

How to properly document your Mayflower line:

1. Organize
2. Locate records for each generation (including spouses) back to the *Mayflower* passenger
3. Determine if a proof summary is necessary
4. Write it down!

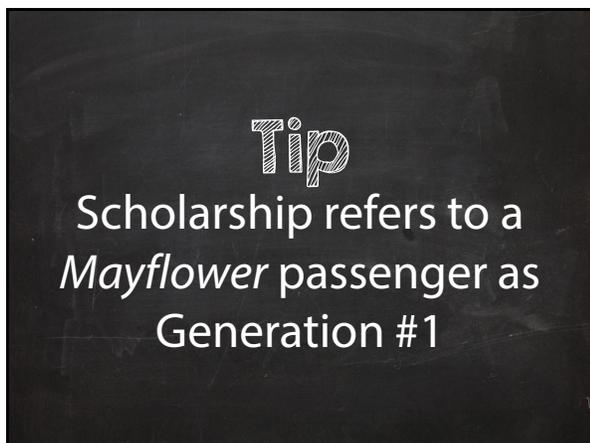


Qualification Outline

Generation 11

Your name, b. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year]. He/she married in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year], **name of spouse**.

Name of spouse, b. in [town/city, county, state] on [day, month, year].



Step #2

Locate vital records for each generation

Vital Records

- Often provide the names of the individual's parents and/or spouse
- Depending on the state, records may be held on the state, county, and/or town/city level
- Privacy restrictions may limit access
- Certified vs. genealogical or informational copies

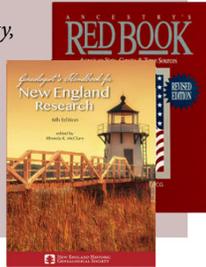
**Civil vital records
birth, marriage, and death**

– Modern vital records vary from state to state

- Massachusetts (1841)
- Connecticut (1897)
- Maine (1892)
- New Hampshire (1866)
- Rhode Island (1853)
- Vermont (1857)
- New York (1881)

Vital Records: Resources

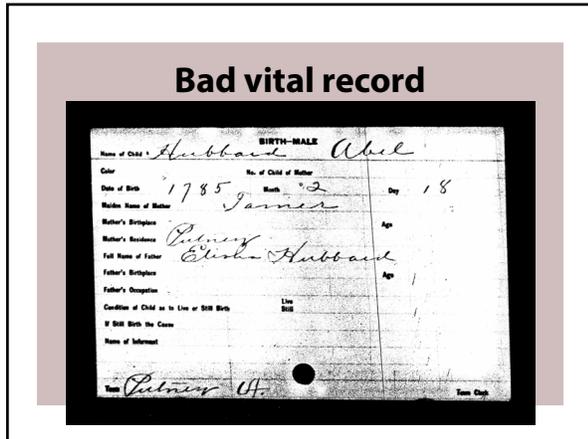
- *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 6th ed. (NEHGS, 2021)
- *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, 3rd ed. (Ancestry Publishing, 2004)
- *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Ancestry Publishing, 2006)
- Family Search Wiki

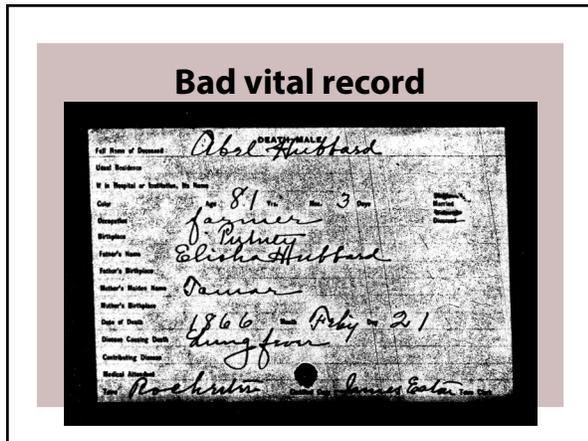




Good vital record







**What do you do when
no vital records exist?**

Types of Records

Ideal	May need more
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital Records/ Certificates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Lists parents with mother’s maiden name – Marriage record is preferable • Church Records • Probate Records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genealogies • County/Local Histories • Cemetery Records and Headstones • Census records

Some alternative vital records:

• Church Records	• Military
• Census	• Newspapers
• Cemetery Records	• Compiled genealogies
• Naturalization Records	• Finding aids
• Land and Property	• Local histories
• Probate	• Family papers

...and more!

Clues to look for:

- Naming patterns
- Similar migrations
- Buy/sell land from family members

Bible Records

- Rare, but helpful
- Maintained by local historical societies, archives, or genealogical society (NEHGS)





beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/

Census Records *(Federal and State)*

- U.S. Federal Census available 1790–1950
- Before 1850, U.S. Federal Census did not name each member of household
- Online resources:
 - [AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.americanancestors.org)
 - [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
 - [Fold3.com](https://www.fold3.com)
 - [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)



Cemetery Records and Inscriptions

- Locate a clear photo of marker with surrounding stones
- Online resources:
 - findagrave.com
 - billiongraves.com
 - interment.net
 - namesinstone.com



Church Records

- Baptisms, marriages, confirmations, burials
- To find, identify your ancestor's religion and church
- Sources:
 - Church archives
 - NEHGS library
 - AmericanAncestors.org
 - familySearch.org

RECORDS OF THE WEST CHURCH OF BOSTON	
January 09	Sarah Knoll daughter of Mr. Baskin Cushing
16	Nathaniel Son of Mr. Joseph Frothingham
February 20	Mary daughter of Mr. Edward [A] Mr. Mary Taylor of Boston
	Mary Jackson first 7 th daughter of Mr. Isaac Bennet died at the house of Mr. E. B. Taylor in private
27th	Elizabeth Son of Mr. William Newbery
	Eliza Ann daughter of Mr. Joseph Knoll - child in private
March 4	Robert Son of Mr. J. Adams Frothingham
13	Edward Son of Mr. Edward Taylor born March 08 1801
	William 2 ^d son of Mr. C. S. Childs July 1802
20	Maria Son of Ebenezer Cox
April 04	William Gordon Son of Capt. James Printer
24	Sally Daughter of Mr. Asa Page
[29th]	[1801]
June 12	George son of Mr. John Cudgill
July 24	John Son of Mr. John Cudgill
August 7	George Son of Mr. Thomas Deane
	Thomas Peck Son of Mr. Matthias March (By Mr. Printer)
6 th 24 th	Frederick Son of Mr. James Hinckley
	Thomas Son of Mr. Thomas Adams
7	Lewis daughter of Mr. Matthew March & Eliza his wife, both arrived from Scotland, the child being illegitimately
Oct 21	David Son of Mr. John Knoll born Sept 23, 1801
06	Elizabeth daughter of Mr. John C. Howard
	William C. Son of Mr. J. Howard
08	Samuel Frank son of Mr. Abner Frost born Oct. 13, 1801
Nov 13	Thomas Deane, posthumous son of Mr. Francis Esq. died at 8 th Elm Street
	Margaret daughter of Mr. John Lee
	Leah daughter of Mr. Abraham Hall
15	Sarah daughter of Mr. Peter Gill
	Robert Son of Mr. ———— born in private being sick
Dec 11	Sarah first daughter of Mr. John Young
	Elizabeth William Henry C. Cunningham (died Nov 12 1801)
18	Nancy daughter of Mr. George Cushing
	Francis son of Mr. Thomas Yildes
	[1802]
Jan 7 1	Oscar Son of Mr. John Deane

Tip

Include title page for published records

Military Records

- Pension records — fold3.com
- Military rolls — nationalarchives.gov.uk
- Enlistment papers — americanancestors.org
- Draft card/records
- Manuscripts (such as diaries or letters home)



Step #3
Determine if a proof summary is necessary

What is the purpose of a proof argument?

- Interpreting documentation
- Connecting generations
- Explaining conflicting documentation

When is a proof argument necessary?

- No primary source documentation
 - Vital records
 - Probate records
- One (or no) secondary sources
 - Genealogy
 - County history
- Documentation that suggests the relationships, but not explicitly stated
- Correcting information

When a proof argument is *not* necessary

- Vital Records/primary sources exist
 - i.e., Death record
 - Census records
- When the documentation clearly shows a connection



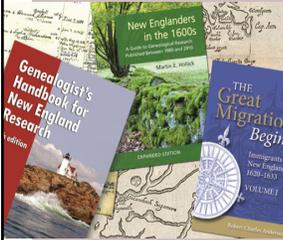
Anatomy of a proof argument

- Clearly stated Objective
- Recognition of Earlier Scholarship (Correct or Incorrect)
- Research Summary
 - What did you find?
 - What didn't you find?
- Address anomalies or mistakes in the research process
- Suggest Alternative Possibilities
- Conclusion
- Provide a Genealogical Summary

Clearly State Objective

- What is the genealogical Question?
- Include information such as:
 - The Primary Individual (Date/Place of Birth and Date/Place of Death- if known)
 - The name of the Primary individual's Spouse (Date/Place of Birth and Date/Place of Death- if known)
 - The names of the Primary Individual's Parents

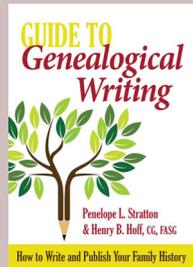
Recognize Earlier Scholarship



- What has been presented previously?
- How Scholarly is that material?
 - Correct
 - Incorrect
- If nothing has been done, say so

Research Summary

- Provide an explanation of the relevant records found
 - Logical progression
 - Clear and concise
- Use scholarly footnotes
 - *Guide to Genealogical Writing*



Address Anomalies

- Missing records
- Numerous Individuals with the same name
- Incorrect Information on a record or an incorrect published genealogy
- Present this information honestly
 - Do not distort or underplay a record

Suggest Other Possibilities

- Cover all your bases, Even if unlikely
- Does your conclusion jive with historical, geographical, and religious facts
- Conflating two persons?
- Creating Two persons?

Conclusion

DO	DON'T
-----------	--------------

- Clearly State Your Conclusion Based on your analysis
- Give too much information- just state the facts
- Present new information

Genealogical Summary

- Register style
- Include relevant persons and their relationships
- Continue to provide scholarly citations

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1. WRIGHT BROWN¹, born at Ware, Hampshire County, Massachusetts 1 July 1748, son of Timothy ("Clary Keyser", and "Phebe Rowland" [Willow]) and Hannah (_____) ("Wright" Brown)². He removed to Saratoga, Chenango County, New Hampshire³, Saratoga, New York⁴, and Yates County, New York, and died 25 April 1837⁵.

He married first probably before 1780⁶ before 1784 BERNICE NOLAN/NEWLAND⁷ (she died before 1796⁸). He married second BETHANY _____ before 1 June 1796⁹. She died in 1828¹⁰.

No photos for Wright Brown has been found in Yates County and no land records identifying him.

Children of Wright and Hannah (_____) ("Wright" Brown):

- i. CHILD BROWN¹, d. SWANNEY, 204 4 Mar. 1790¹¹
- ii. JOEL BROWN, d. SWANNEY, 202 21 Mar. 1791¹²
- iii. SAMUEL RIGHT BROWN¹, b. 1773¹³ d. Clary Valley, NY, 15 Sep. 1817¹⁴ m. 13 February 1801 EUNICE ANDRICK.
- iv. THAS BROWN, bp. Stillborn, NY 15 Jan. 1784¹⁵

Children of Wright and Bethany Brown:

- v. WRIGHT BROWN¹, b. 1 Jan. 1796; d. 28 Jan. 1874¹⁶ m. ELLY EDGEM¹⁷

2. SAMUEL RIGHT BROWN¹, born possibly at New Hampshire¹⁸ 1773. He died at Clary Valley, Otsego County, New York 15 September 1817¹⁹.

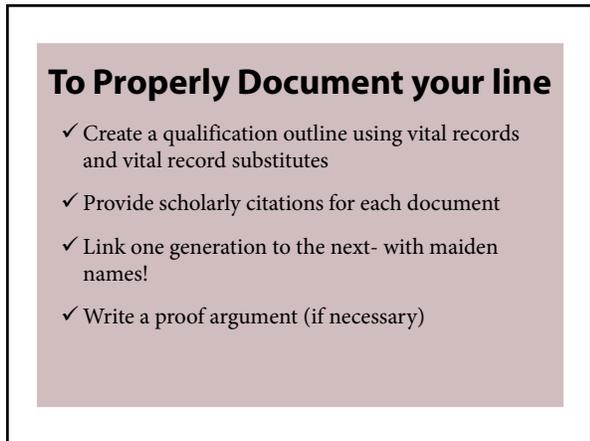
He married at Saratoga, New York on 13 February 1800, EUNICE ANDRICK/BRANDT²⁰. She was born in 1760²¹. She died probably at Yates County, New York, 1874²².

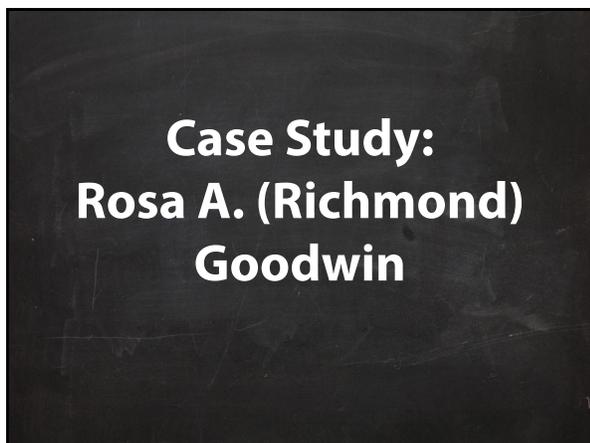
No photos record for Samuel R. Brown has been found in Albany, Fulton, Saratoga, or Cayuga Counties, New York.

Children of Samuel Right and Eunice (Andrick) Brown:

- i. CHARLES TOLSON BROWN, b. 1804; d. 1878²³
- ii. ARTHUR V. BROWN, b. 1806²⁴ m. LUCY AND MILLER, 10 February 1827.
- iii. BRANCH DARTY BROWN¹, b. 1807²⁵ d. WARREN County, N. Y. abt. 1860²⁶ married Letitia Leiby bef. 1821²⁷
- iv. WILLIAM BERRY BRANDSON BROWN, b. 1814; d. 1864²⁸
- v. YULIETTE BRUCE BROWN, m. CHARLES LORRY.
- vi. SAMUEL RIGHT BROWN, b. 17 Nov. 1817²⁹; d. 2 Feb. 1903³⁰ m. SALLIE ANN CARR³¹







Ancestry of Rosa A. (Richmond) Goodwin

<p>What we have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosa A. Goodwin's death record • Rosa's obituary • Census records 	<p>What we don't have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosa A. (Richmond) Goodwin's birth record • Rosa's marriage record
--	--

1881 Death Record Rosie A. Goodwin

1881 Obituary

Sad Bereavements.

Mrs. Rosa A. Goodwin, daughter-in-law of the late William A. Goodwin (who was buried last Sunday), and wife of Frederick T. Goodwin, of Chelsea, Mass., died December 22d, aged 32 years and 8 months. She was not feeling well when her husband came to attend his father's funeral, and he returned in haste after the ceremony. Her funeral will take place Sunday from the residence No. 68 Minor street. A brother of the deceased, William F. Richmond, a commercial traveler, was buried four weeks ago. He was taken ill out west and was buried in New Bedford. Brother and sister formerly lived in New Haven.

Case Studies

- One and the same
 - Ancestry of Nathan Cannon
- Almost nothing exists
 - Ancestry of Emeline Barker

Case Study: Ancestry of Nathan Cannon

Ancestry of Nathan Cannon

```

    graph TD
      N1["Nathan Cannon  
1741-bef. 1769"] --- M1["="]
      T["Thankful Bassett  
1746-aft. 1790"] --- M1
      N2["Nathan Cannon  
Bap. 1777-1832"] --- M2["="]
      R["Rachel Landers  
abt. 1766-1847"] --- M2
      N1 --- N2
  
```

Ancestry of Nathan Cannon

<p>What we have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nathan Cannon's baptismal record • Nathan's death record • Nathan and Rachel Lander's marriage intention • Entry in <i>Mayflower Families Through Five Generations</i> (Howland) • Guardianship record 	<p>What we don't have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof Nathan Cannon removed from Barnstable, Massachusetts to Fairfield, Maine
---	---

What do we need to prove?

- Was Nathan Cannon, son of Nathan Cannon and Thankful Bassett, the same Nathan Cannon who died in Fairfield, Maine in 1832?

Fifth and Sixth Generation Descendants of Joseph² Howland 187

Child of Nathan and Thankful (Bassett) Cannon, b. Barnstable:

i **NATHAN CANNON**⁹, bp. West Parish Ch. 13 June 1773 (CR 255).

Sources cited: Barnstable Vital Records and West Parish Church Records (CD, 2002). *Falmouth V.R.* See also: MD 31:151(b. Nathan). *Barnstable Families* 1:251.

Start with the vital records

Marriage record

Melinda L. and Henry Tibbetts, both of Fair., int. 25 Sept 1847
 Nathan and Rachel Lander, both of Fair., int. 5 Dec 1789;
 md. 22 Apr 1790
 Nathan, Jr., and Sarah Holway, both of Fair., int. 27 June 1819
 Phebe of Fair., and Charles Soule of Waterville
 int. 6 Feb 1865; Cert. issued 11 Feb 1865
 Sally Ann and William Gifford, both of Fair.,
 int. 30 Apr 1849; md. 9 Sept 1849 (Som VR's)
 Simon and Ellinor M. Nye, both of Fair., int. 15 June 1844
 Sophia of Fair., and Henry Parker of Waterville,
 int. 6 June 1842; md. 12 July 1842

Death record

Lemuel H., 22 Feb. 1835, so of Nathan and Sally.
 Lemuel H., 28 Mar. 1908. G.R. 6 so of Nathan and Sarah
 Lottie Dudley, 16 Sept. 1968, ae 73 yrs., at Oakland. G.R.6
 Mary (Jones), 17 Feb. 1897, ae 88 yrs., w. of Stephen.
 G.R. 6
 Mary, 12 Mar., 1829., da of Nathan and Rachel.
 Mary A., 17 Mar. 1864, ae 24 yrs., 5 mos., da of Stephen
 and Mary. G.R. 6
 Nathan, 1 Apr. 1831, hus. of Rachel.
 Nathan, 25 May 1864, ae 88 yrs., 2 mos., (War of 1812)
 G.R. 6
 Rachel, 3 Aug. 1847, w. of Nathan.
 Restella A. (Lander), 1906, G.R. 6
 Sarah, 18 Aug. 1861, ae 84 yrs., 2 mos., w. of Nathan. G.R.6
 Sarah E., no date.,(Smith),w. of Joseph A.
 G.R. 6
 Susan E., 30 June 1863, ae 21 yrs., 6 mos., da of Stephen
 and Mary. G.R. 6
 Stephen, 14 Feb. 1879, ae 71 yrs., G.R. 6
 Thomas, 16 Nov. 1870, ae 78 yrs., 2 mos., 22 das., G.R. 6

Obituary

DEATHS.

In this town, on the 26th of March last, Mr. George William (deceased) aged 80.
 On Saturday evening last, Sarah Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. Woodruff Quinby, aged 1 year and 8 months.
 Yesterday morning (Sunday) Miss Eliza Hill, of Essex, aged 84. The funeral will be attended this afternoon, at 4 o'clock at the house of Mr. Aaron Woodhouse, head of Washington street.
 In Essex Elizabeth, Mrs. Elizabeth, wife of Mr. Charles McCreary, aged 82.
 In Scarborough, Mrs. Rhoda, wife of William Trathan, Esq, aged 81.
 In Norway, John, son of Mr. Charles Uffers, aged 8 years.
 In Augusta, Mr. David Leitch—a child of Mr. Henry Shepley, aged 2 years.
 In Hallowell, Francis, youngest son of Mr. Benjamin Hartwell, aged 5 years.
 In Portland, Mr. Nathan Conner, aged 66—one of the best athletes of that town.
 In Bethel, Hannah, Mrs. Louisa B., wife of Mr. Henry Kimball, seventy of this town, aged 82.
 In Portland, Mr. Fisher, in New York, Capt. Thomas Benson, of Hallowell, one year of Mr. C. C. Benson, of Hallowell City, N. S.
 On board ship Geo. Washington, was her passage from Boston to New York, Mr. William Wright, seventy of Cape Elizabeth, aged 82.

Exhaustive Search

- ~~Church Records~~
- Census
- ~~Cemetery Records~~
- ~~Naturalization Records~~
- Land and Property
- ~~Probate~~
- ~~Military~~
- Newspapers
- Compiled genealogies
- Local histories
- ~~Family papers~~

***Remember the clues to look for:**

- Naming patterns
- Similar migrations
- Buy/sell land from family members

Similar Migration

History of Fairfield, Maine



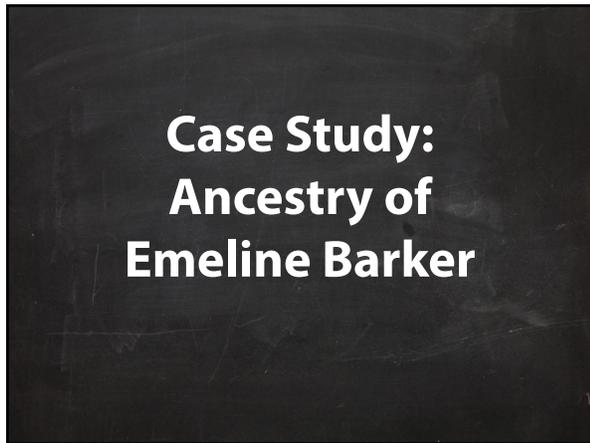
- Settled by people from Barnstable County, MA
- Originally called Nye's Plantation
- Incorporated as the town of Fairfield, Lincoln County, Massachusetts (now Maine) on 18 June 1788

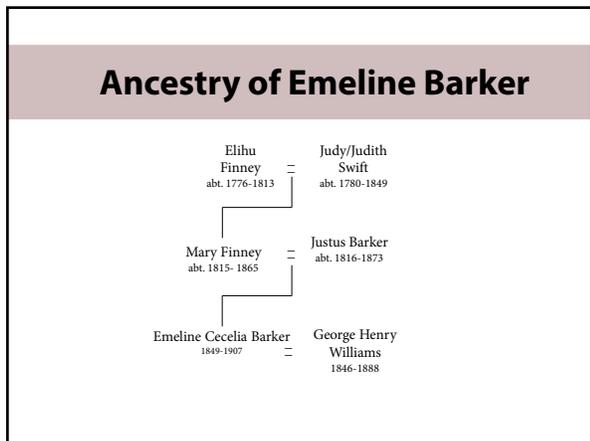
Deeds between family members

Nathan Cannon deeds

- 17 March 1803, purchased the north part of Lot No. 37 from Moses Appleton of neighboring Waterville, Maine.
- 5 August 1806 Nathan Cannon, along with Barnabas Holway, purchased part of Lot No. 39 in Fairfield from Moody Landers







Ancestry of Emeline Barker

<p>What we have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emeline (Barker) Williams Death Certificate • Emeline's obituary • Census records • Land records • <i>Finney-Phinney Families in America</i> 	<p>What we don't have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital records for Mary (Finney) Barker • Probate Record for Elihu Finney or Judith/Judy (Swift) Finney
---	--

What do we need to prove?

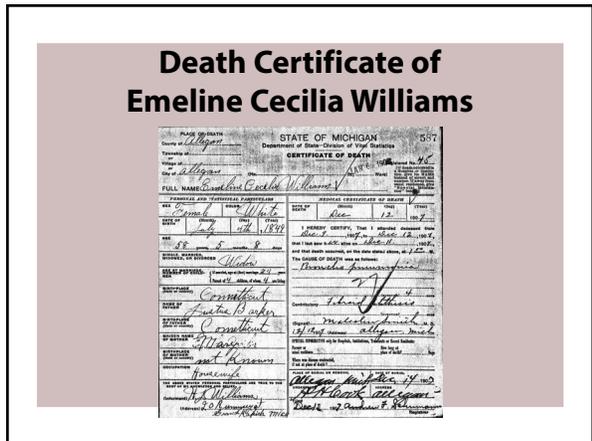
- Emeline (Barker) Williams is the daughter of Mary (Finney) Barker
- Mary (Finney) Barker is the daughter of Elihu Finney of Sharon, CT

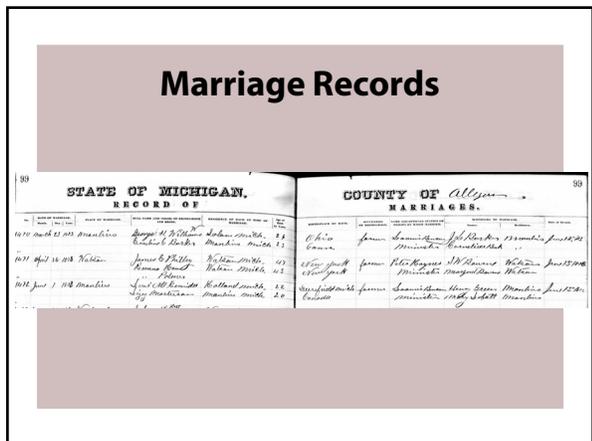
Tip

Start with the known,
and move to the
unknown

Step #1

Confirming Emeline's parents





Death of Elihu Finney

neg. of original
 Philipse Elihu Phinney, private Soldier in
 the thirteenth United States Regi-
 ment of Foot, aged thirty four
 years, died July the twenty sixth
 and was buried July the twenty
 eighth, in the year of our Lord
 one thousand eight hundred
 and thirteen
 By me Sathor Schosaphat Mountain
 officiating Minister at Sharon

Children of Elihu and Judy

773. Elihu⁶ Finney, d. in the War of 1812; m. Judy Swift. He was living in Sharon, Conn., in 1810.

Children:

- 1560. i. Harriet⁷, m. — McLean.
- 1561. ii. Mary⁷
- 1562. iii. Cornelia⁷, m. July 4, 1833, William Winegar of Amenia, N. Y.
- 1563. iv. Martin⁷, d. unm.

82 *Finney-Phinney Families in America*
 +1564. v. George⁷, b. July 4, 1810. He changed the spelling of his sur-
 name to "Phinney."

773. Elihu⁶ Finney, d. in the War of 1812; m. Judy Swift. He was living in Sharon, Conn., in 1810.

Children:

- 1560. i. Harriet⁷, m. — McLean.
- 1561. ii. Mary⁷
- 1562. iii. Cornelia⁷, m. July 4, 1833, William Winegar of Amenia, N. Y.
- 1563. iv. Martin⁷, d. unm.

Finney-Phinney Families in America, p. 81

PHINNEY, Lucinda, m. William Chamberlain, Jan. 16, 1824, by David L. Furtz	3	120
PHINNEY, Cornelia, of Salisbury, m. William Winegar, of Amenia, June 4, 1833, by L.S. Lathrop	3	143
PHINNEY, Beata, d. Joseph & Lotis, b. Mar. 23, 1814	3	61
James & Abigail Scribner, Jan. 15, 1780, by William Bronson, J.P.	3	110
Joel P. m. Lydia Swift, b. of Salisbury, Feb. 27, 1828, by L.S. Lathrop	3	121
John, s. James & Abigail, b. July 9, 1808	3	34

Salisbury, CT Vital Records, p. 90

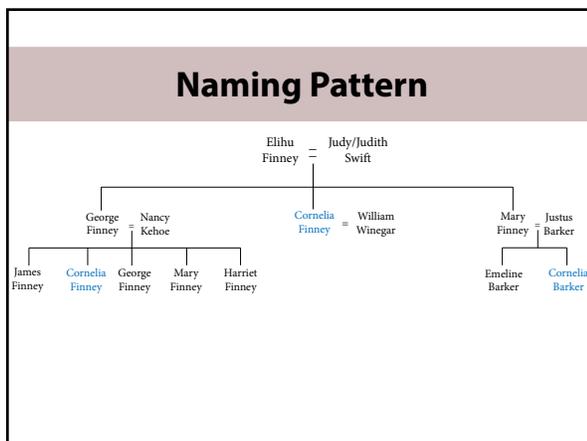
Mrs. Emeline Williams
 Mrs. Emeline Williams died at her home on My street Wednesday evening after a short illness of pneumonia. Though she has been in poor health for years, she was able to visit her daughter at Peoria on Thanksgiving day.
 Emeline Barker was born in Litchfield county, Conn., July 4th, 1849, and came to Michigan with her parents when five years old, living in Chicago and Peoria. At the age of 28 she was married to George H. Williams, who passed away 20 years ago. To their union four children were born. Mrs. Fannie Laporte of Peoria, Mrs. Lottie Rogers of South Haven, Homer of Grand Rapids and Miss Hattie, who lived with her mother. Three of those were with her when she came.
 Twenty-two years ago she united with the Seventh Day Adventist church at Peoria and was a faithful member to the end. Deceased came to this village 15 years ago. Mrs. Williams was a kind mother, good neighbor, intelligent and a supporter of the student, being able to supply from any portion of the sacred books. The funeral services will be conducted at the Adventist church tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The Allegan News,
 Friday, December 13, 1907

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Sharon, Town of Sharon in the County of Litchfield State of Connecticut enumerated by me, on the Twenty-ninth day of August 1850. Chas. M. Kelley Ass't Marshal.

1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10 11 12			13	
			Male	Female	Total				Free	Slave	Color		White
1		John Barker	37	1			Connecticut						
2		John C. Barker	24	0		Sharon							
3	Dr. J.	John C. Barker	20	0		Sharon							
4		John C.	21	1			Connecticut						
5		John C.	2	0									
6		John C.	1	1									
7		John C.	2	0									
8		John C.	1	1									

1850 Census, Sharon, Litchfield County, Connecticut



Making the Connection

<p>Emeline Barker to Mary Finney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emeline's death certificate • Obituary • Census • Land Records • Elbert Barker's Vital Records 	<p>Mary Finney to Elihu Finney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genealogy • Geographical Connection • Repetition of name Cornelia
--	---

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@nehgs.org

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

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

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

Researching & Verifying Mayflower Ancestry 2024

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Researching & Verifying Mayflower Ancestry!*

Four hundred years ago, the Mayflower landed on the shores of Massachusetts with 102 passengers aboard. Today, there is an estimated 35 million Mayflower descendants worldwide. Join experts from AmericanAncestors for a five-session online course that will explore the many resources, record collections, and research strategies for verifying your connection to the Mayflower. We will also include several case studies demonstrating ways to break down brick walls, including an examination of using DNA to confirm a hypothesis. Finally, we'll discuss how to take your research further by contributing your finding to ongoing Mayflower scholarship.

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

Click here to join the live sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/99461147188>
Tuesdays, October 29, November 5, 12, 19, and 26, 6:00 - 7:30 PM ET

If you are unable to attend the live session, you will be able to view a recording on this webpage.

COURSE SCHEDULE

AmericanAncestors.org/researching-verifying-mayflower-ancestry-2024



