

The F.A.N. Approach

Melanie McComb
July 2025

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

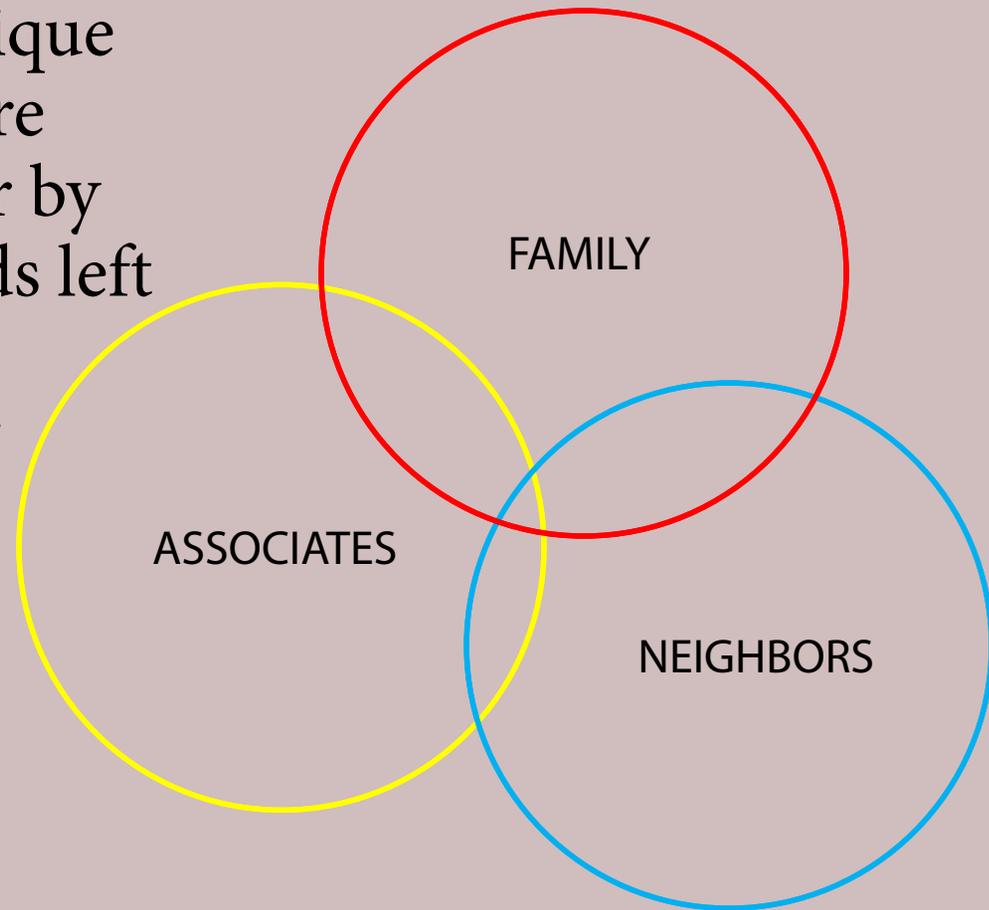


Overview

- Overview of Cluster research
- Case Study- Ransom Billings

What is Cluster Research?

- A research technique used to learn more about an ancestor by examining records left by the ancestor's *cluster*
- F-A-N
 - Family
 - Associates
 - Neighbors





Family

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

Reasons to Research Family

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



Associates

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

Reasons to Research Associates

- Tracing migrations
- Discovering more about military service
- Study of a particular place or event – associated places can be important
- Maternal lines
- Develop a more holistic view of an ancestor



Neighbors

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

Reasons to Research Neighbors

- Provide clues about migration patterns and earlier origins
- Inform us of our ancestor's immigrant origins
- Supply missing information about our ancestors
- Help us trace women and may reveal maiden names

Key Resources for Cluster Research

- Cemeteries/Headstones
- Census Records
- Church Records
- City Directories
- County and Local Histories
- Genealogies
- Land and Mortgage Records
- Newspaper Articles/Obituaries
- Pension Records
- Probate Records
- Tax Lists

Cluster Research Steps

1. Organize your previous research into an annotated research log
2. Look for missing information and identify your goal
3. Who's your F.A.N. club?
4. List the records that will aid in your research
5. Locate the resources
6. Research!
7. Analyze and make your conclusions

Watch this webinar

The image shows the top navigation bar of the American Ancestors website. On the left is the logo and name "American Ancestors." followed by the tagline "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". On the right are links for "Bookstore", "About Us", and "MY ACCOUNT". Below this is a secondary navigation bar with "Search", "Events", "Join", "Give", "10 Million Names", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Signature Projects", and "Centers & Initiatives". The main content area features a video player with a dark blue overlay. The text on the overlay reads "Setting Yourself Up for Success: Organizational Tools and Tips to Break Down Brick Walls". A play button icon is visible in the center of the overlay. At the bottom left of the overlay are the logos for "American Ancestors" and "THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER". The background of the video player shows historical documents, including a "BIRTH REGISTERED IN THE CITY OF BOSTON" and a "STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH" for "David Moore, ss Marshall".

Research Templates

Family Charts Research Templates Writing & Publishing



Family historians rely on a number of organizational tools, including commonly used forms to record their research efforts and findings. Even though most genealogical software programs will export your findings into such formats, it is important to understand how each works and how they can be organized to best support future research. The following templates will help you organize your research, save you time, and present your information in a consistent and accurate way.

americanancestors.org/tools/research-templates

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the American Ancestors website. The logo is on the left, followed by the text "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". On the right, there are links for "Bookstore", "About Us", "Create a Tree", and a "LOG IN" button. Below the navigation bar is a secondary menu with "Search", "Events", "Join/Renew", "Give", "10 Million Names", "Publications", "Expert Help", "Tools", "Projects", and "Centers & Initiatives". The main heading is "Research Templates" with a small tree icon below it. The content area lists four templates: "Research Plan Template", "Research Log", "Annotated Research Log", and "Interview Questions", each with a brief description.

American Ancestors. A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture

Bookstore About Us Create a Tree LOG IN →

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

Research Templates

Research Plan Template

A research plan provides a roadmap for your genealogical research. This easy-to-use template takes you through the process of forming a good research question, identifying which records help you answer the question, clarifying record availability for your time period and location, and listing specific repositories where the records may be found.

Research Log

Research logs are an excellent way to keep track of the research you have already accomplished. They contain a list of every source you consulted—and whether your search was successful or not. Handwritten or typed, these logs help prevent duplicate searches and lookups.

Annotated Research Log

This annotated research log (excel file) provides a starting point for you to track your research and stay focused on the genealogical issue at hand. You can easily add columns, rows, and sort your findings.

Interview Questions

Gather information about your family and ancestors by interviewing family members, friends, and neighbors. These suggested interview questions will

americanancestors.org/tools/research-templates

Origins of Ransom Billings

1. Organize your previous research into an annotated research log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record
Vital Records				
Card File to Geauga County Obituaries, ca. 1800-1900; necrology file. Abbey, Irma Law-Rummell, Herman. FHL Film No. 1530485	Billings	1800-1900	Gauga County, New York	no
Census Records				
1810 U.S. census	Jonathan Allen, Billings	1810	Suffield, Hartford Co., Connecticut	no
1820 U.S. census	Jonathan Allen	1820	Hambden, Gauga Co., Ohio	yes
1830 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1830	Ohio	
1840 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1840	Ohio	
1850 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1850	Ohio	
1860 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1860	Ohio	
Newspapers				
Genealogy Bank, Historical Newspapers	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Newspapers.com	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Newspaper Archive	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Early American Newspapers, Americas Historical Newspapers <newsbank>	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers <Gale>	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records				
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Gauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Billings	1805-1917	Gauga County, Ohio	no
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Gauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Billings	1806-1845	Gauga County, Ohio	no
Cemetery Records				
Violet Warren and Jeannette Grosvenor. <i>A Monumental Work: Inscriptions and Interments in Gauga County, Ohio Through 1983</i> (Evansville, IN: Whipperwill Publications, 1985)	Billings		Gauga County, Ohio	no
Local and Reginal Histories				
<i>Biographical History of Northern Ohio: Embracing the Counties of Ashtabula, Gauga and Lake</i> (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula, Gauga, Lake Counties, Ohio	no
<i>1798 Pioneer and General History of Gauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Gauga	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan			

Ransom Billings

- Born circa 1802 in Connecticut
- Guardianship recorded at Geauga County, Ohio in March 1816; orphan minor under the age of 14
 - Appointed guardian is Jonathan Allen
- Settled at Hambden in Geauga County by 1824
- Married at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, Laura Devan
- Died at Ashtabula County, Ohio in 1861

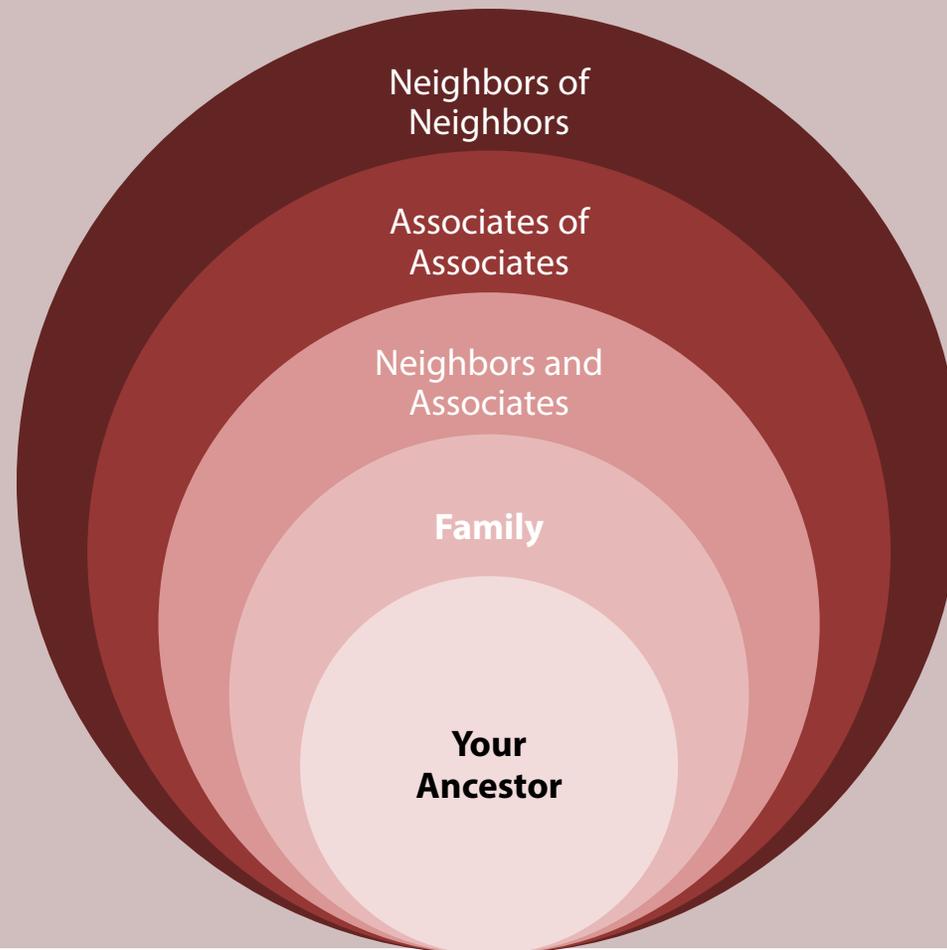
2. Look for missing information and identify your goal

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Vital Records					
Birth record	Ransom Billings	1800-1810	Connecticut	no	Nothing in Barbour Collection
Card File to Geauga County Obituaries, ca. 1800-1900: necrology file. Abbey, Irma Law-Rummell, Herman. FHL Film No. 1530485	Billings	1800-1900	Gauga County, New York	no	
Census Records					
1810 U.S. census	Jonathan Allen, Billings	1810	Suffield, Hartford Co., Connecticut	no	
1820 U.S. census	Jonathan Allen	1820	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes	
1830 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1830	Ohio		
1840 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1840	Ohio		
1850 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1850	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Place of birth, Connecticut, 1803
1860 U.S. census	Billings, Ransom Billings	1860	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Place of birth, Connecticut, 1803
Newspapers					
Genealogy Bank, Historical Newspapers	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no	
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Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers <Gale>	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no	
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Billings	1805-1917	Gauga County, Ohio	no	
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Billings	1806-1845	Gauga County, Ohio	no	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Ransom Billings	March 1816	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Jonathan Allen	March 1816	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Court of Common Pleas, Geauga, Ohio	Ransom Billings	March 1817	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	
Cemetery Records					
Violet Warren and Jeannette Grosvenor. <i>A Monumental Work: Inscriptions and Interments in Geauga County, Ohio Through 1983</i> (Evansville, IN: Whippoorwill Publications, 1985)	Billings		Gauga County, Ohio	no	
Local and Regional Histories					
Biographical History of Northern Ohio: Embracing the Counties of					

Goal

- Where and when was Ransom Billings born?
- Who are his parents? Grandparents?

3. Who is in the Ransom Billings F.A.N. Club?



F.A.N

- Family
 - Who are the other family members listed with Ransom?
 - US Census (1850-1860)
 - Other Siblings? Children?
 - Vital records?
 - Update your Research Log with these individuals

Set up Your Research Log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
1798 <i>Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Geauga County, 1880)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Gauga County, Ohio	yes	1815 Jonathan Allen left Suffield, Connecticut with a Nathaniel Parks and Hezekiah Stocking. They settled in the town of Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio
W.W. Williams. 1798 <i>History of Ashtabula County, Ohio, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Pioneers and Most Prominent</i>	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula County, Ohio	no	
	Ransom Billings			no	
	Ransom Billings		Bridgeport, Connecticut	no	
	Ransom Billings			no	
	Ransom Billings			no	
	Ransom Billings	1824	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes	Grantor-Ransom Billings; Grantee-John Bartholomew 54 acres, Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6
	Ransom Billings	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	no	Where does Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 come from
	Ransom Billings	1820		Maybe	Ransom Billings, enlisted 31 January 1820 at Utica, New York by Lt. Griswold for 5 years, into the 2 nd Regiment of the U.S. Infantry, physical description: 5'10 1/2", blue eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, age 15 [b. about 1801], laborer, born at Enfield, Connecticut. Remarks: certificate of enlistment [at] Utica, New York, January 31, 1820

Activate ? X

Activate:

- Ransom Billings_Laura Devan
- Louisa Marie Billings_Carlos A.
- Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn
- Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billings

OK Cancel

4. List the records that will aid in your research

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date and place	Vital Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Census
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

5. Locate Resources

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Vital Records					
Birth record	Louisa Marie Billings	1833	Ohio		
Marriage record	Louisa Marie Billings and Carlos A. Sperry	before 1857	probably Ohio		
Birth record	Carlos A. Sperry	1833	Ohio		
Death record	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Death record	Carlos A. Sperry	?	probably Ohio		
Census Records					
1840 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1840	Geauga County, Ohio		
1850 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1850	Geauga County, Ohio		
1860 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1860	Geauga County, Ohio		
1870 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1870	Geauga County, Ohio		
1880 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1880	Geauga County, Ohio		
Newspapers					
Obituary	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1881	Ohio		
Obituary	Carlos A. Sperry	?	Ohio		

▶ ...
Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr
Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn
Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billing ...
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6. Research!

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date and place	Vital Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Census
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Census, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

Let's meet the neighbors

F.A.N

- Neighbors
 - Who are the Neighbors enumerated with Ransom?
What do they have in common?
 - Place of birth?
 - Occupation?
 - What records for the Neighbors could help to determine place of birth?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Dist. N.R. Morgan Tp. in the County of Ashtabula State Ohio enumerated by me, on the 8th day of August 1850. D. Cadwell Ass't. Marshal.

Dwellings—houses numbered in this census, in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Males within the years of School Age within the year. (See instructions to enumerators.)	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.			
		Age.	Sex.	Color, (black or mulatto.)								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
137 864	Ezra Griffin	50	M		Farmer	400	N.Y.					
	Laura	47	F					N.Y.				
	Jane	22	M		Laborer							
	Allert	19	M		Laborer							
	Juliette	17	F									
	Elliot	15	M		Laborer							
	Belanda	7	M									
558 865	Eitch Anderson	31	M		Farmer	1500						
	Rebecca	26	F					N.Y.				
	Wm. Munger	20	M		Laborer			N.Y.				
520 866	Anna Walden	57	M		Farmer	400		Conn.				
	Mary	54	F					N.Y.				
	Manfield	18	M		Laborer							
	Mary	16	F									
	Theronsa Johnson	23	F									
	Est. W.	6	M									
840 867	Wm. Walden	26	M		Farmer	300						
	Sarah	18	F									
841 868	Simon Sharp	38	M		Laborer	150		N.Y.				
	Ann	35	F									
	Maranda	15	F									
	William P.	11	M									
	Ludica	6	F									
	Sarah U.	5	F									
	Oliver E.	3	M									
842 869	Jeth. Cole	65	M		Farmer	200		Mass.				
	Ruth	67	F					Mass.				
	Yenas Kuntler	33	M		Physician			Pa.				
	Beninta	33	F					N.Y.				
	Russel	3	M									
	Nathan W.	1	M									
871 870	Erastus DeVan	45	M		Farmer	1800		N.Y.				
	Ruth G.	35	F					N.Y.				
	Polly M.	18	F									
	Edwin A.	12	M									
	Ellen A.	10	F									
874 871	Lehman Billings	24	M		Farmer							
	Sarah A.	20	F					N.Y.				
848 872	Ransom Bylles	47	M		Lawyer	2500		Conn.				
	Laura R.	30	F					N.Y.				
	Louisa M.	17	F									
	Ann P.	15	F									



1850 US Federal Census, Ashtabula, Ohio

**Who are the
interesting
neighbors?**

Analyze a neighborhood

- Are they from the same state or country?
- Did they arrive in the United States at the same time?
- Do they have the same occupation?
- Same religion?

Search > [Census & Voter Lists](#)

1850 United States Federal Census

Search

Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Year

Location

Birth

Connecticut, USA

Exact to...

Lived In

—

Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio, USA

Exact to this place

Any Event

Exact to...

- This place
- County
- County and adjacent counties
- State
- State and adjacent states

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

Occupation



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Browse this collection

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

State

Choose... ▾

County

▾

Township

Ancestry.com

All 1850 United States Federal Census Results



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

Your search



Results 1-20 of 98

Broad Exact

Born: connecticut, usa

Lived In: morgan, ashtab...

Apply

▼ All Categories

> Census & Voter Lists

> 1850s

1850 United States Federal Census

This database is an index to individuals enumerated in the 1850 United States Federal Census, the Seventh Census of the United States. Census takers recorded

View Record	Name	Home in 1850 (City, County, State)	Birth Year	Birthplace	Gender	View Image
View Record	Alvera Burdick	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1802	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Edward Woodruff	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1820	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	George Starr	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1818	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Asa Walden	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1793	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Ransom Billings	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1803	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Harriet Cutler	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1829	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Phileeta Root	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1817	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Jonathan F Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1795	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Laura Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1793	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	David Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1818	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	Luther H Baldwin	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1800	Connecticut	Male	

Ancestry.com

Tip

Learn about the community

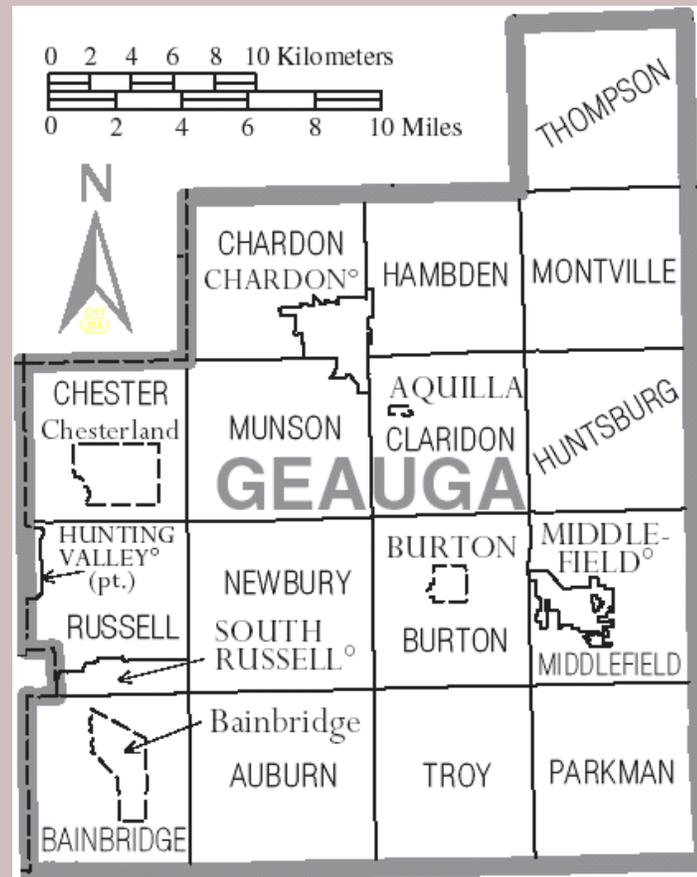
Western Reserve

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



Western Reserve

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



Ransom Billings

- Born circa 1802 in Connecticut
- Guardianship recorded at Geauga County, Ohio in March 1816; orphan minor under the age of 14
 - Appointed guardian is Jonathan Allen
- Settled at Hambden in Geauga County by 1824
- Married at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, Laura Devan
- Died at Ashtabula County, Ohio in 1861

The State of Ohio.

Geauga County ss. Court of Common Pleas, March Term 1816.

At a Court of Common Pleas holden at Chardon in and for said County of Geauga on the twelfth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, before the Honorable Abraham Sappen, Vene Stone and Orris Clapp Esquires, Associate Judges of the same Court. —

And now at this Term the Court appointed Jonathan Allen Guardian of Ransom Billings a Minor orphan under the age of fourteen years, until he shall arrive at the age of fourteen years, and accepted of Hosea King and Isaac Pease as sureties in the sum of three hundred Dollars, who thereupon accepted and undertook said trust and gave Bonds agreeable to Law and the order of this Court. —

Guardianship Record, 1816, Geauga County
Ohio FamilySearch.org

Who is Jonathan Allen?

- Born at Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut on 27 October 1776
- Married first in 1795, Mary Pease; married second in 1818, Miriam Kibbe; married third in 1822, Polly Thwing
- Settled at Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio by 1815

F.A.N.

- Associates
 - Family and Neighbors have pointed us to Connecticut
 - Enfield, perhaps?
 - What records for Associates (people or places) could help us to find his birth record in Connecticut?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

Look for MORE missing information and identify your goal

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
1798 <i>Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Geauga County, 1880)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Gauga County, Ohio	yes	1815 Jonathan Allen left Suffield, Connecticut with a Nathaniel Parks and Hezekiah Stocking. They settled in the town of Hambden, Geauga County, Ohio
W.W. Williams. 1798 <i>History of Ashtabula County, Ohio, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of its Pioneers and Most Prominent Men</i> (Philadelphia: Williams Brothers, 1878)	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula County, Ohio	no	
Genealogies					
Frank Billings. <i>The Genealogy of Some of the Descendants of William Billing who came to America in 1650 and permanently settled at Stonington, Connecticut in 1658</i> (Chicago, IL: R.R. Donnelley, 1931)	Ransom Billings			no	
Mrs. Wilber Brooks Smith (Julia Billings). <i>An Intimate Review of the Billings Family of Bridgeport, Connecticut</i> (1933)	Ransom Billings		Bridgeport, Connecticut	no	
Helen Schatvet Ullmann. <i>Some Descendants of Roger Billings of Dorchester, Massachusetts</i> (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2012)	Ransom Billings			no	
Robert Stone. <i>A Family History of the Billings, the Cadwells, the Lambs, the Parkhursts, the Penders, the Reynolds, the Starks, the Stewarts, the Stones, and the Thomsons</i> (1995)	Ransom Billings			no	
Land Records					
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, Vol. 10, pg. 63 (FHL 20233)	Ransom Billings	1824	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes	Grantor-Ransom Billings; Grantee-John Bartholomew, 54 acres, Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Ransom Billings	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	no	Where does Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 come from?
Military Records					
U.S. Army Enlistment Records	Ransom Billings	1820		Maybe	Ransom Billings, enlisted 31 January 1820 at Utica, New York by Lt. Griswold for 5 years, into the 2 nd Regiment of the U.S. Infantry, physical description: 5'10 1/2", blue eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, age 19 [b. about 1801], laborer, born at Enfield, Connecticut. Remarks: certificate of enlistment [at] Utica, New York, January 31, 1820

Ransom Billings_Laura Devan

Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr

Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn

... (+) : <

Ransom Billings

- No interaction with other Billings families in Geauga County
- Does not live near any other Billings families
- Does not purchase land in Geauga County before 1824
- Sells 54 acres of land in Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 in Geauga County in 1824
 - How did he receive this land?
 - Received via probate?

Geauga County Deeds

- Grantor and Grantee Indexes provide property description
- Who purchased land in Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6?
 - Use index in your favor
 - Think outside the box

Tip

Understand the Index

Understand the Index

- Many different types of indexes
- Take time to understand system
- United States Index Systems – FamilySearch Wiki
 - Types of Indexes
 - Explanation
 - Examples
 - https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Index_Systems

Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6

29

General Index to Deeds; Geauga County, Ohio.

Date of Deeds.	NAMES.	NAMES.	Vol.	Page.	R.	T.	Town.	Tr.	Sec.	Lot.	Sub. Lot.	No. of Acres.	Remarks.
April 4 1799	Jarnes Dimon	From Benj. Doolittle Jr.	1	29	7	7	Burton			59		154 $\frac{1}{4}$	
June 26 1805	Barratt David	" Nathan Parks	2	49	7	7	same			22		132 $\frac{1}{4}$	
" 23 1807	Boardsman Daniel	" Ambrose Hull	3	289	11	7	Warrenville			36		158 $\frac{11}{16}$	1/2 Int.
July 10 1808	Boardsman Daniel	" Oliver Phelps	4	15	5	12	Geneva	2				700	
June 22 1810	Boardsman Daniel	" Eliphallet Austin	4	111	11	10	Morgan					300	
Nov. 12 "	Bartram Daniel	" John A. Casper	4	222	6	11	Madison	Pair		3		100	
Dec. 20 "	Booth Daniel	" Solomon Bond	4	248	7	9	Camden					113 $\frac{1}{2}$	
" 20 "	same	" same	4	248	6	10	Thompson					396 $\frac{1}{2}$	



Bond to Booth

- Solomon and Sarah Bond of Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut sold several lots to Daniel Booth of Painesville
 - Township 9, Range 7 (153 acres, 130 rods)
 - Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
 - Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
 - Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (396 acres, 30 rods)

VERY IMPORTANT

Update Your Research Log

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Booth		Geauga County, Ohio		
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1806-1845 vol. 1 <family search>	Booth		Geauga County, Ohio		
Land Records					
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Township 9, Range 7 (153 acres, 130 rods)
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Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (396 acres, 30 rods)
Vital Records					
Birth record	Daniel Booth		probably Connecticut		
Marriage record	??		probably Connecticut		
Birth record	Daniel Booth's wife		probably Connecticut		
Death record	Daniel Booth's wife		Ohio		
Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		
Newspapers					
Obituary	Daniel Booth		Ohio		

Daniel Booth

- Settled at Hambden township in 1811 with sons Daniel Booth and Marvin Booth
- Died at Geauga County in 1816
- Administration recorded in March 1816
 - Administrators: Daniel Booth and Marvin Booth
 - Sureties: Hosea King and Jonathan Allen
 - Appraisers: Anson Pease, Ichabod Pomeroy, and Isaac Pease

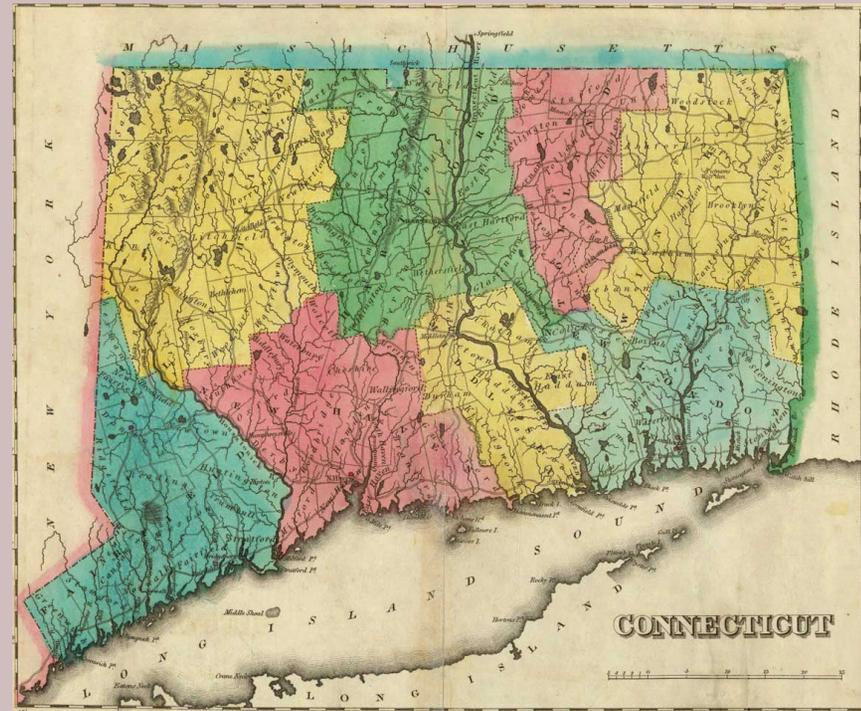
Identify Individuals

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



Identify Individuals

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



Daniel Booth

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

114.

The State of Ohio,
 Geauga County } Court of Common Pleas June Term 1817

At a Court of Common Pleas holden at Chardon in and for
 said County of Geauga on the ^{fourth} day of ~~March~~ ^{April} in the year
 one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, before the Honorable
 George Iva Esquire, President, and Abraham Lappin, Vene Stone
 and Orris Clapp Esquires, Associate Judges of the

And now at this term came the Administrator of the Estate of Dani
 el Hambsden Deceased and filed his Administration account, an
 in Open Court, which said account is as follows, to wit:

D^r: Daniel Booth & Marvin Booth, Administration of the Estate of Dani
 el Hambsden, with said Estate

To amount of Inventory returned	\$1450 22	By Cash paid over to, Dr
by the Appraisers		as minor and one of the heirs
Deduct from amount of Real Estate		as per Rec ^t
improperly charged	1356 00	" Cash paid over to Dorris
	94 22	one of the heirs, as per Re
		" Cash paid over to Lydia
		the heirs, as per Rec ^t
		" Cash paid over to Olive L
		of the heirs, as per Rec ^t
		" Cash paid over to Aseneth
		of the heirs, as per Rec ^t
		" Cash paid over to Ranso
		one of the heirs, as per Rec ^t
		" Cash paid over to Jonath
		rdian of Almon Booth, w
		one of the heirs, as per Rec ^t
		" Cash paid to the appra
		Expense of advertising
		" Clerks fee & Clerks hire
		Allowance of 6 per cent o
		of the Estate

By Cash paid over to, Dr	
as minor and one of the heirs of said Estate	
as per Rec ^t	7 17
" Cash paid over to Dorothy Pomroy,	
one of the heirs, as per Rec ^t	21 50
" Cash paid over to Lydia Booth, one of	
the heirs, as per Rec ^t	22 62
" Cash paid over to Olive Lampton, one	
of the heirs, as per Rec ^t	19 25
" Cash paid over to Aseneth Booth, one	
of the heirs, as per Rec ^t	19 95
" Cash paid over to Ransom Billings,	
one of the heirs, as per Receipt	6 50
" Cash paid over to Jonathan Allen, Gua	
rdian of Almon Booth, as minor and	
one of the heirs, as per Receipt	7 17

Probate Record, Geauga County, Ohio, 1817

The State of Ohio
Geauga County Court of Common Pleas March Term 1816.
At a Court of Common Pleas holden at Chardon in and for said County of
Geauga on the twelfth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred
and sixteen, before the Honorable Abraham Sapsen, Vene Stone and Orris Clapp
Esquires, Associate Judges of the same Court. -
And now at this term Almon Booth a Minor orphan, above the age of fourteen years come into Court
and make choice of Jonathan Allen, for his Guardian until he the said Almon shall arrive at lawful
age. - Whereupon the Court appointed the said Jonathan Allen Guardian accordingly, who there-
upon accepted & undertook said trust & gave Bonds agreeable to Law and the order of this Court. - - -

Guardianship, 1816, Geauga County, Ohio,
FamilySearch

Update Your Research Log

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Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		

▶
Ransom Billings_Laura Devan
Daniel Booth
Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr
Ann DeVan Billings: ...
(+)
:
◀

Checking in!

- Ransom Billings was the heir of Daniel Booth
- Ransom Billings settled at Hambden in Geauga County by 1824; Married at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, Laura Devan and died at Ashtabula County, Ohio in 1861
- Daniel Booth settled at Hambden township in 1811 with sons Daniel Booth and Marvin Booth
- Likely the Booth and Billings family is from Enfield, Connecticut

Keep Updating Your Research Log!

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
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Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		

► Ransom Billings_Laura Devan **Daniel Booth** Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr Ann DeVan Billings: ... (+) ⋮ ◀

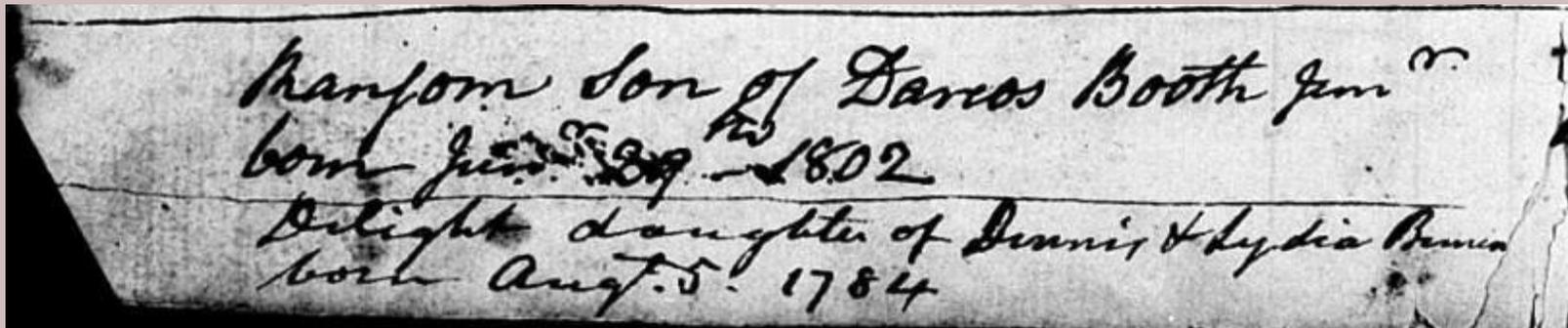
Daniel Booth of Enfield

- Daniel Booth was born at Enfield, Connecticut on 22 May 1744
- He married at Enfield, Connecticut on 28 June 1779, Dorcas Bradley
- He died at Geauga County, Ohio in 1816.

Booth children born at Enfield

1. Dorcas Booth, b. 8 February 1780
2. Lydia Booth, b. 8 January 1781
3. Aseneth Booth, b. 9 April 1784
4. Marvin Booth, b. 11 December 1789
5. Olive Booth, b. 24 January 1792
6. Dorothy Booth, b. 26 May 1794; she m. Ichabod Pomeroy
7. Almon Booth, b. 22 July 1795
8. Orasamus Booth, b. 30 August 1798

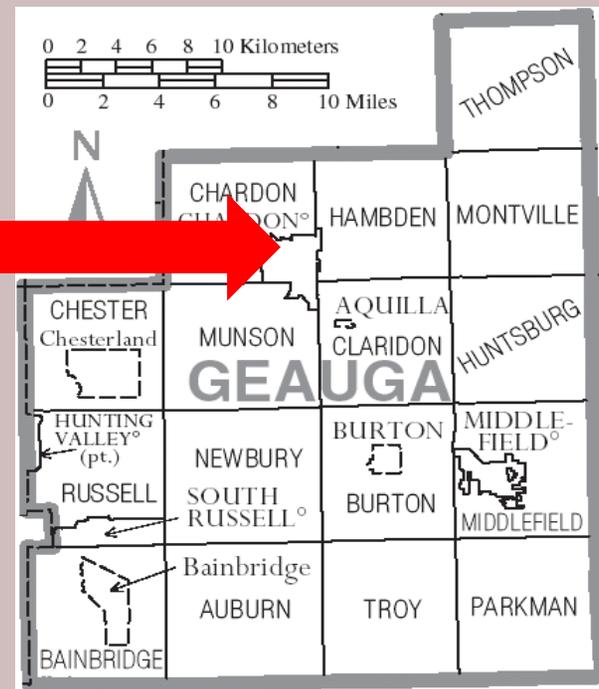
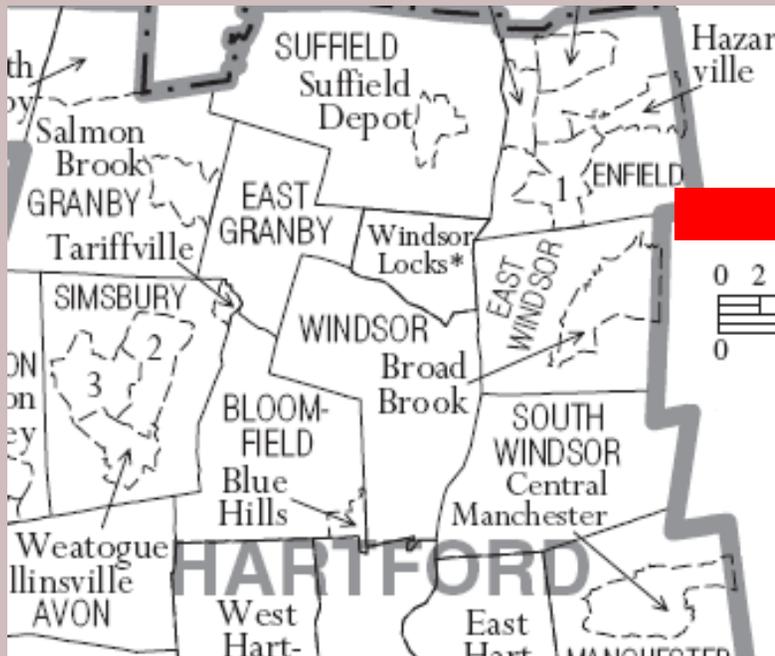
Who is Ransom's mother?



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

Chain Migration

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



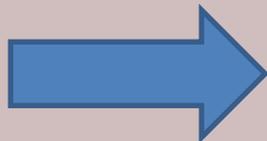
Ransom Billings

- Born at Enfield on 2 January 1802 to Dorcas Booth and an unknown father
- Migrated to Geauga County with extended family
- Orphaned by 1814; appointed guardian was native of Enfield
- Listed as heir in 1816 probate proceedings of grandfather, Daniel Booth

Chain Migration

- Most of our ancestors participated in chain migration
 - Followed others from home to new destination
 - Migrated with new neighbors to another destination (New England to Midwest)
- Use chain migration patterns to uncover origins

Immigrant



Family/Neighbor



New destination



Final Thoughts

- Identify Family, Associates, and Neighbors
 - Determine relationships and origins of each
- Learn about community
 - Who settled there? Why did they settle there?
Following family or neighbors? Job opportunity?
- Be creative!

Review the Steps

1. Organize your previous research into an annotated research log
2. Look for missing information and identify your goal
3. Who's your F.A.N club?
4. List the records that will aid in your research
5. Locate the resources
6. Research!
7. Analyze and make your conclusions

Lessons Learned

- Important to understand the historical and cultural context of your ancestors
- Stay the course and be methodical!
- Write it down (even if it's boring)!

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



American Ancestors[®]

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