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**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

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**Family**

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

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**Reasons to Research Family**

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

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**Associates**

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

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### 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

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### Neighbors

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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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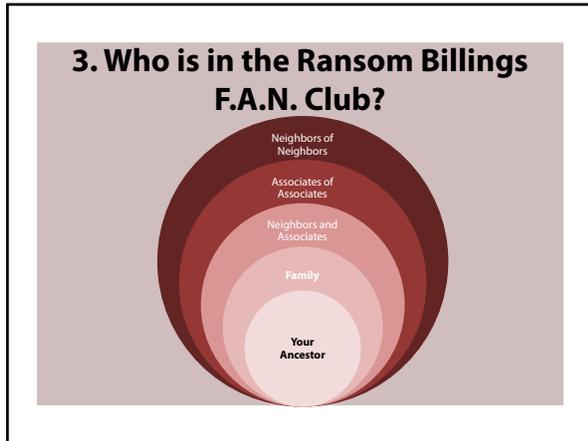
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### F.A.N.

- 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

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### Set Up Your Research Log

Name (and variant spellings)	Date recorded	Place	Relevant record	Notes
Ransom Billings, Jonathan Ales		Geauga County, Ohio	185	1853 Jonathan Ales left Hubbard, Connecticut with his family to settle in Geauga County, Ohio. He was the first of the Ransom Billings family to settle in the town of Hubbard, Geauga County, Ohio.
Ransom Billings, Jonathan Ales		Hubbard County, Ohio	185	
Ransom Billings			185	
Ransom Billings		Budapest, Connecticut	185	
Ransom Billings			185	
Ransom Billings			185	
Ransom Billings	1815	Hubbard, Geauga Co., Ohio	185	Quaker Ransom Billings' Quaker Elder, Hubbard
Ransom Billings	before 1815	Geauga County, Ohio	185	30 acres Lot 25, Township 22, Range 4, 1815. When John Lett's Township 22, Range 4, 1815.
Ransom Billings	1819		185	Ransom Billings, married 11 January 1819 at 1819. New York to 14. Granted for 7 acres, into the 27th Regiment of the U.S. Infantry, private, American War 1791-1795, the only Irish War. Irish immigrants left in about 1815 before the war of 1812. Connecticut. Records, records of settlement 1815. New York, January 25, 1819.

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### 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

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### 5. Locate Resources

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
<b>Vital Records</b>					
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		
<b>Census Records</b>					
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		
<b>Newspapers</b>					
Statuary	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Statuary	Carlos A. Sperry	?	Ohio		
3 ... <a href="#">Louisa M. Billings Carlos Sperr</a>   <a href="#">Ann DeVan Billings Joseph M. Kn</a>   <a href="#">Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billing ...</a>					

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### 6. Research! \*\*

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
<b>Vital Records</b>					
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		
<b>Census Records</b>					
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		
<b>Newspapers</b>					
Statuary	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Statuary	Carlos A. Sperry	?	Ohio		
3 ... <a href="#">Louisa M. Billings Carlos Sperr</a>   <a href="#">Ann DeVan Billings Joseph M. Kn</a>   <a href="#">Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billing ...</a>					

\*\*Is it worth it??

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### 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.

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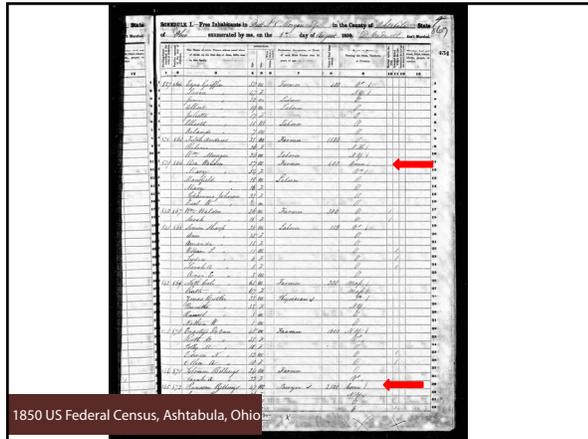
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## Who are the interesting neighbors?

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## 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?

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Search > Census & Voter Lists

### 1850 United States Federal Census

Search  Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)  Last Name

Year  Location

Birth   Exact to...

Lived In   Exact to this place

Any Event  Exact to...  This place

Keyword

Occupation

**Browse this collection**

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

State

County

Township

Ancestry.com

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### All 1850 United States Federal Census Results

Your search  **Results 1-20 of 98**

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

Ancestry.com

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**Western Reserve**

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

A map of Ohio with the Connecticut Western Reserve highlighted in red. The map shows the state's outline and county boundaries. Labels include "Lake Erie" at the top, "Ohio River" at the bottom right, and "Connecticut Western Reserve" in red text over the highlighted area.

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**Western Reserve**

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

A detailed map of the Western Reserve townships in Ohio. The map shows a grid of townships with names such as CHESTER, MUNSON, GEAUGA, BURTON, and others. A scale bar at the top indicates distances in kilometers (0 to 10) and miles (0 to 10). A north arrow is also present.

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**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

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**Tip**

**Understand the Index**

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**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)

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**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

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**Identify Individuals**

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




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**Identify Individuals**

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




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## Daniel Booth

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

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## Update Your Research Log

Name	Name (and variant spellings)	Date examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
<b>Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records</b>					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 «family search»	Booth	March 1817	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Heirs of Daniel Booth-Orsamus Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Olive Lampson Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1943 vol. 1 «family search»	Booth		Gauga County, Ohio		
<b>Deed Records</b>					
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Township 9, Range 7 (1330 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 (184 acres, 144 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 26, Township 10, Range 6 (196 acres, 30 rods)
<b>Vital Records</b>					
Birth record	Daniel Booth		probably Connecticut		
Marriage record	17		probably Connecticut		
Birth record	Daniel Booth's wife		probably Connecticut		
Death record	Daniel Booth's wife		Ohio		
Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		

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## 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

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### Keep Updating Your Research Log!

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
<b>Probate, Will, and Other Court Records</b>					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996: Geauga Probates Index 1800-1917 <family search>	Booth	March 1817	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Heir of Daniel Booth-Crossen Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Olive Langston Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996: Geauga Probates Index 1800-1843 vol. 3 <family search>	Booth		Gauga County, Ohio		
<b>Land Records</b>					
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Township 9, Range 7 (133 acres, 130 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (96 acres, 90 rods)
<b>Vital Records</b>					
Birth record	Daniel Booth		probably Connecticut		
Marriage record			probably Connecticut		
Birth record	Daniel Booth's wife		probably Connecticut		
Death record	Daniel Booth		Ohio		
Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		

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### 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 Gauga County, Ohio in 1816.

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### 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. Orasmus Booth, b. 30 August 1798

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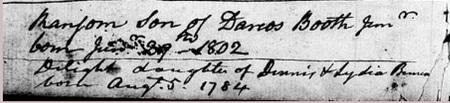
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### Who is Ransom's mother?



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

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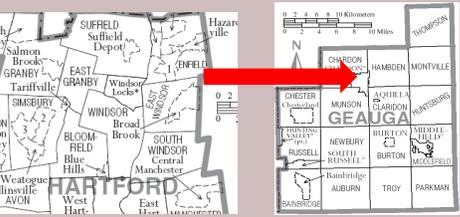
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### Chain Migration

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



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### 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

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**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  


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**"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

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**Types of Town Records**

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

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**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

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**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

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**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.

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**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

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### 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

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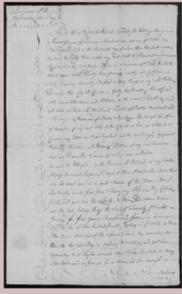
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## Codicils

- 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



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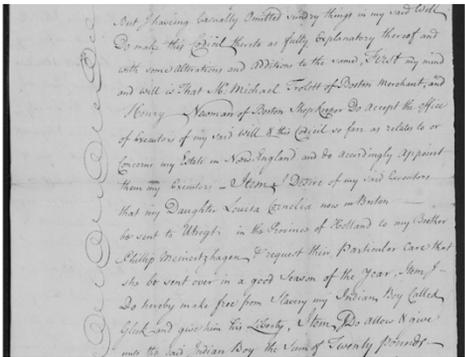
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Codicil, Henry Meinertzhagen, Suffolk County, Mass, Case 10998

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### 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

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### 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

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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 ninety seven cents and a half, being the balance of said account, to be distributed among the heirs of said intestate, agreeably to law. Now my therefore hereby ordered and directed to pay and distribute the sum of one hundred ~~twenty~~ <sup>ninety</sup> dollars ~~twenty~~ <sup>eight</sup> 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 debts, and what further debts and charges shall hereafter arise against said

Frederick Knight and Antonio Knight, children of said intestate, each

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

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### 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

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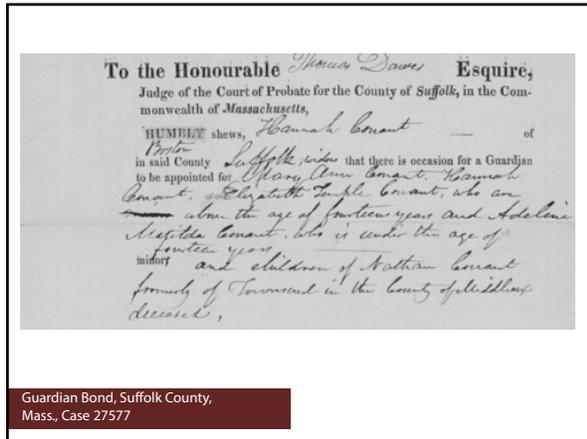
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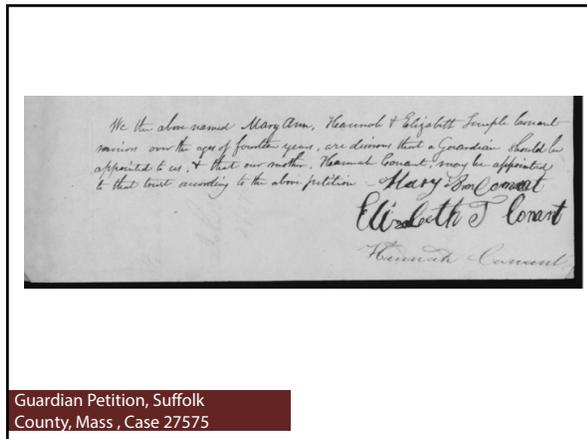
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### Why use tax records?

- 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

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### Locations for Tax Records

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

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Names	1738		Ministerial					
	Rate	Amount	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate	Amount	
Charles, Stone	1	00	08	08	06	09	00	13
Robert, Shepard	1	06	05	08	09	10	03	01
Thomas, Spurr	2	13	12	07	02	11	01	02
William, Sumner	0	08	00	01	04	00	00	00
John, Sumner	0	09	00	00	08	00	00	00
John, Sumner	1	13	07	08	06	01	01	03
John, Shepard	2	48	24	07	07	10	03	04
Michael, Butler	1	17	12	08	06	02	00	00
James, Smith	0	03	00	00	00	00	00	00
Colby, Smith	1	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Robert, Swan	0	08	00	00	01	04	00	02

Stoughton, Massachusetts,  
1738 Ministerial Tax, Ancestry.com

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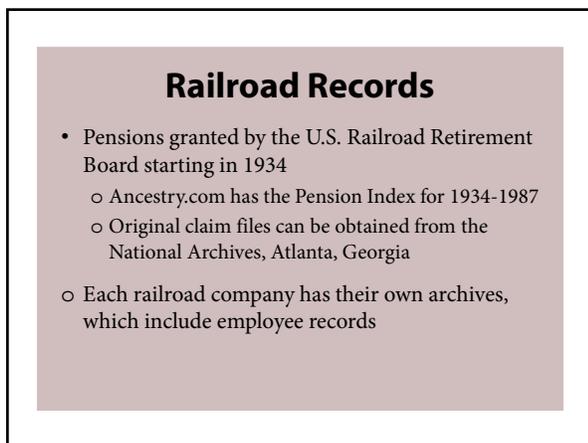
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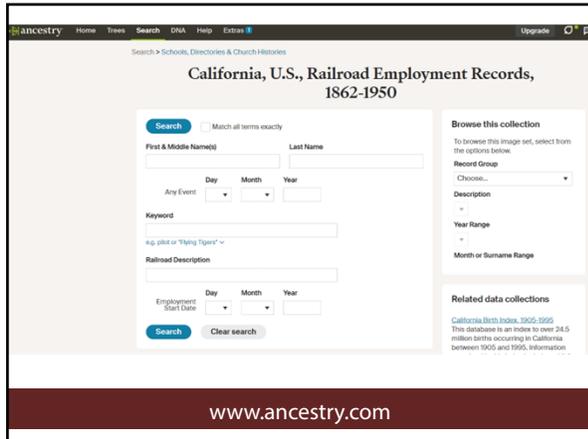
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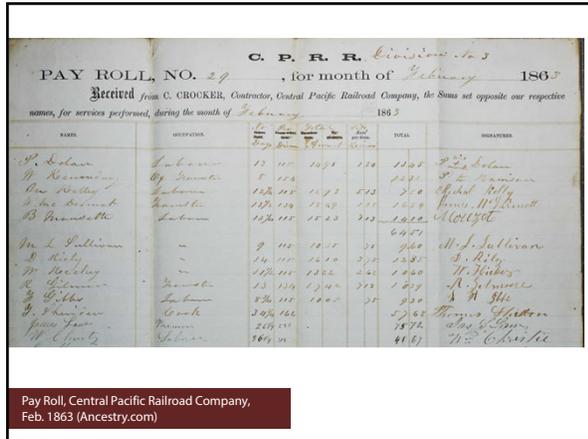
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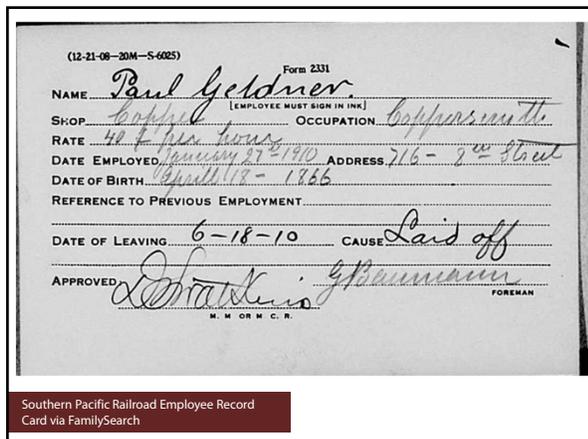
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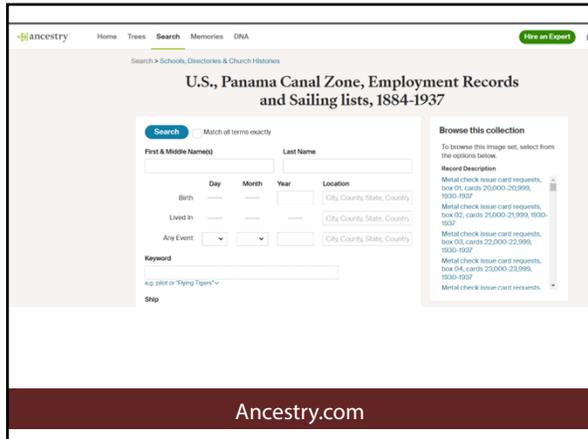
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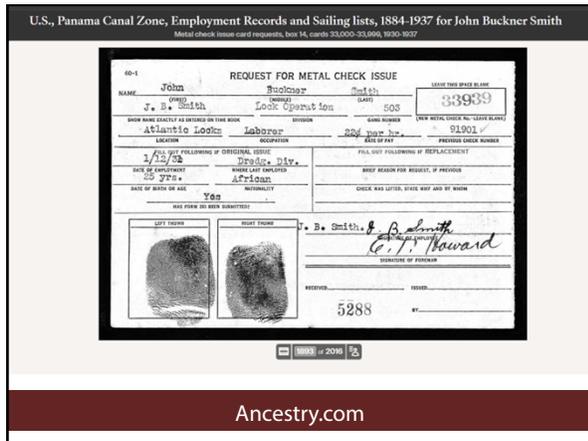
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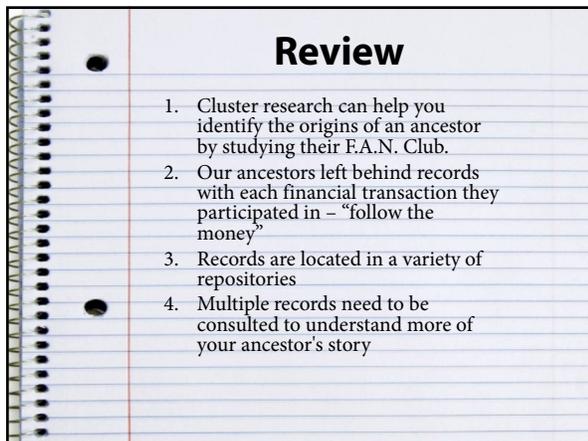
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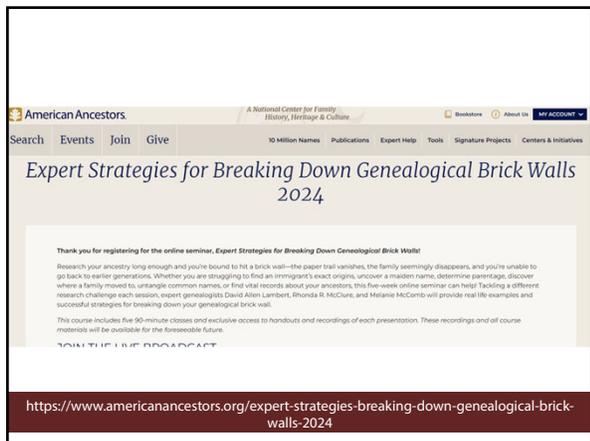
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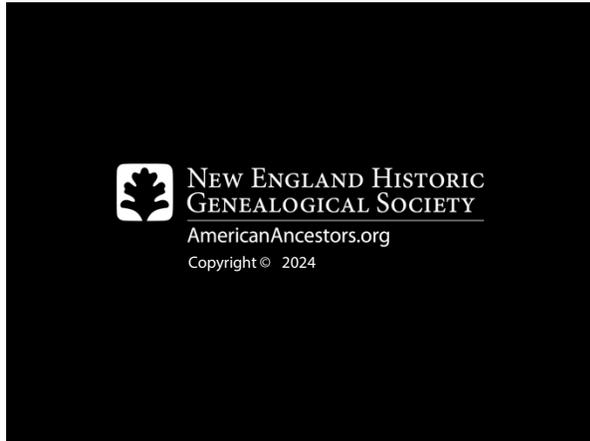
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