



1



2



3



4

Finding the Marriage Record

- Where did the couple marry?
 - Often the town of the bride's family
 - Check old maps for boundary and community name changes

5

Finding the Marriage Record (cont.)

- When did the couple marry?
 - Record availability varies by time and place
- Is this a first, second, or third marriage?

County Monaghan Ireland		
Parish	Baptisms	Marriages
Aghabog (Drumkeen)	1856-1913	1845-1913
Aughnamullen (Corlea)	1862-1915	1845-1915
Aughnamullen (Crieve)		1845-1914
Ballybay (First Ballybay)	1799-1831	1848-1914
Ballybay (Second Ballybay)		1845-1906
Clones (Smithborough)		1833-1837 1845-1911

6

Types of Records Indicating a Marriage

- Evidence of intention to marry
 - Before mid-1800's
 - Intentions
 - Banns
 - Bonds
 - Replaced by
 - License
- Evidence of marriage
 - Certificates
 - Returns or Registers
 - Personal records

7

Rochester, Massachusetts Intention

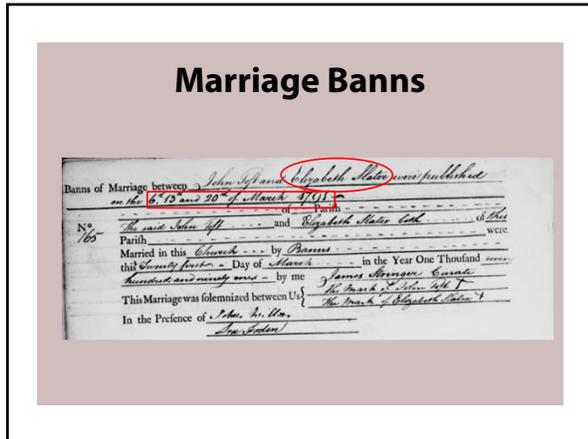
"Town and vital records of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1673- 1893," Family Search

8

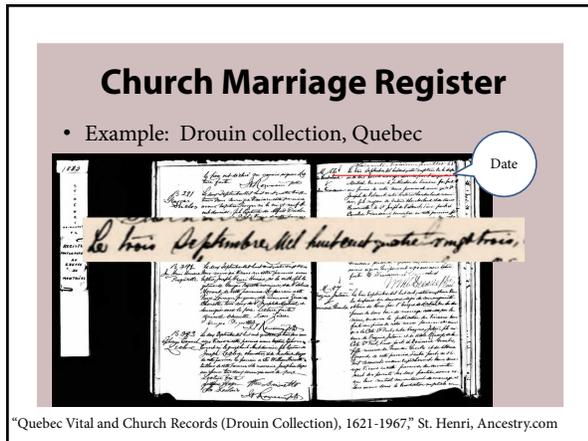
Marriage Bond, Virginia

"Marriage bonds, licenses, etc., 1797-1900," Norfolk, Virginia

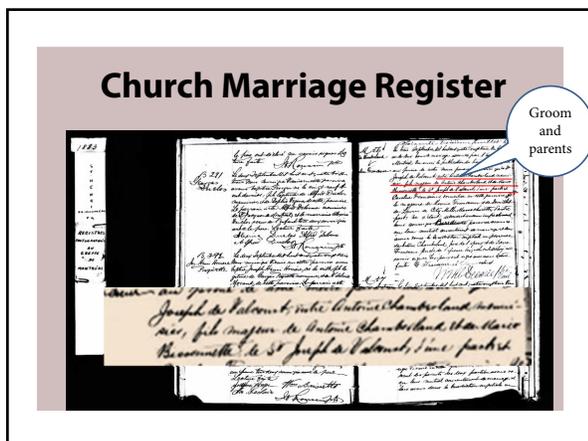
9



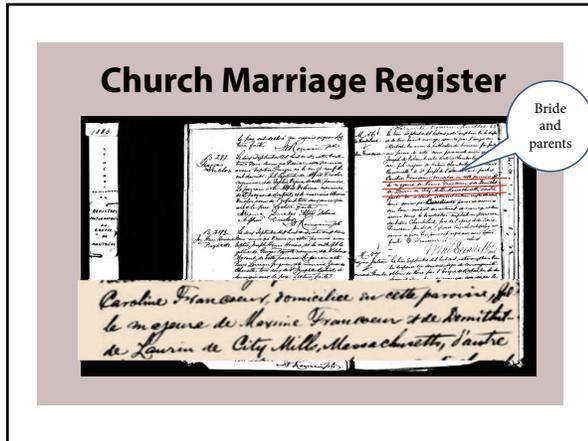
13



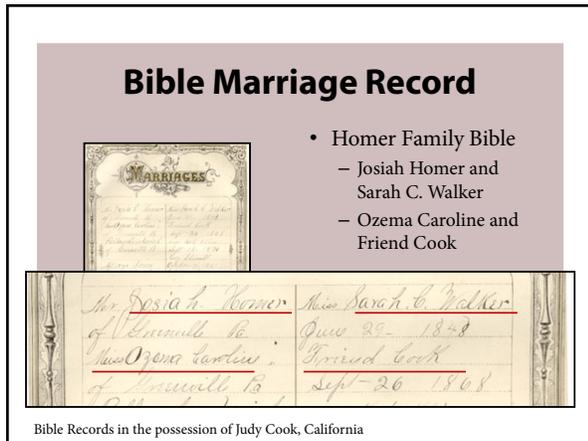
14



15

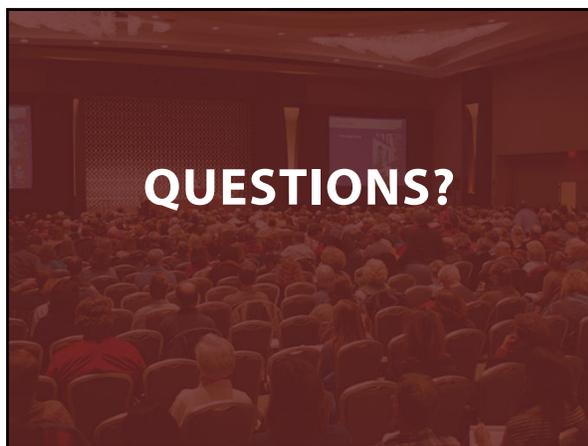


16



Bible Records in the possession of Judy Cook, California

17



18



19

Other Original Documents with a Maiden Name

- Woman's death record
 - Parents named
- Children's birth, marriage and death records
 - Colonial records tend not to give the woman's maiden name on a birth record of her child



20

Woman's Death Record

- Pre-20th century, maiden name not often captured on a death record
- Death certificates in 20th century



11. Industry or business

12. Name Rev. Newton Hervey Bell

13. Birthplace Iowa (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

14. Maiden name Emma Hall Curtis

15. Birthplace New York (City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

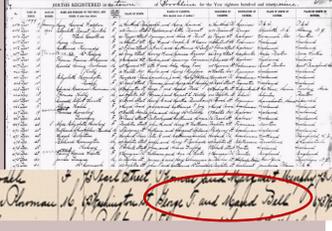
16. (a) Informant's own signature Emma Curtis Bell

"Pennsylvania, Death Certificates, 1906-1963," Ancestry.com

21

Child Records That May Identify the Mother's Maiden Name

- Birth/baptism (civil and church)
- Marriage (civil and church)
- Death (civil)



"Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910," Town of Brookline, American Ancestors

22

Case Study – Using Children's Death Records

- Good strategy if the children died in the latter part of the 19th century or later
- Gustave and Frances (MNU) Dorsey
 - Martha Jane 1846-1912
 - Leonard Prindowell 1848-1921
 - Charles Allen 1854-1941
 - Francis E. 1856-1874
 - Alice P. 1858-1920
 - Gustavus Young 1863-1900
 - William 1867- Bef 1880

23

Sort Death Years

Child	Death Year	Death State
Francis E.	1874	California
William	1880	Nevada
Gustavus Young	1900	Nevada
Martha Jane	1912	California
Alice P.	1920	Nevada
Leonard Prindowell	1921	California
Charles Allen	1941	California

24

Online Vital Records

<p>California</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California, county birth and death records: Collection Record, 1800-1994 (FS) • California, U.S., Death Index, 1940-1997 (Ancestry) 	<p>Nevada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nevada County birth and death records: Collection Record, 1871-1992 (FS) • Nevada, U.S., Death Certificates, 1911-1965 (Ancestry)
---	---

25

Results

Child	Death Year	Death State	Results
Francis E.	1874	California	No record
William	1880	Nevada	No record
Gustavus Young	1900	Nevada	No record
Martha Jane	1912	California	Index only
Alice P.	1920	Nevada	Online certificate
Leonard Prindowell	1921	California	Index only
Charles Allen	1941	California	Index only

26

Alice P. Dorsey Pollack

"Nevada, Death Records, 1911-1965" Ancestry.com

27

Less Well-Known Sources for the Maiden Name

- Census records
 - living with in-laws, elderly relative listed as “mother-in-law”
 - brothers or sisters living with couple
- Newspaper announcements
- Land records
- Military pension files
- Cemeteries
- Parent’s will
- County histories (use as a finding aid)

28

Censuses That List Relationships

- Ancestry.com:
 - U.S. Census 1880 -1940
 - Canadian Censuses through 1921
 - 1841-1911 English Censuses
- FamilySearch.org
 - U.S. Census on FamilySearch.org
 - English and Canadian Census through 1911/1921

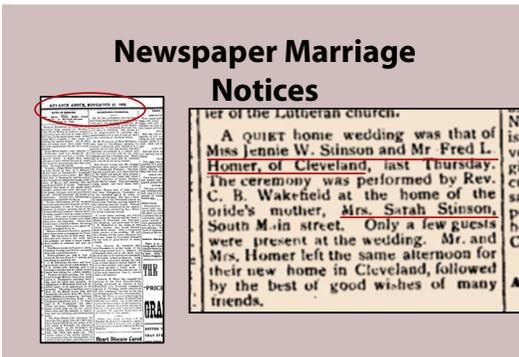
29

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Mar.	Prof.	Value	Real Estate	Personal	Notes
31	Walter George	46	M	W	1					Farmer
	Sarah M.	42	F	W	1					Wife
	George W. W.	16	M	W	1					Son
	William W.	14	M	W	1					Son
	Mary W.	11	F	W	1					Daughter
	Andrew W.	5	M	W	1					Son

1880 Census Rock Creek, Cowley, Kansas

30

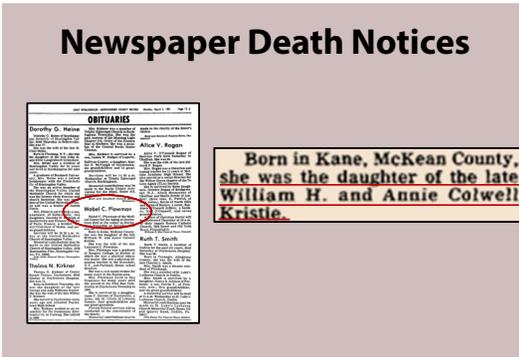
Newspaper Marriage Notices



Notices, *Advance Argus* (Greenville, Mercer, PA) November 21, 1895, page 8; viewed at Newspapers.com

31

Newspaper Death Notices

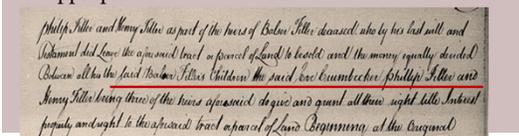


Obituaries, *Montgomery County Record* (Pennsylvania) March 2, 1987

32

Deeds

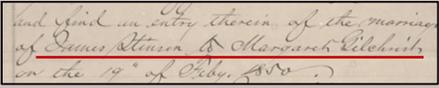
- An excellent source for proving relationships when VRs not available
- Depending on the indexing system, the woman should be in either the grantor or grantee index as appropriate



33

Widow's military pension

- Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Indian Wars, Spanish-American War
- Originals at National Archives

*Civil War "Widows' Pensions, Pension of James Stinson, page 16, viewed at Fold3.com: accessed 29 May 2020

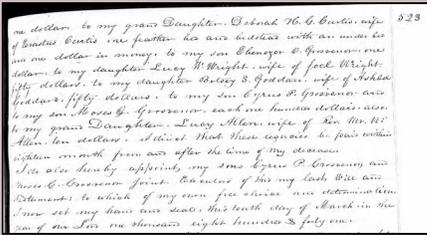
34

Tombstones



35

Parent's Last Will & Testament May Confirm Maiden Name



*Massachusetts, Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1991" will of Deborah Grosvenor probated 10 Mar 1841; online images, Ancestry.com, citing Worcester County Probate Records, Vol 84-85, 1839-1844; Image 285.

36

Parent's Last Will & Testament May Confirm Maiden Name

"Massachusetts, Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1991" will of Deborah Grosvenor probated 10 Mar 1841; online images, Ancestry.com, citing Worcester County Probate Records, Vol 84-85, 1839-1844; Image 285.

37

Social Security Application

Birth Place: [Dedham, Massachusetts]
 Father Name: Antoine Chamberlain
 Mother Name: Caroline Francoeur
 Death Date: 31 Jan 1999

38

Diaries and Letters

- Often part of manuscript collections
- Check local libraries and historical societies
- Large collection at American Ancestors - See Digital Library

Diary of Nancy Bartlett Drew
 Mar A 1911
 Diary recording social calls, weather, local births, marriages, and deaths in Kingston, Massachusetts, with some clippings.

39



40

Finding Aids

- New England Marriages Prior to 1700*
Clarence Almon Torrey

PRESCOTT, Jonathan (1645/6?-1721) & 3/wf Rebecca (WHEELER) BULKELEY (1645-1717, 1718), w Peter, 18 Dec 1689; Concord (Stevens-Miller 60; Blake-Glidden 204; Warner-Harrington 525; Prescott 42; Fallass 130; Upton (1893) 169; Wheeler 573; R. Wheeler 7; Bulkeley 129; DeFew 167; White Fam. Quar. 3:107; Gen. Adv. 1:122; Sibley's Harv. Grad. 2:171)

41

Published Indexes

AmericanAncestors.org A National Center for a Family History, Heritage & Culture

Search Events Join Give 10 Million Names Publications Ex

Search Database Favorites

New England Historical and Genealogical Register

Exact Search Soundex SEARCH

First Name Last Name
First,Middle(Maiden) names Last Name

Years From To

Keywords Article Title Only

Volume Page

AmericanAncestors.org

42

THE HOMMER FAMILY.—Jacob Hommer, a native of Germany, and a Revolutionary soldier, was one of the early settlers of West Salem Township. He grew up in Maryland, and was twice married. His first wife was Mary Siler, who bore him three sons and four daughters: John, Joseph, Jacob, Polly, Lena, Susan and Elizabeth. The mother died in Maryland, and he married Mrs. Hannah (Booth) Schaffer, and with two sons, John and Jacob, and his four daughters, by his first marriage, immigrated to Mercer County in 1809 (Joseph remaining in Maryland), where he purchased and settled on a tract of land partly lying within the present limits of Greenville. Two daughters, Hannah and Rachel, were born of his second marriage. His cabin stood on the west side, where Samuel West now lives. The parents both spent the balance of their lives on this farm, upon which they were interred. John, the oldest son, married Catharine Harsh, in Maryland, and after coming to Mercer located at the Big Bend, in Delaware Township, where his father purchased him 100 acres. He died there, and his sons still live on the old homestead.

County Histories

46

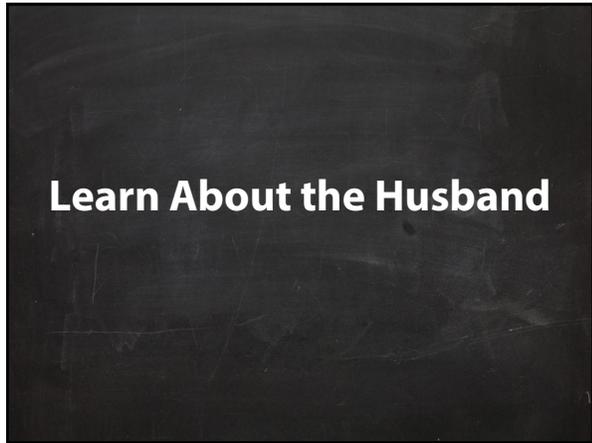
Naming Patterns

- Some families preserve the wife's maiden name as the child's middle name.
 - Margaret Lawthers Higgins (mother's maiden name)
 - Edward Grosvenor Plowman (maternal 2nd great grandmother)
 - Peter Carrington Lawthers (mother's great-grandmother)

47

QUESTIONS?

48



49

Learn About the Husband

- FAN Club – Family, Associates and Neighbors
- Migration pattern of family
- Religion/Church
- Occupation

50

Aaron Huffman's wife, Martha

- FAN Club principle
- Aaron's father was Elijah Huffman
- Elijah purchased land in Indiana next to John B. Farrell
- Research on John Farrell's family shows the Huffman and Farrell families lived in the same Kentucky County

51

Bell Family of Sangamon County, Illinois

- Peter Bell's father was Henry and his mother Elizabeth Burner - married in KY in 1801
- 1810 census for Henry had 3 older children in the household - was Elizabeth a 2nd wife?
- KY marriage records suggested a Nellie Gumm married Henry in 1789

HISTORY GEO.COM
First Landowners Project

52

Clergyman's wife, Emma

- Newton Hervey Bell was born in Kossuth, Iowa. He married Emma, MNU before 1870 (per census).
- Newton attended Amherst College, graduating in 1866, then attended Princeton Theological Seminary and Bangor Theological Seminary

NEWTON HERVEY BELL, son of Peter B. and Harriet (Houston) Bell, was born in Kossuth, Ia., Apr. 22, 1841; fitted for college at Yellow Springs Coll., Ia., and at Denmark Academy, Ia. Princeton T. S., '66-'67; Bangor T. S., '67-'68; ordained at Stafford Springs, Ct., Aug. 5, 1868, and p., '68-'70; a. p., Winchester, Ind., '70-'71; a. p., Owatonna, Minn., '71-'73; in employ of A. B. C. F. M., Mardin, Turkey, '74-'76; s. s., Schroon Lake, N. Y., '77; s. s., Arcade, N. Y., '77-'80; p., First Presbyterian church, Nunda, N. Y., since '81. Married, Aug. 11, 1868, Emma H., dau. of Rev. Erastus Curtiss, of New Salem. Five children. P. O. address, Nunda, N. Y.

Biographical Record of Alumni Of Amherst College

53

Clergyman's wife, Emma

NEWTON HERVEY BELL, son of Peter B. and Harriet (Houston) Bell, was born in Kossuth, Ia., Apr. 22, 1841; fitted for college at Yellow Springs Coll., Ia., and at Denmark Academy, Ia. Princeton T. S., '66-'67; Bangor T. S., '67-'68; ordained at Stafford Springs, Ct., Aug. 5, 1868, and p., '68-'70; a. p., Winchester, Ind., '70-'71; a. p., Owatonna, Minn., '71-'73; in employ of A. B. C. F. M., Mardin, Turkey, '74-'76; s. s., Schroon Lake, N. Y., '77; s. s., Arcade, N. Y., '77-'80; p., First Presbyterian church, Nunda, N. Y., since '81. Married, Aug. 11, 1868, Emma H., dau. of Rev. Erastus Curtiss, of New Salem. Five children. P. O. address, Nunda, N. Y.

Biographical Record of Alumni Of Amherst College

54



55

Educate Yourself

- Learn about early settlers
- Learn about migrations in and out
- Learn about boundary and name changes
- Learn about Families in the area by time-period

56

Ann Grosvenor of Pomfret, Connecticut

Here Lyes y^e Body of M^{rs} Ann Grosvenor the widow of M^r Ebenezer Grosvenor she died July 30 1743 in y^e 56th Year of her Age

- Born about 1687
- Married about 1707 based on birth of first child but no marriage record
- Births of children listed as "d." or "s." of Ebenezer and Ann
- Ebenezer Grosvenor of Roxbury, came to Pomfret in 1700 with his mother, Esther (or Hester).

57

Early Settlement

- Land in Pomfret was purchased in 1686 by 12 men from Roxbury, Massachusetts, but not settled until 1699.
- Woodstock, just north of Pomfret, was purchased by 39 men from Roxbury at the same time and settled immediately (1686)



58

Births of Ann's in Roxbury (1685-1689)

- Ann Baker, d. Robert and Mary, 8 June 1685
- Ann White, d. Benjamin, 4 July 1685
- Anna Lyon, d. Thomas and Abigail, 28 April 1689
- Anne Massey, d. John and Sarah, 11 October 1687

59

Settlers of Woodstock (with ages)

• Aspinwall, Peter (22)	• Griggs, Benjamin (19)
• Bacon, Joseph (20)	• Griggs, George (25)
• Bacon, Thomas (28)	• Holmes, John (25)
• Bowen, Henry (53)	• Johnson, Nathaniel (39)
• Bowen, John (24)	• Leavens, John (46)
• Bugbee, John (21)	• Lyon, Thomas (38)
• Bugbee, Joseph (46)	• Lyon, William Sr (65)
• Butcher, John (23)	• Lyon, William Jr. (34)
• Chandler, John (51)	• Marcy, John (24)
• Chandler, John Jr. (21)	• May, Samuel (25)
• Corbin, James (21)	• Morris, Ebenezer (22)
• Craft, Samuel (49)	• Morris, Edward (56)
• Davis, Jonathan (21)	• Peacock, Samuel (29)
• Davis, Matthew (22)	• Peake, Jonathan (49)
• Frizzel, John (22)	• Peake, Joseph (41)
• Garey, Nathaniel (23)	• Sabin, Benjamin (40)
	• Sanger, Nathan (34)
	• Scarborough, Samuel (40)
	• Watkins, Andrew (20)

60

Births of Ann's in Roxbury Matched to Settlers

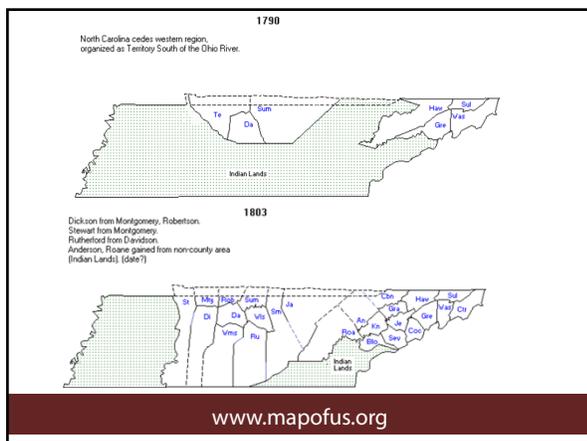
- Anna Lyon, d. Thomas and Abigail, 28 April 1689
- Anne Massey, d. John and Sarah, 11 October 1687
- ❖ Next steps, probate of fathers?

61

Consider Boundary Changes

- Familiarize with the geography and county boundaries of a state. This dictates where to look for records.
- Map of US
 - www.mapofus.org
- Newbury Atlas of Historical County Boundaries
 - <https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/>
- 6th Edition of Genealogists Handbook

62



63

Check the Record Dates

- Check Family Search Research Wiki for County specific dates (www.familysearch.org)

Country		Births	Marriages	Deaths
Davidson, Tennessee	Earliest	1881	1789	1881
	Statewide registration	1914	1914	1914
	General Compliance	1927	1927	1927
Sumner, Tennessee	Earliest	1881	1787	1881
	Statewide registration	1914	1914	1914
	General Compliance	1927	1927	1927

64

Family Search Research Wiki - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page

65

Results Page

66

Consultations

Book a one-on-one
consultation with
a genealogist and
receive help with your
family history research!

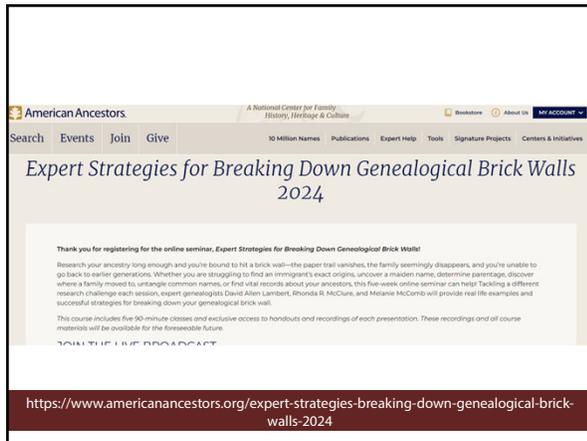




AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations

Use code BRICKS for priority booking!

73



The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors website page for the seminar. The header includes the logo and navigation links. The main heading is "Expert Strategies for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls 2024". Below this, there is a thank-you message for registration and a brief description of the seminar's content, which includes five 90-minute classes and access to recordings.

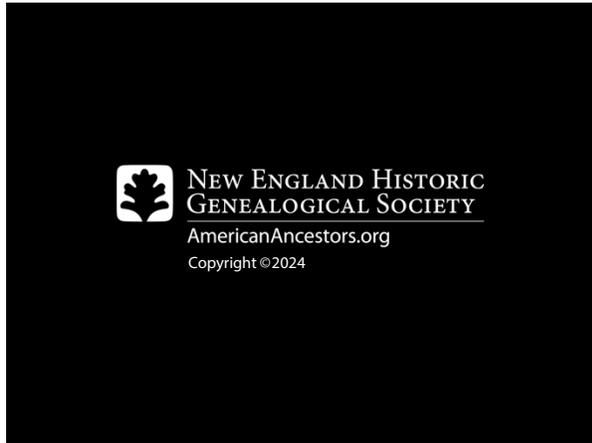
<https://www.americanancestors.org/expert-strategies-breaking-down-genealogical-brick-walls-2024>

74



THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org/Education

75



76