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**Steps for Researching Your Family**

- Step 1 • Identify what you know
- Step 2 • Decide what you want to learn (Research goal)
- Step 3 • Identify and locate your sources
- Step 4 • Research!
- Step 5 • Analyze

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**General Principles of Research**

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**General Principles**

- Consult multiple sources; don't settle for one document
- Track your work in your research log
- Seek original documents when feasible
- Understand the records

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**Genealogical Proof Standard**

- One of the principles of the Genealogical Proof Standard is to conduct reasonably exhaustive research
- It's not feasible to visit every archive in every location where your ancestors lived and consult every possible book, manuscript, or other collections

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**Online Search Strategies**

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**Don't head straight for the database search box**

- Read the database descriptions
  - Places covered
  - Time periods covered
  - Completeness of records
- Make liberal use of a site's catalog (if it has one)
- Consult the wikis for help

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**Search Terms as Art**

- Think first:
  - Location
  - Event (birth, marriage or death)
  - Time period (century, decade)
- Think second:
  - Name – use quotes to force the search for the entire name
  - Occupation (e.g. “soldier,” “minister”)
  - One-word modifiers

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**When Searching a Database**

- “Less is More” when searching
- Look at the records before and after your target
- Seek the original; don’t trust the transcription (or indexing)
- Don’t expect to find everything for free

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**Use Wildcards**

- Symbols used to replace or represent one or more characters
- ? = 1 character
- \* = 1 or more characters
- Ex. To search for "Doherty", you can use some of the following variations:
  - Do\*herty
  - Do?herty
  - Do\*h\*rt\*

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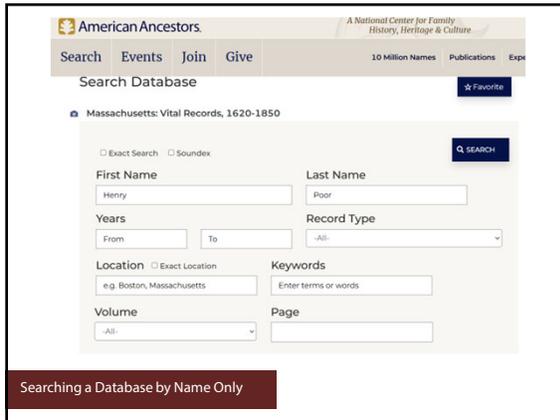
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Class 4: Getting Started in Family History Research



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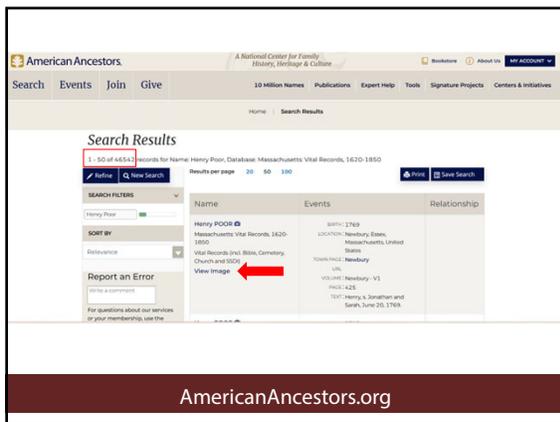
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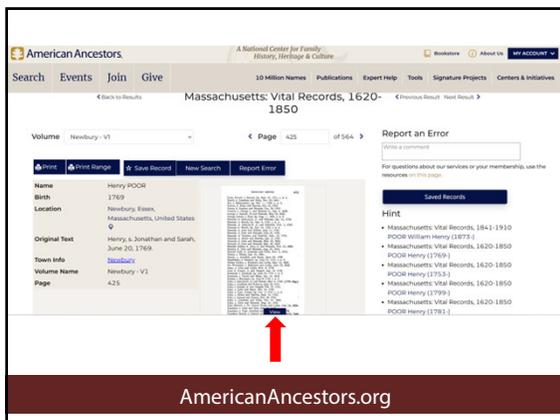
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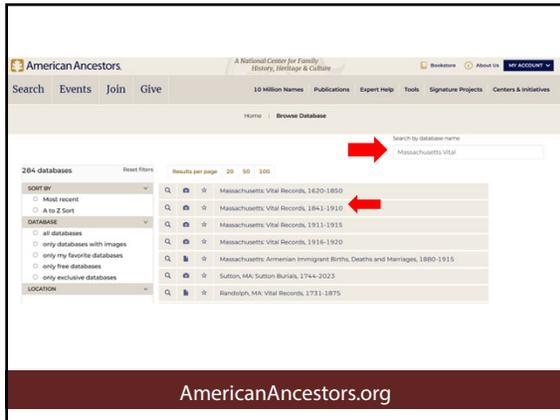
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Class 4: Getting Started in Family History Research



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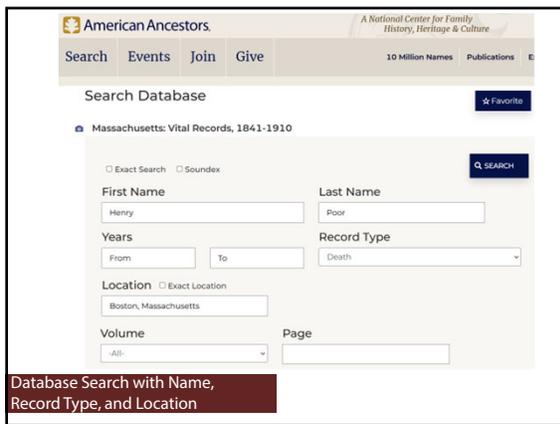
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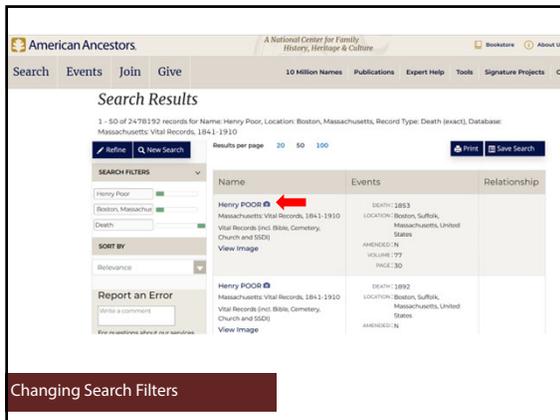
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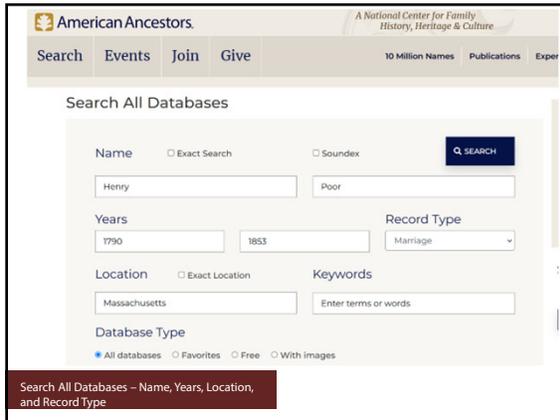
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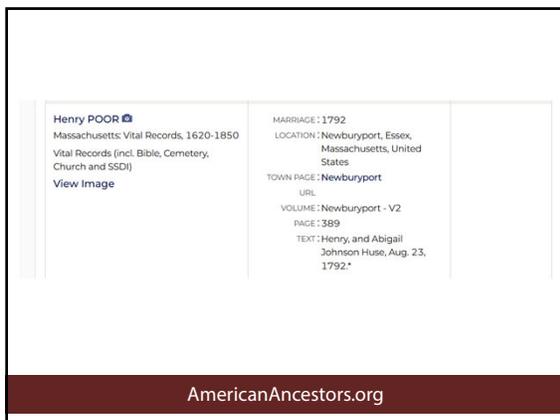
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**Search Results**  
 1 - 16 of 2320 records for Name: Henry Poor, Database: Suffolk County, MA Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893

Name	Events	Relationship
Henry POOR	PROBATE: 1892 RECORD Suffolk County, MA Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893 LOCATION: Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States CASE #191: administration CASE NUMBER: 90014 VOLUNT: Suffolk Probate Index V3 PROB: 46	
Henry W. POOR	PROBATE: 1884 RECORD Suffolk County, MA Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893 LOCATION: Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States CASE #191: guardianship	

**Record Not Found**

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**Research Log** Date: 01/16/2025

Main objective: Locate the vital records and other primary records for Henry Poor and his family of Mass. Repository: Various online resources

Source Information	Call Number	Detailed Objective	Results
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Birth record of Henry Poor in Newbury, Mass., June 20, 1769	Found birth in Newbury, Massachusetts on 20 June 1769 to parents Jonathan and Sarah
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910	AmericanAncestors.org	Death record of Henry Poor in Boston, Mass., April 1853	Found death register for Henry Poor, d. 28 Apr. 1853 in Boston, Massachusetts
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Abigail J. Huse	Found marriage in Newburyport on 23 Apr. 1795 between Henry Poor and Abigail (Johnson) Huse
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Martha (Loring) Harrington	Found marriage in Newburyport on 11 Dec. 1815 between Henry Poor and Martha Harrington
Census and Voter Lists	www.Ancestry.com	U.S. Census 1790-1850	
World's largest gravesite collection	Findagrave.com	Find if a gravestone of Henry Poor exists	
U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914	Ancestry.com	Does he have any military service in the War of 1812?	
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995	Ancestry.com	Is he listed in a city directory for Newburyport or Boston?	
Suffolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893	AmericanAncestors.org	Did he leave a last will and testament, or have any probate records?	No probate found in Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Suffolk Co., Mass. Records of deaths, 1636-1895	www.familysearch.org	Does he own any land in Boston, Mass.	

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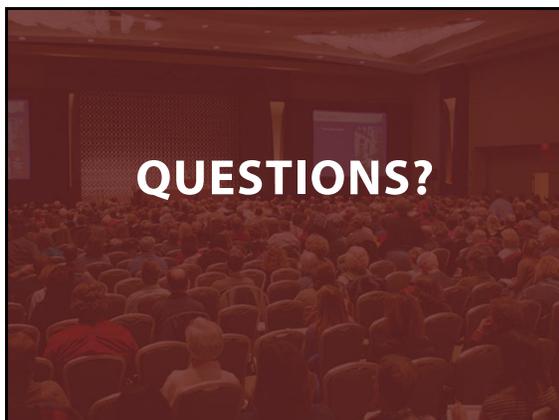
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Date: 01/16/2025

**AmericanAncestors**  
By New England Historic Genealogical Society

**Research Log**

Main objective: [Locate the vital records and other primary records for Henry Poor and his family of Mass.](#) [Repository](#), [Various online resources](#)

Source Information <small>(Title, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)</small>	Call Number <small>(file number, URL, etc.)</small>	Detailed Objective	Results
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Birth record of Henry Poor in Newbury, Mass., June 20, 1769	Found birth in Newbury, Massachusetts on 20 June 1769 to parents Jonathan and Sarah
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910	AmericanAncestors.org	Death record of Henry Poor in Boston, Mass., April 1853	Found death register for Henry Poor, d. 28 Apr. 1853 in Boston, Massachusetts
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Abigail J. Huse	Found marriage in Newburyport on 23 Apr. 1788 between Henry Poor and Abigail Johnson Huse
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Martha (Loring) Harrington	Found marriage in Newburyport on 11 Dec. 1818 between Henry Poor and Martha Harrington
Census and Voter Lists	www.Ancestry.com	U.S. Census 1790-1850	
World's largest gravesite collection	Findagrave.com	Find if a gravestone of Henry Poor exists	
U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914	Ancestry.com	Does he have any military service in the War of 1812?	
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995	Ancestry.com	Is he listed in a city directory for Newburyport or Boston?	
Suffolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893	AmericanAncestors.org	Did he leave a last will and testament, or have any probate records?	No probate found in Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Suffolk Co., Mass. Records of Deeds, 1636-1895	www.familysearch.org	Does he own any land in Boston, Mass.	

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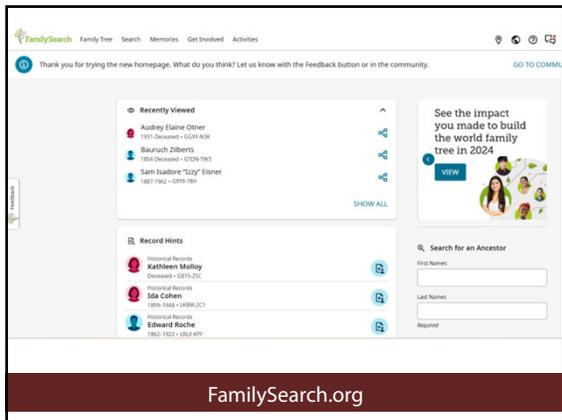
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## FamilySearch Catalog

- Allows you to search and browse records which have been microfilmed and made available online
- Recommended: Search by Location
  - Town or County, State, Country

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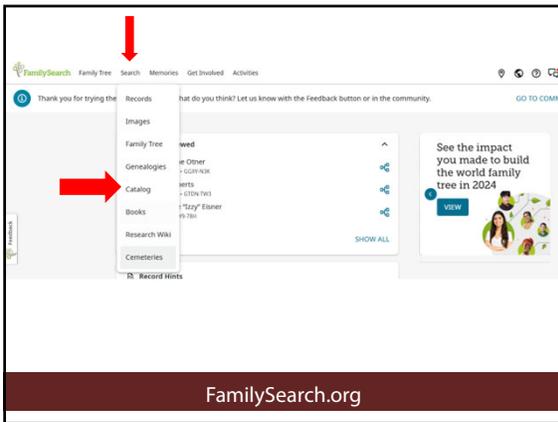
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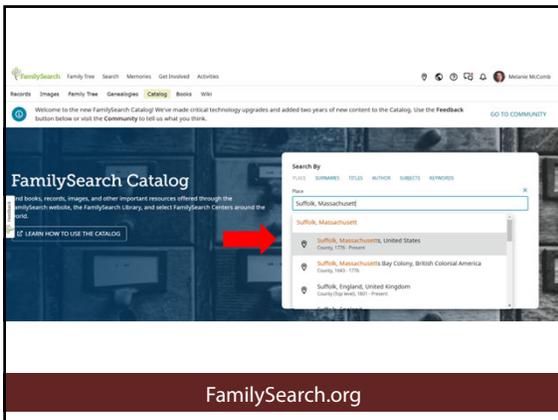
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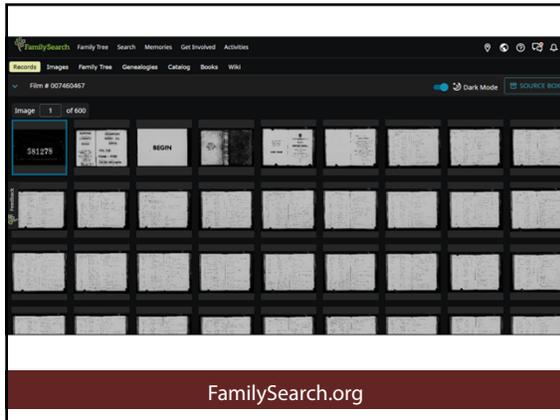
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Class 4: Getting Started in Family History Research



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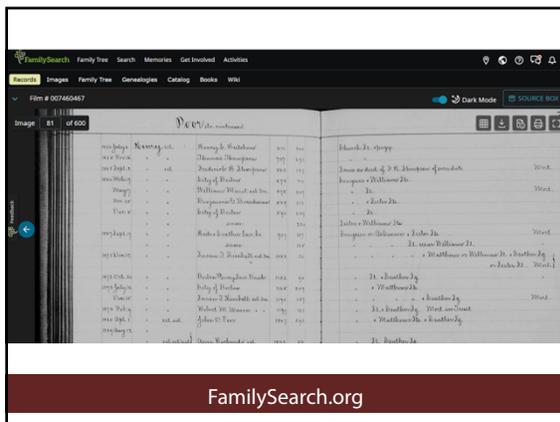
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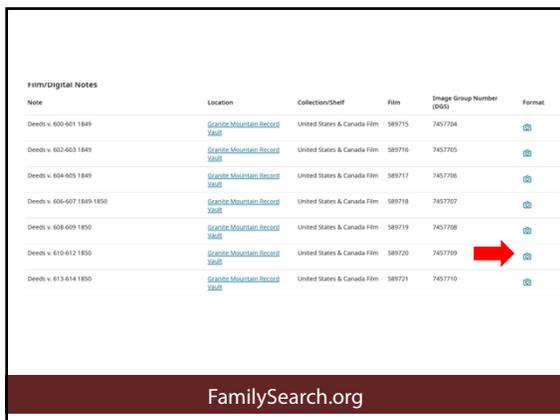
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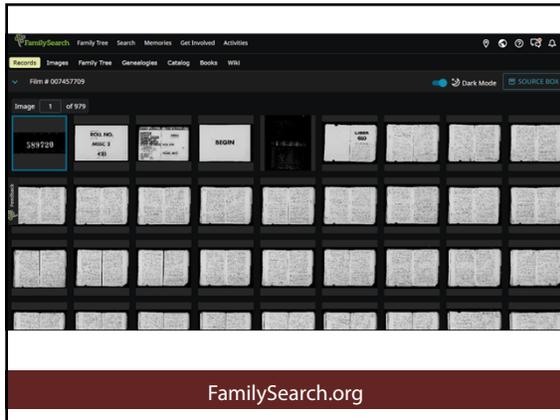
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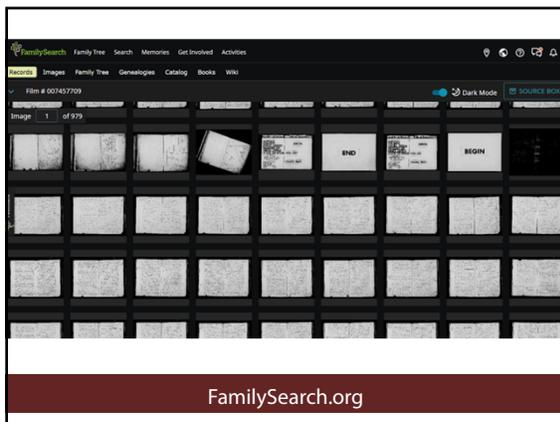
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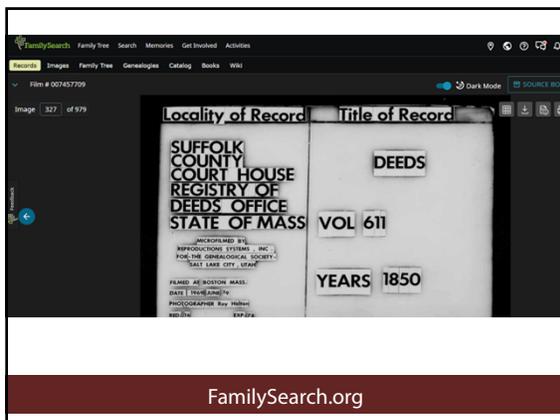
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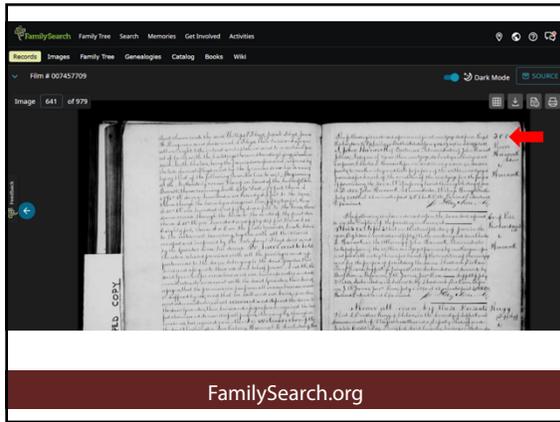
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Class 4: Getting Started in Family History Research



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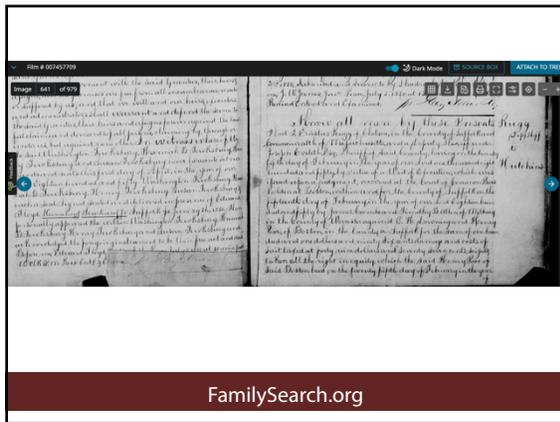
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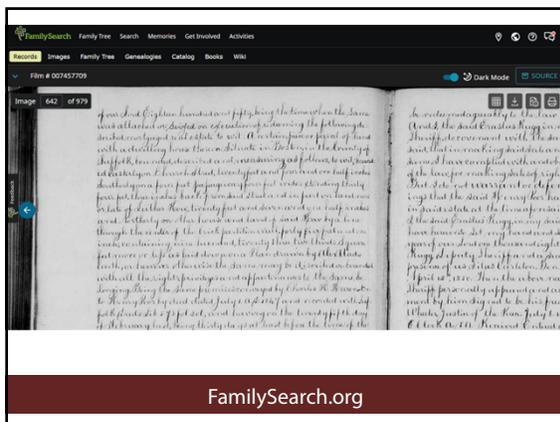
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Class 4: Getting Started in Family History Research

Date: 01/16/2025

### Research Log

Main objective: Locate the vital records and other primary records for Henry Poor and his family of Mass. Repository: Various online resources

Source Information <small>(title, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)</small>	Call Number <small>(film number, URL, etc.)</small>	Detailed Objective	Results
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Birth record of Henry Poor in Newbury, Mass. June 20, 1769	Found birth in Newbury, Massachusetts on 20 June 1769 to parents Jonathan Sarah.
Massachusetts: Vital Records 1841-1910	AmericanAncestors.org	Death record of Henry Poor in Boston, Mass. April 1853	Found death register for Henry Poor, d 28 Apr. 1853 in Boston, Massachusetts.
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Abigail J. Huse	Found marriage in Newburyport on 23 Apr. 1820 between Henry Poor and Abigail Johnson Huse
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Martha (Loring) Harrington	Found marriage in Newburyport on 13 Dec. 1830 between Henry Poor and Martha Harrington
Census and Voter Lists	www.Ancestry.com	U.S. Census 1790-1850	
World's largest gravesite collection	Findagrave.com	Find if a gravestone of Henry Poor exists	
U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914	Ancestry.com	Does he have any military service in the War of 1812?	
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995	Ancestry.com	Is he listed in a city directory for Newburyport or Boston?	
Suffolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1636-1895	AmericanAncestors.org	Did he leave a last will and testament, or have any probate records?	No probate found in Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Suffolk Co., Mass. Records of Deeds, 1636-1885	www.familysearch.org	Does he own any land in Boston, Mass	Henry Poor of Boston had 1/8th of Church St. which was sold to him on 1 July 1847 by Charles H. Harenton - Liber 578, Folio 206

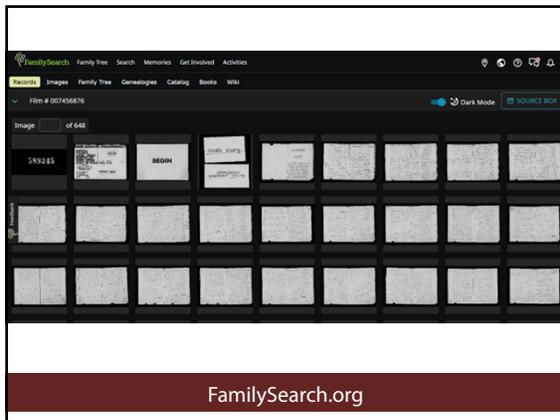
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Film/Digital Notes

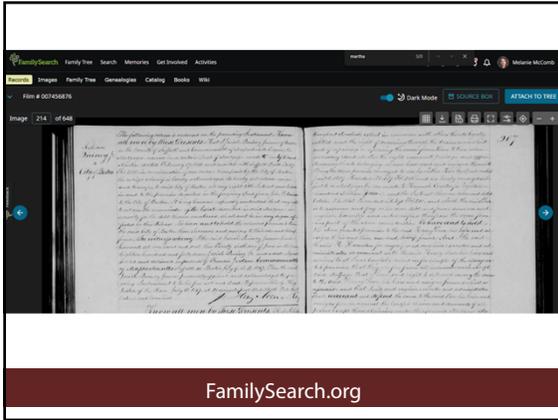
Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Deeds v 578-579 1847	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589245	7455676 	
Deeds v 580-581 1847-1850	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589246	7457683	
Deeds v 582-583 1847	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589247	7457684	
Deeds v 584-585 1847	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589248	7457685	
Deeds v 586-587 1847-1848	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589249	7457686	
Deeds v 588-589 1848	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589250	7457687	
Deeds v 590-592 1848	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589251	7457688	
Deeds v 593-595 1848	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	589712	7457701	

FamilySearch.org

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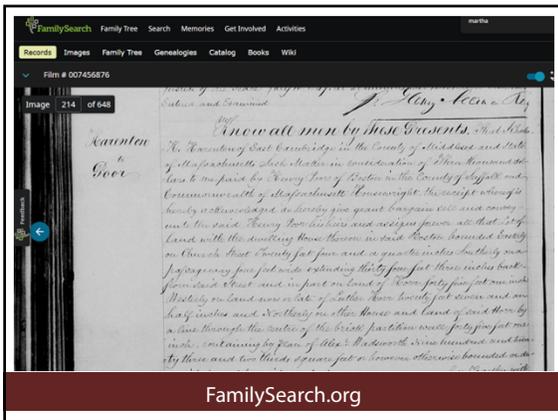
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### Unique Family Search Features

- Alternative names
- Search with relationship
- Search by more than one collection
- Export results to Excel
- Full-Text Search

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**Power Searching at Ancestry**

- Use wildcards
- Filter by database type (Categories on Ancestry)
- Use sliders
- Use the card catalog

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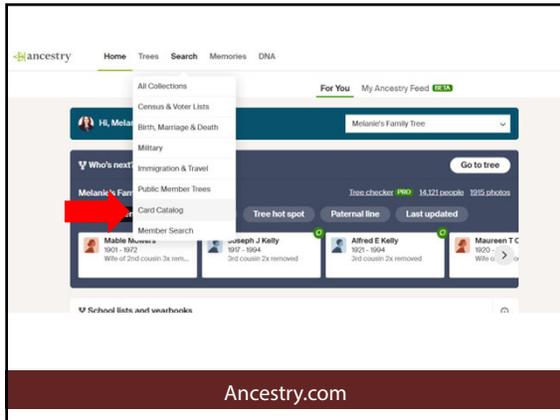








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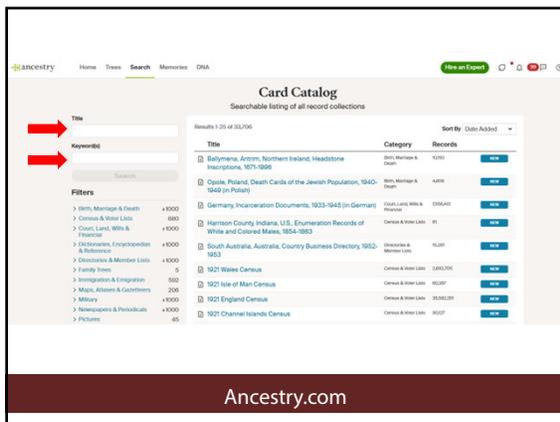
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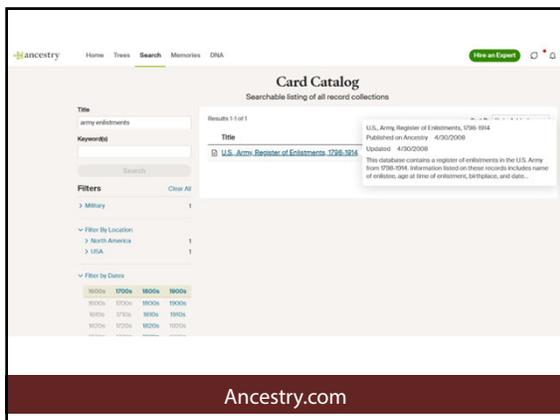
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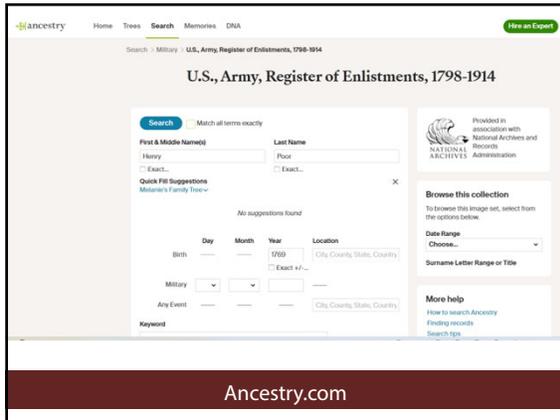
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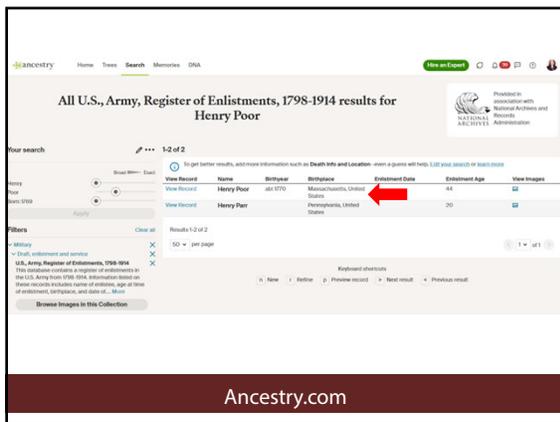
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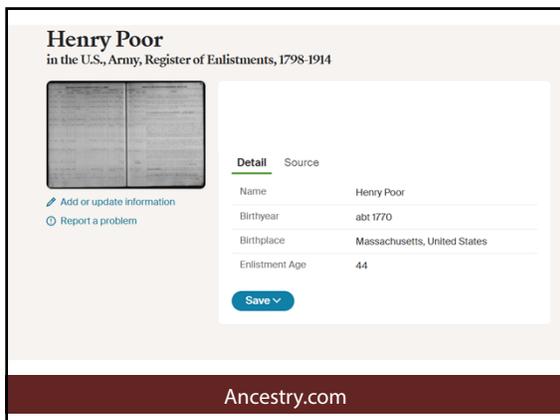
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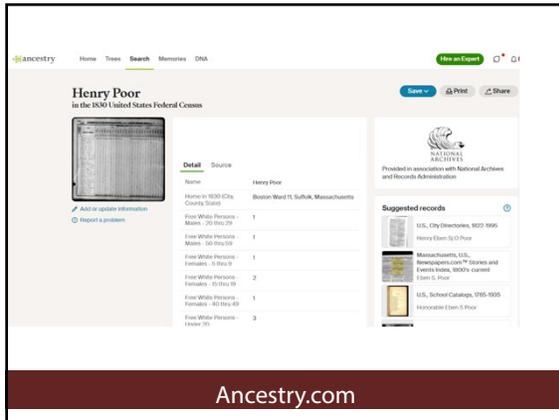
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Date: 01/16/2025

**AmericanAncestors**  
By New England Historic Genealogical Society

**Research Log**

Main objective: Locate the vital records and other primary records for Henry Poor and his family of Mass. Repository: Various online resources

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Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Martha (Loring) Harrington	Found marriage in Newburyport on 11 Dec. 18 between Henry Poor and Martha Harrington
Census and Voter Lists	www.Ancestry.com	U.S. Census 1790-1850	1830, 1840 & 1850 - living in Boston
World's largest gravesite collection	Findagrave.com	Find if a gravestone of Henry Poor exists	
U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914	Ancestry.com	Does he have any military service in the War of 1812?	Henry enlisted in 1815 at Newburyport and was discharged in 1815
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995	Ancestry.com	Is he listed in a city directory for Newburyport or Boston?	Listed in 1839 Boston city directory, occupation carpenter
Suffolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893	AmericanAncestors.org	Did he leave a last will and testament, or have any probate records?	No probate found in Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Suffolk Co., Mass. Records of deeds, 1636-1895	www.familysearch.org	Does he own any land in Boston, Mass?	Henry Poor of Boston had land on Church St. which was sold to him on 1 July 1847 by Charles H. Havenston - Liber 378, Folio 206

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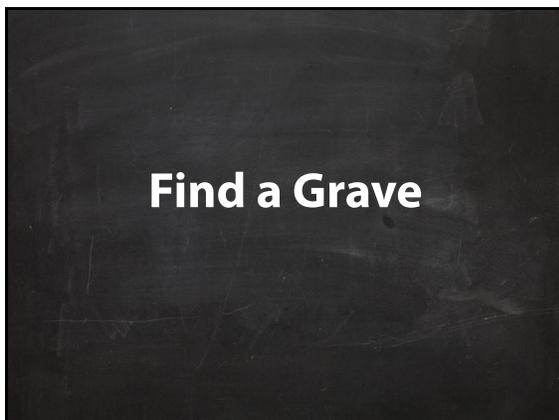
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## Find a Grave

- Not every person will have a memorial page and if they do, it may not contain a photograph of the grave
- Verify the information on the gravestone against other records (vital records, probate, land deeds, etc.)
- Contact cemeteries and funeral homes for missing details

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Date: 01/16/2025

**AmericanAncestors**  
By New England Historic Genealogical Society

**Research Log**

Main objective: [Locate the vital records and other primary records for Henry Poor and his family of Mass.](#) [Repository.](#) [Various online resources](#)

Source Information <small>(Title, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)</small>	Call Number <small>(film number, URL, etc.)</small>	Detailed Objective	Results
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Birth record of Henry Poor in Newbury, Mass. June 20, 1769	Found birth in Newbury, Massachusetts on 20 June 1769 to parents Jonathan and Sarah.
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1841-1910	AmericanAncestors.org	Death record of Henry Poor in Boston, Mass. April 1853	Found death register for Henry Poor, age 28 Apr. 1853 in Boston, Massachusetts
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Abigail J. Huse	Found marriage in Newburyport on 23 Apr. 1788 between Henry Poor and Abigail Johnson Huse
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1820-1850	AmericanAncestors.org	Marriage of Henry Poor to Martha (Loring) Harrington	Found marriage in Newburyport on 11 Dec. 1815 between Henry Poor and Martha Harrington
Census and Voter Lists	www.Ancestry.com	U.S. Census 1790-1850	1830, 1840 & 1850 – living in Boston
World's largest gravesite collection	Findagrave.com	Find if a gravestone of Henry Poor exists	
U.S., Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914	Ancestry.com	Does he have any military service in the War of 1812?	Henry enlisted in 1815 at Newburyport and was discharged in 1815
U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995	Ancestry.com	Is he listed in a city directory for Newburyport or Boston?	Listed in 1839 Boston city directory, occupation carpenter
Suffolk County, MA: Index to Probate Records, 1636-1893	AmericanAncestors.org	Did he leave a last will and testament, or have any probate records?	No probate found in Suffolk County, Massachusetts
Suffolk Co., Mass. Records of deaths, 1636-1895	www.familysearch.org	Does he own any land in Boston, Mass?	Henry Poor of Boston had land on Church St. which was sold to him on 1 July 1847 by Charles H. Havenston – Liber 578, Folio 206

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**Find a Grave**

MEMORIALS   CEMETERIES   FAMOUS   CONTRIBUTE

**World's largest gravesite collection.**  
Over 236 million memorials created by the community since 1995.

**By Memorial Types:**
 Famous
  Sponsored
  Not buried in a cemetery
  Cenotaph
  Monument

**Include:**
 Nickname
  Hidden name
  Titles
  Exact name spelling
  Similar name spellings

**Memorials with:**
 No grave photo
  Grave photo
  No GPS
  GPS
  Flowers

findagrave.com

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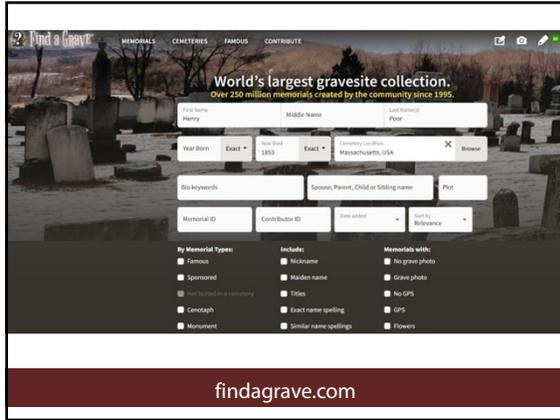
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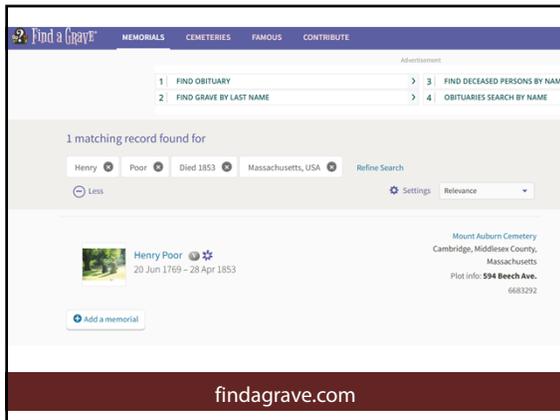
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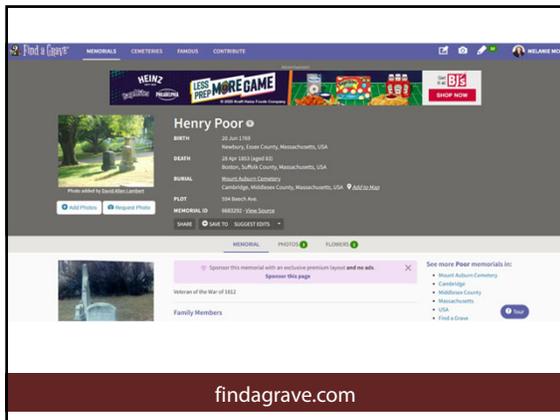
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## Check the Catalog

- Many archives and libraries have their own catalog which can be searched, often from the comfort of home
- Review the procedures on how to request onsite access if planning to travel OR inquire about photocopy requests and research fees

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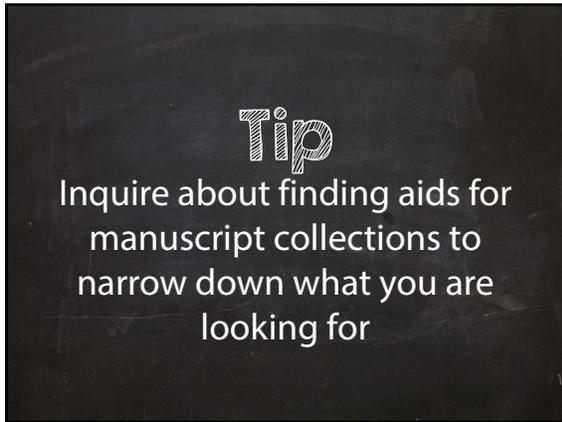
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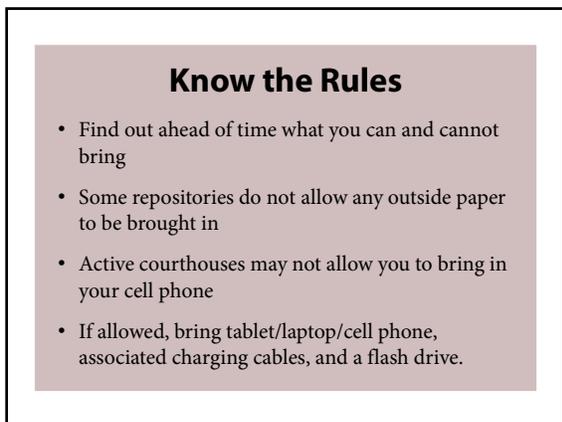
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**Keep the Research Log Updated**

- Just like with online searches, use your research log to keep track of what you've consulted in offline repositories
- This is crucial as you may not be able to go back to that repository soon to double-check your citations, etc.

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**Review**

1. Use the principle of "less is more" when conducting an online search. You can narrow down your search after you receive your initial results.
2. Search in specific databases to maximize your searches vs. using an advanced search
3. Record your finding in your research log
4. Consult offline repositories for additional records, books, microfilm, microfiche, and manuscript material that is not digitized.

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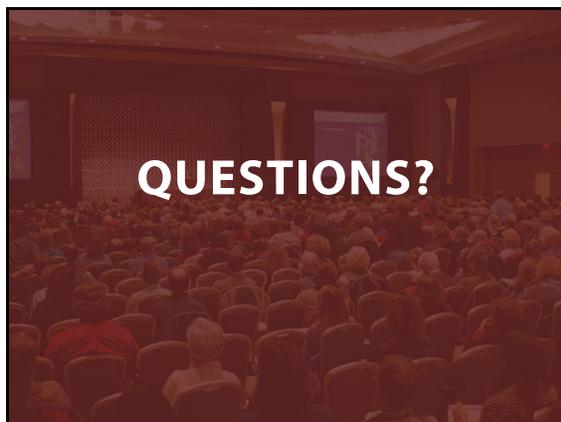
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**QUESTIONS?**



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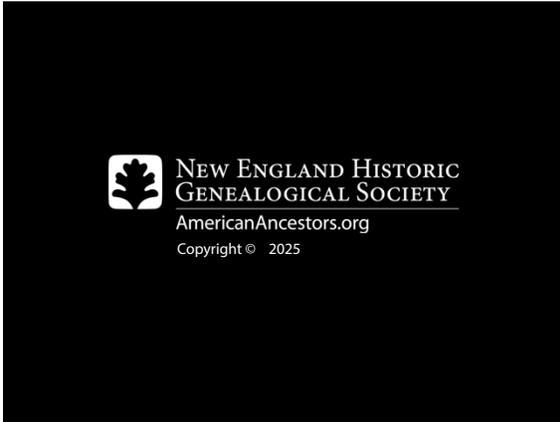
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