

Expert Strategies for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls

*Class 5: Origins and Migrations:
Where Did They Come From,
Where Did They Go?*

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Overview of Cluster research
 - Case Study: Ransom Billings
 - “Follow the Money”
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

What is Cluster Research?

A research technique used to learn more about an ancestor by examining records left by the ancestor's *cluster*

- *Family*
- *Associates*
- *Neighbors*



Family

- Family members with the same surname
- Consider others:
 - Maiden name of spouse
 - In-laws
 - Cousins (1st and others)
 - Grandparents
 - Great-Grandparents
 - Step-Parents/Siblings

Reasons to Research Family

- Determine Parentage
- Maiden names
- Discover origin of immigrant ancestors
- Locate information about a parent's birthplace



Associates

- Associated Persons
 - Politics
 - Occupation
 - Education
 - Religion
- Associated Places
 - Place of Birth
 - Death Details

Reasons to Research Associates

- Trace migrations
- Discover more about military service
- Study a particular place or event – associated places can be important
- Trace maternal lines
- Develop a more holistic view of an ancestor



Neighbors

- Household neighbors
- Individuals buried in the same or surrounding cemetery plots
- Pew assignments

Reasons to Research Neighbors

- Provide clues about migration patterns and earlier origins
- Inform us of our ancestor's immigrant origins
- Supply missing information about our ancestors
- Help us trace women and may reveal maiden names

Key Resources for Cluster Research

- Cemeteries/Headstones
- Census Records
- Church Records
- City Directories
- County and Local Histories
- Genealogies
- Land and Mortgage Records
- Newspaper Articles/Obituaries
- Pension Records
- Probate Records
- Tax Lists

Cluster Research Steps

1. Organize your previous research into an annotated research log
2. Look for missing information and identify your goal
3. Who's your F.A.N club?
4. List the records that will aid in your research
5. Locate the resources
6. Research!
7. Analyze and make your conclusions

Watch this webinar

The image shows the top navigation bar of the American Ancestors website. On the left is the logo and name "American Ancestors." followed by the tagline "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". To the right are links for "Bookstore", "About Us", and "MY ACCOUNT". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for "Search", "Events", "Join", "Give", "10 Million Names", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Signature Projects", and "Centers & Initiatives".

The main content area features a video player with a dark blue overlay. The text on the overlay reads: "Setting Yourself Up for Success: Organizational Tools and Tips to Break Down Brick Walls". Below the text are the logos for "American Ancestors" and "THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER". The video background shows a brick wall with several historical documents, including a "BIRTH REGISTERED IN THE CITY OF BOSTON" and a "STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH" for "David Stone, 23 Marshall Street, Boston, Mass. 1890".

Origins of Ransom Billings

1. Organize your previous research into an annotated research log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record
Vital Records				
Card File to Geauga County Obituaries, ca. 1800-1900: necrology file. Abbey, Irma Law-Rummell, Herman. FHL Film No. 1530485	Billings	1800-1900	Gauga County, New York	no
Census Records				
1810 U.S. census	Jonathan Allen, Billings	1810	Suffield, Hartford Co., Connecticut	no
1820 U.S. census	Jonathan Allen	1820	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes
1830 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1830	Ohio	
1840 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1840	Ohio	
1850 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1850	Ohio	
1860 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1860	Ohio	
Newspapers				
Genealogy Bank, Historical Newspapers	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Newspapers.com	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Newspaper Archive	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Early American Newspapers, Americas Historical Newspapers <newsbank>	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers <Gale>	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records				
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Billings	1805-1917	Gauga County, Ohio	no
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Billings	1806-1845	Gauga County, Ohio	no
Cemetery Records				
Violet Warren and Jeannette Grosvenor. <i>A Monumental Work: Inscriptions and Interments in Geauga County, Ohio Through 1983</i> (Evansville, IN: Whipperwill Publications, 1985)	Billings		Gauga County, Ohio	no
Local and Reginal Histories				
<i>Biographical History of Northern Ohio: Embracing the Counties of Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake</i> (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties, Ohio	no
<i>1798 Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Geauga)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan			

Ransom Billings

- Born circa 1802 in Connecticut
- Guardianship recorded at Geauga County, Ohio in March 1816; orphan minor under the age of 14
 - Appointed guardian is Jonathan Allen
- Settled at Hambden in Geauga County by 1824
- Married at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, Laura Devan
- Died at Ashtabula County, Ohio in 1861

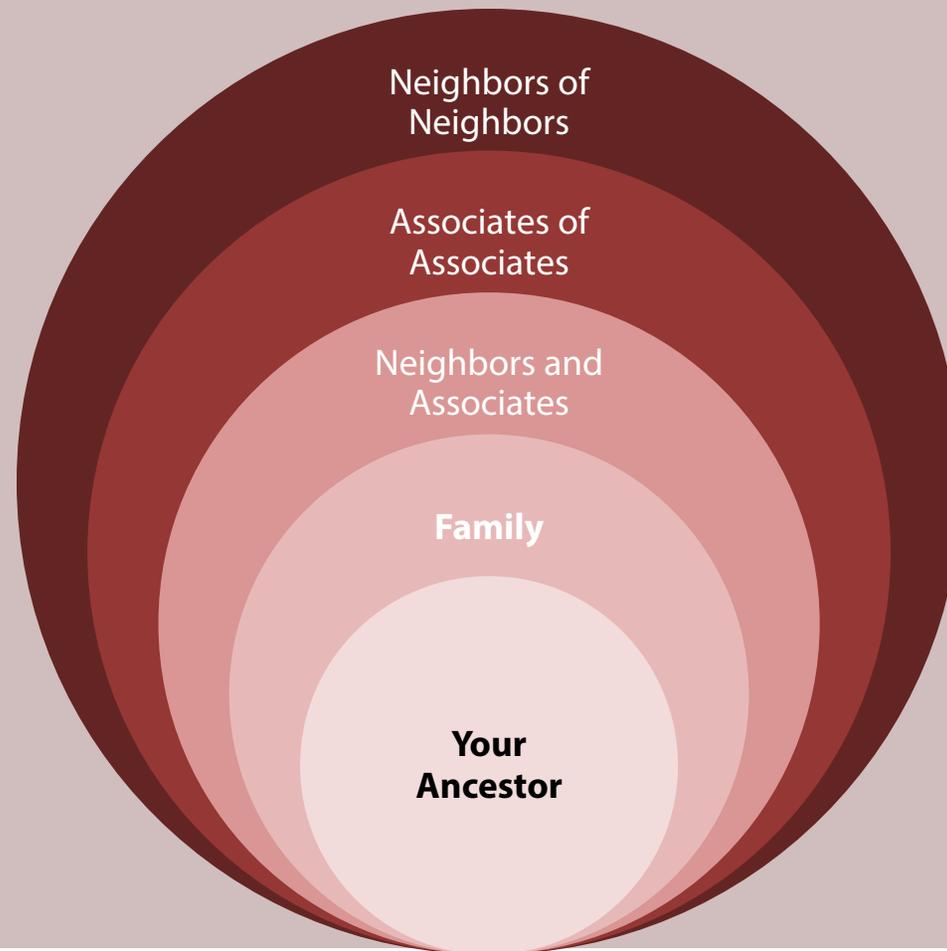
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Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Billings	1806-1845	Gauga County, Ohio	no	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Ransom Billings	March 1816	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Jonathan Allen	March 1816	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Ransom Billings	March 1817	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
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Local and Regional Histories					
Biographical History of Northern Ohio: Embracing the Counties of					

Goal

- Where and when was Ransom Billings born?
- Who are his parents? Grandparents?

3. Who is in the Ransom Billings F.A.N. Club?



F.A.N.

- Family
 - Who are the other family members listed with Ransom?
 - U.S. Census (1850-1860)
 - Other Siblings? Children?
 - Vital records?
 - Update your Research Log with these individuals

Set Up Your Research Log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
1798 <i>Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Geauga County, 1880)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Gauga County, Ohio	yes	1815 Jonathan Allen left Suffield, Connecticut with a Nathaniel Parks and Hezekiah Stocking. They settled in the town of Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio
W.W. Williams. 1798 <i>History of Ashtabula County, Ohio, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Pioneers and Most Prominent</i>	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula County, Ohio	no	
	Ransom Billings			no	
	Ransom Billings		Bridgeport, Connecticut	no	
	Ransom Billings			no	
	Ransom Billings			no	
	Ransom Billings	1824	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes	Grantor-Ransom Billings; Grantee-John Bartholomew 54 acres, Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6
	Ransom Billings	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	no	Where does Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 come from
	Ransom Billings	1820		Maybe	Ransom Billings, enlisted 31 January 1820 at Utica, New York by Lt. Griswold for 5 years, into the 2 nd Regiment of the U.S. Infantry, physical description: 5'10 1/2", blue eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, age 15 [b. about 1801], laborer, born at Enfield, Connecticut. Remarks: certificate of enlistment [at] Utica, New York, January 31, 1820

Activate ? X

Activate:

- Ransom Billings_Laura Devan
- Louisa Marie Billings_Carlos A.
- Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn
- Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billings

OK Cancel

4. List the records that will aid in your research

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date and place	Vital Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Census
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

5. Locate Resources

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Vital Records					
Birth record	Louisa Marie Billings	1833	Ohio		
Marriage record	Louisa Marie Billings and Carlos A. Sperry	before 1857	probably Ohio		
Birth record	Carlos A. Sperry	1833	Ohio		
Death record	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Death record	Carlos A. Sperry	?	probably Ohio		
Census Records					
1840 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1840	Geauga County, Ohio		
1850 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1850	Geauga County, Ohio		
1860 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1860	Geauga County, Ohio		
1870 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1870	Geauga County, Ohio		
1880 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1880	Geauga County, Ohio		
Newspapers					
Obituary	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Obituary	Carlos A. Sperry	?	Ohio		

▶ ...
Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr
Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn
Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billing ...
⊕
⋮
◀

6. Research! **

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Vital Records					
Birth record	Louisa Marie Billings	1833	Ohio		
Marriage record	Louisa Marie Billings and Carlos A. Sperry	before 1857	probably Ohio		
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1860 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1860	Geauga County, Ohio		
1870 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1870	Geauga County, Ohio		
1880 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1880	Geauga County, Ohio		
Newspapers					
Obituary	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Obituary	Carlos A. Sperry	?	Ohio		

**Is it worth it??

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date and place	Vital Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Census
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

QUESTIONS?

Let's meet the neighbors

F.A.N.

- Neighbors
 - Who are the Neighbors enumerated with Ransom?
What do they have in common?
 - Place of birth?
 - Occupation?
 - What records for the Neighbors could help to determine place of birth?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Dist N^o 8 Morgan Tp in the County of Ashtabula State Ohio
 of Ohio enumerated by me, on the 8th day of August 1850. D. Cadwell Ass't Marshal

13	1	2	3	DESCRIPTION			7	8	9	10 11 12		
				4	5	6				10	11	12
The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.			Age	Sex	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended school within the year.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
1	537	864	Leiza Griffin	50	M		Farmer	400	N ^o 1			
2			Sauca	47	F				N ^o 1			
3			Janna	22	M		Laborer					
4			Albert	19	M		Laborer					
5			Juliette	17	F							
6			Elizeth	15	M		Laborer					
7			Belanda	7	M							
8	538	865	Titth Anders	31	M		Farmer	1500				
9			Hebece	26	F				N ^o 1			
10			W ^o Munger	20	M		Laborer		N ^o 1			
11	539	866	Anna Malden	57	M		Farmer	100	Barn			
12			Mary	54	F				N ^o 1			
13			Margfield	18	M		Laborer					
14			Mary	16	F							
15			Stephania Johnson	23	F							
16			Errol W.	6	M							
17	540	867	W ^o Malden	26	M		Farmer	300				
18			Sarah	18	F							
19	541	868	Simon Sharp	38	M		Laborer	150	N ^o 1			
20			Ann	35	F							
21			Amanda	15	F							
22			William P.	11	M							
23			Lydca	6	F							
24			Sarah A.	5	F							
25			Reear E.	3	M							
26	542	869	Letz Cole	65	M		Farmer	200	Maft			
27			Ruth	67	F				Maft			
28			Genas Quittler	33	M		Physician		N ^o 1			
29			Barwitha	33	F				N ^o 1			
30			Ransel	3	M							
31			Nathan W.	1	M							
32	543	870	Engstys Debrau	45	M		Farmer	1800	N ^o 1			
33			Ruth G.	35	F				N ^o 1			
34			Polly M.	18	F							
35			Eduwin N.	12	M							
36			Ella A.	10	F							
37	544	871	Solomon Bellings	24	M		Farmer					
38			Sarah A.	22	F				N ^o 1			
39	545	872	Baronau Bellings	47	M		Surgeon	2500	Barn			
40			Anna	26	F				N ^o 1			
41												
42												
43												
44												
45												

1850 US Federal Census, Ashtabula, Ohio

**Who are the
interesting
neighbors?**

Analyze a neighborhood

- Are they from the same state or country?
- Did they arrive in the United States at the same time?
- Do they have the same occupation?
- Same religion?

Search > [Census & Voter Lists](#)

1850 United States Federal Census

Search

Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Location

Birth

Connecticut, USA

Exact to...

Lived In

—

Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio, USA

Exact to this place

Any Event

Exact to...

This place

County

County and adjacent counties

State

State and adjacent states

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

Occupation



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

State

Choose... ▾

County

▾

Township

Ancestry.com

All 1850 United States Federal Census Results



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Your search



Results 1-20 of 98

Broad Exact

Born: connecticut, usa

Lived In: morgan, ashtab...

Apply

▼ All Categories

> Census & Voter Lists

> 1850s

1850 United States Federal Census

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1850 United States Federal Census, the Seventh Census of the United States. Census takers recorded

View Record	Name	Home in 1850 (City, County, State)	Birth Year	Birthplace	Gender	View Image
View Record	Alvera Burdick	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1802	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Edward Woodruff	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1820	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	George Starr	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1818	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Asa Walden	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1793	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Ransom Billings	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1803	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Harriet Cutler	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1829	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Phileeta Root	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1817	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Jonathan F Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1795	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Laura Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1793	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	David Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1818	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Luther H Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1800	Connecticut	Male	

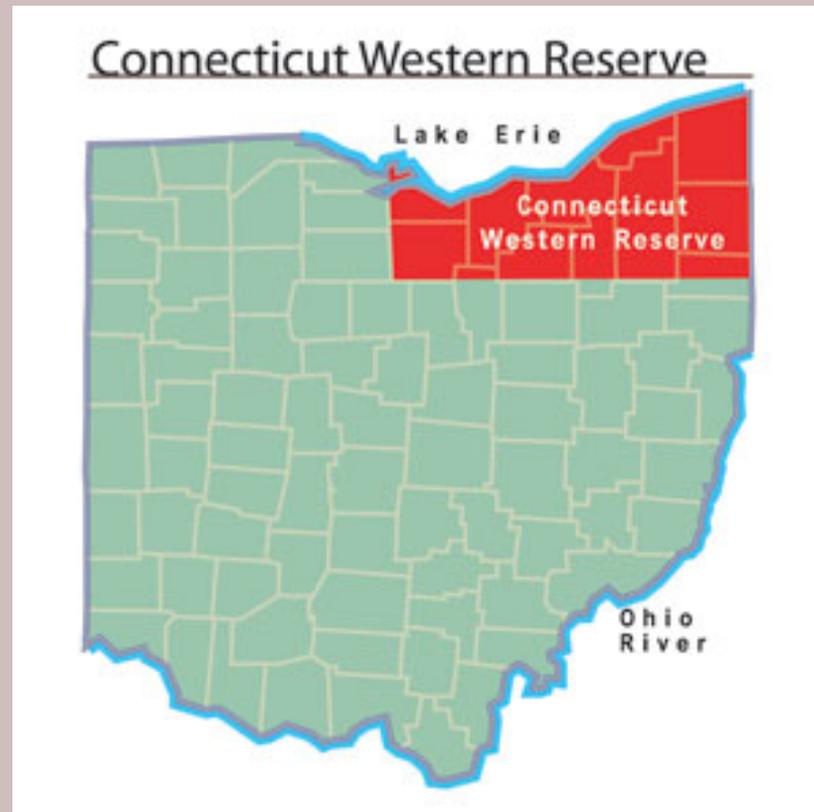
Ancestry.com

Tip

Learn about the
community

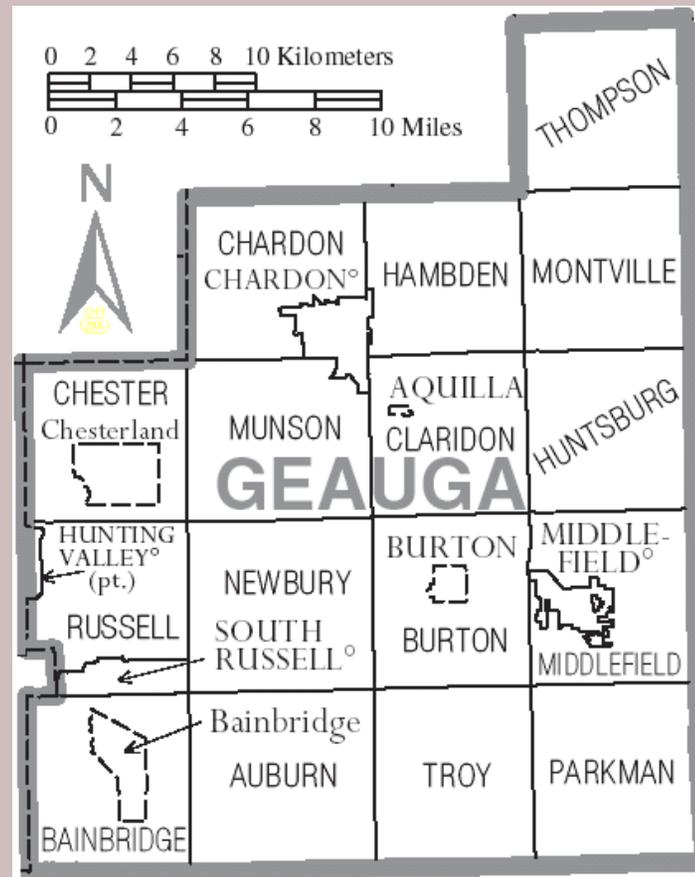
Western Reserve

- 12 counties in Northeastern Ohio
- Connecticut Land Company purchased over 3 million acres in 1795
- Western lands set aside for “Sufferers”



Western Reserve

- Eastern lands surveyed and townships formed
- Land sold to settlers
- Many from Connecticut



Update Your Research Plan

1	Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
2	Vital Records					
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		Billings, Ransom Billings	1840	Ohio		
		Billings, Ransom Billings	1850	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Place of birth, Connecticut, 1803
		Billings, Ransom Billings	1860	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Place of birth, Connecticut, 1803
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		Billings		Gauga County, Ohio	no	

Activate ? X

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- Ransom Billings_Laura Devan
- Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr
- Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn
- Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billings
- Alvera Burdick
- Edward Woodruff
- George Starr
- Asa Walden
- Harriet Cutler
- Phileeta Root
- Jonathan F Baldwin
- Laura Baldwin
- David Baldwin
- Luther H Baldwin
- Ezekiel Y Crowell

OK Cancel

F.A.N.

- Associates
 - Family and Neighbors have pointed us to Connecticut
 - What records for Associates (people or places) could help us to find his birth record in Connecticut?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

Ransom Billings

- Born circa 1802 in Connecticut
- Guardianship recorded at Geauga County, Ohio in March 1816; orphan minor under the age of 14
 - Appointed guardian is Jonathan Allen
- Settled at Hambden in Geauga County by 1824
- Married at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, Laura Devan
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Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Billings	1806-1845	Gauga County, Ohio	no	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Ransom Billings	March 1816	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Jonathan Allen	March 1816	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Ransom Billings	March 1817	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Cemetery Records					
Violet Warren and Jeannette Grosvenor. <i>A Monumental Work: Inscriptions and Internments in Geauga County, Ohio Through 1983</i> (Evansville, IN: Whipporwill Publications, 1985)	Billings		Gauga County, Ohio	no	
Local and Reginal Histories					
<i>Biographical History of Northern Ohio: Embracing the Counties of</i>					
	Ransom Billings_Laura Devan	Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr	Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn	...	

Who is Jonathan Allen?

- Born at Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut on 27 October 1776
- Married first in 1795, Mary Pease; married second in 1818, Miriam Kibbe; married third in 1822, Polly Thwing
- Settled at Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio by 1815

Enfield, CT



2. Look for MORE missing information and identify your goal

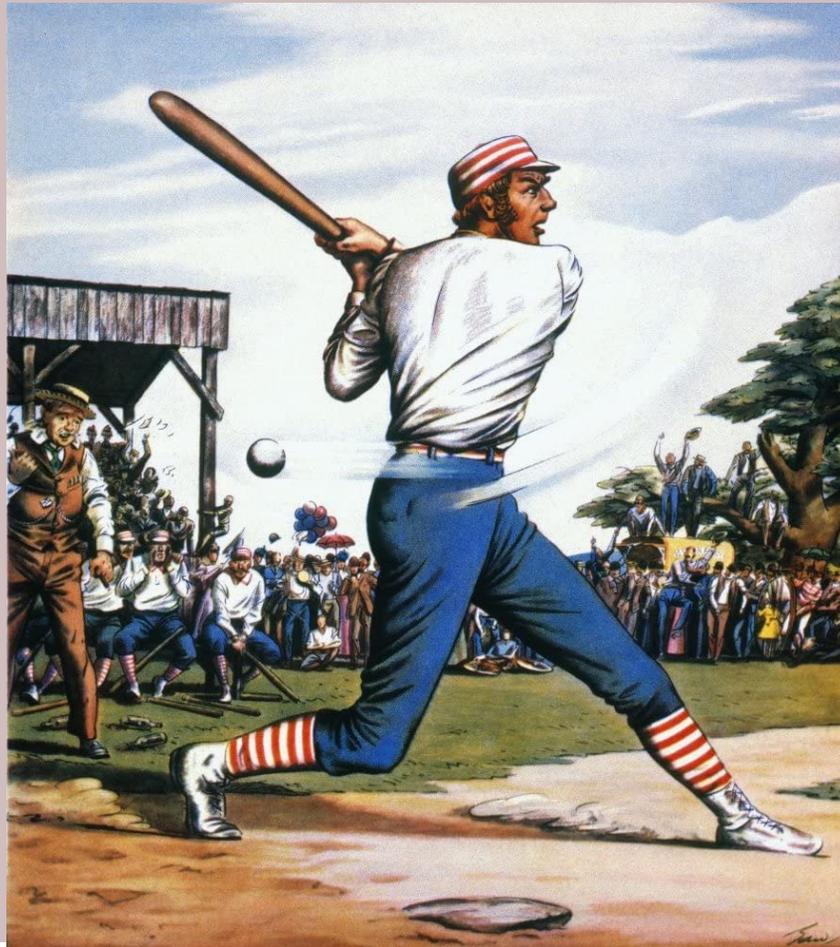
Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
1798 <i>Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Geauga County, 1880)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Gauga County, Ohio	yes	1815 Jonathan Allen left Suffield, Connecticut with a Nathaniel Parks and Hezekiah Stocking. They settled in the town of Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio
W.W. Williams. 1798 <i>History of Ashtabula County, Ohio, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Pioneers and Most Prominent Men</i> (Philadelphia: Williams Brothers, 1878)	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula County, Ohio	no	
Genealogies					
Frank Billings. <i>The Genealogy of Some of the Descendants of William Billing who came to America in 1650 and permanently settled at Stonington, Connecticut in 1658</i> (Chicago, IL: R.R. Donnelley, 1931)	Ransom Billings			no	
Mrs. Wilber Brooks Smith (Julia Billings). <i>An Intimate Review of the Billings Family of Bridgeport, Connecticut</i> (1933)	Ransom Billings		Bridgeport, Connecticut	no	
Helen Schatvet Ullmann. <i>Some Descendants of Roger Billings of Dorchester, Massachusetts</i> (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2012)	Ransom Billings			no	
Robert Stone. <i>A Family History of the Billings, the Cadwells, the Lambs, the Parkhursts, the Penders, the Reynolds, the Starks, the Stewarts, the Stones, and the Thomsons</i> (1995)	Ransom Billings			no	
Land Records					
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, Vol. 10, pg. 63 (FHL 20233)	Ransom Billings	1824	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes	Grantor-Ransom Billings; Grantee-John Bartholomew, 54 acres, Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Ransom Billings	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	no	Where does Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 come from?
Military Records					
U.S. Army Enlistment Records	Ransom Billings	1820		Maybe	Ransom Billings, enlisted 31 January 1820 at Utica, New York by Lt. Griswold for 5 years, into the 2 nd Regiment of the U.S. Infantry, physical description: 5'10 1/2", blue eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, age 19 [b. about 1801], laborer, born at Enfield, Connecticut. Remarks: certificate of enlistment [at] Utica, New York, January 31, 1820

Ransom Billings_Laura Devan

Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr

Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn

Struck Out!



Ransom Billings

- No interaction with other Billings families in Geauga County
- Does not live near any other Billings families
- Does not purchase land in Geauga County before 1824
- Sells 54 acres of land in Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 in Geauga County in 1824
 - **How did he receive this land?**
 - **Received via probate?**

Geauga County Deeds

- Grantor and Grantee Indexes provide property description
- Who purchased land in Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6?
 - Use index in your favor
 - Think outside the box

Tip

Understand the Index

Understand the Index

- Many different types of indexes
- Take time to understand system
- United States Index Systems – FamilySearch Wiki
 - Types of Indexes
 - Explanation
 - Examples
 - [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United States Index Systems](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Index_Systems)

Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6

29

General Index to Deeds; Geauga County, Ohio.

Date of Deeds.	NAMES.	NAMES.	Vol.	Page.	R.	T.	Town.	Tr.	Sec.	Lot.	Sub. Lot.	No. of Acres.	Remarks.
April 4 1799	Jarnes Dimon	From Benj. Doolittle Jr.	1	29	7	7	Burton			59		154 $\frac{1}{4}$	
June 26 1805	Burrill David	" Nathan Puckis	2	49	7	7	same			22		132 $\frac{1}{4}$	
" 23 1807	Boardman Daniel	" Ambrose Hull	3	289	11	7	Warrensville			36		158 $\frac{156}{1000}$	1/2 Int.
July 10 1800	Bartholomew Daniel	" Oliver Phelps	4	15	5	12	Geneva	2				700	
June 22 1810	Boardman Daniel	" Eliphalet Austin	4	111	11	10	Morgan					71 53 126	300
Nov. 12 "	Bartram Daniel	" John A. Carpenter	4	222	6	11	Madison	Pair		3		100	
Dec. 20 "	Tooth Daniel	" Solomon Bond	4	248	7	9	Kramden					7.8 11.16	437 $\frac{11}{100}$
" 20 "	Same	" Same	4	248	6	10	Thompson			28			396 $\frac{3}{4}$



Bond to Booth

- Solomon and Sarah Bond of Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut sold several lots to Daniel Booth of Painesville
 - Township 9, Range 7 (153 acres, 130 rods)
 - Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
 - Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
 - **Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (396 acres, 30 rods)**

VERY IMPORTANT

Update Your Research Log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Booth		Geauga County, Ohio		
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Booth		Geauga County, Ohio		
Land Records					
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Township 9, Range 7 (153 acres, 130 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (396 acres, 30 rods)
Vital Records					
Birth record	Daniel Booth		probably Connecticut		
Marriage record	??		probably Connecticut		
Birth record	Daniel Booth's wife		probably Connecticut		
Death record	Daniel Booth's wife		Ohio		
Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		
Newspapers					
Obituary	Daniel Booth		Ohio		

Daniel Booth

- Settled at Hambden township in 1811 with sons Daniel Booth and Marvin Booth
- Died at Geauga County in 1816
- Administration recorded in March 1816
 - Administrators: Daniel Booth and Marvin Booth
 - Sureties: Hosea King and Jonathan Allen
 - Appraisers: Anson Pease, Ichabod Pomeroy, and Isaac Pease

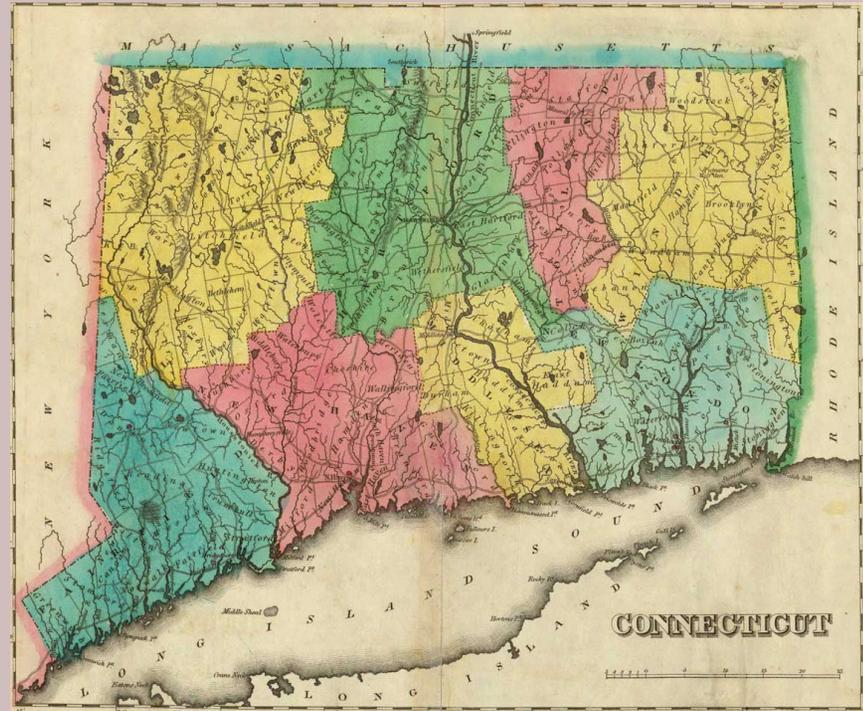
Identify Individuals

- Who are they?
 - Early settlers of Hambden
 - Neighbors



Identify Individuals

- Where are they from?
 - Anson Pease, Jonathan Allen, Hosea King - Enfield, Connecticut
 - Isaac Pease - Connecticut
 - Ichabod Pomeroy - Southamptton, Massachusetts



Daniel Booth

- Account administration recorded in March 1817
- Heirs of Daniel Booth
 - Orsamus Booth
 - Dorothy Pomeroy
 - Lydia Booth
 - Olive Lampson
 - Aseneth Booth
 - **Ransom Billings**
 - Almon Booth

Update Your Research Log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Booth	March 1817	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Heirs of Daniel Booth: Orsamus Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Olive Lampson Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
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Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		

▶
Ransom Billings_Laura Devan
Daniel Booth
Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr
Ann DeVan Billings: ...
(+)
:
◀

Checking in!

- Ransom Billings was the heir of Daniel Booth
- Ransom Billings settled at Hambden in Geauga County by 1824; Married at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, Laura Devan and died at Ashtabula County, Ohio in 1861
- Daniel Booth settled at Hambden township in 1811 with sons Daniel Booth and Marvin Booth
- Likely the Booth and Billings family is from Enfield, Connecticut

Keep Updating Your Research Log!

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
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Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Booth	March 1817	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Heirs of Daniel Booth: Orsamus Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Olive Lampson Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
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Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		

Ransom Billings_Laura Devan

Daniel Booth

Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr

Ann DeVan Billings: ...

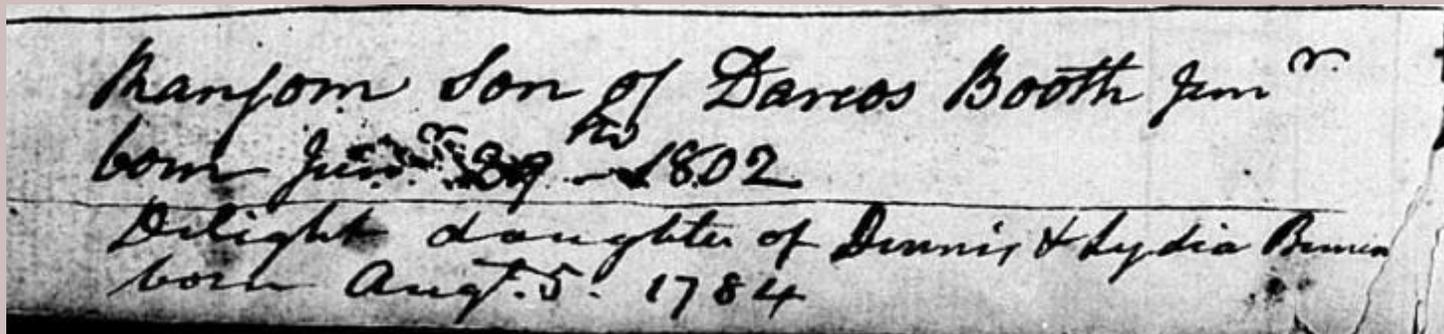
Daniel Booth of Enfield

- Daniel Booth was born at Enfield, Connecticut on 22 May 1744
- He married at Enfield, Connecticut on 28 June 1779, Dorcas Bradley
- He died at Geauga County, Ohio in 1816.

Booth children born at Enfield

1. Dorcas Booth, b. 8 February 1780
2. Lydia Booth, b. 8 January 1781
3. Aseneth Booth, b. 9 April 1784
4. Marvin Booth, b. 11 December 1789
5. Olive Booth, b. 24 January 1792
6. Dorothy Booth, b. 26 May 1794; she m. Ichabod Pomeroy
7. Almon Booth, b. 22 July 1795
8. Orasamus Booth, b. 30 August 1798

Who is Ransom's mother?

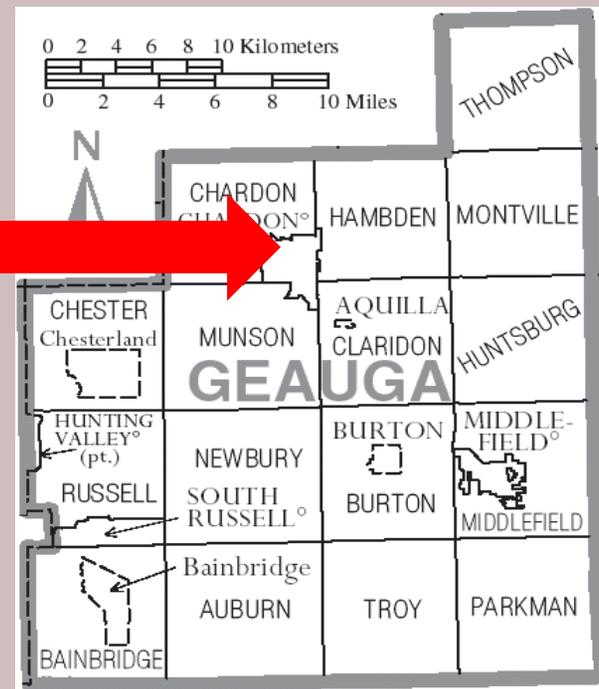
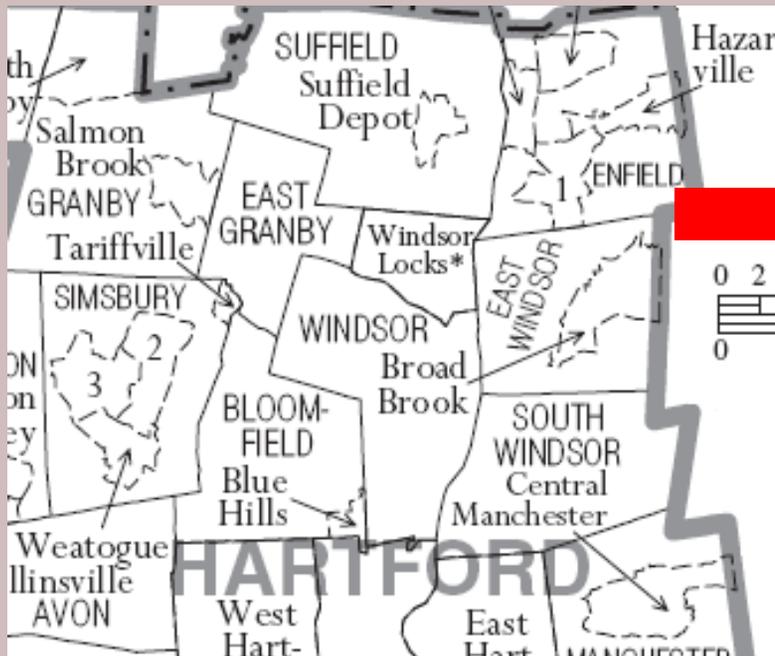


Ransom son of Dorcas Booth Jr.
born Jan. 29th 1802
Delight daughter of Dennis & Lydia Penn
born Aug. 5. 1784

Ransom son of Dorcas Booth Jr. born January 29, 1802

Chain Migration

- Booth, Pease, Allen, and King families of Enfield settled in Hambden township



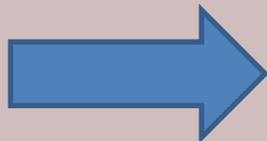
Ransom Billings

- Born at Enfield on 2 January 1802 to Dorcas Booth and an unknown father
- Migrated to Geauga County with extended family
- Orphaned by 1814; appointed guardian was native of Enfield
- Listed as heir in 1816 probate proceedings of grandfather, Daniel Booth

Chain Migration

- Most of our ancestors participated in chain migration
 - Followed others from home to new destination
 - Migrated with new neighbors to another destination (New England to Midwest)
- Use chain migration patterns to uncover origins

Immigrant



Family/Neighbor



New destination



QUESTIONS?

"Follow the Money" Approach

- When vital records do not exist or have significant gaps, we turn to financial records to learn more about our ancestors
- This approach can be used to track an individual's movements through a country or overseas
- It can help clarify relationships between families

Town Records

Types of Town Records

- Ear Marks and Cattle Marks
- Pauper and Orphanage Records
- Tax Assessments
- Town Payments
- Mortgage Records
- Licensed dogs

Pauper and Orphanage Records

- Town officials were responsible for supporting the poor and orphaned children
- Guardians may be appointed to care for orphans who were heirs to property
- Orphaned children may be "bound out" to learn a trade or sent to an institution like an orphanage

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts To the Town of Newburyport for the support of and supplies to sundry Paupers not belonging to this nor any other town in this Commonwealth from June 1st 1830 to July 1st 1831. inclusive.

Support.

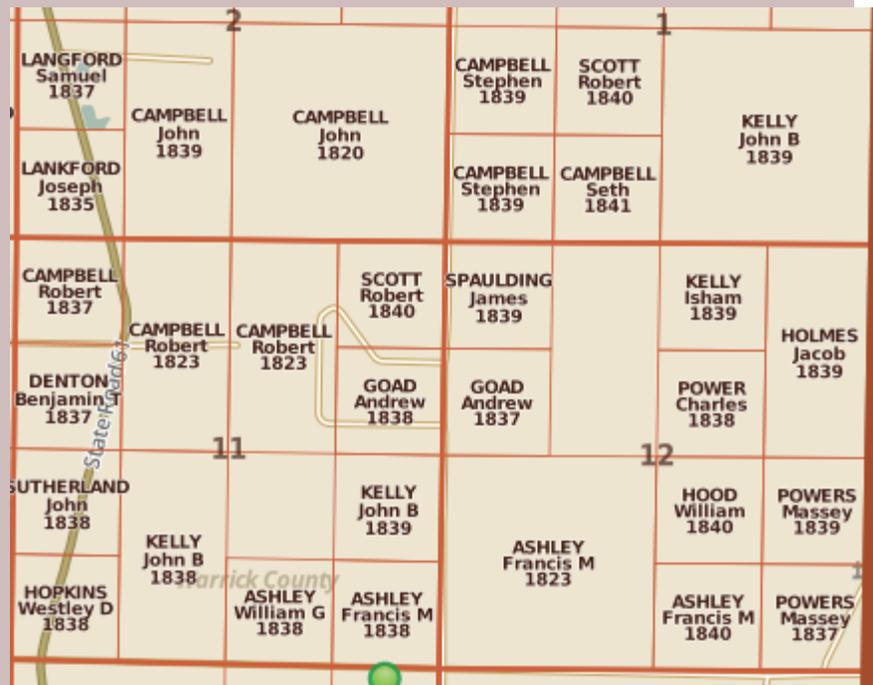
Name	Weeks	Rate	Total
For Ann Ryan	30½	90¢	27 45
Mary Butterfield	30½	do	27 45
Mary Bartlett	30½	do	27 45
Moses Paley	8	do	7 20
John Lyons	30½	do	27 45
John Campbell & wife	30½	180	54 90
Ester Sparnes	30½	90	27 45
Ebenr Small	30½	50	15 25
Mary Aiken	30½	90	27 45
Two Children of Adam Lane	30½	100	30 50
Christopher Grandner	7	90	6 30
James Hogan	30½	50	15 25
Saml Saltus	22	90	19 80
Mary Ann Aiken	30½	90	27 45

Newburyport, MA Welfare Records via FamilySearch

Land Records

Post-1796 Federal Survey System

- Based on a grid
- Township – six square miles, measured N/S from base
- Section – one square mile in a township
- Range – distance E/W from referenced meridian
- Quarter – NE, NW, SE, SW portion of township



Warwick County, Indiana

Bounty Land – Federal

- Revolutionary War
 - Beginning in 1788 soldiers from the Continental Line could apply to the Treasury Department for a land warrant
 - Amount of land depended on rank and length of service
- War of 1812 through the year 1858
 - Non-commissioned officers and soldiers who served at least 5 years

See Clifford Neal Smith, *Federal Land Series*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1973

Bounty Land – State (Rev War)

- For **military service**: Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia
- For **damage inflicted** by British: Connecticut
- For **neutrality (or military service)**: Georgia
- Soldiers could “double-dip,” federal and state
- See Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1996.

Homestead Act of 1862



- Receive up to 160 acres of land – for free
- Any adult citizen over the age of 21 who had not borne arms against the U.S. could apply
- Process
 - File application for \$18
 - Improve the land for 5 years
 - Build a house
 - File for deed of title
- After six months residency could purchase land for \$1.25 per acre

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PRIVATE CLAIMS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

General Land Office Records

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Search
Clear Form

Location

State: ▼

County: ▼

Names

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

search patentees search warrantees

Land Description

Township: -- ▼ / ▼

Range: -- ▼ / ▼

Meridian: ▼

Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office: ▼

Document #:

Indian Allot. #:

Survey #:

Authority: ▼

Issue Date: -- ▼ to -- ▼

Militia:

Tribe: ▼

Geo. Name/
Mining Claim:

Search Patents

Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most states.

To search for land patents:

1. Start by selecting the State.
2. **You do not have to fill in all fields**, but provide *at least* one additional field.
3. Click the **Search Patents** button.

Search Tips:

- Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
- Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
- For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).

https://glorerecords.blm.gov/search/default.aspx

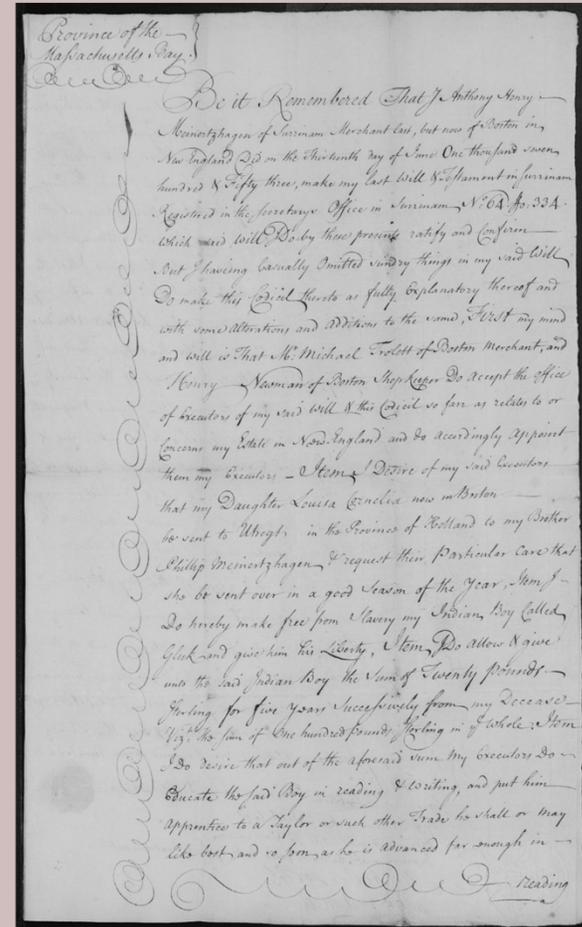
Probate Records

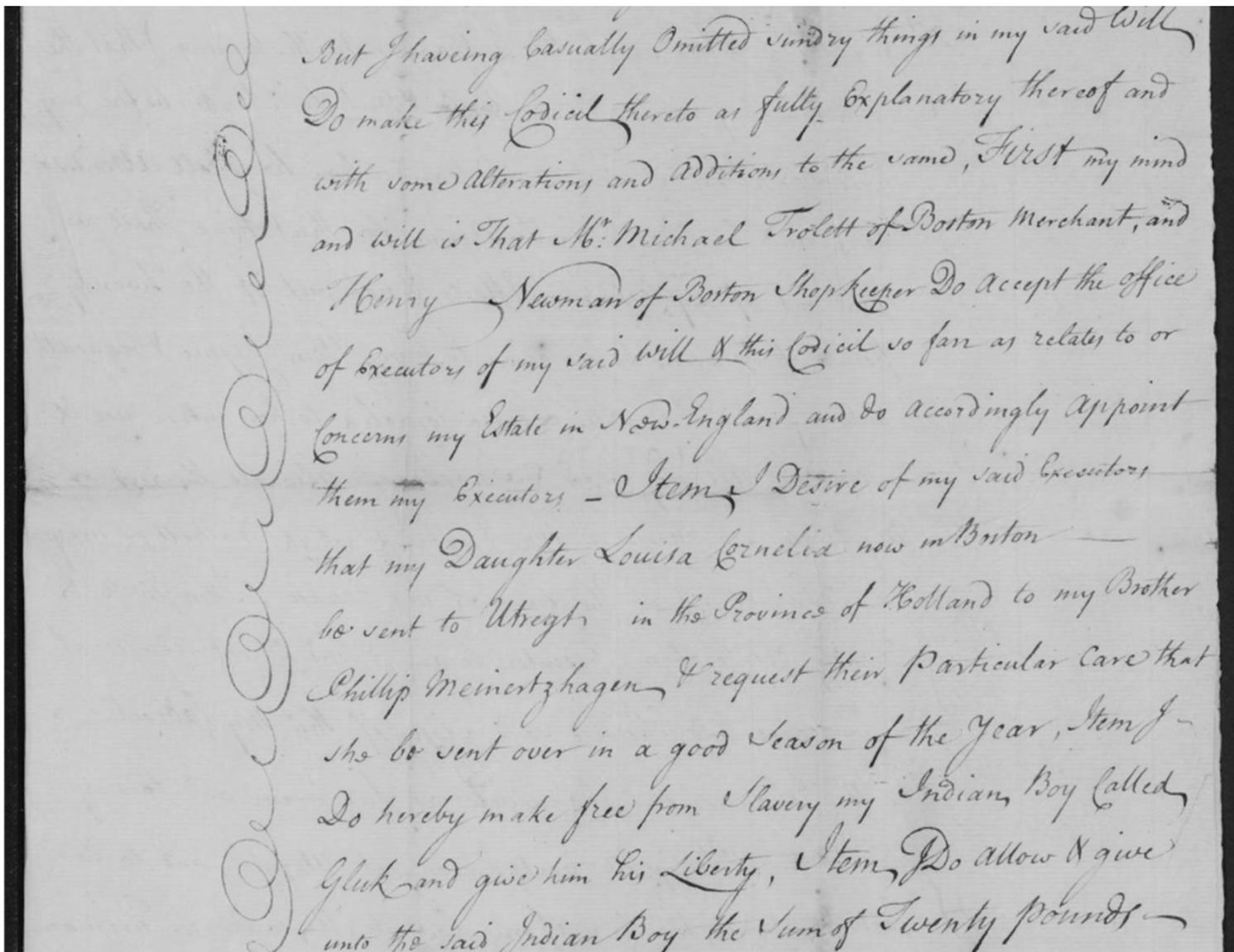
Wills

- A will is a legal document where property is transferred upon the party's death to family, friends, servants, business partners, and the community
- Kept at the county level where the deceased had their primary residence
- Wills can include the following:
 - Names of children (and their spouses)
 - Name of spouse
 - Names of grandchildren, nieces/nephews
 - Names of servants
 - Names of slaves

Codicils

- An addition or change to a will
- Common changes:
 - Add or remove heirs
 - Change distribution of estates
 - Acknowledge deaths of heirs in will
 - Administrators of estate



A handwritten document in cursive script, likely a codicil, written on aged paper. The text is written in dark ink and is arranged in several lines. On the left side of the page, there is a decorative vertical border consisting of a series of large, stylized, overlapping loops or flourishes. The text begins with "But Having casually Omitted sundry things in my said Will" and continues with "Do make this Codicil thereto as fully explanatory thereof and with some Alterations and Additions to the same, First my mind and will is That Mr: Michael Trolett of Boston Merchant, and Henry Newman of Boston Shopkeeper Do accept the office of Executors of my said Will & this Codicil so far as relates to or concerns my Estate in New-England and do accordingly Appoint them my Executors - Item I Desire of my said Executors that my Daughter Louisa Cornelia now in Briton be sent to Utrecht in the Province of Holland to my Brother Phillip Meinertzhagen, I request their Particular Care that she be sent over in a good Season of the Year, Item I Do hereby make free from Slavery my Indian Boy Called Gluk and give him his Liberty, Item Do allow & give unto the said Indian Boy the Sum of Twenty pounds -"

Codicil, Henry Meinertzhagen, Suffolk
County, Mass, Case 10998

Why isn't someone mentioned in a will?

- Deceased
- Moved away
- Already received their inheritance
- Not yet born/considered a minor when the will was written
- Estrangement

Distributions

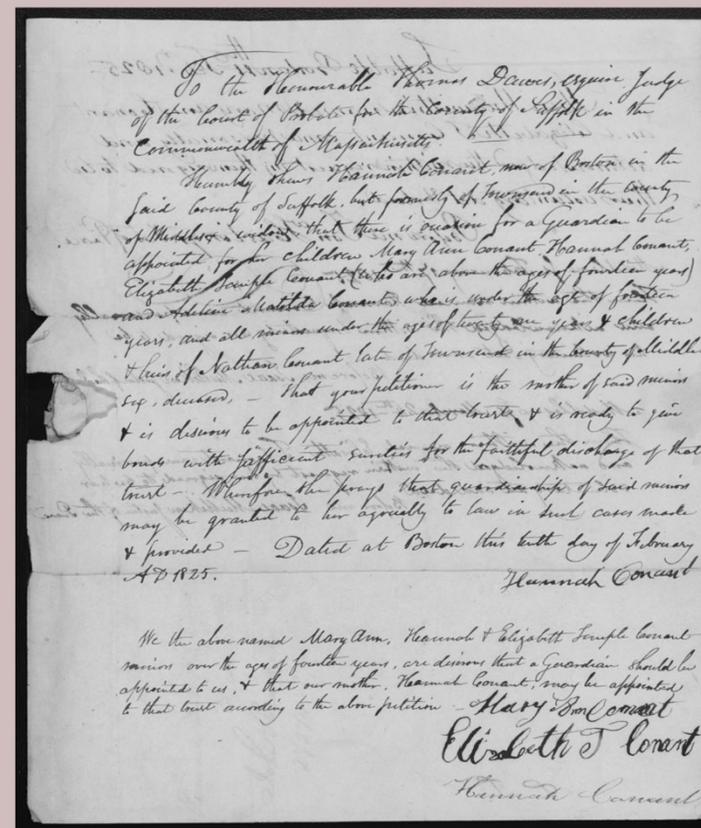
- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid and debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
 - List of children if vital records aren't available
 - Married names of daughters
 - Children of deceased heirs

of Ipswich in said county, merchant, deceased, ...
Whereas by your account of administration of said estate, this day settled and
allowed, it appears that there is now remaining in your hands the sum of four
hundred ninety one dollars seventy seven cents and a half, being the balance
of said account, to be distributed among the heirs of said intestate, agreeably to
law: You are therefore hereby ordered and directed to pay and distribute
formerly Elizabeth Knight, who was the widow of said intestate, the sum of one hundred sixty three dollars
and seventy two cents, as her distributive share of said balance, and to
the said sum, as follows, viz. to Elizabeth Young, Henry B. Knight,
Frederick Knight and Antonio Knight, children of said intestate, each
the sum of one hundred ~~twenty two~~ ^{nine} dollars ~~four~~ ^{eight} cents, as their
distributive shares of said balance, taking their receipts for the same;
all to be still held, so far as their said shares will extend, to pay their rateable
parts of what further debts and charges shall hereafter arise against said

Order Distribution, Joseph Knight estate, Essex
County, Mass, Case 16001

Guardianships

- Appointed for minor children
 - Males: under 21
 - Females: under 18
- Guardians protected the inheritance of minor heirs to an estate
 - Can provide financial support
- After minor becomes of age, the guardian is released
 - Guardian would then make an account of compensation



To the Honourable *Thomas Dawes* Esquire,
Judge of the Court of Probate for the County of Suffolk, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
HUMBLY shews, *Hannah Conant* of
Boston
in said County *Suffolk*, *widow* that there is occasion for a Guardjan
to be appointed for *Mary Ann Conant*, *Hannah*
Conant, *Elizabeth Temple Conant*, who are
~~under~~ *above* the age of fourteen years and *Adeline*
Margilda Conant, who is under the age of
fourteen years
minor and children of *Nathan Conant*
formerly of *Townsend* in the County of *Middlesex*
deceased,

Guardian Bond, Suffolk County,
Mass., Case 27577

We the above named Mary Ann, Hannah & Elizabeth Temple Conant
minors over the ages of fourteen years, are desirous that a Guardian should be
appointed to us, & that our mother, Hannah Conant, may be appointed
to that trust according to the above petition - Mary Ann Conant
Elizabeth T Conant
Hannah Conant

Guardian Petition, Suffolk
County, Mass, Case 27575

Tax Records

Why use tax records?

- Identifies your ancestor at a specific place and time
- Provides information about occupation and housing status not found in other records
- Overlooked source in early published genealogies
- Adds to the life story of your ancestor

Locations for Tax Records

- Tax Assessor's Office
- Historical Societies
- City or State Archives
- Genealogy Websites
- Newspapers
- Published Records
- University/College Collections

Names	No. Polls	Pence		Ministerial			Total		Precinct			
		Real	Personal	Real	Personal	Total	L	S	T			
S David, Stone	1	00	03	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	
Ralph, Shepard	1	16	05	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	
Thomas, Spur	2	13	12	0	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	11
William, Sumner	0	08	00	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2
Anne, Sumner	0	04	00	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1
Nathaniel, Sumner	1	13	07	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	8
John, Shepard	2	48	24	0	7	10	0	3	11	1	8	0
Michael, Shaller	1	17	12	0	2	9	0	2	0	0	1	10
James, Smith	0	03	00	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Caleb, Smith	1	00	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Robert, Swan	0	08	00	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2

Stoughton, Massachusetts,
1738 Ministerial Tax, Ancestry.com

Tax Records Webinar

The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website interface. At the top, the logo and tagline "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture" are visible. Navigation links include "Search", "Events", "Join", "Give", "10 Million Names", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Signature Projects", and "Centers & Initiatives". A "MY ACCOUNT" dropdown menu is also present. The main content area features a video player with a dark blue overlay. The video title is "Using Tax Records in Your Family History Research". The video thumbnail shows a historical tax record document with a grid of numbers and handwritten entries. The AmericanAncestors.org logo and "THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER" are displayed at the bottom of the video player.

Employment Records

Railroad Records

- Pensions granted by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board starting in 1934
 - Ancestry.com has the Pension Index for 1934-1987
 - Original claim files can be obtained from the National Archives, Atlanta, Georgia
- Each railroad company has their own archives, which include employee records

Search > Schools, Directories & Church Histories

California, U.S., Railroad Employment Records, 1862-1950

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Any Event Day Month Year

Day: ▼ Month: ▼ Year:

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▼

Railroad Description

Employment Start Date Day Month Year

Day: ▼ Month: ▼ Year:

Search **Clear search**

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Record Group

Choose... ▼

Description

▼

Year Range

▼

Month or Surname Range

Related data collections

[California Birth Index, 1905-1995](#)

This database is an index to over 24.5 million births occurring in California between 1905 and 1995. Information

www.ancestry.com

C. P. R. R. *Division No 3*

PAY ROLL, NO. *29*, for month of *February* 186*3*

Received from C. CROCKER, Contractor, Central Pacific Railroad Company, the Sums set opposite our respective names, for services performed, during the month of *February* 186*3*

NAMES.	OCCUPATION.	No. Days	Per Diem	Total Amount	Rate per diem.	TOTAL	SIGNATURES.
<i>P. Dolan</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1495</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>1345</i>	<i>P. Dolan</i>
<i>W. Kearsney</i>	<i>Op. Gunster</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>154</i>			<i>1232</i>	<i>P. to Kearsney</i>
<i>Am. Kelly</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>12 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1293</i>	<i>513</i>	<i>780</i>	<i>Michael Kelly</i>
<i>W. Mc Dermot</i>	<i>Gunster</i>	<i>13 1/2</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>1809</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>1684</i>	<i>James W. Dermott</i>
<i>B. Mansette</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>13 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1523</i>	<i>713</i>	<i>1410</i>	<i>M. Mansette</i>
						<i>6451</i>	
<i>M. L. Sullivan</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1035</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>M. L. Sullivan</i>
<i>D. Riley</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1610</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>1235</i>	<i>D. Riley</i>
<i>W. Hickey</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>11 1/2</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1322</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>W. Hickey</i>
<i>R. Gilmore</i>	<i>Gunster</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>1742</i>	<i>713</i>	<i>1039</i>	<i>R. Gilmore</i>
<i>J. Gibbs</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>8 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1005</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>930</i>	<i>J. Gibbs</i>
<i>J. Schneider</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>34 3/4</i>	<i>166</i>			<i>5768</i>	<i>Thomas Shilton</i>
<i>James Law</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>26 1/4</i>	<i>293</i>			<i>7572</i>	<i>James Law</i>
<i>W. Christy</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>36 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>			<i>4169</i>	<i>W. Christy</i>

Pay Roll, Central Pacific Railroad Company, Feb. 1863 (Ancestry.com)

(12-21-08-20M-S-6025) Form 2331

NAME Paul Geldner
[EMPLOYEE MUST SIGN IN INK]

SHOP Copper OCCUPATION Coppersmith

RATE 40¢ per hour

DATE EMPLOYED January 27th - 1910 ADDRESS 716 - 2nd Street

DATE OF BIRTH April 18 - 1866

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT _____

DATE OF LEAVING 6-18-10 CAUSE Laid off

APPROVED: [Signature] G. Baumann
FOREMAN

M. M. OR M. C. R.

Southern Pacific Railroad Employee Record Card via FamilySearch

Search > Schools, Directories & Church Histories

U.S., Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1884-1937

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lived In	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Any Event	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Ship

Browse this collection

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Record Description

[Metal check issue card requests, box 01, cards 20,000-20,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests, box 02, cards 21,000-21,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests, box 03, cards 22,000-22,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests, box 04, cards 23,000-23,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests.](#)

U.S., Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1884-1937 for John Buckner Smith

Metal check issue card requests, box 14, cards 33,000-33,999, 1930-1937

60-1 REQUEST FOR METAL CHECK ISSUE

NAME John Buckner Smith LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK

(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)

J. B. Smith Lock Operation 503 33939

SHOW NAME EXACTLY AS ENTERED ON TIME BOOK Atlantic Locks DIVISION Laborer GANG NUMBER 22¢ per hr. (NEW METAL CHECK No.-LEAVE BLANK) 91901 ✓

LOCATION OCCUPATION RATE OF PAY PREVIOUS CHECK NUMBER

<p><small>FILL OUT FOLLOWING IF ORIGINAL ISSUE</small></p> <p><u>1/12/31</u> <small>DATE OF EMPLOYMENT</small> <u>Dredg. Div.</u> <small>WHERE LAST EMPLOYED</small></p> <p><u>25 yrs.</u> <small>DATE OF BIRTH OR AGE</small> <u>African</u> <small>NATIONALITY</small></p> <p><u>Yes</u> <small>HAS FORM 253 BEEN SUBMITTED?</small></p>	<p><small>FILL OUT FOLLOWING IF REPLACEMENT</small></p> <p><small>BRIEF REASON FOR REQUEST, IF PREVIOUS</small></p> <p><small>CHECK WAS LIFTED, STATE WHY AND BY WHOM</small></p>
--	---

LEFT THUMB	RIGHT THUMB	<p><u>J. B. Smith</u> <u>J. B. Smith</u></p> <p><small>SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE</small></p> <p><u>E. T. Howard</u></p> <p><small>SIGNATURE OF FOREMAN</small></p>
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RECEIVED _____ ISSUED _____

5288

BY _____

Review

1. Cluster research can help you identify the origins of an ancestor by studying their F.A.N. Club.
2. Our ancestors left behind records with each financial transaction they participated in – “follow the money”
3. Records are located in a variety of repositories
4. Multiple records need to be consulted to understand more of your ancestor's story

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Consultations

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

[AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations)



**Use code BRICKS for priority
booking!**

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the American Ancestors website. On the left is the logo with the text "American Ancestors." In the center is the tagline "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". On the right are links for "Bookstore", "About Us", and a "MY ACCOUNT" dropdown menu. Below the navigation bar is a secondary menu with links for "Search", "Events", "Join", "Give", "10 Million Names", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Signature Projects", and "Centers & Initiatives". The main content area features a large title "Expert Strategies for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls 2024" in a serif font. Below the title is a white box containing a thank-you message and a paragraph of text. At the bottom of the white box, the words "JOIN THE LIVE BROADCAST" are partially visible.

American Ancestors. A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture

Bookstore About Us MY ACCOUNT

Search Events Join Give 10 Million Names Publications Expert Help Tools Signature Projects Centers & Initiatives

Expert Strategies for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls 2024

Thank you for registering for the online seminar, *Expert Strategies for Breaking Down Genealogical Brick Walls!*

Research your ancestry long enough and you're bound to hit a brick wall—the paper trail vanishes, the family seemingly disappears, and you're unable to go back to earlier generations. Whether you are struggling to find an immigrant's exact origins, uncover a maiden name, determine parentage, discover where a family moved to, untangle common names, or find vital records about your ancestors, this five-week online seminar can help! Tackling a different research challenge each session, expert genealogists David Allen Lambert, Rhonda R. McClure, and Melanie McComb will provide real life examples and successful strategies for breaking down your genealogical brick wall.

This course includes five 90-minute classes and exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation. These recordings and all course materials will be available for the foreseeable future.

JOIN THE LIVE BROADCAST

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



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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