

**Getting Organized:
Research, Files, Findings**
Class 4: Organizing Your Findings
Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist
Original work compiled by Ann G. Lawthers
THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER
 **American Ancestors.**
A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



Rhonda R. McClure
Senior Genealogist

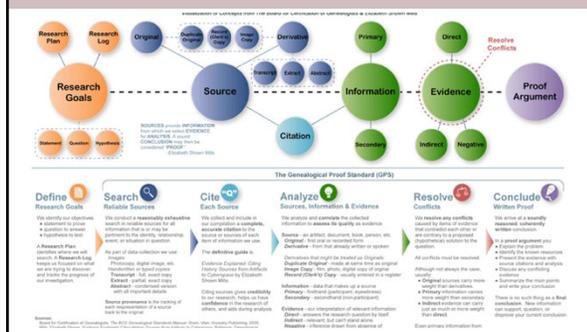
OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Genealogical Proof Standard and analysis
 - Organizing tools
 - Working with your findings
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

Why Bother With A Proof Standard?

- Guides your evaluation of evidence
- Provides a framework for putting together a credible argument for a genealogical fact, e.g. who are the parents of Jacob Homer?
- Helps you feel secure with your conclusions, especially when your only evidence is indirect

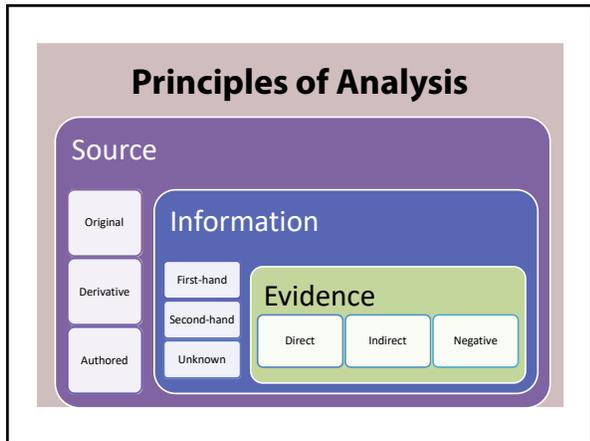
Research Roadmap with GPS



Reasonably Exhaustive Research

- Reviewing a variety of record sets for a specific location and period, including browsable records
- It is not reasonable to go to every local historical society or repository in-person to do your research
- Leverage photocopy/lookup services for items that you can't find on web sites like FamilySearch.org or AmericanAncestors.org

Tip
Consider setting up a consultation with a professional genealogist to review your findings.



Analyze

- Evaluate the **Source**
 - Original: first recorded form
 - Derivative: from something already written or spoken
 - Authored: compiled
- Evaluate the **Information**
 - Primary: first-hand (participant)
 - Secondary: secondhand (non-participant)
- Evaluate the **Evidence**
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Negative

Definitions: Sources and Records

- A **source** is a coherent collection of **records** created by a single jurisdiction or a single author for a defined purpose.
- A **record** is that portion of a **source** which pertains to a single event.

Robert Charles Anderson, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis*
(Boston: NEHGS, 2014) p. 1

Tools to Organize Your Findings

Reminder – Use the Basic Tools!

- Multi-Generational Chart (aka Pedigree Chart)
- Family Group Sheet
- Research Plan Template
- Annotated Research Log

Timelines

- Concentrate on chronology
- Are not limited to a family unit
- Can be used in a variety of ways
- Can be created in many different apps
- Can include historical events along with family events

Timelines for Historical Context

- Incorporate historical events with events of an ancestor or ancestors
- Show cause and effect of certain events
- Offer insight into the whys of your ancestor's choices
- Could explain emigration, migration, disappearing family members

Timeline of Quebec History
with Geoffrion Facts

Key		
Geoffrion Entries	Epidemics	Fur Trading Entries
Date	Fact	Notes
24 Jul 1534	Jacques Cartier plants a cross on the Gaspé Peninsula and claims it for France ¹	
1535	Jacques Cartier arrived at Stadacona ²	
1541	Cartier, second in command under Jean François de La Rocque, sieur de Roberval, « crossed the Atlantic again bringing hundreds of settlers with them, many of whom came straight from prison.» ³	
1600	Pierre de Chauvin de Tonnetuit founds a trading post at Tadoussac.	
1603	Samuel de Champlain takes possession of lands he calls (Newfoundland) and Acadie (Acadia)	
1603	King Henry IV commissions an exploratory and settlement expedition	Henri IV had appointed the duc de Montmorency, admiral of France as lieutenant general, with the power to grant lands in seigneurial tenure. ⁴ This commission included transporting 60 people ("vagabonds, if others could not be had") ⁵
3 Jul 1608	L'Habitation (Quebec City) founded by Samuel de Champlain	

¹ Jacques Lacoursière and Robin Philpot, *A People's History of Quebec*, p. 9
² Lacoursière and Philpot, *A People's History of Quebec*, p. 11
³ Lacoursière and Philpot, *A People's History of Quebec*, p. 11
⁴ William J. Eccles, *The French in North America, 1500-1783*, rev. ed., p. 15.
⁵ William J. Eccles, *The French in North America, 1500-1783*, rev. ed., p. 15.

Every fact or information in a note has a source citation.

Timeline: History & Family





Working with Your Findings

- Likely to use more than one single record
- Likely to use more than one form or method of tracking the research
- Should keep files in your digital filing system as you progress

Family of John Pulling

- Lived in the North End of Boston
- Attended the “Old North Church”
- Children baptized at the “Old North Church”
- Married, as a second wife, 1770s, Sarah (Thaxter) McBean
- Died in 1787

Research Plan Template

Research Question
When did John Pulling (bap. Boston, Suffolk Co., Mass., 27 Feb. 1736/7; d. Boston, 25 Jan. 1787) marry his second wife, Sarah (Thaxter) McBean (b. ca. 1746; d. Abington, Plymouth Co., Mass., 17 Dec. 1843).

Research Subject			
Name	Birth date and place	Spouse, marriage, and place	Death date and place
John Pulling	bap. 27 Feb. 1736/7 Boston, Suffolk, Mass.	m1 Annis Lee, m2 Sarah (Thaxter) McBean	25 Jan. 1787 Boston, Suffolk, Mass.

Family Information:
m1 Manchester, Salem Co., Mass., 14 Jan. 1768, Annis Lee (b. 10 Oct 1743; d. Boston, 19 Aug. 1771):
1. Annis Pulling, bap. Boston (Old North Church), 29 Jan. 1769
2. John Pulling, bap. Boston (Old North Church), 22 July 1770

m2 1770s, Sarah (Thaxter) McBean
3. Sally Pulling, bap. Boston (Old North Church), 10 Nov. 1771

Additional Information:

What is known about the question?	
Fact	Source
	Noticed an immediate discrepancy in information supplied

Record Dates!

The death of his 1st wife doesn't allow for the baptism of this child

Research Planning Sheet

Research Subject			
Name	Birth date and place	Spouse, marriage, and place	Death date and place
John Pulling	bap. 27 Feb. 1736/7 Boston, Suffolk, Mass.	m1 Annis Lee, m2 Sarah (Thaxter) McBean	25 Jan. 1787 Boston, Suffolk, Mass.

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m2 1770s, Sarah (Thaxter) McBean
3. Sally Pulling, bap. Boston (Old North Church), 10 Nov. 1771

Additional Information:

What is known about the question?	
Fact	Source of Fact
Annis (Lee) Pulling, d. Boston, 19 Aug. 1771	"Boyle's Journal of Occurrences," NEHG Register, vol. 84, p. 271 https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/new-england-historical-and-genealogical-register/image?volumeId=116998&pageName=271&id=2365816322
Annis (Lee) Pulling, d. Boston, 13 Aug. 1771 (this differs by 6 days from above reference)	"Christ Church, Boston, Records," NEHG Register, vol. 102, p. 30 https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/new-england-historical-and-genealogical-register/image?volumeId=115882&pageName=30&id=2363696831
Sally Pulling, bap. Boston (Old North Church), 10 Nov. 1771 Mentions parents as John and Sarah (no other identifying information in the abstracts)	"Christ Church, Boston, Records," NEHG Register, vol. 100, p. 234 https://www.americanancestors.org/databases/new-england-historical-and-genealogical-register/image?pageName=234&volumeId=116968&id=2412107422
Sarah (Thaxter) Pulling, dau. of Major Saime & Abigail (Smith) Thaxter of Hingham, Plymouth Co., Mass.	William Richard Cutter, <i>New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial</i> , 3rd series, 4 vols. (N.Y.: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1915), p. 2081

Research Planning Sheet

1st Wife - Annis Lee

2nd Wife - Sarah Thaxter

Removed baptism of Sally Pulling in 1771 for the time being.

Revised Family Group Sheet

What is the working hypothesis?

1. John Pulling could have been unfaithful to his first wife the year of her death. **???**
2. Does the baptismal record suggest illegitimacy of Sally Pulling baptized in 1771. **No, and no maiden name for Sarah**
3. Is there a marriage record in Hingham, Massachusetts for John Pulling and Sarah (Thaxter) McBean? **Yes**
4. How many Pulling children baptized to a John and Sarah at "Old North Church"

Which records will I need?

Record	Purpose	Source/Repository
Hingham, Mass., Vital Records DONE	Search for marriage of John Pulling and Sarah (Thaxter) McBean	American Ancestors, Research Center, Boston, Mass.
Abstracts of "Old North Church" baptismal records	Look for any additional irregularities in baptisms of children for a John Pulling and wife Sarah	New England Historical and Genealogical Record, database, AmericanAncestors.org.

Search Strategy:

Research Planning Sheet

Christ Church (Old North Church)

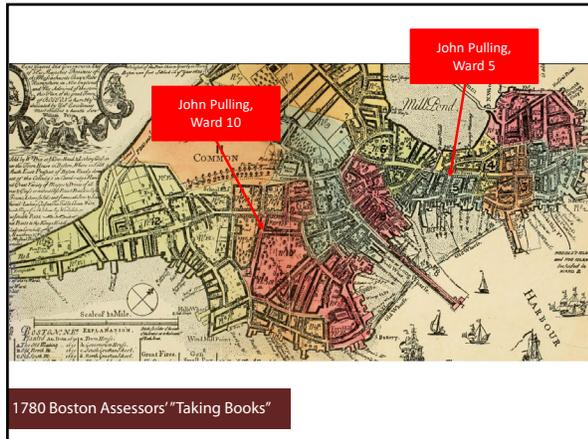
Baptisms for John Pulling and Annis:

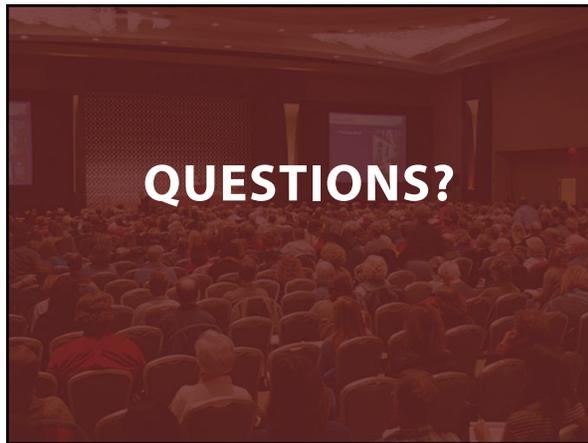
- Annis, bap. 29 Jan 1769
- John, bap. 22 Jul 1770

Baptisms for a John Pulling and Sarah:

- Sally, bap. 10 Nov 1771
- Sarah, bap. 23 May 1773
- Sarah, bap. 24 Oct 1773
- Martha, bap. 11 Jun 1780
- Richard, bap. 4 Aug 1782

DERIVATIVE SOURCE





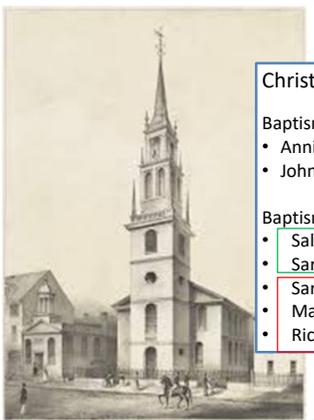


Timeline of John Pulling Families			Timeline of John Pulling Families		
Key			Key		
John Pulling on Sarah Thaxter			Other John Pulling		
Date	Fact	Notes/Thoughts	Date	Fact	Notes/Thoughts
22 Feb 1769 ¹	Baptism of John Pulling, son of John & Martha Phourning Pulling, Boston, "Old North Church"		24 Oct 1773	Baptism of Sarah Pulling, dau. of John and Sarah, Boston, "Old North Church"	Could this be the baptism of John and Sarah Thaxter Pulling? Approximately 9 months after their marriage.
14 Jan 1768	John Pulling marries Ann Lee in Massachusetts, Essex Co., Mass.		11 Jun 1780	Baptism of Martha Pulling, dau. of John and Sarah, Boston, "Old North Church"	
29 Jan 1769	Baptism of Annis Pulling, dau. of John and Annis (Lee) Pulling, Boston, "Old North Church"		4 Aug 1782	Baptism of Richard Pulling, son of John and Sarah, Boston, "Old North Church"	
22 July 1770	Baptism of John Pulling, son of John and Annis (Lee) Pulling, Boston, "Old North Church"		25 Jan 1787	Death of John Pulling, husband of Sarah Thaxter Pulling. He is buried in Coppin Hill Burial Ground in the North End of Boston.	
13 Aug 1771	Death of Annis (Lee) Pulling, Boston	Abstracts of Old North Church records (1769-1773), records of deaths. From Boylston's Journal of Occurrences - published weekly in the newspapers. Genealogy source			
10 Nov 1771	Baptism of Sally Pulling, dau. of John and Sarah, Boston, "Old North Church"	Where is the entry? (Sister daughter of John Pulling and Sarah Thaxter)			
14 Nov 1772	Marriage intentions for John Pulling of Boston, and Mrs. Sarah McBean of Hingham	Marriage from entry through link a state's copy of the original (Hingham old church records)			
3 Jan 1773	Marriage of John Pulling & Sarah McBean, Hingham, Mass.	Transcription entry through link a state's copy of the original (Hingham vital records. Information is listed chronologically)			
23 May 1773	Baptism of Sarah Pulling, dau. of John and Sarah, Boston, "Old North Church"	There is an entry to be daughter of John and Sarah Thaxter Pulling in May. Have only been married for 9 mos.			

Timeline

Analysis of Baptismal Records

- Sally Pulling, bap. 10 Nov 1771:
 - Baptized 3 mos. AFTER Annis (Lee) Pulling died
 - Baptized 14 mos. BEFORE John marries Sarah (Thaxter) McBean
- Sarah Pulling, bap. 23 May 1773
 - Baptized 5 mos. AFTER John marries Sarah (Thaxter) McBean
- Sarah Pulling, bap. 24 Oct 1773:
 - Baptized @ 9 mos after John m. Sarah (Thaxter) McBean
 - Not enough months to have last Sarah, bap. in May and have a new baby



Christ Church (Old North Church)

Baptisms for John Pulling and Annis:

- Annis, bap. 29 Jan 1769
- John, bap. 22 Jul 1770

Baptisms for a John Pulling and Sarah:

- Sally, bap. 10 Nov 1771
- Sarah, bap. 23 May 1773
- Sarah, bap. 24 Oct 1773
- Martha, bap. 11 Jun 1780
- Richard, bap. 4 Aug 1782

Two Men Named John Pulling

John Pulling, b. 1736/7

- Lived in the North End at some point
- Baptized all his children at Christ Church (Old North)
- Involved with the wharfs
- Died 25 Jan 1787

John Pulling, b. ca. 1742

- Lived in the North End at some point
- Baptized two children at Christ Church (Old North)
- Involved with the wharfs
- Died by 28 Sep 1787

Organizing Findings

- Relying on basic forms, helps focus your approach
- Don't dismiss anomalies, research them
- Abstract forms and timelines help with clarity
- Remember these tools will continue to be revised as you work the problem

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org







