

# Online Workshop: Verifying Your Family Tree

## *Evaluating Published Genealogies*

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Evaluation Process

## Catch 22 in Using Published Genealogies

- Why aren't the books enough?
- Access to sources – correspondence to internet
- Acceptance without analysis is truly dangerous when it comes to published genealogies
- Don't always trust a compiled 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century genealogy completely without question

# Evaluation Terminology

- **Was the Author...**
  - More experienced
  - Less experienced
- **Was the material in the genealogy...**
  - More helpful
  - Less helpful

# Perfect 10

# Take into consideration

1. *Who's Who*
2. *Peer Review*
3. *Format*
4. *Scope*
5. *Citations*
6. *Completeness*
7. *Restraint*
8. *Age and Methodology*
9. *Analysis*
10. *Access*

# 1. Who's Who

# Who wrote and researched

- Family-researched
- Family-written, but professionally researched
- Professionally researched and written for family
- Look for other works by author in library catalog
- Search Online: Internet Archive, Hathitrust, FamilySearch

# Lists of Reputable Genealogists

- Lists of Professional Genealogists
  - Fellows of American Genealogical Society
  - Board for Certification of Genealogists
  - Members of Association of Professional Genealogists
- Authors of articles in *Register*, *TAG*, *Mayflower Descendant*, etc.

Interested in Family History?

NGS History

Merger with FGS +

Pressroom +

NGS Staff

Governance +

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion +

Annual Meeting

Awards and Competitions -

Awards

Competitions

Nominations to the National Genealogy Hall of Fame

National Genealogy Hall of Fame Members

## National Genealogy Hall of Fame Members

### Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck (Elected 2024)



**Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, FNGS**, was born on 26 May 1945 in Vandalia, Fayette County, Illinois; he died on 23 May 2018 in Dallas, Texas. With a thirty-year tenure as supervisor of the Genealogy Section (1979-2009) at the Dallas Public Library, he established the library's reputation as a leading genealogical collection in the United States—including records not widely available—with more than 100,000 books, over 40,000 rolls of microfilm, and nearly 20,000 microfiche. He compiled over fifty bibliographies covering various subjects including colonial Germans, church records, Hoosier genealogy, land memorials, military and pension records, probate records, Virginia Baptists, and many more.

Between 1976 and 2017, he authored ten genealogical reference books and monographs. He served for eleven years on the faculty of the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America, University of Illinois at Springfield (1994-2005); seventeen years as a weekly columnist for the Dallas Morning News (1991-2008); seventeen years as an instructor at the School of Continuing Education, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas (1974-1991), and thirty-nine years on the faculty of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama (1974-2013). Bockstruck lectured throughout the country at genealogical society workshops, seminars, and conferences, influencing several generations of genealogists, family historians, and librarians. His honors include being named a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society (1992), receiving the initial Filby Prize for Genealogical Librarianship (1999), and being named a Fellow of the Texas State Genealogical Society (2008).

### John Martino (Elected 2023)



**John Martino** was born on 27 October 1936 in Brooklyn, New York; he died on 30 November 2015 in Huntington, New York. For more than twenty-five years (1988-2015), he was actively engaged in the field of

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/hall-of-fame-members/>

# 2. Peer Review

# Reputation of Author

- Book reviews
- Articles updating and correcting earlier work
- Articles exposing fraud
- Lists of recommended recent research
- Guides to published research

# Book Review

*The American Genealogist*

[October

*Chase-Wigglesworth Genealogy: The Ancestors and Descendants of Philip Putnam Chase and His Wife Anna Cornelia Wigglesworth*, prepared for Barbara Stone Chase, edited by Alicia Crane Williams (Baltimore: Gateway Press 1990), cloth, vi+511 pp., index, \$42.00 postpaid. Order from Alicia C. Williams, 18 Martin's Cove Rd., Hingham MA 02043 (checks should be made payable to Barbara Stone Chase).

This work is the second of two volumes compiled by Alicia Williams providing the ancestry through many New England lines of the children of Barbara Stone Chase and her former husband, John Pierce Chase. The first volume, *Stone-Gregg Genealogy*, was reviewed in the July 1988 TAG (63:189-90).

*Chase-Wigglesworth* is one of the most important multi-family genealogies we have reviewed. Practically every genealogical fact is keyed specifically to an appropriate source; the compiler undertook research in original sources for many of these families, and her discussions are frequently the best now available. On a very few occasions, it is possible to add slightly to her accounts. For example, the parentage of Rebecca Prince, wife of John<sup>2</sup> Putnam of Salem Village, was discussed convincingly by Moriarty in TAG 14:83-86. The identity of Rachel, wife of Francis<sup>1</sup> Newcomb of Braintree, is left

# Corrections/Additions

## A Re-Examination of the Fiske Families of Suffolk, England, Ancestral to Some Early New England Families

Myrtle Stevens Hyde

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For more than 350 years the multitude of Americans who descend from the Fiske family of Suffolk, England, have had a wrong name on their pedigree charts—not a wrong person, just a wrong first name for him. I realized this when I began to write a historical sketch of this ancestor for our family's personal books. The Reverend Matthias Candler (ca. 1604–1663) compiled pedigrees of many Suffolk area families, being personally acquainted with and/or related to many of the people in the families. The Fiske pedigree in Candler's compilation begins with Candler's great-great-grandfather, "Richard Fiske of the Broadgates in Laxfield," and carries several of the lines of Richard's

Three notable Fiske compilations have been published: Frederick C. Pierce, *Fiske and Fisk Family* (1896),<sup>[2]</sup> Henry Fiske, *The Fiske Family Papers* (1902),<sup>[3]</sup> and Jack Owen Jevons, *Descendants of Richard Fiske of Laxfield* (1987).<sup>[4]</sup>

From 1932 to 1934 and in 1938, G. Andrews Moriarty published articles about the Fiske family. He planned to continue the series, but that never happened. These articles contain numerous abstracts of a variety of ancient documents, including some by Candler, and they contain Moriarty's interpretation of the documents.<sup>[5]</sup> At first, Moriarty thought that Richard Fiske of Laxfield was a son of Simon Fiske (will proved 1538), grandson of William Fiske (will proved 1504), and great-grandson of Simon Fiske (will proved 1463/4).<sup>[6]</sup> After reevaluating evidence, however, Moriarty decided Richard of Laxfield was a son of Geoffrey Fiske, and grandson of Simon Fiske (will proved 1463/4).<sup>[7]</sup>

The present article details what has been learned about the ancestry and some descendants of this Fiske family, with new information.

# Guides to Published Work

**PARSONS, JOSEPH**, b. 1620, d. Springfield, Mass., 9 October 1683. NEHGR 143:101–19 (probable English origins); NEHGR 146:297–98; NEHGR 148:215–38, 345–39, 149:53–72; MJ 18:106–9; Gerald James Parsons, *The Parsons Family, Volume One: The English Ancestry and Descendants to the Sixth Generation of Cornet Joseph Parsons (1620–1683)* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 2002). Reviews: TAG 59:247 (1984 ed.), NYGBR 134:67, TAG 78:75–76, NGSQ 92:71, CN 35:453 (2002 ed.), CN 36:226.

**Martin E. Hollick**, *New Englanders in the 1600s, A Guide to Genealogical Research Published between 1980 and 2010*.

# Great Migration Begins

**COMMENTS:** In 1903 Emily Warren Roebing included in *The Journal of the Reverend Silas Constant* a number of birth, marriage and death records said to pertain to the family of Simon Hoyt, and to be from the parish register of Upway, Dorsetshire. Donald Lines Jacobus and John Insley Coddington questioned these records, because parish registers provide us with baptismal and burial dates rather than birth and death dates, and also because some of the dates were incomplete, lacking the day of the event; despite this, Paul Prindle argued in 1976 for their authenticity [Gillespie Anc 287].

More recently the IGI has led to several entries in the parish register of West Hatch, Somersetshire, which are more appropriate for this family, and which are in direct contradiction with the data published by Roebing. As a result, we reject here all the Upway dates, and also the identification of the first wife of Simon Hoyt.

Without the evidence for the identity of the first wife we might wonder whether Simon Hoyt had more than one wife. The range of years over which Simon Hoyt had children (nearly thirty) and the agreement over the estate of his widow, Susannah (\_\_\_\_) (Hoyt) Bates, which did not include the four older surviving sons, are sufficient evidence that Simon Hoyt was married twice.

# Bibliographic Notes

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE:** The best treatment of the first few generations of the family of Edward Bumpas is that published by Florence Barclay in 1967 [TAG 43:65-75, 150-55, 211-16]. She abstracts a number of documents which are crucial to the chronology of the immigrant, his wife and children, and the specific pages for those items are often cited above; at these locations more detailed discussion may be found than is possible here.

*Bompass, Bumpas, Bump, Bumpus and Allied Families, 1621-1981*, revised edition (Baltimore 1985), compiled by Carle Franklin Bumpus, is less successful, but does provide information on later generations (see TAG 60:189).

# Great Migration Newsletter

## RECENT LITERATURE

Donna Valley Russell, "Roger<sup>1</sup> Toothaker of Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Some Descendants," *The American Genealogist* 69 (1994):1-8, 98-108. Roger Toothaker and his family sailed for New England in 1635 and soon settled at Plymouth, where Roger died in 1638. Russell presents a full genealogy of his descendants to the sixth generation in the male line, including a large branch which migrated to Maine.

Paul C. Reed, "Whitney Origins Revisited: John<sup>1</sup> Whitney of Watertown, Massachusetts, and Henry<sup>1</sup> Whitney of Long Island and Norwalk, Connecticut," *The American Genealogist* 69 (1994):9-14. Reed reanalyzes the problem of the English ancestry of John Whitney of Watertown, and finds additional evidence to support the earlier position of Jacobus, that the ancestry proposed in the 1896 Whitney genealogy is not correct. Comments are also made on the immigrant Henry Whitney.

# Fraud

## TWO SOMERBY FRAUDS

Or “Placing the Flesh on the Wrong Bones”

*By Paul C. Reed\**

### 1. THE CONNECTIONS AMONG THE BLAKES OF OVER STOWEY, SOMERSET, ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE, AND CALNE, WILTSHIRE, AND THE FALSE CLAIM THAT THE BLAKES OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, DESCEND FROM THEM

Horatio Gates Somerby (1805–1872) is noted more and more for the frauds he perpetrated on the genealogical public in the last century.<sup>1</sup> He was far more subtle than Gustave Anjou,<sup>2</sup> but not necessarily better at fakery than Mrs. de Salis.<sup>3</sup> The first part of this article will examine Somerby’s account of the ancestry of William<sup>1</sup> Blake of Dorchester, and the second part will look at the Billings ancestry, another example of his fraudulent technique.

But the most interesting example of Somerby’s frauds have not come to light is that he

# Horatio Gates Somerby

Somerby's technique seems to be that he would happen across a family with the same name—or, at least, surname—as that of a well-known immigrant. He would then either invent a document, such as a will, that seemed to prove the connection across the sea, or, in other instances, just imply that such a document existed, without providing any specific details, such as he did in the ancestry purported for Abraham, John, and Richard Browne of Watertown.<sup>5</sup> Once he had “established” the connection into England and traced the line back as far as he could in local records, Somerby would then fabricate a link to another family of the same surname, often in an entirely different county.<sup>6</sup>

Sometimes Somerby took some of the information for earlier generations from printed pedigrees, such as visitations, but often he cited a will—usually from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury—to provide support and seemingly credible evidence to back up the pedigree. But we have found in examining his work that either Somerby could not read the handwriting accurately, or that he did not care to, as many of the wills he cited which actually exist do not contain the information he credited them with providing. In some instances, he also ignored information

# 3. Format

# Genealogical Formats

- *NEHGS Register Style*
- All-my-ancestors
- Male line descendants
- Male and female line descendants
- Groups
- None

# NEHGS Register Style

80

*Peter Pattee of Haverhill*

[JANUARY

13. DAVID<sup>3</sup> PATTEE (*Benjamin<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>*) was born at Georgetown, Maine, 2 October 1744 (*VRs*, 1:116), and died at Waterville, Maine July 1819 from "swallowing potash dissolution" (*Waterville Obits*, 17). He married first, at Georgetown, 10 June 1766, LUCY COLLINS (*VRs*, 2:122), who was born at Gloucester, Massachusetts, 8 April 1745, daughter of Daniel and Mary ( ) Collins (*Gloucester VRs*, 1:164) and died at Winslow, Maine, 6 December 1789 (*Winslow VRs*, 303). He married, second, at Winslow 4 December 1790, MARY (NORTH) McKECHNIE, widow of Dr. John McKechnie (*ibid.*, 211), who died at Waterville 21 July 1816, aged 74 (*ibid.*, 303).

David Pattee served as a private from 30 June to 25 September 1779 in Captain Timothy Heald's Co., Colonel Samuel McCobb's Regiment, which marched on the Penobscot Expedition (*Mass. S & S*, 11:1015).

Children by first wife, Lucy Collins, first two born at Georgetown (*VRs*, 1:116), next eight at Winslow (*VRs*, 72); surname *Pattee*:

- i. LUCY<sup>4</sup>, b. 11 March 1767; d. probably at Bloomfield, Me., ca. 1830; m. at Winslow 24 Jan. 1796 Elder JONATHAN STEWART (*ibid.*, 211; Mrs. C. Weston Steward, "Steward Genealogy" [*Ms.*, n.d., Maine Historical Society] [hereinafter *Steward Ms.*], 12), b. at Fitchburg, Mass., 13 July 1769, son of Deacon William and Abigail (Ireland) Stewart (*ibid.*; Walter Davis, *Old Records of the Town of Fitchburg* [Fitchburg, 1899], 2:219), d. at Bloomfield 31 July 1848 (*Steward Ms.*, 12). About 1807, Jonathan was "converted from the Congregational errors" and became a Baptist preacher (*ibid.*).

Children, b. at Bloomfield (*ibid.*); surname *Stewart*: 1. David, b. 22 Feb. 1797. 2. James. 3. Lucy. 4. Naomi. 5. Stephen. 6. Ruth.

- 33. ii. DANIEL COLLINS, b. 14 June 1768; m. ANNA PUTNAM.

- iii. JUDAH, b. 27 Dec. 1769.

- iv. ABIGAIL, b. 26 Sept. 1771; d. at Waterville 30 March 1848 (Kennebec Co. Probate C14); m. at Winslow 11 Nov. 1790 JOHN JACOB COOL (*VRs*, 210), b. in Germany 5 April 1756 (Lineage Books, NSDAR, 13[1930]:179; *DAR Patriot Index*, 1 [1967]:144), d. at Waterville 8 Oct. 1846 (Kennebec Co. Probate C8).

Children, first five b. at Winslow, next six probably at Waterville (*Winslow VRs*, 23; Kennebec Co. Probate C8; *Waterville Obits*, 17); surname *Cool*: 1. Sarah, b. 1 April 1791. 2. Jacob, b. 30 April 1794. 3. Abigail, b. 6 Feb. 1796. 4. James, b. 20 Feb. 1798. 5. William, b. 28 Feb. 1800. 6. Lavena, b. ca. 1804. 7. Loring. 8. Emeline. 9. Lucy. 10. Laura, b. ca. 1814. 11. Louisa, b. ca. 1816.

# All My Ancestors

THE ANCESTRY  
OF  
ABEL LUNT  
1769-1806  
OF  
NEWBURY, MASSACHUSETTS  
BY  
WALTER GOODWIN DAVIS



# Direct Line Through Each Surname to Earliest Ancestor

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# Agnate (Male) Descendant Genealogy

**REV. PETER BULKELEY**

Being an account of his career, his ancestry,  
the ancestry of his two wives, and his relatives  
in England and New England, together with  
a genealogy of his descendants through the  
seventh American generation

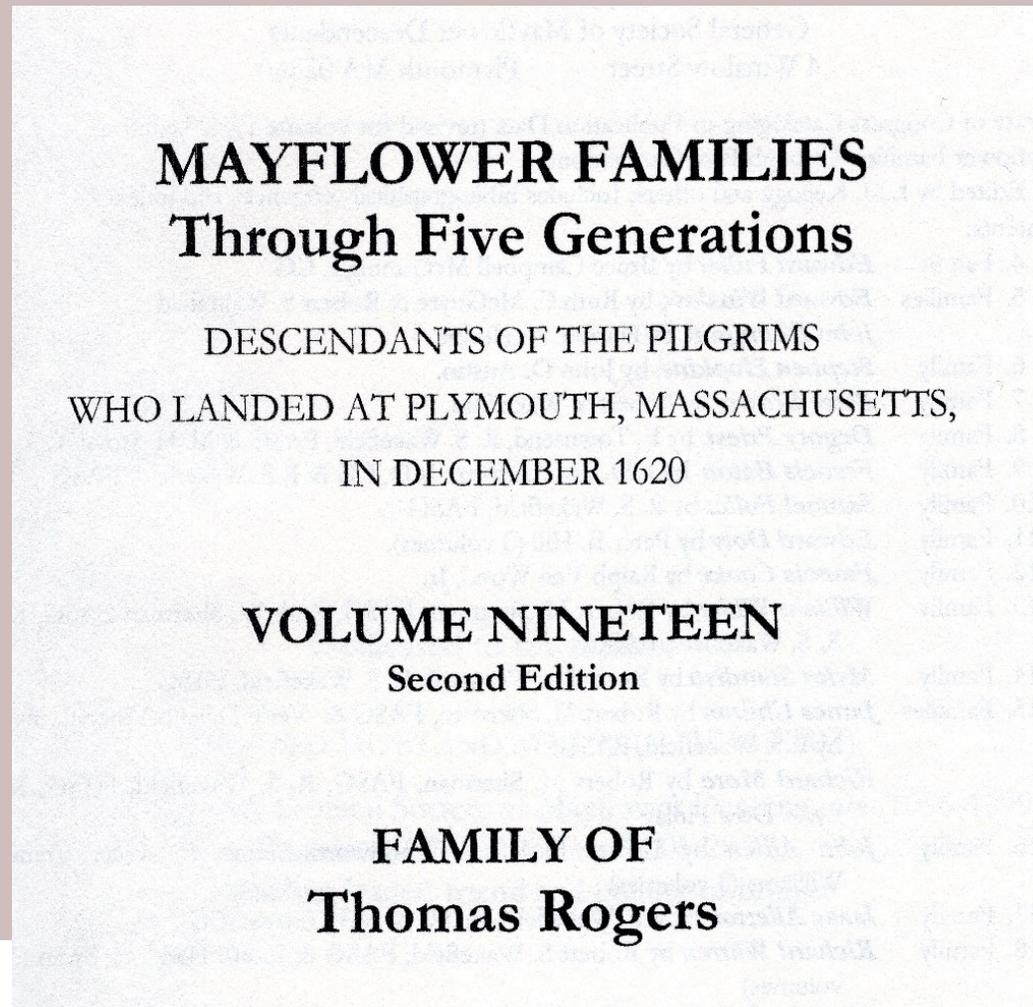
Compiled by  
**DONALD LINES JACOBUS, M.A.**

# Children of Peter Bulkley

## Children by first wife, born at Odell:\*

- 2 +i. EDWARD<sup>s</sup>, bapt. 12 June 1614.
- 3 ii. MARY, bapt. 24 Aug. 1615; bur. 13 Jan. 1615/6.
- 4 +iii. THOMAS, bapt. 13 Apr. 1617.
- 5 iv. NATHANIEL, bapt. 29 Nov. 1618; bur. 11 Feb. 1628/9.
- 6 +v. JOHN, bapt. 6 Feb. 1619/20.
- 7 vi. MARY, bapt. 1 Nov. 1621; no further record.
- 8 vii. JOSEPH, bapt. 4 May 1623; living 1658, but d. s. p.
- 9 viii. DANIEL, bapt. 28 Aug. 1625; d. probably at Fairfield, Conn., by 1648. He had joined his brother Thomas in Fairfield, where he had a grant of six acres, which he willed to Thomas Bulkeley. The last-named sold it to Robert Woolly, who resold to Thomas Dunn, and Dunn had the land recorded 5 Mar. 1649/50.†
- 10 ix. JABEZ, bapt. 24 Dec. 1626; bur. 2 Dec. 1629.

# Male and Female Descendants



# Male and Female Descendants

The children of **WARHAM AND ABIGAIL (LEONARD) WILLIAMS** (births of children recorded in Watertown or Waltham, which was set off from Watertown in 1738, *Watertown Recs* 2:88-89, 96, 99, 103, 109 and *Waltham VR* 103):

- i **JOHN WILLIAMS**<sup>6</sup>, b. 1 March 1728/9; d. 26 March 1728/9  
(*Waltham VR* 297; *Watertown Recs* 2:88).
- 1241 ii **ABIGAIL WILLIAMS**, b. 18 Feb. 1729/30.
- 1242 iii **ANNA WILLIAMS**, b. 27 May 1732.
- iv **EUNICE WILLIAMS**, b. 8 Feb. 1733/4; d. 20 Sept. 1743  
(*Waltham VR* 296).
- v **SAMUEL WILLIAMS**, b. 12 Dec. 1735; d. 27 Feb. 1742/3  
(*Waltham VR* 297).
- 1243 vi **SARAH WILLIAMS**, b. 20 Aug. 1737.
- 1244 vii **LEONARD WILLIAMS**, b. 13 July 1739.
- viii **ELEAZER WILLIAMS**, b. 8 Jan. 1741/2; d. 5 March 1742/3  
(*Waltham VR* 296).
- 1245 ix **SAMUEL WILLIAMS**, b. 23 April 1743.

# Groups of Individuals

## The Great Migration Begins

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Immigrants to New England  
1620-1633

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Volume I  
A-F

Robert Charles Anderson

336

*The Great Migration Begins*

**WILLIAM CHASE**

*ORIGIN:* Unknown

*MIGRATION:* 1630

*FIRST RESIDENCE:* Roxbury

*REMOVES:* Yarmouth 1638

*OCCUPATION:* Housewright. (On 25 November 1639 Thomas Starr of Duxbury sold to Andrew Hellet of Plymouth a house and land in Yarmouth, and as part of the agreement stated that "The frame of the said house is to be made & set up with a chimney and to be thatched, studded and lathed (daubing excepted) by Will[ia]m Chase" [PCR 12:50].)

*CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:* Admitted to Roxbury church as member #13: "William Chase, he came with the first company, 1630. He brought one child his son William, a child of ill qualities, & a sore affliction to his parents. He was much afflicted by the long and tedious affliction of his wife; after his wife's recovery she bare him a daughter, which they named Mary, borne about the middle of the 3rd month 1637. He did after that remove (intending) to Situate, but after went with a company who made a new plantation at Yarmouth" [RChR 74].

*FREEMAN:* Requested 19 October 1630 and admitted 14 May 1634 [MBCR 1:80, 369]. Oath of fidelity in Yarmouth lists of 1639 and 1657 [PCR 8:185, 186].

*EDUCATION:* Signed his will by mark.

*OFFICES:* Yarmouth constable, 5 March 1638/9, 4 June 1639 [PCR

# No Format

## 8 of Judah Delano Jr.

Salome Delano, d Bos Sept 23-1869, m Freeport Me. 1817 William Titcomb, b Portland May 8-1791 d Norridgewick Me Meh 17-1850 (W'm Titcomb fr Newbury Eng. in "Hercules" 1634) 1 William Henry, b New Portland, Meh 28-1819, m. Mary Crockett Jan 4-1844, he d Jan 16-1893. 2 Mary Ann Elizabeth, b Apr 9-1821, d June 1-1824. 3 Benjamin b Jan 13-1823, m Ann Williams Jamaica Plains Mass. 4 Marian Ann, b July 10-1827, m. Mathew A Mayhew Nov 30-1854, she d Nov 9-1862 5 Josiah Whitman Mitchell, b Sept 6-1829, d Jan 25-1849. 6 Helen Maria, b Aug 15-1832, m Aaron D Blant June 27-1852, d July 14-1859. 7 Sophia Ann, b Mar 23-1835, un-m. Rockland Me 8 Lucretia Hamlin, b Feb 6-1838, m Geo. F French Roxbury Mass 13 Kenilworth St

## 6 of Judah Delano Sr.

Priscilla Delano, m Dux Meh 27-1796 William Winsor, son of Samuel & Rhoda (Delano) Winsor, b Dux Jan 27-1753. She had no ch. ? (dan of Joshua & Hopestill (Peterson) Delano, b 1731.) (Wm. Winsor m 1st Anne Hunt July 23-1775 & had ch. Melzer, Sally, Wuity, Clark, William, Nancy, Mary & Rhoda.)

## Delano Genealogy, 1899

# 4. Scope

# Author's Intent

- “All” my ancestors or five generations, or selected
- “All” the descendants of – or through five generations, or just the living family
- Who is in the “Group”?
- English ancestry, or beginning with American immigrant

Tip

Read the Preface for  
the Author's Intent

# Read the Preface

## SCOPE

For the user of this set of volumes to understand what is being presented, we must define carefully the scope of the Great Migration Study Project. Who were the participants in the Great Migration? What information is being collected on these people?

CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN  
*THE GREAT MIGRATION:*  
*IMMIGRANTS TO NEW ENGLAND, 1634-1635*

The first phase of the Great Migration Study Project attempted to identify and describe all those Europeans who settled in New England prior to the end of 1633. The date was chosen because of the steep increase in migration beginning in 1634 and continuing for the rest of that decade (see Robert Charles Anderson, "A Note on the Pace of the Great Migration," *The New England Quarterly* 59[1986]:406-7). As a rough estimate, fifteen percent or more of the immigrants to New England arrived in the fourteen years from 1620 to 1633, with the remaining eighty-five percent coming over in half as many years, from 1634 to 1640.

The second phase attempts to carry out the same program for the years 1634 and 1635. As noted above, migration to New England accelerated in

# 5. Citations

# Are Sources Cited?

- Footnotes, endnotes, embedded notes
- Clear description of the source so that the reader can find it
- Secondary sources only?
- Analysis of the source's reliability
- Other sources for information

# Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Essex Co PR, 166:60.

<sup>1</sup> *Wenham VR*, 1:8.

<sup>1</sup> *Beverly VR*, 2:368; *Wenham VR*, 183.

<sup>1</sup> Note: *Essex Antiquarian*, 5:2-3 and subsequently *Babson 1934*, 17, assign a death date for Mehitable of 1 Aug. 1759. A second daughter named Mehitable was included, with no birth date, who married John Killam. By 1977 the death record of Mehitable (Babson) Killam was found, which gives her age in 1830 as 79 and matches the known birth record in 1759. As there is no record for the death 1 Aug. 1759 of a Mehitable Babson, we are including only one daughter of that name.

<sup>1</sup> *Wenham VR*, 87.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, 50.

<sup>1</sup> *Babson 1997*, 24.

<sup>1</sup> *Babson 1977*, 17; *Babson 1934*, 16, says d. 1784.

## ***The Babson Genealogy, 1606-2017***

# End Notes

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2. Boston Record Commissioners Report, IX, 144, 147.
3. New England Register, LXXI, 91-3.
4. Ibid., XXXVII, 45.
5. B. R. C. R., XXVIII, 7, 17, 49.
6. Ibid., I, 28; VII, 122.
7. Ibid., XXIV, 26, 33, 96, 111, 127, 134, 149, 154, 169; XXVIII, 206, 236, 272, 345.
8. Dawes Genealogy, H. W. Holland, 1878, pp. 73-5, 79.
9. The Town Officials of Colonial Boston, R. F. Saybolt, 1939, pp. 116, 118, 121-2, 163, 166, 169, 172, 175; B. R. C. R., VIII, 42, 45, 60, 114, 181, 188, 194, 204, 216; XXIX, 215.
10. Ibid., II, 102 of App.; VIII, 127; XI, 118; XIII, 27; XV, 67, 130, 202.
11. Research in Suffolk County Records by Mrs. J. T. Watts, Washington, D. C., Probates File No. 7240, Book XXXIV, 168-9, 246; XXXV, 85, 256-7, 627;
17. An Historical Digest of the Provincial Press, Massachusetts Series, 1689-1783, L. H. Weeks and E. M. Bacon, 1911, Massachusetts Series I, 60, 101, 141, 146, 316, 319, 344, 444.
18. Early Massachusetts Press 1638-1711, G. E. Littlefield, 1907, I, 209-69; II, 61-2, 66.
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20. History of New England, J. G. Palfrey, 1885, IV, 271-4; History of the Colony and Province of Massachusetts Bay, T. Hutchinson, ed. by L. S. Mayo, 1936, II, 123-7.
21. Journals of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts, II, Introduction p. [vii], 226, 289, 295, 377; III, 115, 121, 144, 197; IV, 35, 40, 45; V, 96-7.
22. Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, VII, (App. 2), 327, 362, 742; VIII, (App. 3), 87, 414-5, 668, 691-2, 695, 725; X, (App. 5), 38, 71, 113,

*Dawes-Gates Ancestral Lines*, Mary Walton Ferris, 1943

# Embedded

In October 1659 a coroner's jury "having made search and inquiry, according to our best light and understanding, into the cause of the death of Mary Chase, viz: of our town of Yarmouth, do with joint consent present, the day and year abovesaid, that we can find no other but that she died a natural death through inward sickness, as is evident to all men naturally" [PCR 3:172].

## CHILDREN:

- i WILLIAM, b. say 1620; m. (1) by about 1645 \_\_\_\_\_; m. (2) by about 1672 \_\_\_\_\_. (See *COMMENTS* below.)
- ii MARY, b. Roxbury about 15 May 1637 [RChR 74]; bur. Barnstable 28 October 1652 ("Mary daughter of Goodman Chase the elder") [NEHGR 9:286].
- iii BENJAMIN, bp. Roxbury 18 April 1659 [RChR 110]; m. by about 1674 Phillipa Sherman, daughter of PHILIP SHERMAN [Austin 178-79; NEHGR 87:51]. (Savage and others claim that this Benjamin was born about 1640, which is certainly possible. If we are correct in

# 6. Completeness

# Have All Logical Sources Been Thoroughly Gleaned?

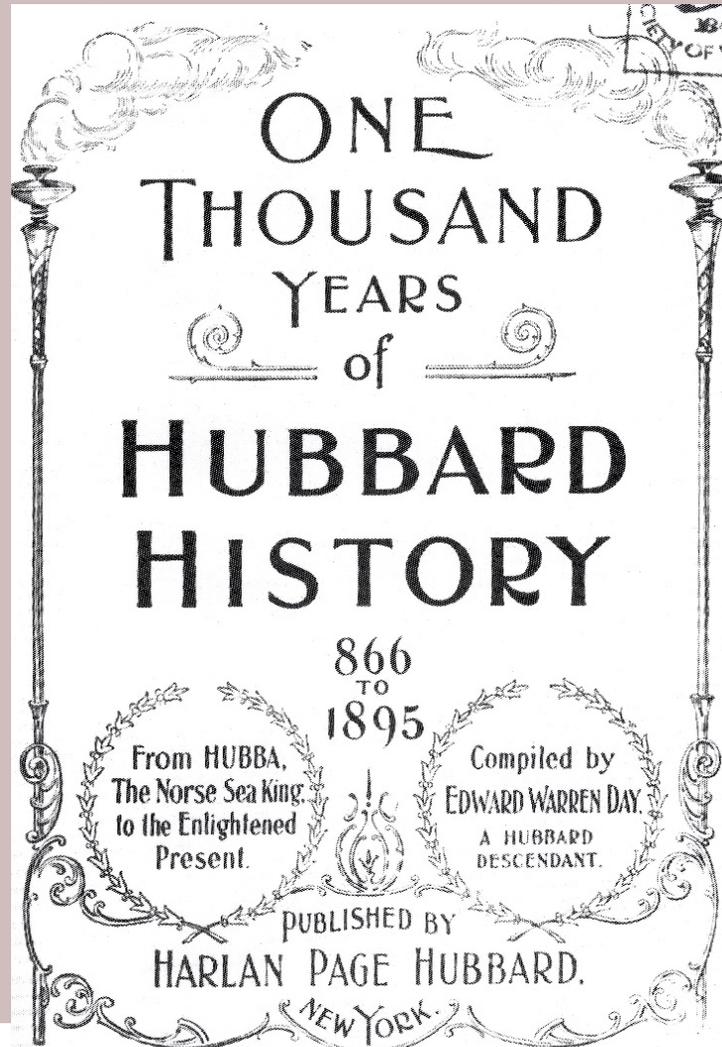
- Beyond births, marriages and deaths
  - Wills, deeds, church, court, historical society collections, state archives
- Primary records
- Secondary sources that cite primary records
- Secondary sources with no citations

# Effort to include everyone?

- What does “all” mean?
- Family over relatives?
- Limited by geographic area, time frame?
- What does the book specifically not include?
- Information on daughters and their children?

# 7. Author Restraint

# Really?



TRÜBNER & Co., LONDON, EUROPEAN AGENTS.

# Author Restraint

- Did the author(s) intend on a multi-volume set and only complete one or two volumes?
- Where is the genealogical correspondence or notes from the author for the other volumes ?
- Did the author supply an index to their 1,500 page genealogical work?

# Tip

When you are picking a project set realistic goals, and also index the volume

# 8. Age and Methodology

# Age

- Advantages of older published genealogies
  - Author may have had access to family papers
  - Some records have been lost or destroyed
  - Access to older people who remembered a generation or two more further back
  - Correspondence with living descendants who provide the information about their immediate families
  - Does this correspondence survive at an archives like American Ancestors or elsewhere?

# Oral History

secured; aided by the testimony of living witnesses.

About the year 1867, he procured from his grandfather, Isaac S. Andrews, then 79 years old, a man of remarkable memory, who was well acquainted with his kinsmen in Massachusetts and Maine, an account of the family history, as far back as his grandfather, Solomon Andrews. Except for this information, so timely preserved, it would have been more difficult to connect the relationship back to the first settlers, and perhaps this book would never have been written.

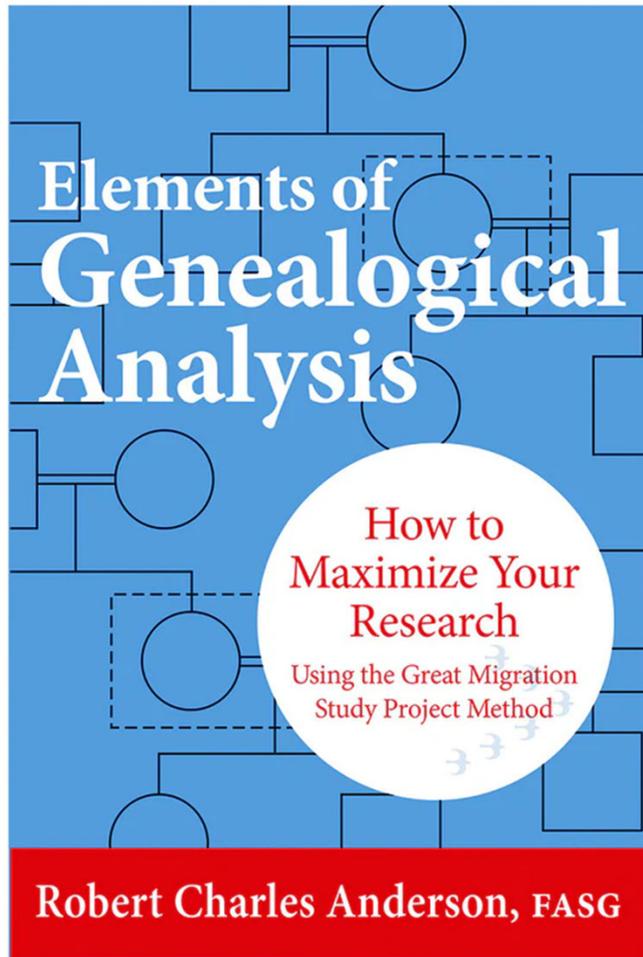
The identification of members of the family by a living witness, back to about the year 1750, has been of priceless

**H. Franklin Andrews , *History of the Andrews Family* (1890)**

# Methodology

- Did they try to use the “best practices of their time”?
- Compare the style of an NEHGS Register article published the same year as the genealogy was printed for comparison for “best practices”
- Development of Genealogy Standards
  - Board for Certification of Genealogists  
[www.BCGcertification.org](http://www.BCGcertification.org)

# 9. Analysis



**First Fundamental Rule:** All statements must be based only on accurately reported, carefully documented, and exhaustively analyzed records.

**Second Fundamental Rule:** You must have a sound, explicit reason for saying that any two individual records refer to the same person

Robert Charles Anderson, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis*.

# Analysis of a simple entry

- Is it listing a full date of birth, marriage or death?
- Is a location or a region listed?
- Does this reference give you a valid source?
- Is the author still living?
- What do earlier or later genealogical books or articles state for the same facts?

# 10. Access

# Expanding Digital World

- Nearly every genealogy that is not under copyright (and some that are) can be accessed online
- Images being converted from microfilm
- New images directly to digital
- Scattered among various providers with various success

The screenshot shows the Internet Archive website. At the top, the browser address bar displays "https://archive.org". The navigation bar includes the "INTERNET ARCHIVE" logo and categories: WEB, TEXTS, VIDEO, AUDIO, SOFTWARE, and IMAGES. On the right, there are links for "SIGN UP | LOG IN" and "UPLOAD". Below the navigation bar, a secondary menu lists "ABOUT", "BLOG", "PROJECTS", "HELP", "DONATE", "CONTACT", "JOBS", "VOLUNTEER", and "PEOPLE". A central banner reads "Search the history of over 916 billion web pages on the Internet." Below this is the "WayBack Machine" logo and a search input field with the placeholder text "enter URL or keywords".

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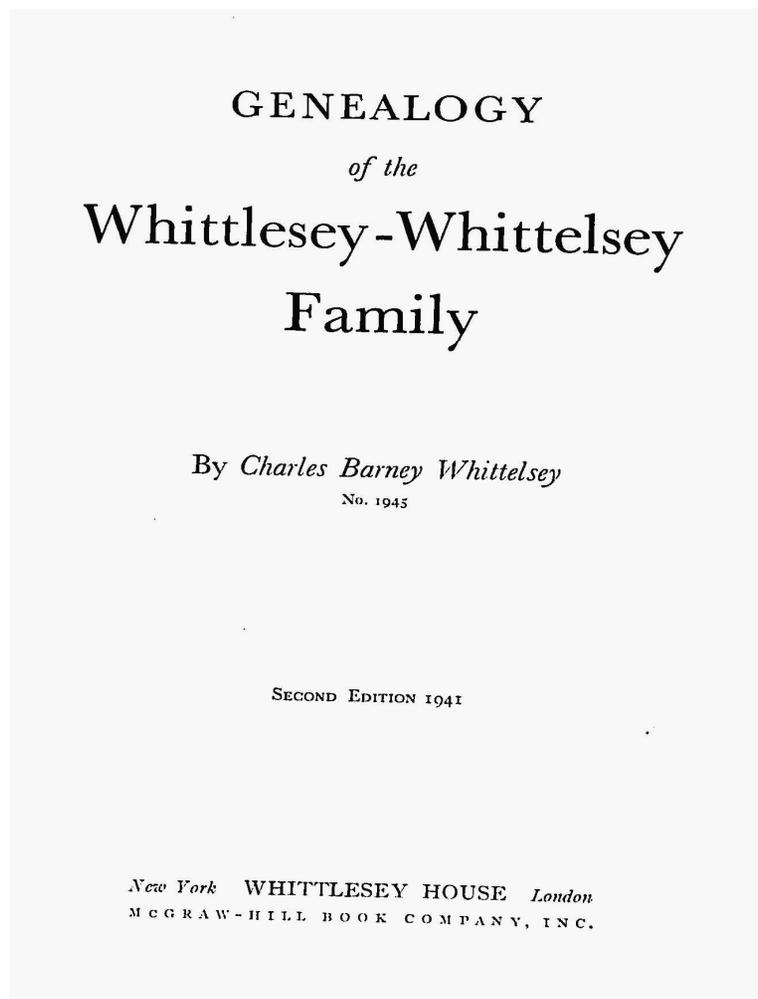
*Search Digital Library for the name of an ancestor, the name of a birthplace, or some other keyword.*

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# Evaluation in Practice – Published Genealogy

# Original, Derivative or Authored?



128

## WHITTLESEY GENEALOGY.

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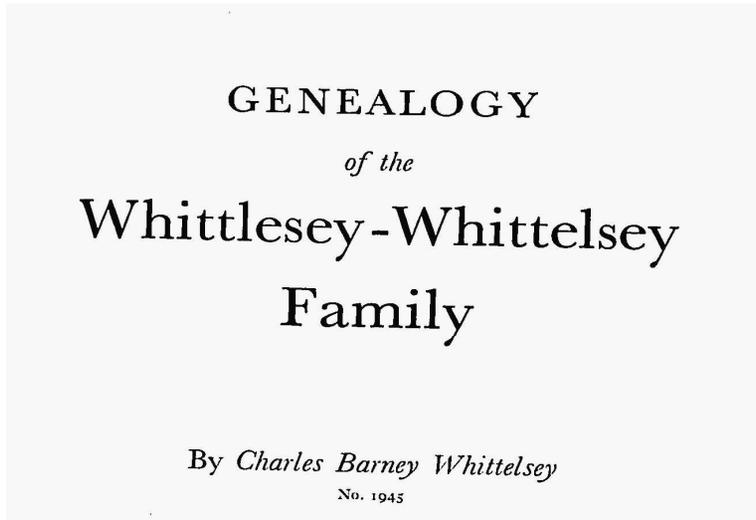
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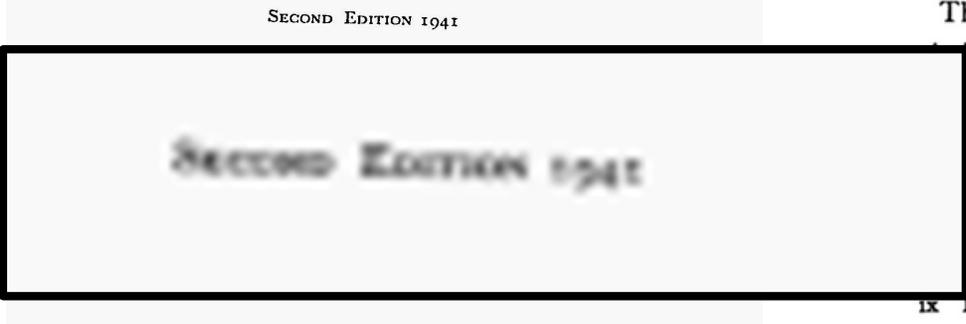
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# When Was the Record Created?



Publication Date of Source NOT the same as when the individual record was created



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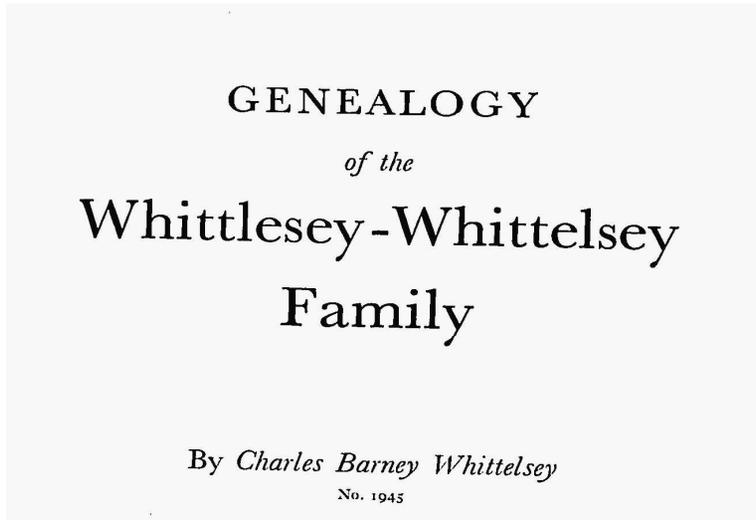
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# Who Provided the Information?



Author is not the same a person who provided information about William Cogswell – We don't know who provided the information.



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# Genealogical Information?

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Wife

Family

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SECOND EDITION 1941

New York  
MCGRAW

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- Hatch.
- Luman Whittlesey.
- Alma Canfield
- 1826, Mary Morcia
- Downes.
- ymour.
- Mark Pratt.

# Information Primary, Secondary, Unknown?

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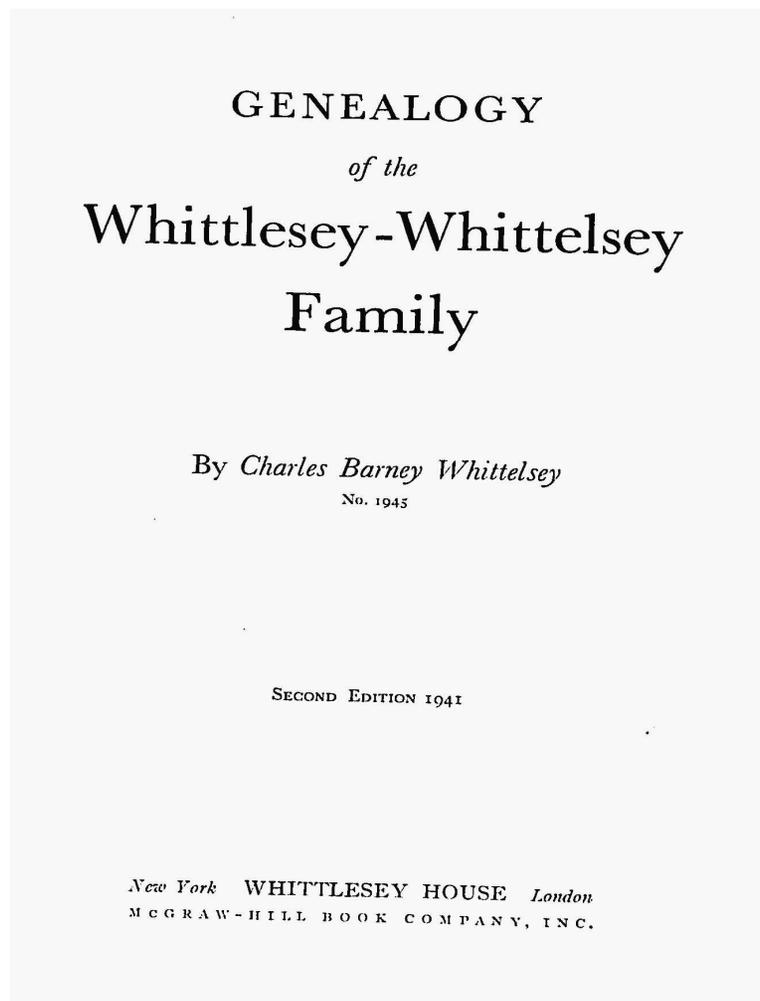
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# Footnotes, Endnotes, Citations of Any Kind?



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# Review

1. Do not always assume a published genealogical work is the final say, or accurate
2. Confirm sources, and contact authors if you question their scholarship
3. Consider revising an earlier published genealogy to bring it up to 21<sup>st</sup> standards

# QUESTIONS?



# THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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