

1



2



3

Pre-1850 Federal Census Records

- The federal census was used by Congress to count the country's population to identify the number of seats in the House of Representatives, as well as distribute federal funding to the states.
- Before 1850, the head of the household's name was listed in the census
- All other individuals listed were listed as slash marks in respective categories based on race, age, and sex

7

8

Early Death/Burial Records

- Until statewide registration, vital records were recorded by the town clerk and/or by local churches
- Typically recorded the name, date of death or burial, sometimes age and where the death/burial was recorded
 - Examples:
 - Town vital records
 - Church records
 - Cemetery records

9

Early Passenger Lists

- 1820 – required in the United States to be filed by the captain or master of the ship at the port of arrival with the Customs Office
- Pre-1893 passenger lists had limited information:
 - Name
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Occupation
 - Nationality
 - Final Destination (not always listed)

13

Micheal Caughlin
in the New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957

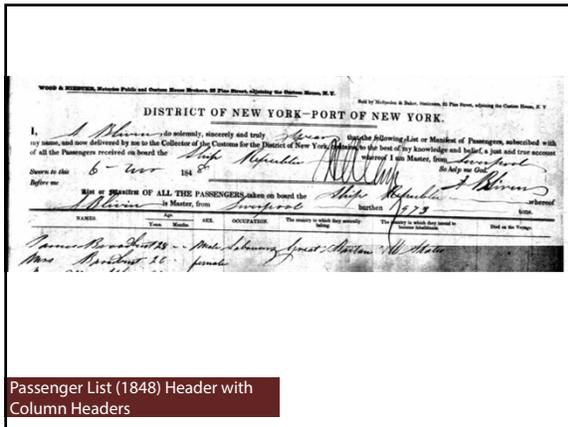
Detail	Source
Name	Micheal Caughlin
Gender	Male
Age	22
Birth Date	abt 1826
Departure Port	Liverpool, England
Arrival Date	6 Nov 1848
Arrival Port	New York, New York, USA
Ship Name	Republic

Ancestry.com

14

Passenger List (1848)

15



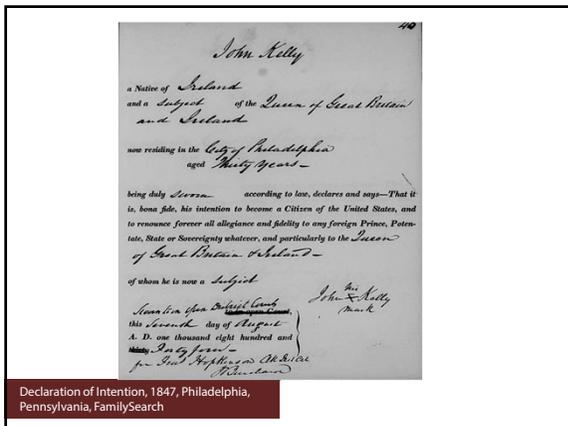
Passenger List (1848) Header with Column Headers

16

Early Naturalization Records

- Pre-1906 naturalization records lack the detail and consistency in format we see with later federal records.
- The individual courts had their own formats.
- Most records only list the country where the applicant came from
- Early records don't always list the arrival year in the United States, making these records more challenging
- Witnesses are not always listed

17



Declaration of Intention, 1847, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, FamilySearch

18

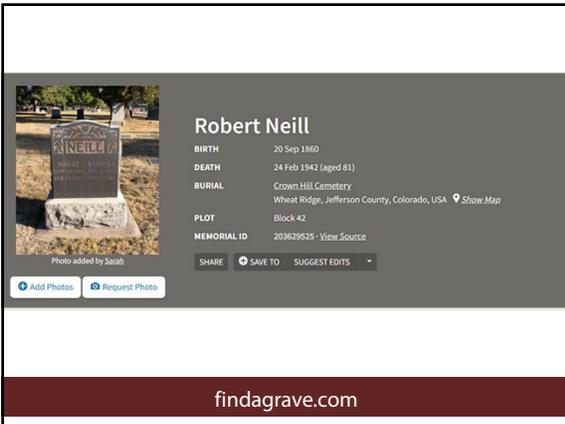
Case Study: Robert Neil

19

Robert Neill

- b. 1861 Scotland
- Immigrated circa 1883 to the United States
- Married Martha in 1886 (she was also from Scotland)
- 1910 – Lived in Denver, Colorado
 - Occupation = electrician at an electric company
 - Children: Martha and Jessie were both born in New York
 - Robert and Martha had four children total, all four living
- d. 1942

20



Robert Neill

BIRTH 20 Sep 1860

DEATH 24 Feb 1942 (aged 81)

BURIAL Crown Hill Cemetery
Wheat Ridge, Jefferson County, Colorado, USA [Show Map](#)

PLOT Block 42

MEMORIAL ID 203629525 · [View Source](#)

Photo added by Sarah

[Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#)

[SHARE](#) [SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)

findagrave.com

21

Robert Neil
Migration • New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1920

VIEW ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

Name: Robert Neil
Sex: Male
Age: 23
Birth Year (Estimated): 1860
Birthplace: Scotland
Nationality: Scotland
Event Type: Immigration
Event Date: 1883
Event Place: New York County, New York, United States
Event Place (Original): New York City, New York, United States
Affiliate Film Number: 471
Affiliate Publication Number: M227
Affiliate Publication Title: Passenger Lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1897
Ship Name: Ethiopia

Free
ATTACH TO FREE
Similar Records
No similar records were found.

FamilySearch.org

22

District of the City of New York, Port of New York.

List of Arrivals of all the Passengers who arrived at the Port of New York, on the 8th day of November, 1883.

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Country	Remarks
10	Neil, Robert	23	M	Lab.	Scotland	
11	Neil, John	20	M	Lab.	Scotland	
12	Neil, Mary	18	F		Scotland	
13	Neil, James	15	M		Scotland	
14	Neil, Elizabeth	12	F		Scotland	
15	Neil, William	10	M		Scotland	
16	Neil, Margaret	8	F		Scotland	
17	Neil, Robert	6	M		Scotland	
18	Neil, John	4	M		Scotland	
19	Neil, Mary	2	F		Scotland	
20	Neil, James	1	M		Scotland	
21	Neil, Elizabeth	1	F		Scotland	

Passenger List (1883)

23

Robert Neil

- Born circa 1860 in Scotland
- Arrived 8 Nov. 1883 at age 23 in the port of New York aboard the ship *Ethiopia*
- The ship left from Glasgow [Scotland]
- Occupation = laborer
- Arrived with four pieces of luggage

24

Goals

- Prove or disprove the 1883 passenger list for Robert Neill is the correct one
- Identify the parentage and origins of Robert in Scotland

25

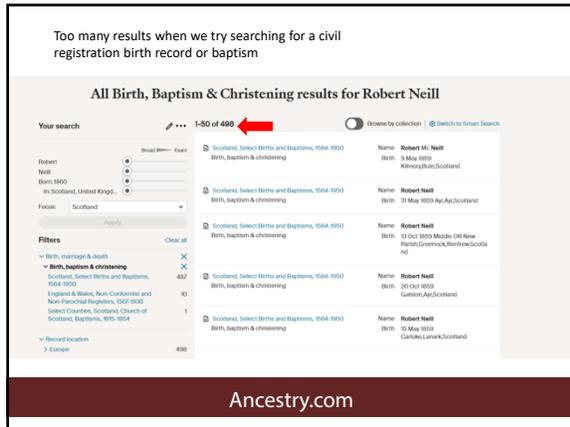
Candidates

26

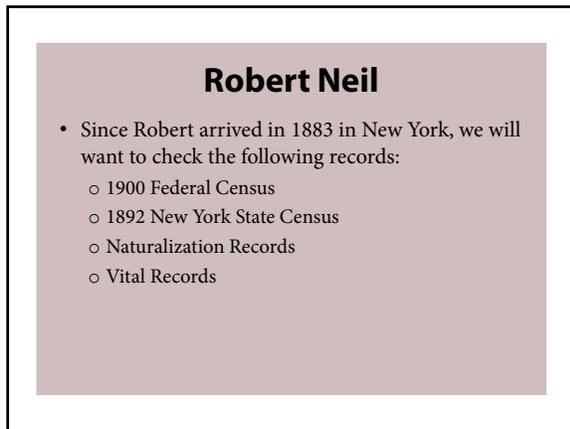
Building a List of Candidates

- When researching a common name, it helps to make a list of candidates in the same location/time period you're researching
- Format options:
 - Word document
 - Excel spreadsheet
 - Software

27



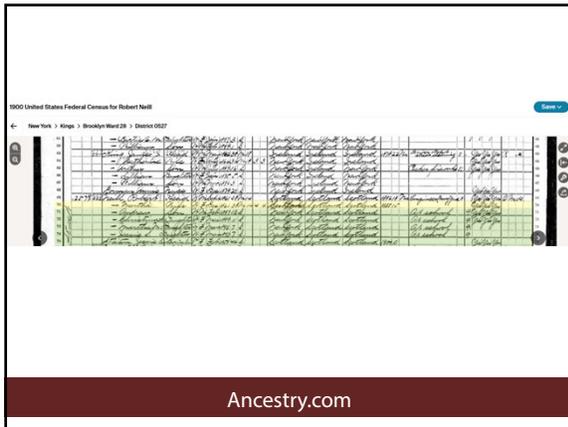
28



29



30



34

Candidate 1 – Robert Neill of Brooklyn

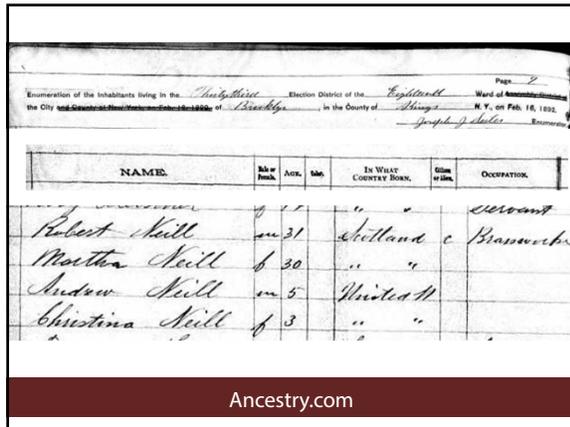
- Born Sep. 1861 Scotland
- Arrived 1882
- Worked as an engineer in the navy yard
- Lived at 125 Cooper Street, Brooklyn, New York
- Listed as naturalized ("Na" in Column 18)
- Married 14 years
- Family includes wife Martha, four children (Andrew, Christina, Martha, and Jessie, and sister-in-law, Jessie Straiton)
 - Wife Martha and SIL Jessie were born in Scotland, children born in New York (oldest born 1887)

35

Robert Neill
in the New York, U.S., State Census, 1892

Detail	Source
Name	Robert Neill
Birth Year	abt 1861
Birth Place	Scotland
Age	31
Gender	Male
Citizenship	Citizen
Residence Place	Brooklyn, Kings
Ward	Ward 18
Election District	33

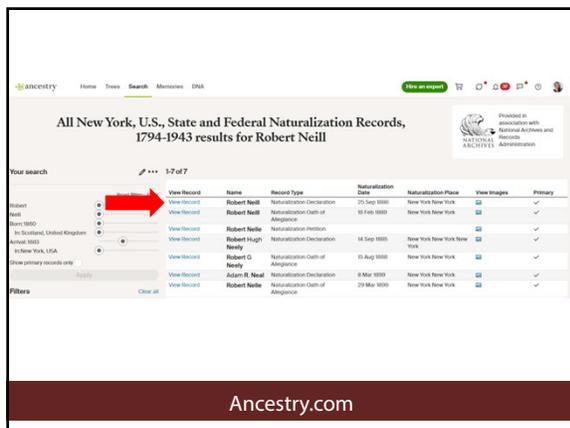
36



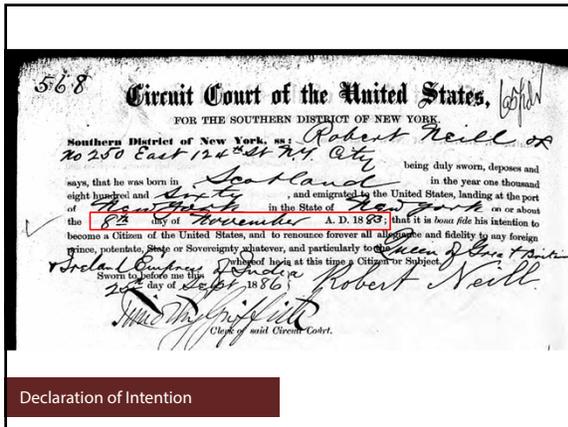
37



38

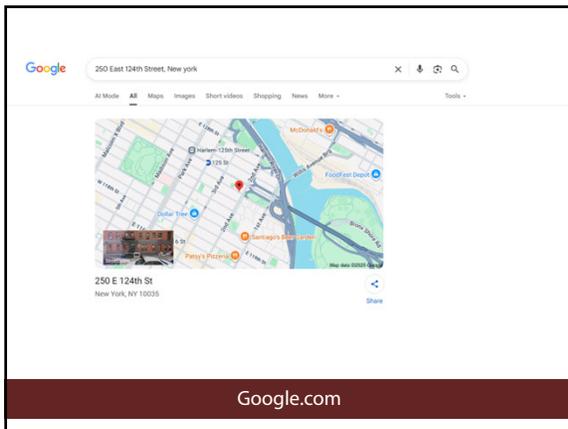


39



Declaration of Intention

40



Google.com

41

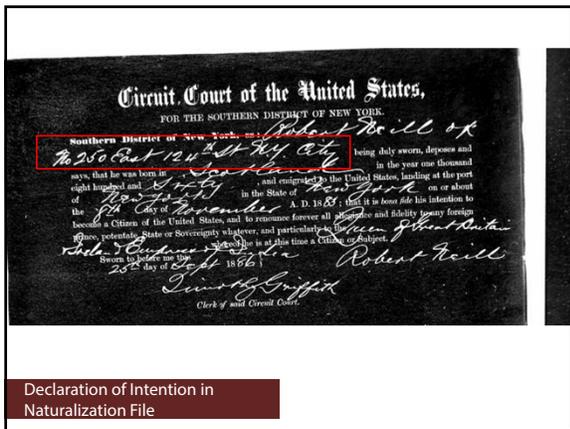
Candidate #2 – Robert Neill of Manhattan, New York

- Born in 1860 in Scotland
- Arrived 8 Nov. 1883 in the port of New York [same date as passenger list]
- On 25 Sep. 1886, declared his intention to become a citizen in the Circuit Court in Manhattan
- Resided at 250 East 124th Street [Harlem, Manhattan, New York]
- No occupation listed

42

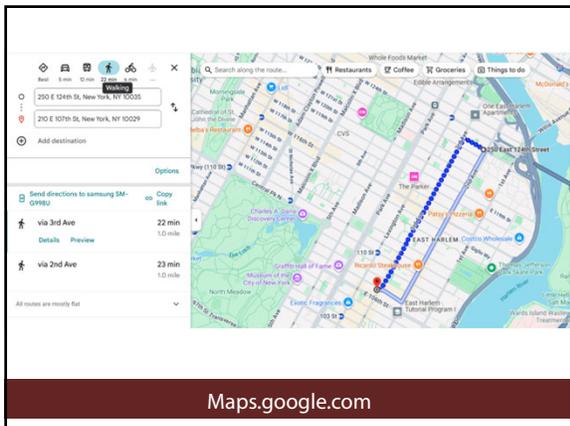
Tip:
 Review the pages before and after the page you're on to find associated documents with the same file

46



Declaration of Intention in Naturalization File

47



Maps.google.com

48

Let's Recap Where We Are

- Both Robert Neill candidates are involved in brasswork
 - 1892 New York State Census – Candidate #1
 - 1889 Naturalization Petition – Candidate #2
- Why can't we find Candidate #2 in the census?
- Let's look at vital records for Candidate #1's children for more clues

49

STATE OF NEW YORK. 10480830
County of New York. City of New York.
BIRTH RETURN. 251

1. Name of Child *Andrew Neill*
2. Sex *M* {Color or Race, *W.* if other than the White} Date of Birth. *Feb 9* 1887
3. Place of Birth (Street and Number) *250 E. 124th St*
4. Name of Father *Robert Neill* [If out of wedlock and name not given, write O. W.]
5. Full Name of Mother *Morcha Stratton*
6. Maiden Name of Mother
7. Birthplace (Country or State) of Mother *Scotland* Age *26* years
8. " " of Father *W.* Age *27* years Occupation *Brass Finisher*
9. Number of Child of Mother (whether 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) *1st* How many of them now living *1*
10. Name and address of Medical Attendant or other authorized person, in own handwriting; Signature *David Buckley M.D.* Address *2007 Lexington Ave*
11. Date of this Return *Feb. 9th 1887*

50

STATE OF NEW YORK. 7606 Form 1. City of New York.
County of New York. No. of Certificate
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH. 7606

1. Name of Child *Christina Neill*
2. Sex *F* {Color or Race, *W.* if other than the White} Date of Birth. *March 9* 1889
3. Place of Birth (Street and Number) *210 E. 47th St*
4. Name of Father *Robert Neill* [If out of wedlock and name not given, write O. W.]
5. Full Name of Mother *Morcha Stratton*
6. Maiden Name of Mother
7. Birthplace (Country or State) of Mother *Scotland* Age *27* years
8. " " of Father *W.* Age *28* years Occupation *Brass Worker*
9. Number of Child of Mother (whether 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.) *2^d* How many of them now living *2*
10. Name and address of Medical Attendant or other authorized person, in own handwriting; Signature *David Buckley M.D.* Address *1998 Lexington Ave*
11. Date of this Return *March 9th 1889*

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Only One Candidate

- The address listed on son Andrew Neill's birth record (1887), 250 East 124th Street, matches the address on declaration of intention of Candidate #2
- The address listed on daughter Christina's birth record (1889), 210 E. 77th Street, matches the naturalization petition of Candidate #2
- Candidate #1 and Candidate #2 appear to be the same person
- The 1883 passenger list appears to be correct

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QUESTIONS?

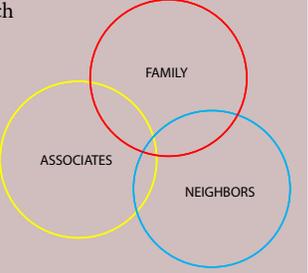
53

**Cluster/FAN Club
Research**

54

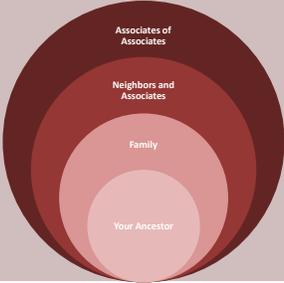
Cluster Research

- Widen your search
- F-A-N
 - Family
 - Associates
 - Neighbors



55

Expanding your search



56

F- Family

- Study siblings
- Research parents of spouse(s)



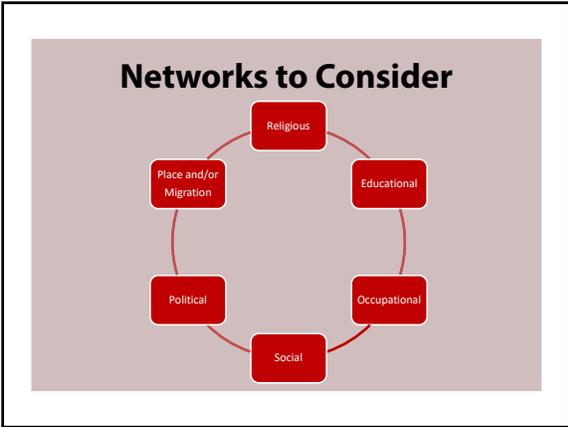
57

A- Associates

- Associates through work, culture, or leisure
- Look for relevant records in various areas



58



59

Religious Associates

- Pastors/ministers/priests/rabbis, etc.
- Witness to religious family events
- Godparents
- Church organizations

60

Educational Associates

- People that graduated in the same class
- Participants in the same sports or clubs
- Friends that signed your ancestor's yearbook
- Teachers or professors in their field at the time they attended
- Colleagues that published with an ancestor

61

Occupational Associates

- When searching census records, note those close by with the same or similar occupation
- Research the employers/owners of the institutions where your ancestor worked
- Labor Unions or Workmen's Organizations
- Note the history of the industry in the area (this could reveal if they moved there for that occupation)

62

Social Groups

- Fraternal organizations
- Genealogical organizations
- Hobby organizations

63

Political

- Political Organizations
- Political involvement of your ancestor (if any)
- Tribal affiliations
- Loyalists

64

Place and/or Migration

- Did your family reside in the same place for a number of generations? What other families did as well?
- Did your family migrate somewhere? What other families made the same migration?
- Who was your ancestor headed to live with when they emigrated?
- Who was a witness for your ancestor's naturalization papers?

65

N - Neighbors

- Individuals living at neighboring addresses
- People enumerated before/after your ancestor in the census
- People living on the same street as your ancestor
- Abutters named in deeds
- Adjacent owners on property maps



66

Analyzing 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?
- If the answer is NO to all, consider another strategy

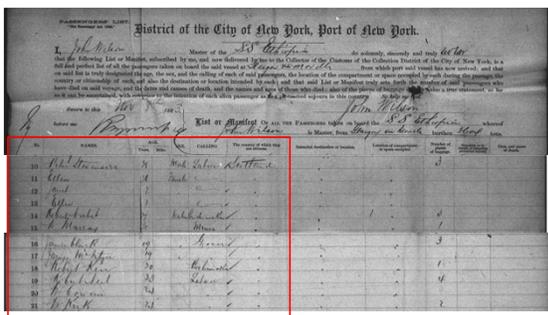


67

Robert Neill's FAN Club

- Sponsors/godparents on children's baptism records
- Witness who provided an affidavit for naturalization
- Brassworkers who lived in the same neighborhood as Robert
- Other passengers from Scotland on the 1883 passenger list
- Neighbors in the census who are also from Scotland

68



No.	NAME	RANK	REGISTRATION	RESIDENCE	EDUCATION	RELIGION	OTHER
10	McIntyre	1
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

Passenger List (1883)

69

Some of the Passengers Aboard the S.S. Ethiopia from Scotland (1883)

- Peter Stevenson (laborer) with presumed wife Ellen and two children (Janet and Ellen)
- Robert Nisbet
- W. Murray
- James Clark
- James McIntyre
- Robert Kerr
- W. Cowan
- W. Kirk
- John Jardine
- John McNeil
- David Troupe
- James Thomson
- Richd Gardner
- James Kenrick
- Charles Cleft
- Alex Mitchell
- David Stevens
- James Watson
- Mary Collins and presumed son Jacob
- William Smith
- James Sillin

70

Naturalization Petition (1889)

71

Affidavit for Naturalization

72

Neighbors Abstracted from Census from Scotland

- 1892 New York State
 - Alexander Craig (age 34) - Carpenter – Alien status with family and possible MIL, Mary Kelly
 - Daniel McLaughlin (age 25) - Shipbuilder – Citizen
 - Alex Stewart (age 36) - Shipbuilder – Citizen
 - John Courson (age 34) - Shipbuilder - Alien

73

Alexander Craig

- b. May 1858 Scotland
- Children, Thomas, William, and Agnes, born in Scotland (1879, 1882, and 1884 respectively)
- Arrived on 18 Apr. 1887 (age 28) aboard the S.S. Furnessia from Glasgow, Scotland
 - Occupation = joiner
- 1900 – Lived in Newark, New Jersey – filed his first papers to become a citizen

74

Alexander Craig
in the 1881 Scotland Census

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
Alexander Craig	22	Head
Margaret Craig	21	Wife
Thomas Craig	1	Son
William Craig	5 Mo	Son
William Craig	21	Brother

1881 Scotland Census Abstract

75

Neighbors Abstracted from Census from Scotland Cont'd

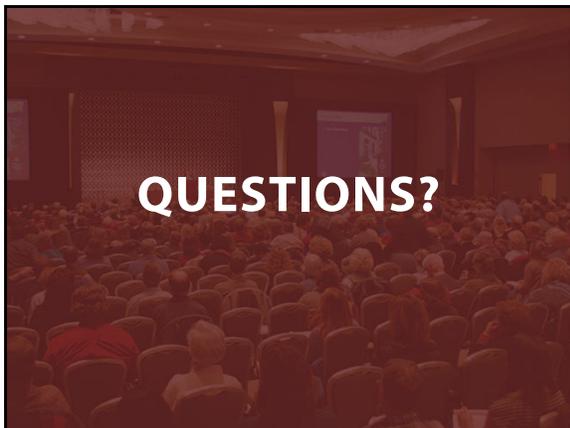
- 1900 U.S. Federal Census
 - John Brand (age 40) – Tile Setter – Naturalized
 - His naturalization record did not list where he was born
 - 1881 Scotland Census – possibly lived as a lodger with John Bell family in Glasgow. Occupation = tile layer
 - m. Isabella Walker on 21 Apr. 1885 in Manhattan
 - Marriage record listed birthplace as London, England
 - Parents' names listed as John William Brand and Sarah Cutler
 - Died 4 May 1936 – obituary did not list where in Scotland he was from

76

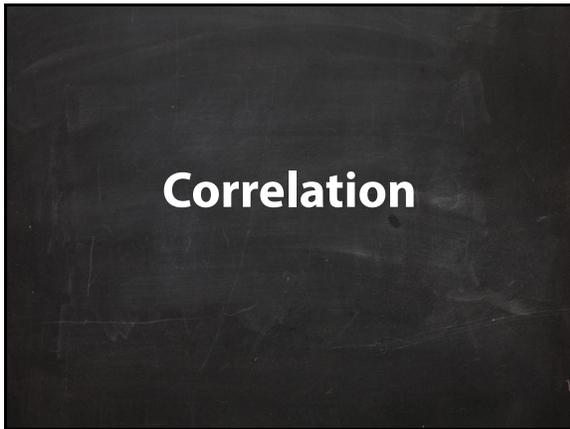
FAN Club Summary

- Neighbor Alexander Craig, carpenter, came from Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
- Neighbor John Brand, tile setter, originally came from London, England but may have lived in Glasgow before coming to America.
- John M. Cruise who provided witness affidavit for naturalization was also a brass finisher. He likely worked with Robert Neill. His origins are unknown in Scotland.

77



78



79

Types of Evidence

- Always applies to a specific fact, e.g.
 - Who is the father of Nehemiah Smith?
 - What is the date of birth of Anna?
- Direct: Answers the question by itself, e.g.
 - Record specifies the parent's names
 - Record includes date of birth

80

Types of Evidence (cont.)

- Indirect: Relevant, but does not stand alone, e.g.
 - Owns a plot of land that was documented as being owned by father, in a time period where land was typically passed father to son
- Negative: Absence of information
 - No children on 1820 census, but four children on 1830 census – Provides evidence that children had to have been born after 1820

81

Evidence Questions

- Does a single piece of evidence answer my question? (Direct)
- Do multiple pieces of evidence when combined answer my question (Indirect)
- What evidence should have been present if the hypothesis was correct?

82

Resolving Conflicting Evidence

- State the conflict
- Give possible explanations why the conflict exists
- Solve the conflict through source and information analysis and correlation of different pieces of evidence

83

When was Robert Neill born?

Source	Information	Evidence
Find-a-Grave Gravestone	Lists birth date as 20 Sep. 1860	Direct for year
Passenger List (1883)	Age given as 23 (birth year 1860)	Birth year about 1860 (Indirect)
Declaration of Intention (1886)	Born in 1860	Direct for year
Son Andrew's birth record (1887)	Age given as 27	Birth year about 1860 (Indirect)
Daughter Christina's birth record (1889)	Age given as 28	Birth year about 1861 (Indirect)
NY 1892 Census	Age given as 31	Birth year about 1861 (Indirect)
U.S. 1900 Census	Birth date given as Sep. 1861 (with age given as 39)	Direct for year

84

Correlate and Resolve Conflicts

- Two pieces of evidence directly gives the birth year of 1860
- One piece of evidence directly gives the birth year of 1861
- Two pieces of indirect evidence agrees that birth year was 1860.
- Two pieces of indirect evidence agree that birth year was 1861
- Conclusion? Birth year is 1860.

85

Scottish Naming Patterns

- 1st son named after father's father
- 2nd son named after mother's father
- 3rd son named after father
- 1st daughter named after mother's mother
- 2nd daughter named after father's mother
- 3rd daughter named after mother

Source: Scotland's People

86

Robert Neil

in the Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950

Detail	Source
Name	Robert Neil
Gender	Male
Birth Date	20 Sep 1860
Birth Place	Tradeston,Glasgow,Lanark,Scotland
Father	Andrew Neil
Mother	Christina Meiklem

[Report a problem](#)

[Save](#)

Birth Abstract, Scotland, FamilySearch

87

1856 MARRIAGES in the Parish of *Tallich* in the County of *Lanark*

No.	When, Where, and How Married	Epithets of Groom	Age	Birthplace	Rank or Standing and Trade or Profession of Groom	Rank or Standing and Trade or Profession of Bride	Age	Birthplace	Rank or Standing and Trade or Profession of Bride	Signature of Minister of the Gospel
13	At the Parish Church of Tallich	John James	26	London	Merchant	Elizabeth	24	London	Wife of John James	James
14	At the Parish Church of Tallich	John James	26	London	Merchant	Elizabeth	24	London	Wife of John James	James

Civil Registration, Marriage, 1856, Scotland's People

97

You searched for - Surname: *Neill*, Surname options: *Exact names only*; Forename: *Andrew*, Forename options: *Names that begin with*; Gender: *Male*; Year of death range: *From 1871 to 1881*; County/city/Minor records: *ALL*

Showing 1 to 5 of 5 (1 pages)

Surname	Forename	Age at death	Mother's Maiden Name	Gender	Year	Ref	ID Name
NEILL	ANDREW	71	SPERS	M	1880	737 / 11	Eccles View (5 credits) Order certificate
NEILL	ANDREW	2	JAMESON	M	1876	644 / 8 / 947	Milton View (5 credits) Order certificate
NEILL	ANDREW	11	YOUNG	M	1878	644 / 1 / 173	Bridgton View (5 credits) Order certificate
NEILL	ANDREW	46	LAW	M	1879	644 / 13 / 38	Tradeston View (5 credits) Order certificate
NEILL	ANDREW	36	DICKSON	M	1873	671 / 7	Torphichen View (5 credits) Order certificate

www.scotlandspople.gov.uk

98

1879 DEATHS in the Parish of *St. Andrew* in the County of *West Lothian*

No.	Date of Burial	When and Where Died	Age	Sex	Rank or Standing and Trade or Profession of Deceased	Place of Birth	Signature of Minister of the Gospel
17	1879	At the Parish Church of St. Andrew	71	M	Merchant	London	James
18	1879	At the Parish Church of St. Andrew	71	M	Merchant	London	James

Civil Death Registration, 1879, Scotland's People

99

Summary on Parentage and Origins

- Gravestone noted birth date as 20 Sep. 1860
- There was a birth recorded with the same date with parents Andrew Neill and Christina Meiklem in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
 - Oldest children's first names were Andrew and Christina
- In 1881, he went to live with the Pollock family and was working as a compass maker
 - This occupation requires working with metals like brass

100

Conclusion

- Robert Neill was most likely the son of Andrew Neill and Christina Meiklem born on 20 Sep. 1860 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
- He emigrated to the United States in 1883.

101

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org

102



103



104



105



106