





Introduction

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

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

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



Voice of
Kyle Hurst
Senior Genealogist

Components

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

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Justice Bayless/Bailey was born probably in New York, about 1760, and died after 1850. He married by 1788, Sarah _____, born in New York, about 1766.</p> | + | <p>Orange County, New York was just over the river from Upper Smithfield Township. Originally, the township was in Wayne County, then in Pike County when that divided, and finally in Monroe County.</p> |
| | | = |
| | | <p>Justice Bailey, like many who lived through the formation of the United States of America, was quite mobile. As new lands and new transportation options opened up, Justice continually moved westward across his new country.</p> |

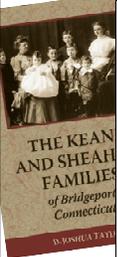
**Get organized...
again**

Review

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

Incorporating narrative into genealogy

-  Insert after birth-death-marriage info, **within** a genealogical sketch.
-  Include narrative chapters **before** and/or **after** the genealogical presentation.
-  Insert narrative or explanatory information in **features / sidebars / boxed inserts**.
-  Provide transcriptions of wills, interviews, or letters in one or more **appendixes**.



FIRST GENERATION

1. DANIEL KEANE was born in County Clare, Ireland, about 1823. He died at Sandy Hook in Newtown, Fairfield County, Connecticut, 19 March 1880, and was buried at St. Rose Cemetery in Newtown. He married, likely in County Clare, about 1850, MARGARET KEANE, who was born in County Clare in January 1828, daughter of Michael and Mary (Smith) Keane, the first child in Bridgeport, Fairfield County, on 18 August 1906, though her death is recorded in the vital records of Newtown. She was buried at St. Rose Cemetery.

From April 1857 until 1863, Daniel leased just over 41 acres in the southeast of Kilkishner County Clare from Major Keane, valued at 15 pounds, 15 shillings. Sometime in 1863, Daniel, Margaret, and at least one of their children left Kilkishner for the United States. The family had worked at Sandy Hook by January 1865. Daniel worked for the New York Belling and Packing Company in Newtown.

At the time of the 1900 U.S. Census, the family included Daniel, 38, who was working in a rubber factory; Margaret 40, who was keeping house and Hannah (Daniel's 13-year-old daughter), 7, Michael, 5, and Daniel, 2. The youngest two children were recorded as having been born in Connecticut; all others were born in Ireland. Daniel and his family were living in the same house at Patrick, Hugh and George Miller (Madley) both Irish and likely from County Clare, and both rubber factory workers.

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

In 1900, fourteen years after Daniel's death from pneumonia, Margaret was living in Newtown with her daughter Anna (Grand Keating). In 1902 she was living with her son Daniel, boarding at 582 Myrtle Avenue in Bridgeport. She lived there until her death in 1906, from cancer of the liver.⁵⁵

CHAPTER ONE

ON THE COAST OF IRELAND

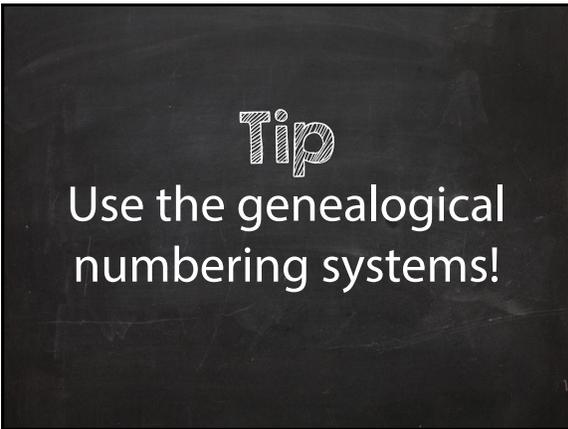
The Keane Family of Kilkishner, Killybegs Parish, County Clare

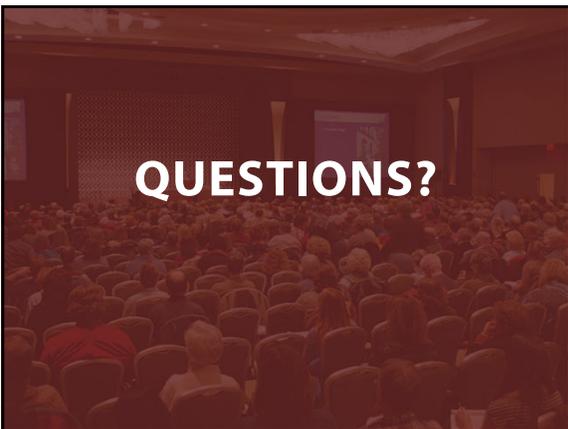
EMANY markers scattered in St. Rose Cemetery in Sandy Hook, near the tombstone of Daniel Keane, progenitor of one Keane family of Bridgeport, inscribed on the stone as "Kilkishner," the ancestral homeland of the Keane family Kilkishner (as it is known in Ireland), in the south-western sunny Clare's southern peninsula, sitting just a few miles into Ocean. Situated in the civil parish of Killybegs, head of Kilkishner was home to only twenty-two families. James Keane, Sr. was born there in 1801. He left in 1863, just two years old. Coming to the coastal location, many jobs and parishes of County Clare have a strong maritime tinge, some — like Kilkishner — have been home to many generations.

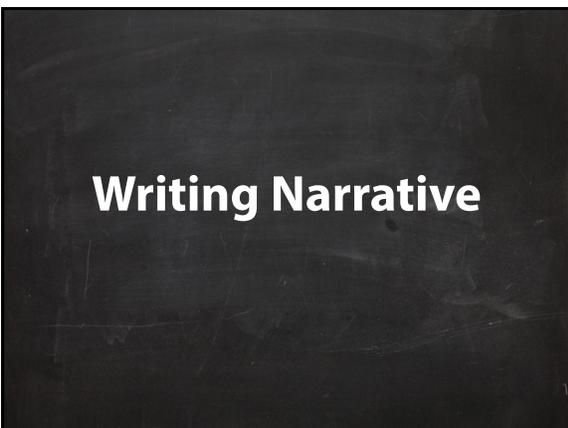
If destination for tourists, County Clare is perhaps most a CUR of Ireland in his 1780 publication, of Short Travels in "Clare," John Lloyd remarks: "From its agreeable situation, remarkably wholesome, the air clear and temperate, and pure and delightful." Though the Keane family would migrate to the United States by 1863, they undoubtedly generations before in Kilkishner and surrounding areas. To reiterate of the Keane family in Ireland, it is fitting to its cultural heritage of County Clare and its many parishes.

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

Narrative chapters and within sketches







Storytelling

| Novel | Genealogy |
|---|---|
|  Plot |  Themes (migration, overcoming, etc.) |
|  Conflict |  Tensions (romance, mystery, etc.) |
|  Transition between scenes |  Move time/location |
|  Characters |  Ancestors |
|  Dialogue |  Quotes |

Story Structure

BEGINNING

↓

MIDDLE

↓

END

- ✓ Table of contents
- ✓ Genealogy
- ✓ Within narrative

Eventful Events

Getting started



Just start typing.



Later, reread and look for patterns.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rough draft/Notes

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At home, the Jamieson family resided in four locations within a two-square-mile area just north of Boston. Shortly after they wed, Thomas and Nora lived at 1 Waverly Place, which used to be by the bridge over the Mystic River at the western edge of Chelsea. There they celebrated the birth of their eldest daughter (Mary) in March 1887 and mourned her death from croup that October. Her baptism seemed to be the only time the Jamiesons held a sacramental event at Chelsea's St. Rose of Lima church, which was straight down Broadway from their home.¹⁰

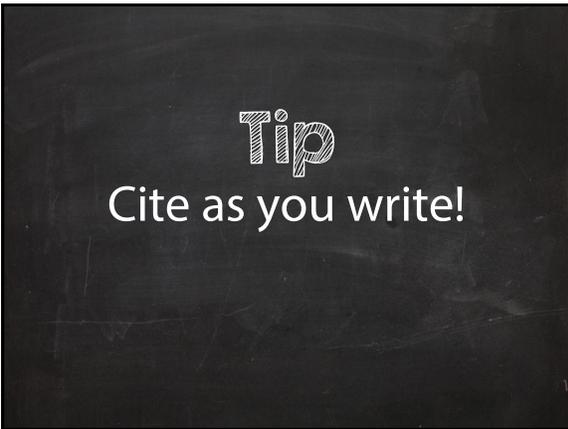
During the first half of the 1890s, the couple lived in Charlestown where they appeared to have five more children. Several apartments they rented on Medford Street were located behind Mystic Playground (now Barry Playground), right by the Chelsea Street Bridge that crossed the Inner Channel to Mystic Wharf. The Jamieson family lived the longest at 19 Medford Street, which was a "thoroughly well built" three-story house with three tenements and fourteen rooms. It even featured "water closets on each floor." At the time, the building's owner could expect to receive about \$500 in rents each year.¹¹

All five of Thomas and Nora's Charlestown-born children—Frances Ellen, Robert Mabel, Daniel, and James John—lived to adulthood. They were baptized at St. Catherine of Siena, at the base of Bunker Hill on the side near their rental homes. Traditionally, this was the poorest Catholic parish in the area because it tended to have large Irish families among its mostly working-class parishioners. In part due to this, St. Catherine of Siena's parish has since merged with St. Mary's, which now features the re-created St. Catherine of Siena Chapel within its lower level. For the first of those five baptisms, Nora's father Daniel and sister Ellen O'Brien served as godparents. Nora's sister Margaret sponsored the second.¹²

Near Halloween in 1895, Thomas's promotion to foreman allowed him to purchase property on Olive Street in Revere. Although this was the farthest he ever lived from Mystic Wharf, it would have been a straight shot down Broadway through Chelsea to reach the bridge (now called the Maurice J. Tobin Memorial Bridge). Thomas and Nora borrowed \$1,270 from Benjamin Hadley of Somerville to purchase (from Jacob E. Anthony of Everett) 2,250 square feet in Lot 2 with a 5-foot-wide strip of Lot 5 on Olive Street east of Elwood Place. They repaid the ten-year mortgage by late 1904.¹³

The address for this property was 10 Olive Street until about 1901 or 1902, when it was remembered as 22 Olive Street. The house had seven rooms and a bath "piped for hot and cold water." While Thomas still worked at Mystic Wharf, Nora sold groceries from their home.¹⁴

Notes to manuscript



How to add the narrative

Chronologically

Thematically

One topic per paragraph

Quaker Life
After banes were posted on 7 September and 5 October, Isaac Conover and Elinor Wright married at the Burlington Monthly Meeting: "1730, 8, 22" (22 October 1730). Isaac, son of Isaac Conarros, was from Gloucester County, Elinor, daughter of Jonathan Wright, was from Burlington (town and county). Among the many witnesses were Jonathan Wright, Elizabeth Wright, Andrew Cosmaros, Stephen Wright, and Ferrevel Wright."¹
The Conover couple remained with the Burlington Quaker meeting at first. On at least two dates, 6th month 1738 and 2nd 12th month 1746, Isaac was appointed to attend the quarterly meeting by the Burlington Monthly Meeting.²
Then in the summer of 1751, Isaac Conover and his wife made plans to switch to the Chesterfield Meeting. However, the friends who looked into his application for a certificate of removal (from the Burlington Monthly Meeting) determined that "he was likely to return here again" and denied the request.³

The Builder
Isaac Conover was a mason and brick-celler.
In 1762, Isaac supplied twenty thousand bricks to Edward Prior/Pryor "used in building the Proprietor's house in [Perth] Amboy." Pryor paid for ten thousand white bricks on 19 March 1763, but Isaac was still owed "1000/6 York money" as of 13 April 1770. The Board of Proprietors of East Jersey agreed to pay the balance.⁴
The Proprietary House was built about the time of the first visit of William Franklin, the royal governor and son of Benjamin Franklin. He wanted to live there, and the East Jersey proprietors wanted rooms for the Council and Assembly. Unfortunately when the building was ready in September 1764, a depression and stirrings of revolution meant that Franklin did not move in until nine years later.⁵
Isaac Conover led the construction of the Sandy Hook Lighthouse (originally the New York Lighthouse). According to Park Historian Thomas J. Hoffman:

Property in Burlington
Over the course of their time in Burlington, New Jersey, Isaac and Elinor Wright basically owned and sold three properties.
They received the first property from Elinor's parents on 27 February 1730/31. Jonathan and Elizabeth Wright of Burlington sold property to their son-in-law, Isaac Cosmaros, a Burlington bricklayer, and their daughter, "Elinor" for £60. The first part was for the dwelling house known as White Hall on the island of Burlington that Jonathan had purchased in 1720. The second part included 19 acres that Jonathan obtained in 1723. With the land, Isaac received the right to build a brick wall on the property line and

Thematically then chronologically

An engaging writing style

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

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

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

Making more concise and active

An engaging writing style

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



Point of View

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

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

↓

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

↓

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

Viewpoints

Carol Baxter, *Writing and Publishing Gripping Family Histories* (St. Ives, New South Wales: Baxter, 2016), 37.

Narrative Voice Styles

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative non-fiction Justice Bailey, like many who lived through the formation of the United States of America, was quite mobile. • Journey of discovery By tracing him in census, land, and tax records, I found that Justice Bailey was quite mobile. • Intimate voice After his 50th birthday, Justice decided to leave New York bound for Ohio. Would he finally be at home there? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encyclopedic Between 1790 and 1810, Justice Bailey appeared in N.Y. records for Orange, Tioga, and Livingston Counties. • Distant voice Justice Bailey (1760-aft. 1850) lived in New York in 1810 and in Ohio by 1835. • “Faction” In his melancholy, Justice Bailey thought, ‘Maybe moving from place to place will bring me happiness and success.’ |
|---|---|

Truth Matters

| | |
|--|--|
| Do | Don't |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be tactful • Beware bias • Maintain impartiality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withhold “sensitive” data • Exaggerate • Judge |



Anchoring

- Location
- Timeframe
- Generation
- Characters

CHAPTER

4

GO WEST, YOUNG MEN

Albert, Arthur, and Edward
and the Expansion of America

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

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

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

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

Anchoring

- Location
- Timeframe
- Generation
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1

To AMERICA!
Dolor Davis and the Establishment of the American Colonies

CHAPTER 4

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If you were to ask me what is the real foundation of human success of the Pilgrims their project ... I should reply ... that the real foundation ... is the quality of the Pilgrims themselves ... The spirit of free investigation, creative ingenuity and discipline combined with some talent for invention and discovery will pave the way over which all good things will arise, sooner or later."

—Albert F. Davis, upon his retirement as Executive Secretary of Pilgrims Place retirement community, 1946.

Since Dolor Davis's arrival in the 1630s, seven generations of Davises had made their homes within a square mile radius of where he first made landfall at Boston. From knowledge an inheritance from Edward in 1746, through the 1840s, the Davises had finally established themselves as bourgeoisie, with the city of Boston remaining as their closest metropolitan hub. Many of their neighbors and friends, however, had ventured into new territory over the years, particularly to lands in the American west that were becoming hotbeds to spawning new cities.

Bakkeala, *An American Family* (Newbury Street Press, c2018)

Answering Questions

WHO? WHAT? WHEN?

WHERE? WHY? HOW?

QUESTIONS?

Biography

Adding genealogical content

 Enter data following the chosen format.

 Add the key events in the subjects' lives.

 Consistency leads to clarity!

Vital data

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

Biographical: What kind of information?

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

Family Life in Illinois, England, and New York
 Although born in Illinois, Charles Le Caron lived undercover in England with his family during the 1890s. After attending the Bedford Grammar School in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England between September 1894 and the third term of 1897, Charles returned to America to live in New York with his mother.¹⁸

Charles S. Le Caron was studying law under his uncle, John C. Shaw, in April 1901, when he was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct with three friends whose loud singing disturbed night-owl residents in Riverside Drive, Manhattan. They were later bailed out and released.¹⁹

Adult Life
 As a married man and father, Charles held a variety of occupations in the first two decades of the twentieth century. When his eldest daughter was born in 1905, Charles was working as a clerk, but he was a contractor by the time his son was born in 1906. From at least 1910 through 1913, he worked as a real estate salesman. During those years he rented a house at 602 West 135th Street in Manhattan and then at 556 West 185th Street.²⁰

By 1932, Charles was an investigator for the cigarette company O'Brien and LeCaron at 110 West 44th Street in New York City. He and his family lived at 84 Mill Mill Road in Hempstead, Nassau County, Long Island, New York.²¹ According to a website focused on Henri Le Caron, "One of his sons, Charles, ran a Cigarette and Tabacco [sic] shop in NYC with an

Biographical: Where to look

Published sources

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

Unpublished sources

- Diaries
- Letters
- Family stories
- Questionnaires
- Interviews

Biographical details in records

More of the story

FRANCESCO ROSARIO "FRANK" TAORMINA was born at home at Corso Maggiore in Partanna, Trapani, Sicily, Italy, 9 September 1891 (at 3:30 a.m.). He died of old age at Pompano Beach, Broward County, Florida, 18 November 1982, and was buried at the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Englewood, Bergen County, New Jersey. He was married to MARY TAORMINA, born 27 October 1926, JOSEPHINE ACCARDO.

Partanna parish records

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

Passenger list

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

Family stories; newspaper articles

Tip

Don't let missing information stop you from writing!

Thomas of Sunderland, English arrival at Galveston, Texas, 7 February 1881. He declared his desire for U.S. citizenship at the U.S. Circuit Court in Massachusetts, 20 December 1886. As a laborer, he petitioned for naturalization at Boston, 17 October 1888 and was naturalized by the court there on 2 October 1889. Magistrate and Robert's Standard of October 1889.

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

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

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

Qualifying words

Gaps and unsolved problems

 Enter what you have and highlight it for later attention.

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

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

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

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

—Robert Charles Anderson, *The Writings of Gerrit Smith*, 2012, 47.

Appendix
CONROE FAMILY

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

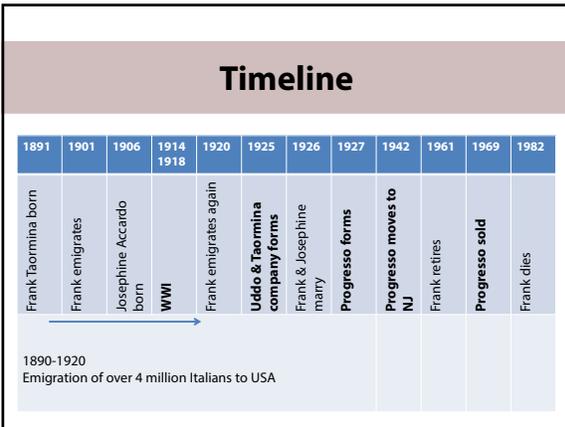
...], but the Conroe family's story requires detective work to tell. Because the family moved between New Jersey and New York without much property or steady religious affiliation, simply tracing the family's movement has been difficult. Connecting the generations of Conroe family members has proven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

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

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

Examples

Context



Noting ideas

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

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

Comment [011]: How would this trip have differed from his first trip to America with his parents in 1911?

Comment [012]: If the destination was New Orleans, how did Frank end up living in Florida but buried in New Jersey?

Comment [013]: Research the company associated with his company and how it changed hands.

Context: What kind of info?

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

THE LIPPITTS OF COOPERSTOWN

Albion Lippitt (1916) was about 25 years old when he set his sights on a new life in New York. In 1794, he and his family joined the first Lippitts to establish themselves in this new territory, a place where many descendants would eventually call home.

Although we may never know their precise reasons, Albion and his wife Sarah were part of a steady stream of New Englanders who were seeking work, their rocky soil and a short growing season. In the colonies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the possibilities of the future were uncertain. The colonies were in a state of flux, and the possibility of greenback currency loomed. In Rhode Island, the excise tax had been repealed at least in part by a depreciation of the currency that ushered in hard economic times for farmers there. Stories of abundant game and White soil had been relayed by Revolutionary War soldiers who had fought in the area, now a new place and fewer colonial restrictions opened the door for a mass migration of Yankees to New York State.

Wanderlust may also have played a role. According to historian Stewart Hallmark: "Yankees were born with an uncommanded urge to see, with their own eyes, if the grass on the other side of the mountain really was greener. Certainly, it was some such curiosity and little else that prompted many a well-fixed New Englander to leave..."⁷⁹

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

Story in context

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

Journal article about Italian immigration

New Orleans website

The Scottish branch of the family lived in the Shetland Islands (also called Zetland) for many generations. Only seven larger and eight smaller islands of the hundred are inhabited. The group is not far north of the main coast of Scotland that the next step is Norway. Naturally then, Shetland's geography and history is a unique blend of Norse and Scottish family names and cultures.⁶⁶

Robert grew up in the village of Comister on the island of Yell (formerly Zelf), the second largest island north of the main island. Even at the height of its population (in 1840), Yell only had 3,450 residents. Almost all its settlements hug the coast, leaving the center as what is known as “Da Widda o’ Yell.” Unsurprisingly then, inhabitants of the Mid and South Yell parishes primarily made a living fishing, mostly for ling, cod, herring, and sea trout. Robert's father Andrew Jamieson (No. 56) and erstwhile James fished in addition to farming.⁶⁷

Robert and Jean wed in 1835 at the Mid Yell church with minister James Barclay officiating. At the time, Robert worked as a common in merchant service. Over the next five years, the couple had two sons and a daughter, only to lose their younger son, the first Thomas Thomson. The young family remained on Yell until first 1860.⁶⁸

Area's primary migration cause

Uncertain migration

Possible motivation for destination

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

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

Essentially, the barter system arose from the unbalanced relationship between proprietors and tenants and the proprietors' monopolizing role in the fishing industry. The commissioners estimated that nearly two thirds of the population (essentially all adults) were “under the influence of truck,” whether perpetrating or being victimized by that system. Throughout the centuries, the system had added tensions between the Scottish (who became proprietors) and those of Norse background (who lost lands and influence to said Scots).⁶⁹

In 1860 or 1861, this Jamieson family decided to leave the Shetlands to settle along the northeastern coast of England. As a matter, Robert chose to move to Sunderland, a shipping port known for shipbuilding. According to an 1848 gazetteer, over 35 shipyards showed “ship-building [to be] carried on [in Sunderland] to a greater extent than at any other port in the empire.” Sunderland became one of the four English towns to attract the largest numbers of Shetlanders over the course of the century. As of 1881, the Jamiesons likely lived on Zealand Street, a name that may have indicated a known gathering of Shetlanders.⁷⁰

While Robert likely sailed out from northern village, Monkwearmouth, Wear River and near a reconstruction of townships held nearly 12,500 residents in total. The family lived on the township of Monkwearmouth Shore (making up nearly half of Monkwearmouth's total acreage), which grew from 15,139 residents in 1861, to 16,590 in 1871, to 17,647 in 1881.⁷¹

Context to fill gaps

Tip

Read historical nonfiction

