the time Riney arrived the town was "a regional commercial center with a population of several thousand serving the needs of Bell County's approximately 20,000 residents, most of whom lived on farms in the rural areas surrounding Belton. The town had a sense of dynamism and promise beckoned migrants such as Brown." Even though Texas had only been a state since 1845 the time Riney arrived Belton was thriving and the advent of the telegraph, railroad, telephone would quickly bring improvements in communications and transportation.



Rhinehart Louis Brown and Lucy Wilson King on their wedding day, 10 October 1880. (Brown Family Archives.)

In 1880, the census shows that Riney was boarding with the Tobler family in Belton: "R. L. Brown," boarder, white male, aged 24, single, merchant, born in Maryland; parents born in Germany.⁶²

The 1900 census, taken on 13 June 1900, reports that the Browns' household consisted of Riney L. Brown, head, white male born in August 1858, aged 44, married 19 years, born in Maryland, parents born in Germany; merchant not out of work any month in previous year, owns mortgaged home; Lucie Brown, wife, white female born in April 1858, aged 42, married 19 years, mother of 10 children, 6 living, 1 in Texas, parents born in Alabama, occupation; Fannie M. Brown, daughter, white female born in December 1871, aged 17, single, born in Texas, father born in Maryland, mother born in Texas, no occupation; Emma Brown, daughter, white female born in June 1884, aged 15, single, born in Texas, father born in Maryland, mother born in Texas, attended school nine months in previous year; Louise Brown, daughter, white female born in June 1886, aged 13, single, living

RINEY BROWN'S DIARY

During the years 1873-1877, while living at Moorefield, West Virginia and Defiance, Ohio, later sojourning at Romney, West Virginia; Napoleon, Ohio; and finally settling in Texas, Riney Brown kept a diary of his daily life, accounts, and youthful flirtations. Printed decades later by his children for the family, it makes for engaging reading and provides a window into a vanished world. In it the restless but hard-working and determined young Riney recorded details about his work, his churchgoing, his dating (and his engagement to a Miss Alice Downs of Defiance), his relationships with his relatives, his aspirations, and even his "receipts" (recipes) for cupcakes, ginger snaps, and other sweets—but also touched on local and national events, such as the temperance movement, Custer's Last Stand (in which his brother, George C. Brown, perished), the July 4 centennial celebration of Napoleon, Ohio, and the 1876 presidential election (in which Riney, who declared himself a Democrat, voted for Samuel Tilden).

February Sunday 15th 74 [Defiance, Ohio] I went out in Society a great deal, indeed more than I really ought to have done, there were, (especially during the Holiday,) Parties, Balls Sociables, Festivals, Operas, Circles, Masquerades, & &, All of which I attended. Besides there I would go calling, go out to spend the evenings, escort ladies to and from Devine Services. . . . I during this time waited upon Miss Alice Downs, whom I chose as my most intimate lady friend, the result of this courtship of nearly a year ended in our engagement which took place last Sunday night, February 15th at about ½ past 11 O'clock, after I had taken her home from Church, after staying awhile in the Parlor with her, we went out on the steps, it was a pleasant evening the stars shone bright, and it was then and there, in the language of the Song, I owned the flame, and she did the same, all that was said and done I will not say, but suffice it to know that we sealed it with a kiss. . . .

Friday March 27th 1874 Still cold and windy for the Season, trade pretty brisk. Seen some of the girls on the street today. Temperance Crusade is still raging. Ladies out on the street & in the saloons today all day. . . . After becoming more acquainted and seeing I could run a girl and go in decent society as Cheap, & being better for my character. I naturally took to it. I have been running the girls "hot." Am now engaged to Miss Alice Downs, been waiting on her a year. She is a good girl, but I am just flirting with her—but she loves me. alas Too much. I have promised to marry her & don't know how I will get out of it.

Thursday April 30th 74 Stayed last night up to Uncle Riney's the first time I have slept outside the store. was raining this morning but cleared &

Narrative in boxed inserts

Incorporating genealogy into narrative



Make the main body of your text a narrative and include the genealogy — *Register* style or *AT* — as end matter.



Provide genealogical information in chart form.



Dolor DAVIS (ca. 1599–1672/73)
= Margery WILLARD (d. bef. 1667)

Simon DAVIS (1636–1713)
= Mary BLOOD (1640–1717/18)

James DAVIS (1667/68–1727)
= Anne SMEDLEY (1676–1760/61)

Joseph DAVIS (1707/8–1776)
= Hannah BROWN (b. 1716)

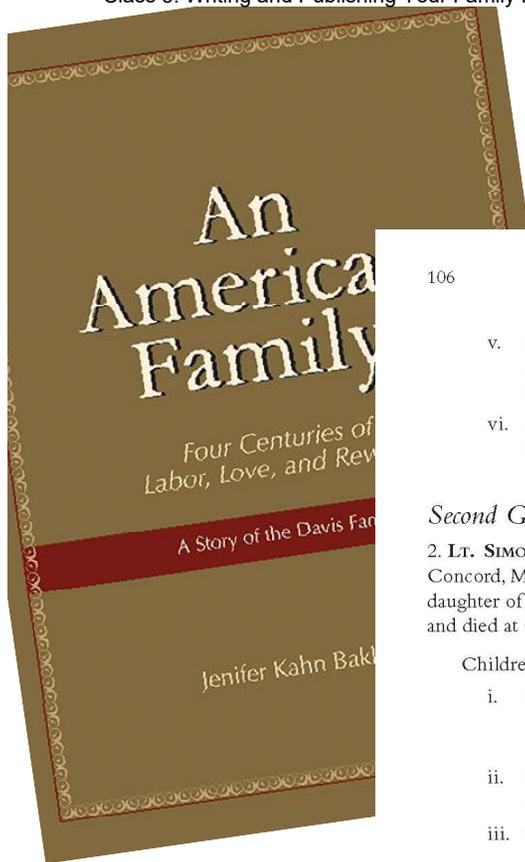
Silas DAVIS (1748–1838)
= Mary PRESTON (1754–1845)

James DAVIS (1793–1865)
= Cyrene PUTNAM (1803–1834)

Perley Bacon DAVIS (1832–1915)
= Mary Frances VINING (1839–1931)

Edward Kirk DAVIS (1880–1955)
= Rhea Ada REINEMAN (1886–1972)

Holbrook Reineman DAVIS (b. 1921)



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An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love,

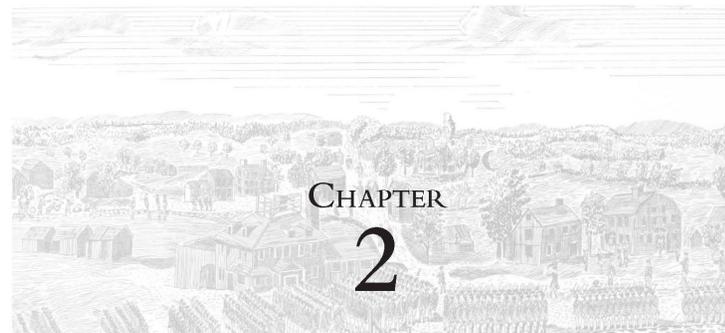
- v. SAMUEL DAVIS, b. probably Mass. about 1639/40; d. 1720; m. (1) Mass. 11 Jan. 1665, MARY MEDDOWES, d. 30 Oct. 1710; m. (2) at C Oct. 1711, RUTH TAYLOR, d. 6 Aug. 1720.⁶⁴⁴
- vi. RUTH DAVIS, bp. Barnstable 25 March 1644;⁶⁴⁵ m. Concord 3 STEPHEN HALL of Concord.⁶⁴⁶

Second Generation

2. **LT. SIMON² DAVIS** (*Dolor*²) was born probably in Massachusetts in 1636 a Concord, Massachusetts 14 June 1713. He married 12 December 1660, **MAR** daughter of James and Eleanor (_____) Blood of Concord. She was born 12 and died at Concord, probably 1717/18.⁶⁴⁷

Children of Simon² and Mary (Blood) Davis, all born at Concord:

- i. SIMON³ DAVIS, b. 12 Oct. 1661; m. (1) Concord 14 Feb. 1688/89, 1 WOODHOUSE, daughter of Henry Woodhouse of Concord; m. (2) 19 Oct. 1714, MARY WOOD.⁶⁴⁸
- ii. MARY DAVIS, b. 3 Oct. 1663; m. Concord 28 May 1691, DEI WHEELER of Stow.⁶⁴⁹
- iii. SARA DAVIS, b. 11 March 1665/66; m. Concord 13 Nov. 1695 WHEELER of Concord.⁶⁵⁰
- 3 iv. JAMES DAVIS, b. 19 Jan. 1667/68; m. Concord 4 March 1700 SMEDLEY.⁶⁵¹
- v. ELEN(ER) DAVIS, b. 22 Oct. 1672; m. Concord 14 May 1695 HUNT.⁶⁵²
- vi. EBENEZER DAVIS, b. 1 June 1676; m. (1) DINAH ____; m. (2) possi DANFORTH, b. 23 Dec. 1676, d. 15 Oct. 1751, daughter of Capt Danforth, m. (1) WILLIAM FRENCH of Billerica, Mass.⁶⁵³
- vii. HANNAH DAVIS, b. 1 April 1679; m. Concord 1 April 1701 BLOOD.⁶⁵⁴



CHAPTER 2

FIGHTING AND FARMING

Simon Davis and the Struggles of the Early Settlers

[H]e being of lively spirit encouraged the soldiers within the house to fire upon the Indians . . . with these like words, that 'God is with us, and fights for us, and will deliver us'¹⁴⁵

—Captain Thomas Wheeler, describing Simon Davis in the attack at Brookfield, 1675

Over time, as Dolor Davis, his wives, and their peers advanced in years, the mission that they had begun was handed off to their descendants. It became the charge of their children, and their grandchildren in turn, to assert the dominance of the position that the first immigrants had worked so tirelessly to establish. This was no easy task, for even as the colonial way of life began to find the security of established routines, it also was constantly and viscerally threatened. The first immigrants' children, coming of age in the 1660s and '70s, found their most urgent and growing threat to be their Native American neighbors, with whom they were now competing for ever scarcer land and resources.

Conflicts between Indians and settlers became increasingly violent, and many colonists lost their lives and property, as did many more Indians. The town of Concord, home to Dolor and Margery's son Simon, was unlike many towns across Massachusetts, in that it was never destroyed by this violence. It suffered on behalf of its neighbors, however: the increasing threat of personal loss and also the uncertainty that the colonies would continue to exert a forward momentum was probably a daily distraction for Simon, his siblings, and their contemporaries.

Although Barnstable seemed to represent a "true home," for Dolor and Margery, their relatively brief sojourn in Concord served to establish that community as the "true home" for Simon. Simon had arrived in Concord as a teenager, and he would remain there for the rest of his life.

Narrative with genealogy in back

JOURNEY TO AMERICA

It is true that the Italian and Polish peasant may not be accustomed to better things at home and might not be happier in better surroundings nor know how to use them; but it is a bad introduction to our life to treat him like an animal when he is coming to us. He ought to be made to feel immediately, that the standard of living in America is higher than it is abroad, and that life on the higher plane begins on board of ship.¹³

Like one-quarter of Italian immigrants, Antonio Montrone, his wife, Carmina, and his brother-in-law, Ernesto De Christofaro, shipped out from Naples.¹⁴ Their ship, like seven of ten ships departing from European ports, docked at the Port of New York. Making the journey six years after his sister, at seventeen Ernesto took the S.S. *Napoli* from Naples to New York to meet up with their brother, Domenico De Christofaro.¹⁵ The De Christofaro siblings likely shared similar experiences from port to port.

Emigrants in those days were a kind of cargo. The shipping lines had to create manifests of passengers, pay taxes on each passenger, and even foot the bill for those sent back from America. To ensure the fewest number of deportees, the shipping lines

established certain departure procedures. Before even issuing someone a passport, Italian officials would perform a background check; former criminals would be unable to emigrate, as they were risks for deportation. In accordance with the U.S. quarantine law of 1893, would-be emigrants had to spend at least five days quarantined at a "pest house" near the port before departing. There, they took antiseptic baths and had their scalps thoroughly washed with a mixture of chemicals designed to disinfect and delouse them. Then, after they had received medical examinations and vaccinations, they were escorted to their ships.

Restrictions established by the Italian and U.S. governments and the steamship companies required that U.S. Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service doctors check potential emigrants for known contagious and infectious diseases.¹⁴ In 1906 alone, nearly 6 percent were turned away at Naples before departure.¹⁶

"THIRD CLASS, ALL THE WAY DOWN"

"We took a trunk," remembered a woman who emigrated as a bride from Naples in 1924. "Some clothes of mine and [my husband's]. And we take a suitcase, that's all. We took the train from Cosenza to Naples. I never was in Naples. I never was in anyplace. It was dirty, Naples. I didn't like it. Then we take the boat. We had a little cabin. Third

❖ Italian Emigration Law ❖

The 1911 Report of the Immigration Commission summarized Italian Emigration Law as follows:

"The Italian law aims to protect emigrants during the different stages through which they pass from the time of leaving their native village or town until they reach their destination in a foreign country and after landing there.

"The law and regulations provide that in all centers of emigration there must be an unpaid committee consisting of various officials and others, which committee is bound to give the emigrant all information about the country to which he intends to go, and the conditions on which he can be admitted. It helps the emigrant in getting a passport, gives him information concerning steamers, the cost of tickets, etc. On the journey to an Italian port the emigrant is very often guided and directed by the same committee. If the number of emigrants is considerable, the steamship company will supply an agent to take charge of them from the home town to the port.

"The law directs that emigrants on arriving at Naples, Genoa, Messina, or Palermo

shall go to some hotel authorized by the bureau of emigration. This authorization is only given to the best houses, and they are continually under the inspection of a doctor appointed by the prefetto at each port. Lodging and food from the day before sailing are paid for by the steamship companies. With us, however, this is considered as a temporary provision, because when funds are available the Government will provide homes or hotels for emigrants at the ports of Naples, Genoa, and Palermo. These are to be large hotels, with everything necessary for the emigrant.

The protection of emigrants on board ship is entrusted to the commissario regio, a surgeon of the navy medical corps, who must accompany each ship carrying Italian emigrants from Italian ports, and whose salary and expenses must be paid by the steamship companies. This officer acts as an emigrant inspector during the voyage, and it is his duty to see that the quantity and quality of food provided is in accordance with law. He also has to take note of the hygienic conditions of the ship during the voyage and receive all complaints made by emigrants. In the matter of complaints he attempts to adjust difficulties

with the captain of the ship; otherwise he transmits the complaint

to the Italian consul at the port of landing or to the proper official in Italy upon his return. If the complaint is well founded and involves a violation of our law, the steamship company is liable to a fine.

"The third and last phase through which the emigrant passes is just when he lands, and it is a time when he needs the special protection which is provided by article 12 of our law in the following terms:

In all foreign states to which Italian emigration turns with preference the foreign office shall, after coming to an understanding with the local governments, institute bureaus for the protection and information of and supply of labor to emigrants. The foreign office shall, in accordance with by-law, appoint traveling inspectors in trans-oceanic countries. Officers of the consular service can be appointed to these berths. Such inspectors shall keep the chief commissioner posted with the conditions of Italian emigrants in such countries, whose desires or necessities they shall transmit to the commissioner.

"These are the phases through which the emigrant passes as contemplated by our

Italian Emigration Law, continued

law: First, in the town where he resides and from which he intends to go abroad; then in the large ports, where the inspectors go aboard the steamer to ascertain that it is in the condition required by law, because otherwise the emigrants can not leave on the steamer. Very often telegrams are sent to the commissariato stating that the provisions of a particular steamer are not sufficient or that the hospital lacks certain supplies. Then we have to telegraph that the steamer can not start until the conditions of the law have been complied with.

"The new law requires that each adult emigrant must pay a tax of 8 lire (\$1.50).

"The law prescribes only four ports of emigration: Naples, Genoa, Palermo, and Messina. From other ports there is no emigration. If people want to emigrate to America, they must go through these ports.

"There is a special article in the Italian emigration law which prohibits sending an emigrant to a country unless the emigrant can comply with the conditions of the laws of the country to which he seeks to go. Therefore when an emigrant is rejected at a foreign port the responsibility falls upon the steamship company and the emigrant

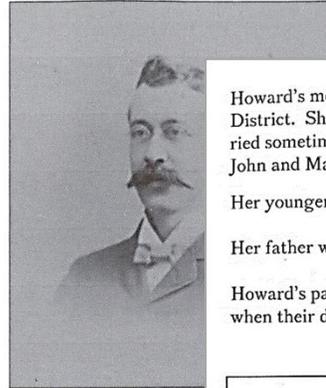
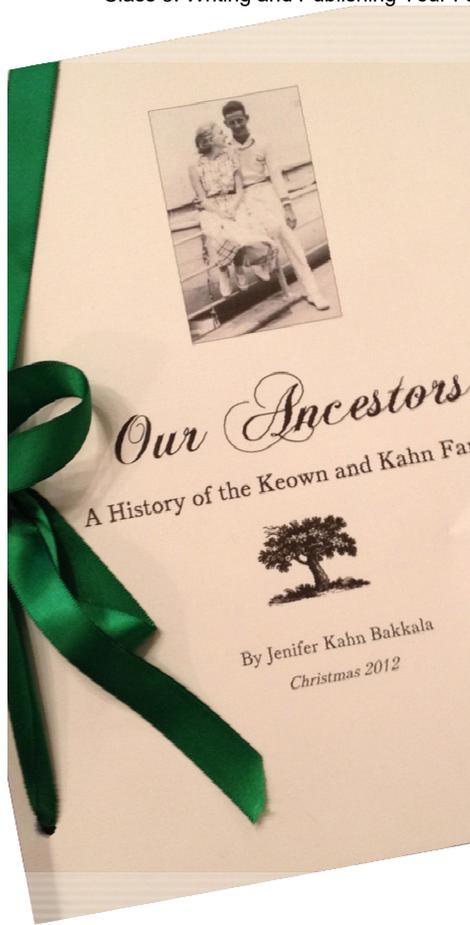
is entitled to be reimbursed and to receive an indemnity for the journey he has made. So there are lots of lawsuits against the steamship companies, and very often a company is condemned to pay a large indemnity to an emigrant rejected by the United States. It is a matter of law, and the steamship company is presumed to know the law. We fine the steamship company if through negligence or for some other reason they allow people to start who are not in condition to be admitted at ports of destination. In each Province we have an arbitration commission, which has the right to examine those cases. Every emigrant rejected by the United States has a right to submit his complaint to this commission, which examines the case and gives its decision, and in a proper case fines the steamship company. The law speaks very clearly on that point. It says:

Art. 24. The carrier is responsible for damages toward the emigrant who may have been refused landing at a port of destination because of provision of foreign laws on immigration, when the emigrant can prove that the carrier was aware before his sailing of the circumstances which determine such refusal.

"The emigrant who is returned may make a claim before the arbitration commission without expense to him, and in many cases, besides the passage money, the carrier has to pay all the loss of wages for the thirty or forty days that the man has been on his journey.

"Our constitution does not permit us to deprive the people of the right to emigrate, but we want the movement to be natural. Article 17 of our law prevents such artificial movements. It states very clearly that Carriers and their representatives are forbidden from persuading people to emigrate. In accordance with article 416 of the Penal Code, whoever shall, by poster, circular, or guide concerning emigration, publish wittingly false news on emigration or diffuse in the Kingdom news or information of such a nature printed abroad, shall be punished with imprisonment up to six months and with a fine of 1,000 lire. The circulars and advertisements, of whatever nature they may be, made by the carrier, shall indicate the gross and net registered tonnage and the speed of the steamer, the date of sailing, the ports called at, en route, and the duration of the entire voyage."

Thematic narrative



Alma (Aylsworth) and David S. Kahn

Alan's Father's Ancestors: The Aylsworths and the Kahns

It is not clear whether the marriage of Alan's paternal grandparents, Alma and David Kahn was a topic of controversy. The wedding, which took place on November 1887, probably in Baltimore, Maryland, was between a young woman who was from a family of Methodists and a young man who was Jewish. Alma later became the parents of Laurence Kahn, Alan's father.

Alma Alida Aylsworth had been born on 3 October 1866, probably in Frontenac County, Ontario, Canada, the sixth and youngest child of John and Bowen Aylsworth. Two of her siblings, King Job and Mary, had both reached the age of 4.

Her ancestry on her father's side stretches back to the earliest days of the United States. It includes two Mayflower passengers. Alma's great-great grandfather, Robert Kahn, fought for the British throne during the American Revolution, and in the late 1770s, Loyalists brought their families to settle in southern Ontario, where generations later Alma was born almost 100 years later (See "Alma's Ancestors").

Alma's parents, Mary Jane Hunter and Bowen McGillivray Aylsworth, both died on 22 February 1848 by the Rev. George Brynnon, a Methodist Minister. At

Howard's mother, Ann McMahon, had been born in about 1846, and grew up in the Trappe District. She was the daughter of Rebecca Merrick and Solomon McMahon, who were married sometime before 1835. "Annie" had four older brothers: William, Solomon, and twins John and Mathias.

Her younger sister Henrietta was born when Annie was about 5 years old.

Her father was a farmer.

Howard's parents James and Ann were presumably married sometime before about 1869, when their daughter Cora was born.

Did Howard LeCompte Really Marry Two Sisters?

Not quite.

Howard LeCompte first married Clara Belle Little in about 1891. They had three children: Cora and James; and Beatrice, who later became the mother of Alan LeCompte Kahn.

Clara Belle had grown up in a large household, which included her parents, several siblings, and also her widowed aunt, Mary Lavinia, who had been married to one of Clara's uncles. Mary Lavinia had two children: Millard, and Mary Flora. "Florrie" was around Clara's age, and although they were cousins, it might have seemed as if they were sisters. They grew up in the same household from a very young age, and since Florrie's mother worked as a tailoress, it is likely that Clara's mother cared for her often.



"Aunt Florrie" and her step-granddaughter, Barbara May Kahn.

Both girls grew up, and Clara eventually married Howard LeCompte, while Florrie remained with her family. In 1910, these households were just two doors away from each other on Reisterstown Road in Baltimore. When Clara became ill, sometime in her late 30s, family stories say that Florrie served as a nurse for her cousin.

After Clara's death, Howard and Florrie married. Howard's grandchildren called her "Aunt Florrie," which may have perpetuated the sister myth. Mary Flora was actually their step-grandmother, as well as their first cousin twice removed.

Ancestry written as narrative

Tip

Use the genealogical
numbering systems!

Writing narrative

Storytelling

Novel



Plot



Conflict



Transition between scenes



Characters



Dialogue

Genealogy



Themes

(migration, overcoming, etc.)



Tensions

(romance, mystery, etc.)



Move time/location



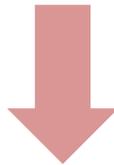
Ancestors



Quotes

Story Structure

BEGINNING



MIDDLE



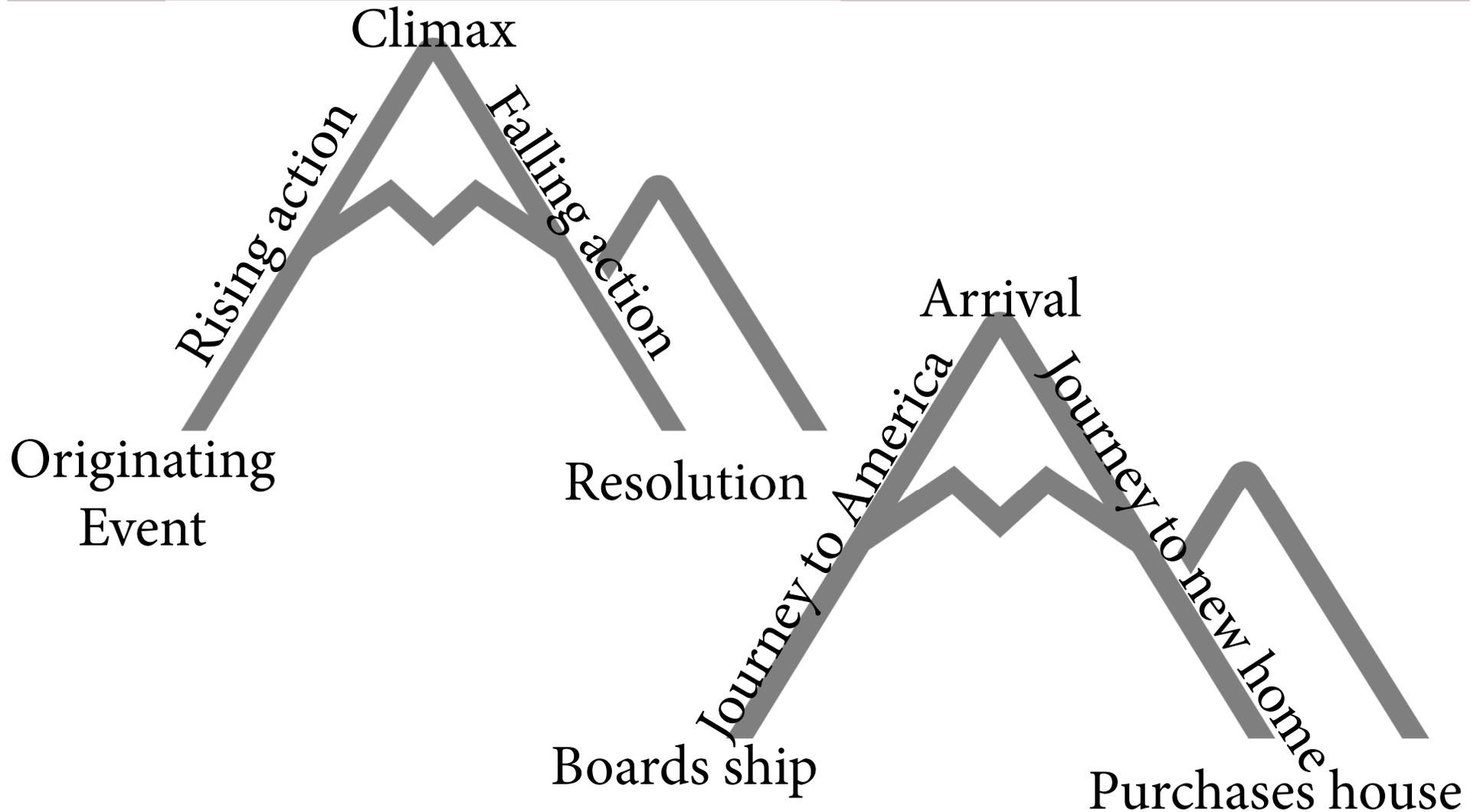
END

✓ Table of contents

✓ Genealogy

✓ Within narrative

Eventful Events



Getting started



Just start typing.



Later, reread and look for patterns.



Include only what is of interest; omit info that the reader can easily find elsewhere.

The year after they wed, they lived at **1 Waverly Place in Chelsea**. Thomas worked as a stevedore at Mystic Wharf in Charlestown.¹

When Mabel was born in **1892**, the Jameson family resided at **19 Medford in Boston**. Her father was from England and her mother from Ireland. He was a longshoreman.²

Thomas and Nora had at least five children baptized at **St. Catherine of Siena in Charlestown by 1895**. They had at least five more baptized at Immaculate Conception in Revere between **1897 and 1902**. However, two of those children died as infants, and their nearly 6-year-old died in 1903. Nora then had a stillborn daughter in **1904** who was buried at Bunker Hill in Boston.³

Near **Halloween 1895**, Thomas and Nora borrowed \$1270 from Benjamin Hadley (of Somerville) to purchase (from Jacob E. Anthony of Everett) 2250 square feet in Lot 2 with a five-foot-wide strip of Lot 5 on **Olive Street** east of Elwood Place in **Revere**. The mortgage was for ten years, and they had paid by late 1904.⁴

As of **1899**, Thomas worked as a foreman in Charlestown but also sold groceries from his home at **10 Olive Street, Revere**. As of **1902/3**, his occupations hadn't changed, but the address was **22 Olive Street**. In 1911, he was a foreman living at **28 Olive Street**.⁵

In **1900**, the Jameson family mortgaged a house at **10 Olive Street in Revere**. Seven of their nine children still lived. Thomas was a superintendant at Mystic Wharf. He had immigrated in about 1880 and since naturalized, and Nora had immigrated about 1883. Their household also featured Daniel O'Brien, born in Ireland, January 1846, who had been married 23 years and had immigrated in 1897 and not yet naturalized.⁶

Rough draft/Notes

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At home, the Jameson family resided in four locations within a two-square-mile area just north of Boston. Shortly after they wed, Thomas and Nora lived at **1 Waverly Place**, which used to be by the bridge over the Mystic River at the western edge of Chelsea. There they celebrated the birth of their eldest daughter (Mary) in March 1887 and mourned her death from croup that October. Her baptism seemed to be the only time the Jamesons held a sacramental event at Chelsea's St. Rose of Lima church, which was straight down Broadway from their home.¹⁹⁷

During the first half of the 1890s, the couple lived in Charlestown where they proceeded to have five more children. Several apartments they rented on Medford Street were located behind Mystic Playground (now Barry Playground), right by the Chelsea Street Bridge that crossed the Inner Channel to Mystic Wharf. The Jameson family lived the longest at 19 Medford Street, which was a "thoroughly well built" three-story house with three tenements and fourteen rooms. It even featured "water closets on each floor." At the time, the building's owner could expect to receive about \$504 in rents each year.¹⁹⁸

All five of Thomas and Nora's Charlestown-born children—Frances Ellen, Robert, Mabel, Daniel, and James John—lived to adulthood. They were baptized at St. Catherine of Siena, at the base of Bunker Hill on the side near their rental homes. Traditionally, this was the poorest Catholic parish in the area because it tended to have large Irish families among its mostly working-class parishioners. In part due to this, St. Catherine of Siena's parish has since merged with St. Mary's, which now features the re-created St. Catherine of Siena Chapel within its lower level. For the first of these five baptisms, Nora's father Daniel and sister Ellen O'Brien served as godparents. Nora's sister Margaret sponsored the second.¹⁹⁹

Near Halloween in 1895, Thomas's promotion to foreman allowed him to purchase property on Olive Street in Revere. Although this was the farthest he ever lived from Mystic Wharf, it would have been a straight shot down Broadway through Chelsea to reach the bridge (now called the Maurice J. Tobin Memorial Bridge). Thomas and Nora borrowed \$1,270 (from Benjamin Hadley of Somerville) to purchase (from Jacob E. Anthony of Everett) 2,250 square feet in Lot 2 with a 5-foot-wide strip of Lot 5 on Olive Street east of Elwood Place. They repaid the ten-year mortgage by late 1904.²⁰⁰

The address for this property was 10 Olive Street until about 1901 or 1902, when it was renumbered as 22 Olive Street. The house had seven rooms and a bath "piped for hot and cold water." While Thomas still worked at Mystic Wharf, Nora sold groceries from their home.²⁰¹

Notes to manuscript

Tip

Cite as you write!

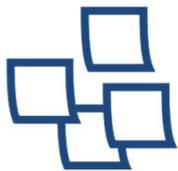
How to add the narrative



Chronologically



Thematically



One topic per paragraph

The Builder

Isaac Conroe was a mason and brick-seller.

In 1762, Isaac supplied twenty thousand bricks to Edward Prior/Pryor “used in building the Proprietor’s house in [Perth] Amboy.” Pryor paid for ten thousand white bricks on 19 March 1763, but Isaac was still owed “10:6:9 York money” as of 13 April 1770. The Board of Proprietors of East Jersey agreed to pay the balance.¹⁰³

The Proprietary House was built about the time of the first visit of William Franklin, the royal governor and son of Benjamin Franklin. He wanted to live there, and the East Jersey proprietors wanted rooms for the Council and Assembly. Unfortunately, when the building was ready in September 1764, a depression and stirrings of revolution meant that Franklin did not move in until nine years later.¹⁰⁴

Isaac Conroe led the construction of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse (originally the New York Lighthouse). According to Park Historian Thomas J. Hoffman:

Kyle Hurst et al, *Selected Ancestors of Nelson McMahon and Louise Rathbun* (Newbury Street Press, c2020).

Quaker Life

After banns were posted on 7 September and 5 October, Isaac Conroe and Elinor Wright married at the Burlington Monthly Meeting “1730, 8, 22” (22 October 1730). Isaac, son of Isaac Connarro, was from Gloucester County. Elinor, daughter of Jonathan Wright, was from Burlington (town and county). Among the many witnesses were Jonathan Wright, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Connarow, Stephen Wright, and Fretwell Wright.⁷³

The Conroe couple remained with the Burlington Quaker meeting at first. On at least two dates, 6 9th month 1738 and 2 12th month 1746, Isaac was appointed to attend the quarterly meeting by the Burlington Monthly Meeting.⁷⁴

Then in the summer of 1751, Isaac Conroe and his wife made plans to switch to the Chesterfield Meeting. However, the friends who looked into his application for a certificate of removal (from the Burlington Monthly Meeting) determined that “he was likely to return here again” and denied the request.⁷⁵

Property in Burlington

Over the course of their time in Burlington, New Jersey, Isaac and Elinor Wright basically owned and sold three properties.

They received the first property from Elinor’s parents on 27 February 1730/31. Jonathan and Elizabeth Wright of Burlington sold property to their son-in-law, Isaac Connarro, a Burlington bricklayer, and their daughter, “Elinor,” for £60. The first part was for the dwelling house known as White Hall on the island of Burlington that Jonathan had purchased in 1720. The second part included 19 acres that Jonathan obtained in 1723. With the land, Isaac received the rights to build a brick wall on the property line and

Thematically then chronologically

An engaging writing style

- It's hard to bottle!
- Use the active voice when possible.
- Show don't tell.
- Use plain language.
- Avoid wordiness.
- Avoid repetition.

Maine's population growth was slow in part due to the real threat of war with the Indians. There were skirmishes or all out war with native tribes from 1675 until 1747. Individuals were discouraged by these aggressive actions from moving to the region, despite abundant resources. In addition to challenges from tense interactions with the native population, settlers experienced difficulties with the weather.



Maine's population grew slowly, partly because of the threat of war with the Indians. The years between 1675 and 1747 saw skirmishes or all-out war with native tribes, discouraging settlers from moving to the region, despite its abundant resources. Weather posed another challenge.

Active and concise

An engaging writing style

- Avoid beginning sentences with “there is,” “there are,” “it is,” and the like.
- Try to keep your sentences short.
- Don’t try to explain too many family relationships in your text.
- Use quotations wisely.
- Decide what to omit.

According to the 1860 census, on 17 July 1860 the Pratt household at Norwich, Connecticut, consisted of George Pratt, white male aged 27, [occupation illegible], \$800 in personal estate, born in Massachusetts; and Sarah Pratt, white female aged 28, house keeper, born in Connecticut. The young couple was also enumerated in her father's household: on 18 July 1860, the Whittlesey household at Salem, Connecticut, included Oramel Whittlesey, white male aged 58, music teacher, \$10,000 in real estate, \$16,000 in personal estate, born in Connecticut; C. M. Whittlesey, white female aged 54, born in Connecticut; J. T. Maginnis, white male aged 34, music teacher, \$1000 in personal estate, born in Ireland; E. T. Maginnis, white female aged 34, born in Connecticut; O. M. Maginnis, white female aged 10, born in Connecticut; E. J. Maginnis, white male aged 28, lawyer, \$12,000 in real estate, \$6,000 in personal estate, born in Connecticut; Alice Pratt, white female aged 24 [sic], born in Connecticut.

The 1870 census, taken on 1 July 1870, enumerated the Pratt household at Norwich, Connecticut consisting of George Pratt, white male aged 37, lawyer, \$12,000 in real estate, \$6,000 in personal estate, eligible to vote; Sarah Pratt, white female aged 38, housekeeper, born in Connecticut; Alice Pratt, white female aged 14, school within the year, born in Connecticut; Oramel Whittlesey, white male aged 3, at home, born in Connecticut; Gertrude Whittlesey, white female aged 3, at home, born in Nov. [1869]; E. T. Maginnis, white female aged 34, domestic servant, born in Ireland; O'Reagan, white female aged 19, also a music teacher; son Oramel W., 17, daughter Gertrude, 15, and son Minot T., 8, all in school; and niece Charlotte Maginnis, 19, also a music teacher.

At the time of the 1860 census, George, 27, was living with Sarah, 28, in Norwich with \$800 in personal estate. His occupation is lawyer; she is listed as a housekeeper. They are also enumerated in the household of her father, Oramel Whittlesey in Salem. By 1870, George was listed as a lawyer with \$12,000 in real estate and \$6,000 in personal estate. Sarah was keeping house. Also living with them were their children Alice, 10; Oramel, 8; Gertrude, 8; Bela, 3; and infant Susan, 7 months.

By 1880, Sarah was a widow. A music teacher, she was living at 11 Union Street in Norwich, with her daughter "Allce" [Alice] M., 19, also a music teacher; son Oramel W., 17, daughter Gertrude, 15, and son Minot T., 8, all in school; and niece Charlotte Maginnis, 19, also a music teacher.

As a lawyer, George increased his wealth during the 1860s, which was fortunate as he had to support five young children. After George died during the following decade, his widow Sarah and their eldest daughter both worked as music teachers to maintain the family.

Deciding what to omit

“Dam humbug”!

🕒 September 10, 2014 📁 Family Stories 📌 Brick Walls, Critical Analysis, Object Lessons 👤 Penny Stratton



Frank Stratton

Among my husband’s family papers is a letter, dated 25 October 1873, from John Dill to his mother, Susan (Berry) (Dill) Gibbons. John had left the family home in Springfield, Illinois, earlier that year to work on the railroad in Texas, and he was alarmed about the impending marriage of his younger sister, Ida Dill:

This thing of Ida getting acquainted Courting and marrying all in about a month I do not believe in and more than it is a dam humbug. . . . How do you know what that fellow is or has bin you cant find out so much in such a little time.

Within two weeks, John was dead, likely of yellow fever. During that time, Ida’s courtship weighed heavily on his mind. In a letter to Ida dated 8 November, John’s friend wrote to tell her the particulars of John’s death and then added “one more woard”:

this he said on his daying bead that if the sister knew how sick he was she would think of every thing elcs but marieing.

John’s sister was Ida Alice Dill, my husband’s great-grandmother. The dreaded groom-to-be was Frank Stratton. You can tell by my surname that the marriage took place: on 18 December 1873.

Using quotations

Tip

Read your text aloud

Perspective

Point of View

- Authorial vs. narrative voice
- Third person vs. first person
- Don't switch viewpoints midstream
- Decide how close is close enough

Hugh Hart Lusk was asked by Justice Foster if he would defend Louisa Collins in her murder trial, which was scheduled to begin the following week. The judge said that there wasn't any money to pay for his services.



At the height of his career, Hugh took on the responsibility of representing Louisa Collins *pro bono*. With only a week remaining until the murder trial, Justice Foster chose him for the defense.



One week, that's all he had, one week to prepare a defence in a murder trial. The prosecution had had a month. . . . What did he have? A request from Justice Foster that he, Hugh Hart Lusk, should conduct the case *pro bono*, which meant no fee, no assistance, no money for any investigative work . . .

Viewpoints

Narrative Voice Styles

- Narrative non-fiction

Justice Bailey, like many who lived through the formation of the United States of America, was quite mobile.

- Journey of discovery

By tracing him in census, land, and tax records, **I found that** Justice Bailey was quite mobile.

- Intimate voice

After his 50th birthday, Justice **decided** to leave New York bound for Ohio. **Would he** finally be at home there?

- Encyclopedic

Between 1790 and 1810, Justice Bailey appeared in N.Y. records for Orange, Tioga, and Livingston Counties.

- Distant voice

Justice Bailey (1760-aft. 1850) lived in New York in 1810 and in Ohio by 1835.

- “Faction”

In his **melancholy**, Justice Bailey **thought**, ‘Maybe moving from place to place will bring me **happiness and success**.’

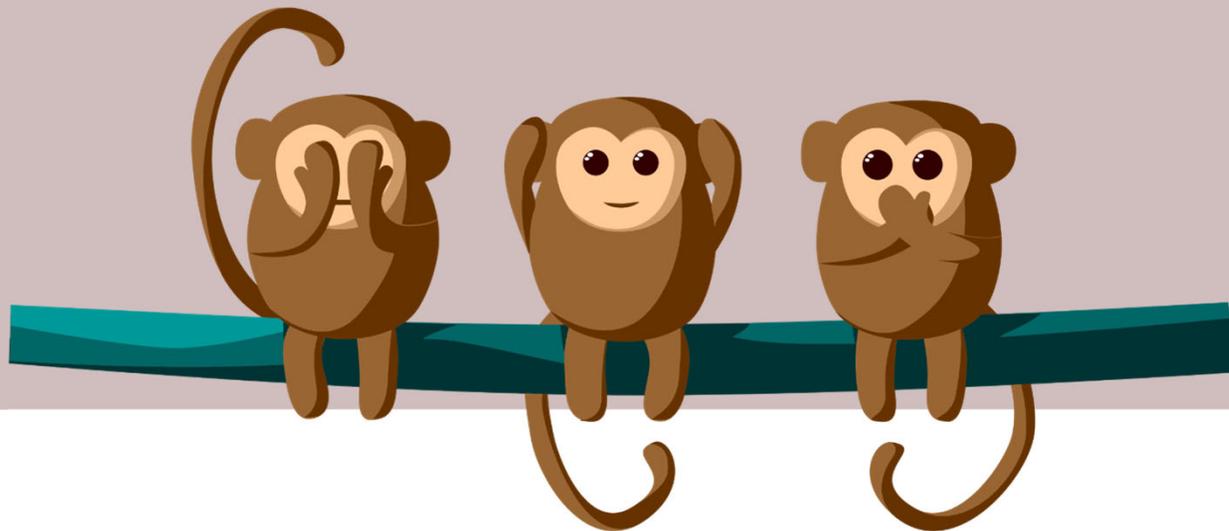
Truth Matters

Do

- Be tactful
- Beware bias
- Maintain impartiality

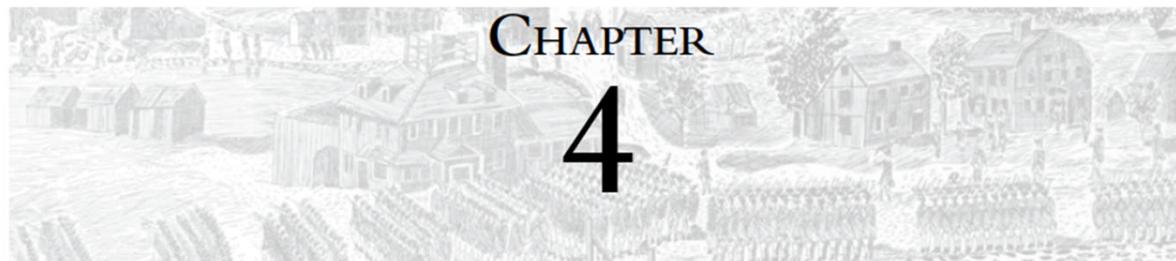
Don't

- Withhold “sensitive” data
- Exaggerate
- Judge



Anchoring

- Location
- Timeframe
- Generation
- Characters



GO WEST, YOUNG MEN

Albert, Arthur, and Edward and the Expansion of America

If one were to ask me what is the real foundation of future success of the Pilgrim Place project . . . I should reply . . . that the real foundation . . . is the quality of the Pilgrim Place residents themselves. . . . The spirit of fine consideration, courtesy, helpfulness and cheerfulness combined with some talent for forcefulness and efficiency, will pave the way over which all good things will arrive, sooner or later.³⁹⁴

—Albert P. Davis, upon his retirement as Executive Secretary of Pilgrim Place retirement community, 1940.

Since Dolor Davis's arrival in the 1630s, seven generations of Davises had made their homes within a seventy-mile radius of where he first made landfall at Boston. From Cambridge to Barnstable, from Concord to New Ipswich to Hyde Park, the Davises had firmly established themselves as northeasters, with the city of Boston remaining as their closest metropolitan hub. Many of their neighbors and friends, however, had ventured into new territory over the years, particularly to lands in the American west that were becoming hosts to ripening new cities.

Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, *An American Family: Four Centuries of Labor, Love, and Reward* (Newbury Street Press, c2018).

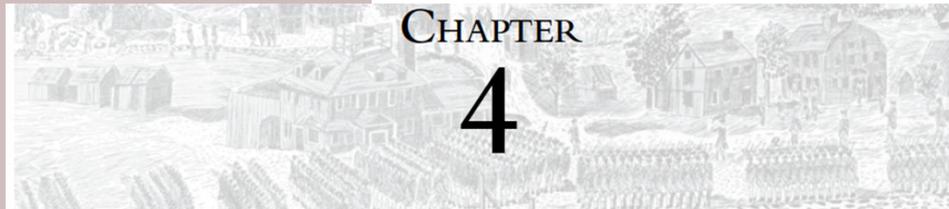
Anchoring

- Location
- Timeframe
- Generation
- Characters



TO AMERICA!

Dolor Davis and the Establishment of the American Colonies



CHAPTER

4

they could see nothing but a fortification, and corn fields, and the husbandry of men.⁴

the New World in 1634

GO WEST, YOUNG MEN

Albert, Arthur, and Edward and the Expansion of America

in the early colonization European exploration settlements in the early along the eastern seaboard a Colony of Jamestown its, Europeans who had confidence in the idea of

unfortunate new era of policies of King James, the political, economic, the New World held the ability to change and shape settlements. In 1629, King James and steady stream of immigration of the Massachusetts settlers already established, were single men, settling in the west, however, were the sons of Dolor Davis.

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Bakkala, *An American Family* (Newbury Street Press, c2018).

Answering Questions



WHO?



WHAT?



WHEN?



WHERE?



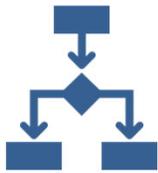
WHY?



HOW?

Biography

Adding genealogical content



Enter data following the chosen format.



Add the key events in the subjects' lives.



Consistency leads to clarity!

Vital data

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891. He died in Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, **JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.**

Biographical: What kind of information?

- Education
- Military service
- Occupations
- Places of residence
- Religious affiliations
- Personal details

Family Life in Illinois, England, and New York

Although born in Illinois, Charles Le Caron lived undercover in England with his family during the 1890s. After attending the Bedford Grammar School in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England between September 1894 and the third term of 1897, Charles returned to America to live in New York with his mother.⁴⁴⁶

Charles S. Le Caron was studying law under his uncle, John C. Shaw, in April 1901, when he was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct with three friends when their loud singing disturbed well-off residents in Riverside Drive, Manhattan. They were later bailed out and released.⁴⁴⁷

Adult Life

As a married man and father, Charles held a variety of occupations in the first two decades of the twentieth century. When his eldest daughter was born in 1903, Charles was working as a clerk, but he was a contractor by the time his son was born in 1906. From at least 1910 through 1913, he worked as a real estate salesman. During those years he rented a house at 602 West 135th Street in Manhattan and then at 556 West 185th Street.⁴⁴⁸

By 1915, Charles was an investigator for the cigarette company O'Brien and LeCaron, at 110 West 40th Street in New York City. He and his family lived at 84 Old Mill Road in Hempstead, Nassau County, Long Island, New York.⁴⁴⁹ According to a website focused on Henri Le Caron, "One of his sons, Charles, ran a Cigarette and Tabacco [sic] shop in NYC with an

Kyle Hurst, *Ancestors and Descendants of Charles Le Caron and Victoire Sprague* (Newbury Street Press, c2020).

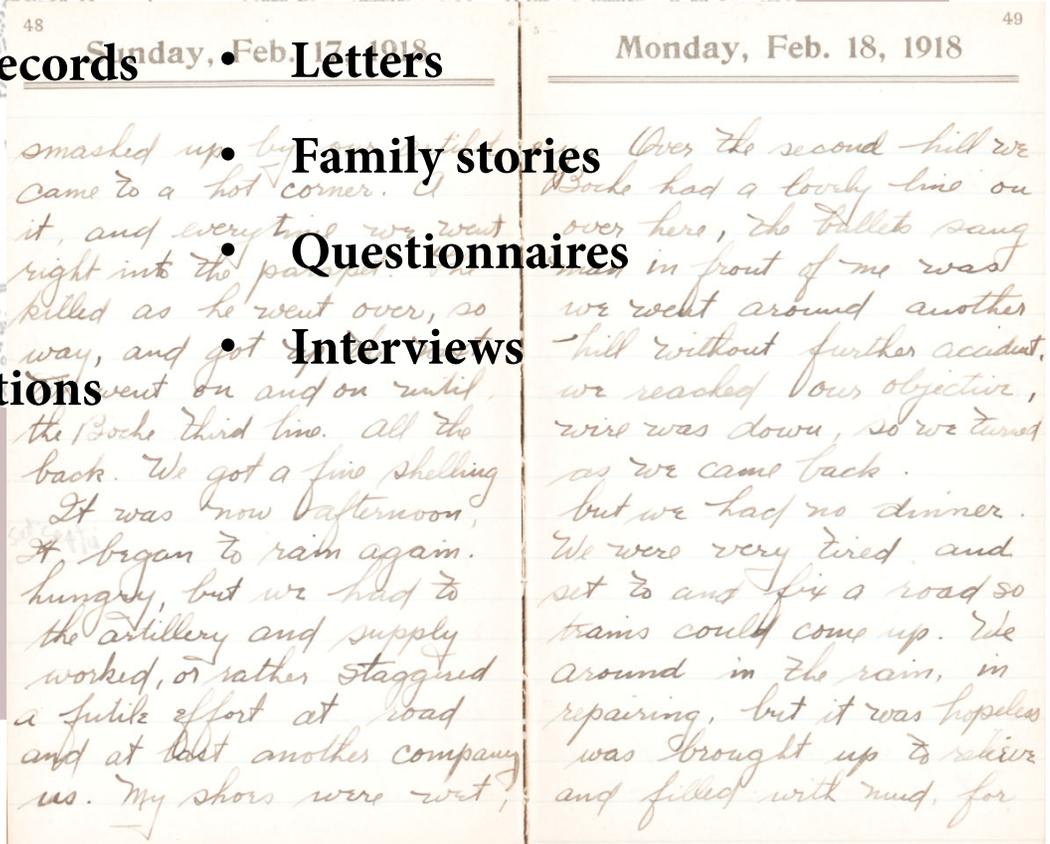
Biographical: Where to look

Published sources

Unpublished sources

- Census data
- Ship's registers/immigration records
- Wills and probate
- Deeds/land records
- Obituaries/gravestone inscriptions
- Newspaper articles
- Books/family histories

- Diaries
- Letters
- Family stories
- Questionnaires
- Interviews



[← Back to Results](#)

Early New England Families, 1641-1700

 Image Transcript

Volume

Alexander Adams (m. 1644)

← Page

4

of 6

→

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☆ Favorite

22 1st month 1663: Boston, "Nathaniel Ramsey servant to Alexander Adams died."

ESTATE: 29 January 1677[8]: Administration on the estate of "Alexander Addams late of Boston, shipwright" was granted to "Mary his Relict in right of her Selfe and Children."⁴⁸ 2 February 1677[8]: Inventory on the estate of "Alexander Addams deced. Jan^y 16 1677," taken by John Scarlett and Nathaniel Greenwood, was filed by "Mary Addams." The total came to £514.12s, including "dwelling houses wth the Land from the Sea to y^e Back Street (£400) and timber and other ship building material in the yard (£21)." 28 February 1677[8]: "Mary Addams," administratrix, posted bond of £1000 with John Scarlett and Nathaniel Greenwood.⁵⁰

19 August 1684 (signed 28 August 1684): "Samuel Addams, Caleb Stretton, Samuel Sexton & William Parkman" divided Alexander's estate. Caleb Stratton in the right of his wife, eldest daughter, received "the house wherein he the said Caleb now dwells" William Parkman received land between Stratton's house and his Samuel Sexton received "y^e Mansion house wherein he now dwells" and land to the east. Samuel Adams "the only Son" received the land "being now Employed for a building yard ..." down to the low water mark with the condition that Stratton, Sexton and Parkman would retain their right "of landing their wood, provisions & goods for their families ..." unless Samuel paid them twenty shillings each to forfeit that right. A memorandum attached to the deed and dated the same day stated that they had agreed to different lines of division and "That Samuel Sexton shal only have the Westward part or end of the Mansion house, the division to be made at the middle of y^e Maine Stack of Chimnys" the remainder of the mansion house and all of the land laid out in the original agreement to Sexton and Stratton was to belong to William Parkman: 4 December 1684: the agreement was acknowledged by all four parties at the

Biographical details in records

More of the story

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of “old age” at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in Partanna, Sicily, 27 October 1926, JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.

Partanna parish records

After the First World War ended, Frank again travelled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin,

Passenger list

Taormina. The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Family stories; newspaper articles

Tip

Don't let missing information
stop you from writing!

Thomas (of Sunderland, England) arrived at **Galveston, Texas**, 5 February 1881. He declared his desire for U.S. citizenship at the U.S. Circuit Court in Massachusetts, 30 December 1886. As a laborer, he petitioned for naturalization at Boston, 15 October 1888 and was naturalized there, 7 January 1889. His witnesses were Charles E. Muligan and Robert G. Swatland of Chelsea.¹

Galveston immigration:

- “Galveston immigration data is not available from the National Archives before 1871 and 1894; further, some records are missing near the time of the 1900 hurricane.”
- Historical marker: “Federal laws enacted in 1875 ended the unrestricted immigration into the country and led to the establishment of the area’s first U. S. Immigration Station at **Galveston’s Pier 29**.² The U. S. Congress chose Galveston over New Orleans as the major new Federal immigration station in 1906.”²
- “More than 130,000 immigrants came through the Port of Galveston from 1844 to 1949. Jami Durham, a historian with the Galveston Historical Foundation, says that the **immigrant station on Galveston Island opened in 1853 at Pier 29**, Durham often was described as the “Ellis Island of the West” or a “Second Ellis Island.” Frustrations of researching immigrants who entered Galveston at Pier 29 or other piers is that many records are gone.³ The Texas Seaport Museum at Pier 21 in Galveston has records of passengers arriving to the seaport city from in 1844 to 1949. Records from 1871 to 1894 are **missing** from The National Archives, a large gap during a busy immigration period. Some records are faint copies of originals and are unreadable.”³

During the first year, Thomas sailed out with the 336-ton barque *Magdala*. It had been built in Sunderland a decade earlier and was owned by the Watson family. The *Magdala* left for Point de Galle, Sri Lanka, the day after Thomas’s registration. When they returned to the British Isles after about ten days, two crew members refused to continue their service (citing “frivolous and ridiculous excuses,” in the opinion of the magistrates) and were sentenced to six weeks of hard labor.¹⁸¹ Perhaps this was enough to show Thomas that life on the sea was not for him, because he chose instead to work at a wharf for most of his life.

Thomas braved at least one last major sea voyage when he left England for America. According to his own memory, he arrived in early February 1881 at Galveston, Texas. The port there had attracted immigrants since around the time Texas joined the United States (in 1845), but it took decades before an official U.S. Customs immigration station was set up at its Pier 29. Unfortunately, the National Archives’ collection is missing the port’s records for 1871–1894. Even without those documents, we know that from the 1840s through the 1940s, over 130,000 immigrants arrived at Galveston. With the selection (in 1906) of Galveston over New Orleans as the official point of entry, by 1915 Galveston became known as the “Ellis Island of the West.”¹⁸²

From Texas, Thomas could have traveled by ship or by train to the northeastern states. Likely, he had to stop over in New York before making his way to Massachusetts. He seems to have settled at Chelsea by 1884, but he was certainly in the area at the end of 1886 when he declared his desire for U.S. citizenship. Having petitioned for naturalization two years later, he officially became a citizen on 7 January 1889.¹⁸³

Qualifying words

Gaps and unsolved problems



Enter what you have and highlight it for later attention.



Enter what you have and indicate the need for further research.

- In your preface
- In the text
- In reference notes

. . . Robert Abell disappears from the records until 4 December 1638, when he appeared before the General Court [MBCR 1:247], where his record immediately precedes two others relating to Weymouth. Where was Robert Abell during these seven and a half years? Would an adult of substantial social status have resided in Weymouth for this entire period without creating a single record? Did he perhaps return to England for part of this time? Further evidence for this period of Robert Abell's life would be welcome.

Based on these concerns, future research may determine that the records in this sketch actually pertain to two men named Robert Abell, one who was briefly in New England in 1630 and 1631, and a second who had arrived by 1639 and resided at Weymouth and Rehoboth. . . .

—Robert Charles Anderson, *The Winthrop Fleet* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 67.

Appendix

THE CONROE FAMILY

Kyle Hurst et al, *Selected Ancestors of Nelson McMahon and Louise Rathbun* (Newbury Street Press, c2020).

...ory, but the Conroe family's story requires detective work to tell. Because the family moved between New Jersey and New York without much property or steady religious affiliations, simply tracing the family's movements has been difficult. Connecting the generations of Conroe family members has proven even harder.

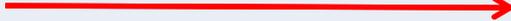
Over many years, Conroe descendants and researchers¹ have worked together to compile documentary evidence of the family in efforts to understand the way in which each relative fits into the lineage. Along with searches of a multitude of online resources, research primarily was conducted with the assistance of or in the materials of: the Sheridan Town Clerk, the Historian of the Town of Pomfret, Barker Library in Pomfret, the Montgomery County Historian, the Cattaraugus County Historian, Cattaraugus County Historical and Memorial Museum, Chautauqua County Genealogical Society, Chautauqua County Historical Society, Daniel Reed Library at SUNY Fredonia, Ontario County Courthouse Archives, Columbia County Historical Society, Clermont State Historic Site, Dutchess County Clerk's Office, Buffalo Erie County Library, Buffalo History Museum Library, New York Public Library, New York Historical Society, New York State Library, New York State Archives, New Jersey Department of Archives and Records Management, New Jersey Historical Society, Burlington County Library, William L. Clements Library Archives at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Despite so many efforts, the complete story of this family remains uncertain. Through clues gathered from sparse records, the following narrative outlines a likely Conroe lineage leading down to Sarah Ann Conroe (wife of Carlton Anson Rathbun). The five-plus generations of this story span two centuries, from the first generation in the colonies through the family's time in New Jersey and its westward migration through New York. Future researchers are encouraged to continue pursuing answers, building on the work summarized in this appendix.

Examples

Context

Timeline

1891	1901	1906	1920	1925	1926	1927	1942	1961	1969	1982
Frank Taormina born 	Frank emigrates	Josephine Accardo born 	Frank emigrates again	Uddo & Taormina company forms	Frank & Josephine marry 	Progresso forms	Progresso factory opens in NJ	Frank retires	Progresso sold	Frank dies 
		 1914-1918 WWI				 1941-1945 WWII				
 1890-1920 Emigration of over 4 million Italians to USA										

Noting ideas

FRANCESCO ROSARIO “FRANK” TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of “old age” at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at Brookside Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He married at St. Mary’s Church in St. Bernard, Louisiana, 27 October 1926, **JOSEPHINE ACCARDO**.

After the First World War ended, Frank again travelled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, Rosario Taormina. The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Comment [KH1]: How would this trip have differed from his first trip to America with his parents in 1901?

Comment [KH2]: If the destination was New Orleans, how did Frank end up dying in Florida but buried in New Jersey?

Comment [KH3]: Research the company – especially its beginnings and how it changed hands

Context: What kind of info?

- Historical events/eras/background
- Geography
- Cultural & religious beliefs/practices
- Descriptions

THE LIPPITTS OF COOPERSTOWN

Abraham Lippitt (#16) was about 46 years old when he set his sights on a new life in New York. In 1793, he and his family left a Rhode Island community bursting with Lippitts for the frontier of Otsego County, New York. There, they were the first Lippitts to establish themselves in this new territory; a place where many descendants would eventually call home.

Although we may never know their precise reasons, Abraham and his wife Sarah were part of a steady stream of New Englanders who were venturing west. Poor rocky soil and a short growing season made the colonies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island difficult places to farm,¹ and the promise of greener pastures loomed. In Rhode Island, the exodus may have been caused at least in part by a devaluation of the currency that ushered in hard economic times for families there. Stories of abundant game and fertile soil had been relayed by Revolutionary War soldiers who had fought in the area; now a new peace and fewer colonial restrictions opened the door for a mass migration of Yankees to New York State.

Wanderlust may also have played a role. According to historian Stewart Holbrook: “Yankees were born with an uncommon urge to see, with their own eyes, if the grass on the other side of the mountain really was greener. Certainly, it was some such curiosity and little else that prompted many a well-fixed New Englander to leave. . . .”²

Christopher C. Child et al, *Descendants of John Lippitt of Providence and Warwick, Rhode Island* (Newbury Street Press, c2021).

THE ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL HISTORY

Place homeland, region, town, nearby city, countryside, neighborhood, land, property

Architecture design, usage, materials, location, landscaping, interior decor, vernacular style, outbuildings, repair, alteration, display, storage, inheritance

Time and Season ways they determined time and season, work hours, rhythm of life, climate changes, seasonal events, holiday celebrations, daily schedules

Family structure, power, division of labor, levels of cohesion, nuclear and extended, servants, adopted and step members, pets, relationships, surrogates

Marriage ceremonies, relationships, gender roles, sexuality, courts of choice, infidelity and response, widowhood, inheritance relations, customs, dress, property, divorce, nontraditional practices

Childraising conception, birth control, pregnancy, birth, medical practices, inheritance, nurture, discipline, religion, education work, play, toys, pets, adolescence, initiations, organizations dress, mortality, grieving

Old Age attitudes, care, power, work, ceremonies, organizations, inheritance, housing, hobbies, health, dress, deference, wisdom

Death life expectancy, causes, health, medical care, burial, funeral practices, inheritance, obituaries, tributes, naming and burial

Religion denominations, beliefs, practices, ceremonies, discriminations, icons, hierarchies, group behavior, intermarriage, children

Education at-home, public or private, equipment, discipline, teaching, rural schools, advanced, apprenticeship, boarding, on-line, textbooks, social life, organizations, recreation, emergency roles, scholarly subjects, research, higher education, professions

Work jobs, professions, types of labor, schedules, equipment, training, ethics, methods, attitudes, clothing, income, seasonality, rank, age and gender distinctions, conditions, organizations, transportation, hazards, fairness, manuals, publications, rank, structure, manufacturing

Economy business, bookkeeping, income, expenses, prices, currency, investments, losses, inflation, depression, theft, charity, taxes, inventory, property, inheritance, accounting, selling

Technology equipment, utilities, machines, tools, utensils, methods, inventions, work, household, farm, manufacturing, transportation, communication, medical, emergency, flight, space, photography

Recreation seasonal nature, timing, organizations, dress, equipment, rules, competition, popular culture, hobbies, arts, games, toys, music, awards, travel, socializing, technology, television, radio, films, oratory, festivals, traditional ethnic and regional customs

Migration mobility rates, transportation, push and pull factors, group behavior, routes, assimilation, enclaves, return migration, foodways, health, transported possessions, written accounts, work, recreation, vehicles

Rank systems, organizations, politics, work, deference, wealth, inheritance, property, influence, public office, honor and shame, publicity, display of rank, attitudes

Politics government, elections, organizations, opinions, voting, issues, political parties, interest groups, campaigning, taxes, reform, contracts, women's suffrage

War and military motives, draft, common soldier experience, costumes, equipment, health, disease, medical care, wounds, battles, chores, training, rank, civilian homefront experiences, epidemics, shortages, inflation, mobilization, transportation, alternative service, conscientious objection, veterans'

Katherine Sturdevant, *Bringing Your Family History to Life Through Social History* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, c2000), 18-19.

Tip

Don't write about big topics that are beyond the scope of your family history.

(Please don't try to explain the American Revolution.)

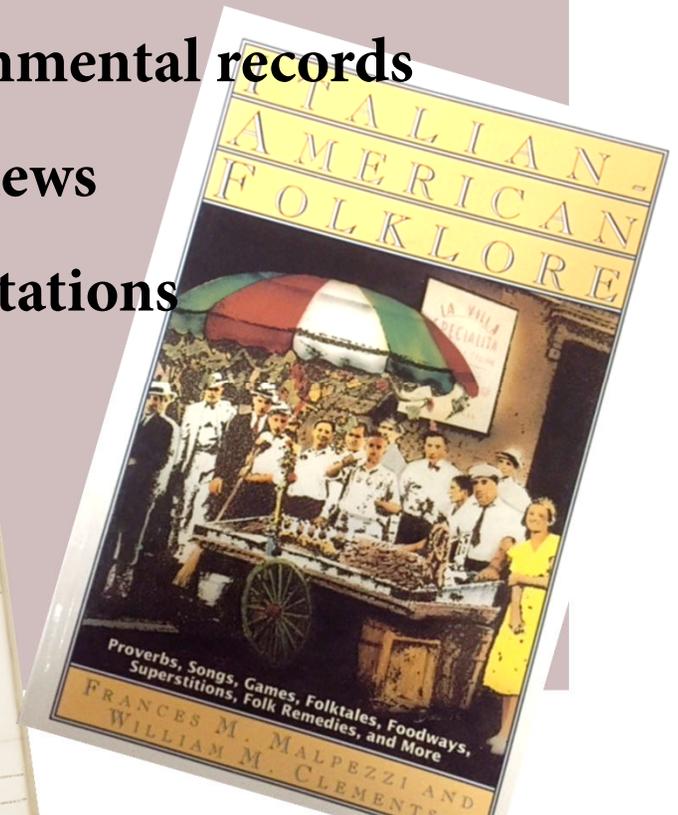
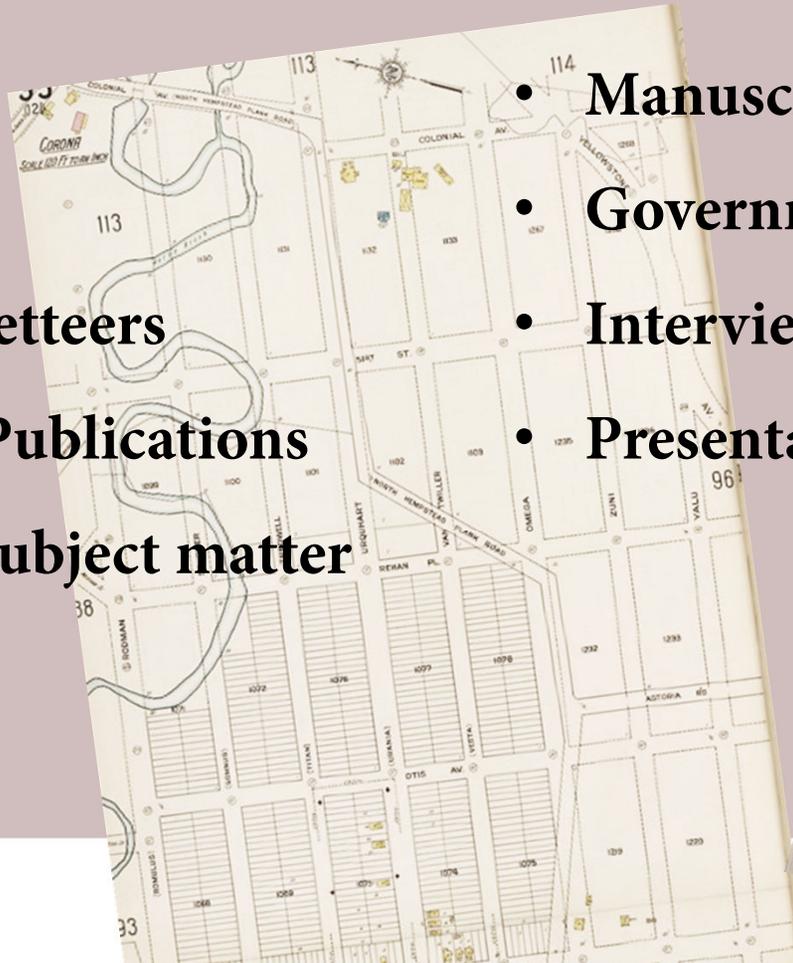
Where to obtain background info for your narrative

Published sources

Unpublished sources

- Histories
- Timelines
- Maps/Gazetteers
- Websites/Publications by/about subject matter
- News

- Manuscript collections
- Governmental records
- Interviews
- Presentations



Story in context

After the First World War ended, Frank again traveled to America around the time of his birthday – this time about a month after his 29th. **Italian immigration to America had just begun to taper off after the arrival of 4 million of Frank’s countrymen.** As a healthy laborer from Partanna, Francesco carried \$60 aboard the *Logan* bound from Naples to New York City. With him was his cousin, Giuseppe, and his final destination was the New Orleans home of his cousin, Rosario Taormina. **So many Sicilians like them had settled there that the French Quarter was nicknamed “Little Palermo.”** The Taormina family in New Orleans would soon start a food import business that would come to be known as Progresso.

Journal article about Italian immigration

New Orleans website

The Scottish branch of the family lived in the Shetland Islands (also called Zetland) for many generations. Only seven larger and eight smaller islands of the hundred are inhabited. The group is so far northeast off the main coast of Scotland that the next stop is Norway. Naturally then, Shetland's geography and history is a unique blend of Norse and Scottish family names and cultures.²⁶⁶

Robert grew up in the village of Grimister on the island of Yell (formerly Zell), the second-largest island north of the main island. Even at the height of its population (in 1846), Yell only had 3,450 residents. Almost all its settlements hug the coast, leaving the center as what is know as “da Wilds o’Yell.” Unsurprisingly then, inhabitants of the Mid and South Yell parish primarily made a living fishing, mostly for ling, cod, herring, and sea trout. Robert’s father Andrew Jameson (No. 56) and grandfather James fished in addition to farming.²⁶⁷

Robert and Jean wed in 1855 at the Mid Yell church with minister James Barclay officiating. At the time, Robert worked as a seaman in merchant service. Over the next five years, the couple had two sons and a daughter, only to lose their younger son, the first Thomas Thomason. The young family remained on Yell until at least 1860.²⁶⁹



A 2009 map showing ships serving the Shetlands and the islands of Yell and Fetlar. It takes over 12 hours to get to J.

Area’s primary migration cause

Uncertain migration

Possible motivation for destination

During the 1860s, Shetland as a whole lost about 300 residents to migration. According to an 1871 inquiry, the primary cause was “the system under which the people have been and are placed.” In imploring change, Commissioner Thomas Edmonston explained:

There can be no doubt but that the barter or truck system has been and is the curse of Shetland. . . . As the system at present stands, a good year for fishing or for the crops does not mean much cash among the people any more than a bad year implies little, but it means little or much debt. The people as a rule do not finger in money one fiftieth of their earnings as an average, and three fourths or thereabout of them never see money as payment for their produce. Such a state of matters is utterly demoralizing, and so long as it is permitted to continue Shetland must and will continue behind-hand in every sense, at least so far as the peasantry are concerned.

Essentially, the barter system arose from the unbalanced relationship between proprietors and tenants and the proprietors’ monopolizing role in the fishing industry. The commissioners estimated that nearly two thirds of the population (essentially all adults) were “under the influence of truck”—whether perpetuating or being victimized by that system. Throughout the centuries, the system had added tensions between the Scottish (who became proprietors) and those of Norse background (who lost lands and influence to said Scots).²⁷⁰

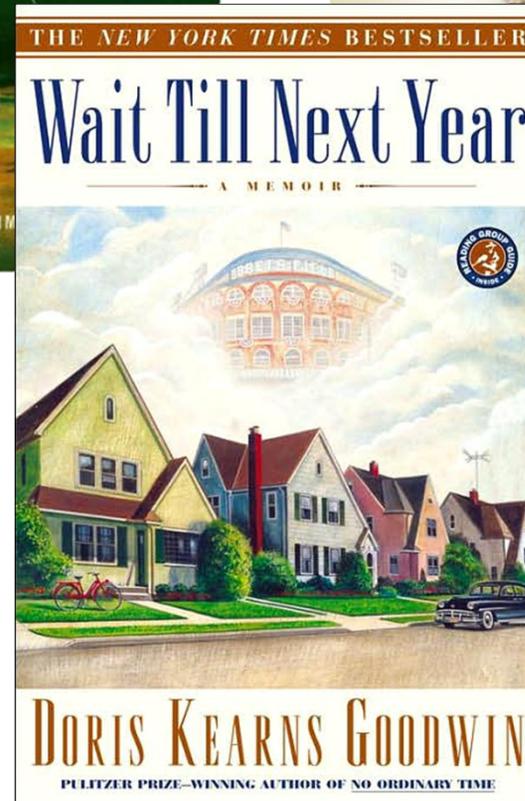
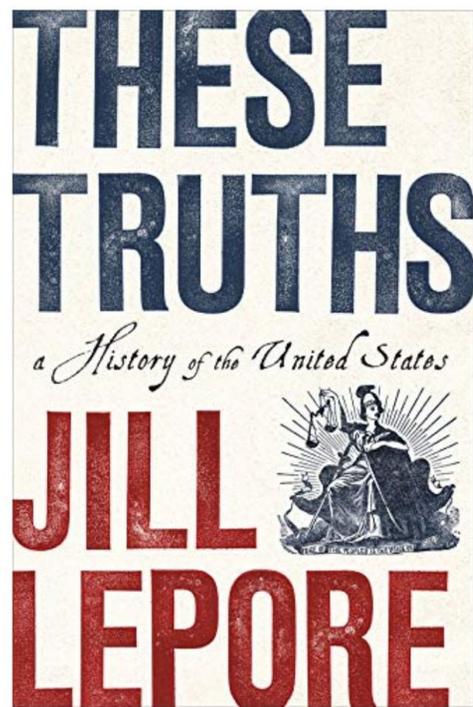
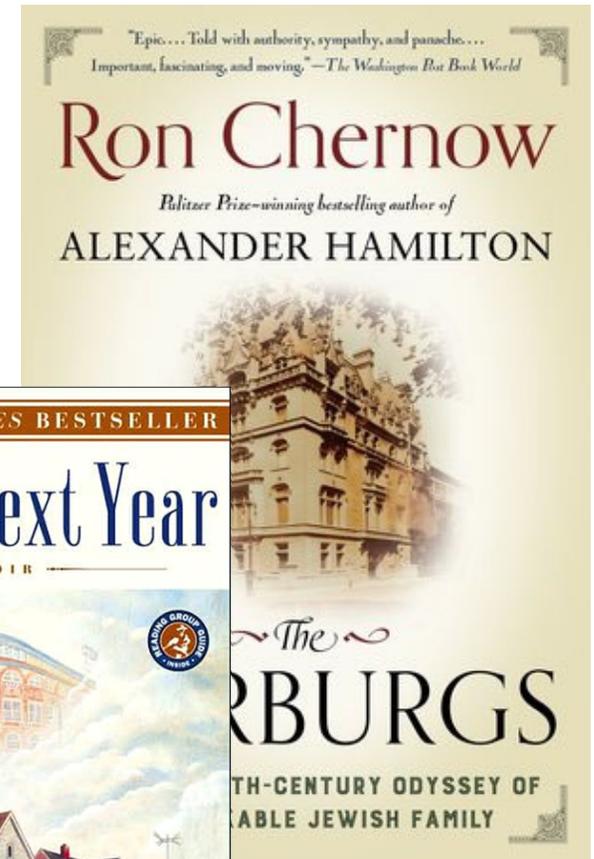
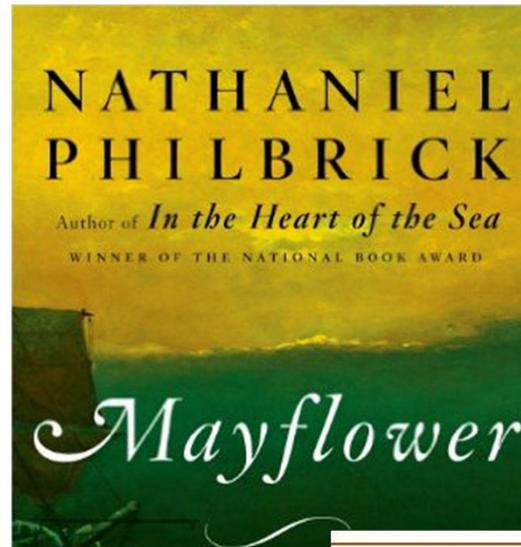
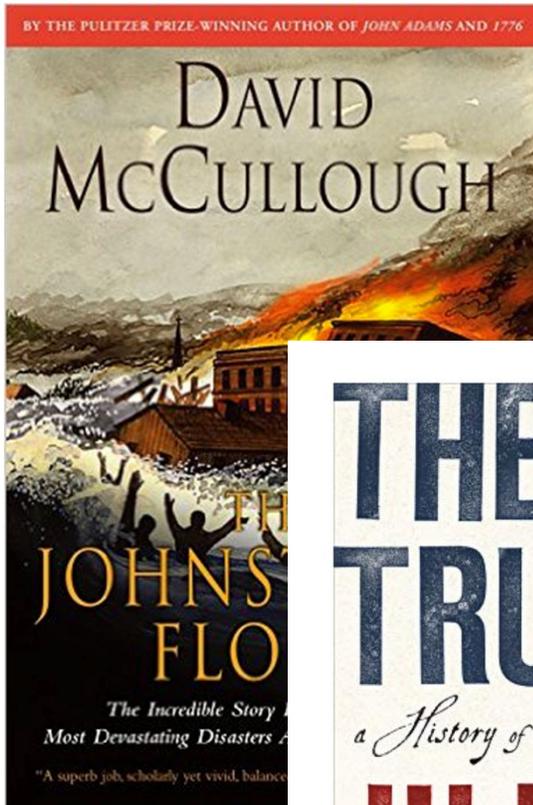
In 1860 or 1861, this Jameson family decided to leave the Shetlands to settle along the northeastern coast of England. As a mariner, Robert chose to move to Sunderland, a shipping port known for shipbuilding. According to an 1848 gazetteer, over 35 shipyards allowed “ship-building [to be] carried on [in Sunderland] to a greater extent than at any other port in the empire.” Sunderland became one of the four English towns to attract the largest numbers of Shetlanders over the course of the century. As of 1881, the Jameson family lived on Zetland Street, a name that may have indicated a known gathering of Shetlanders.²⁷¹

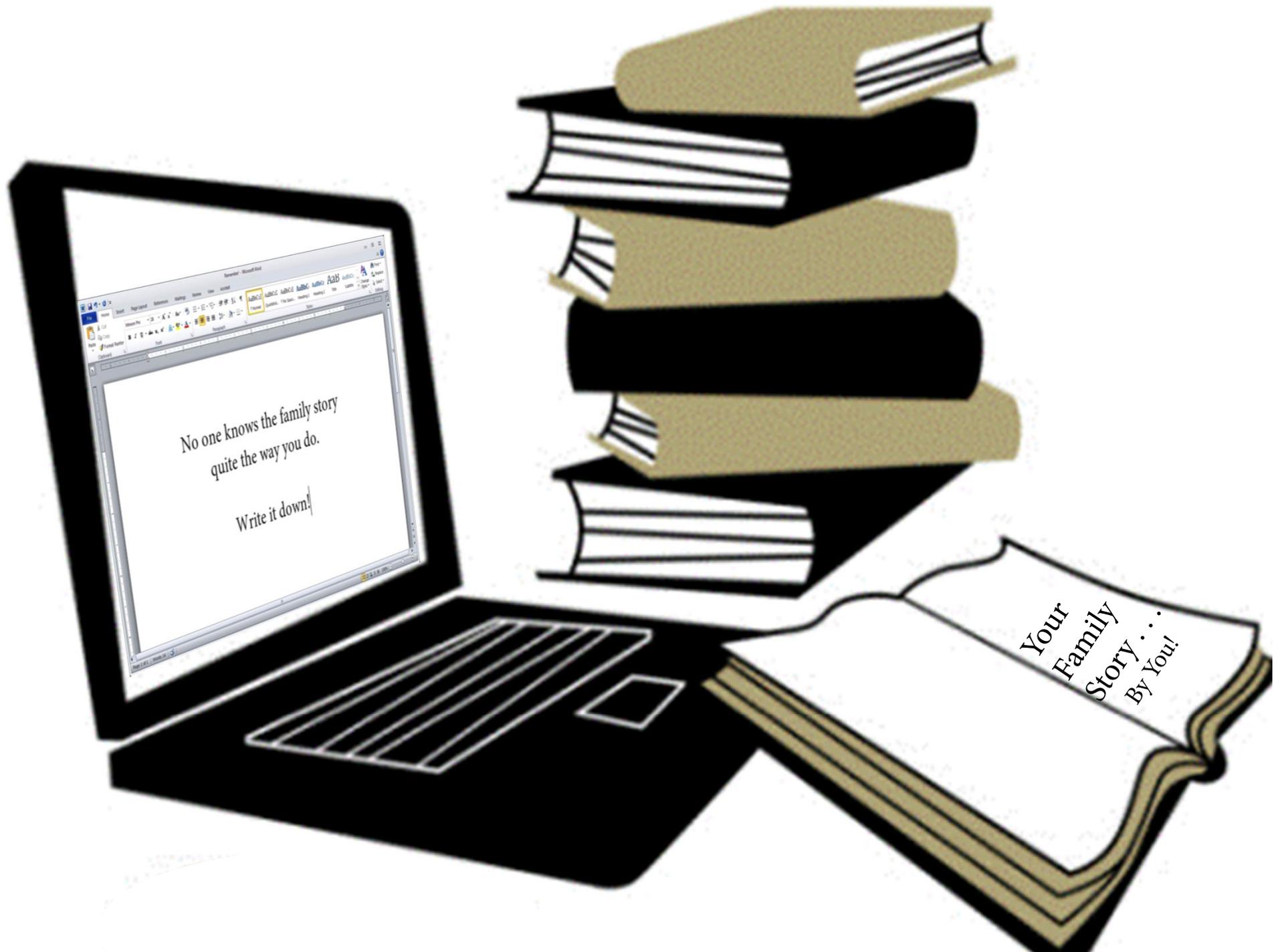
While Robert likely sailed out from northern village, Monkwearmouth, near the Wear River and near a Benedictine monastery, the townships held nearly 12,500 residents in total. The family lived in the township of Monkwearmouth Shore (making up nearly half of Monkwearmouth’s total acreage), which grew from 15,139 residents in 1861, to 16,590 in 1871, to 17,647 in 1881.²⁷²

Context to fill gaps

Tip

Read historical
nonfiction





Try it!

1. Family:

- ✓ Make a timeline of significant moments in an ancestor's life.

2. History:

- ✓ Add contextual info that puts your ancestor's life in perspective.

3. Story:

- ✓ Combine the biographical and contextual info using your preferred narrative style.



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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