

Origins and Migrations: Where Did They Come From, Where Did They Go?

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist
January 22, 2026

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



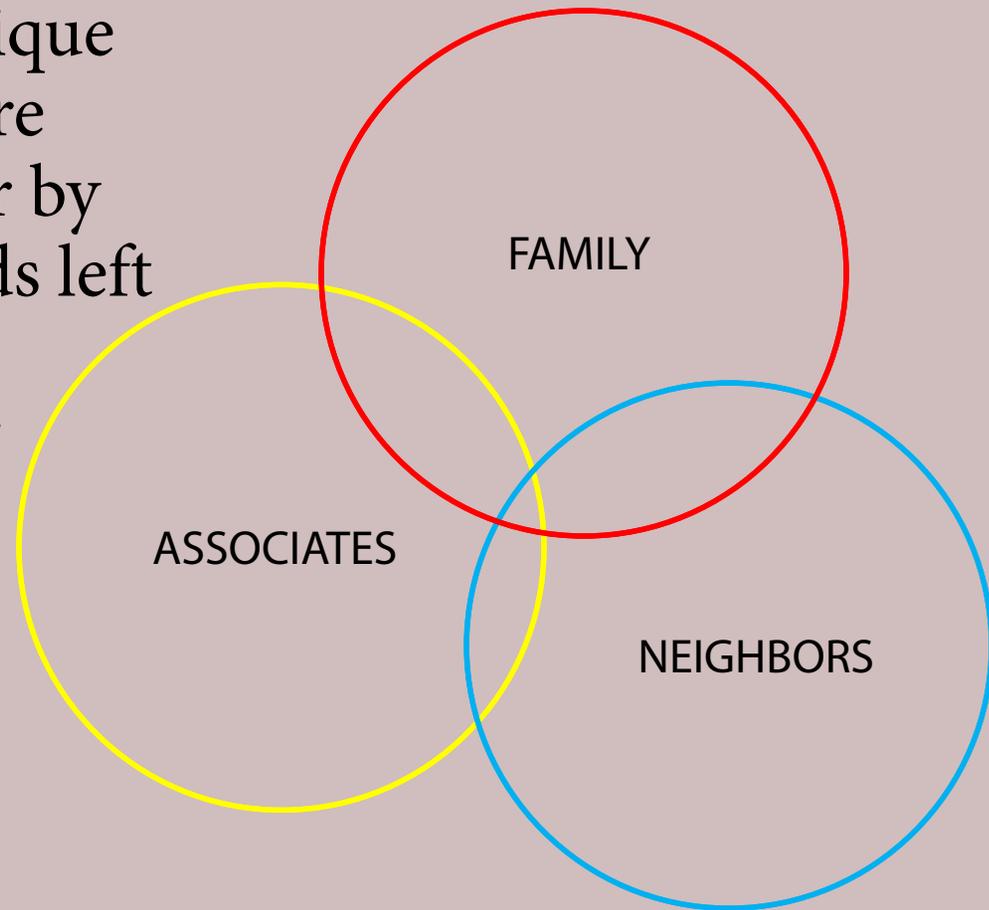
Melanie McComb
Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Overview of Cluster Research
 - Case Study: Origins of Ransom Billings
 - "Follow the Money" Approach
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

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 a parent's birthplace



Associates

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

Reasons to Research Associates

- Trace migrations
- Discover more about military service
- Study a particular place or event – associated places can be important
- Trace 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 portion of the American Ancestors website. The header includes the logo and name "American Ancestors." on the left, and the tagline "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture" in the center. On the right, there are links for "Bookstore", "About Us", and "MY ACCOUNT". Below the header is a navigation bar with categories: "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". Below this text are the logos for "American Ancestors" and "THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER". The video background shows historical documents, including a "BIRTH REGISTERED IN THE CITY OF BOSTON" and a "STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH" for "David Moore, ss Marshall".

Case Study: 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, 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	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; 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
Cemetery Records				
Violet Warren and Jeannette Grosvenor. <i>A Monumental Work: Inscriptions and Internments in Geauga County, Ohio Through 1983</i> (Evansville, IN: Whipporwill Publications, 1985)	Billings		Gauga County, Ohio	no
Local and Reginal Histories				
<i>Biographical History of Northern Ohio: Embracing the Counties of Ashtabula, Geauga and Lake</i> (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893)	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties, Ohio	no
<i>1798 Pioneer and General History of Geauga County, with sketches of some of the pioneers and prominent men</i> (The Historical Society of Geauga	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

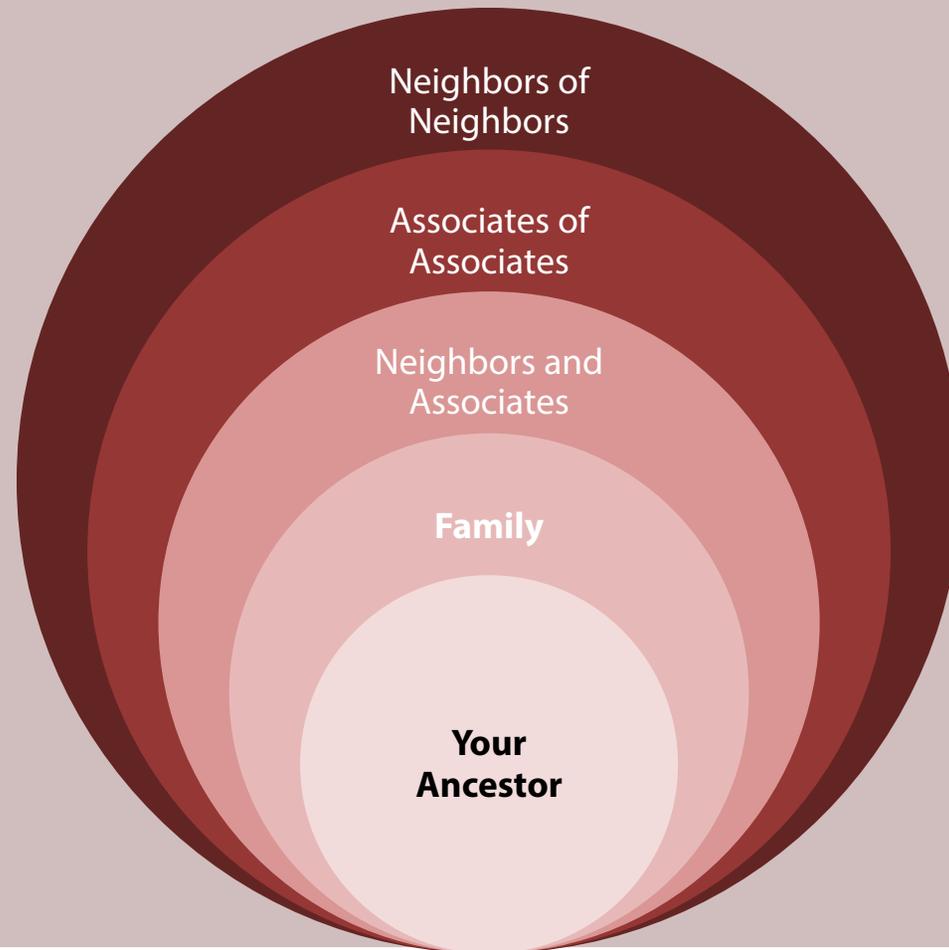
2. Look for missing information and identify your goal

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	
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; 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?
 - U.S. 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 ...
⊕
⋮
◀

6. Research!



QUESTIONS?

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.

1850 U.S. Federal Census, Ashtabula County, Ohio

State of Ohio
 Ass't Marshal

SCHEDULE I. Free Inhabitants in *Dist. N^o 8 Morgan Twp* **in the County of** *Ashtabula* **State** *Ohio*
 of *Ohio* enumerated by me, on the *8th* day of *August* 1850. *D. Cadwell* Ass't Marshal. *867*

13	1	2	3	4			7	8	9	10 11 12			12
				Age	Sex	Color				Married within the year	Deaf and dumb, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict		
	1	837 864	Esya Griffin	58	M		Farmer	400					
	2		Lucia	17	F								
	3		James	22	M		Laborer						
	4		Allert	19	M		Laborer						
	5		Juliette	17	F								
	6		Ellicott	15	M		Laborer						
	7		Poland	7	M								
	8	838 868	Witch Anderson	31	M		Farmer	1500					
	9		Rebecca	26	F								
	10		Wm Munger	20	M		Laborer						
	11	839 866	Una Walden	57	M		Farmer	400					
	12		Mary	54	F								
	13		Manfield	18	M		Laborer						
	14		Mary	16	F								
	15		Luphronia Johnson	23	F								
	16		Carl W	5	M								
	17	840 867	Wm Walden	26	M		Farmer	300					
	18		Sarah	15	F								
	19	841 868	Simon Sharp	38	M		Laborer	150					
	20		Ann	35	F								
	21		Amanda	15	F								
	22		William S.	11	M								
	23		Lydian	6	F								
	24		Sarah A	5	F								
	25		Oscar E	3	M								
	26	842 869	Leith Dale	66	M		Farmer	200					
	27		Ruth	67	F								
	28		Yemas Cutler	33	M		Physician						
	29		Bowman	33	F								
	30		Russel	3	M								
	31		Nathan W	1	M								
	32	843 870	Erastys Deban	45	M		Farmer	1800					
	33		Ruth G	35	F								
	34		Polly M	18	F								
	35		Edwin N	12	M								
	36		Ellen A	10	F								
	37	844 871	Salomon Bellings	24	M		Farmer						
	38		Sarah A	22	F								
	39	845 872	Ransom Bellings	47	M		Lawyer	2500					
	40		Louisa B	36	F								
	41		Louisa M	17	F								
	42		Ann P	15	F								

22 M
26 F

**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

Birth

Location

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

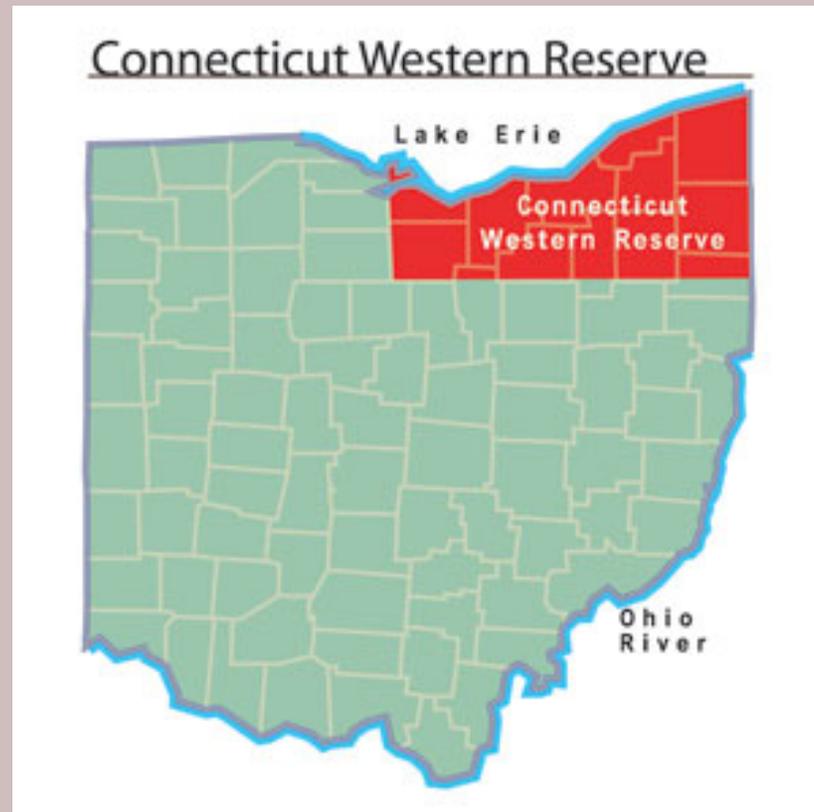
View Record	Name	Home in 1850 (City, County, State)	Birth Year	Birthplace	Gender	View Image
View Record	Alvera Burdick	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1802	Connecticut	Female	
View Record	Edward Woodruff	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 1820	Connecticut	Male	
View Record	George Starr	Morgan, Ashtabula, Ohio	abt 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

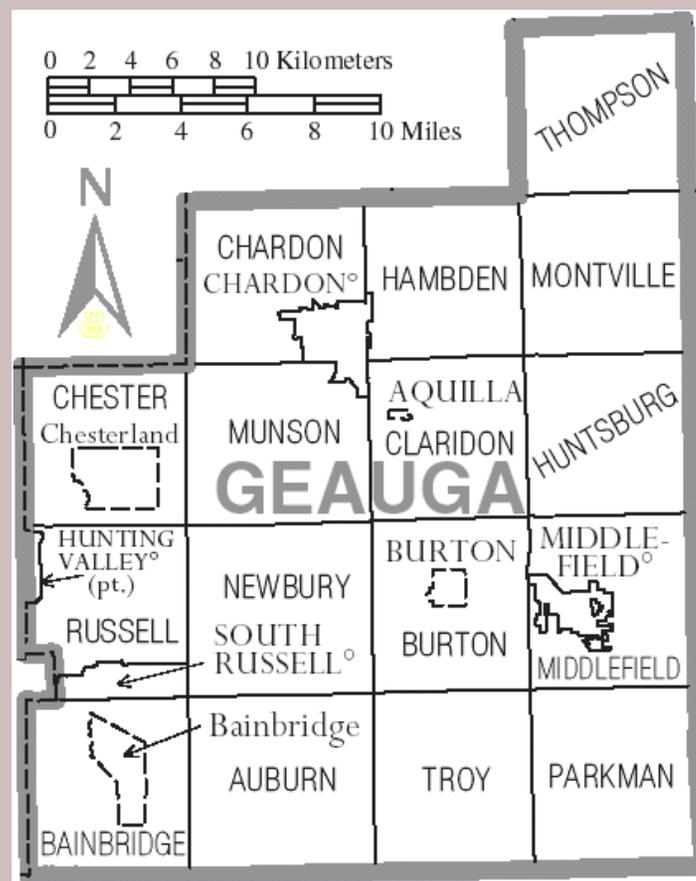
Western Reserve

- 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



Update Your Research Plan

1	Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
2	Vital Records					
3	Birth record	Ransom Billings	1800-1810	Connecticut	no	Nothing in Barbour Collection
	Card File to Geauga County Obituaries, ca. 1800-1900; necrology file.					
4	Abbey, Irma Law-Rummell, Herman. FHL Film No. 1530485	Billings	1800-1900	Gauga County, New York	no	
5	Census Records					
	Activate	Jonathan Allen, Billings	1810	Suffield, Hartford Co., Connecticut	no	
	Activate:	Jonathan Allen	1820	Hambden, Geauga Co., Ohio	yes	
	Ransom Billings_Laura Devan	Billings, Ransom Billings	1830	Ohio		
	Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr	Billings, Ransom Billings	1840	Ohio		
	Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn	Billings, Ransom Billings	1850	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Place of birth, Connecticut, 1803
	Ransom "Jimmy" DeVan Billings	Billings, Ransom Billings	1860	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Place of birth, Connecticut, 1803
	Alvera Burdick					
	Edward Woodruff	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no	
	George Starr	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no	
	Asa Walden	Billings, Ransom Billings	1814-1817, 1860-1861	Ohio	no	
	Harriet Cutler					
	Phileeta Root					
	Jonathan F Baldwin	Billings	1805-1917	Geauga County, Ohio	no	
	Laura Baldwin	Billings	1806-1845	Geauga County, Ohio	no	
	David Baldwin	Ransom Billings	March 1816	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	
	Luther H Baldwin	Jonathan Allen	March 1816	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	
	Ezekiel Y Crowell	Ransom Billings	March 1817	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	
		Billings		Geauga County, Ohio	no	
		sa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr		Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn		

F.A.N.

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

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.

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	
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; 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 Internments in Geauga 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</i>					
	Ransom Billings_Laura Devan	Louisa M. Billings_Carlos Sperr	Ann DeVan Billings_Joseph M. Kn	...	

Enfield, CT



2. 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](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	Cambden					113 $\frac{1}{2}$	
" 20 "	same	" same	4	248	6	10	Thompson					28	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)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
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

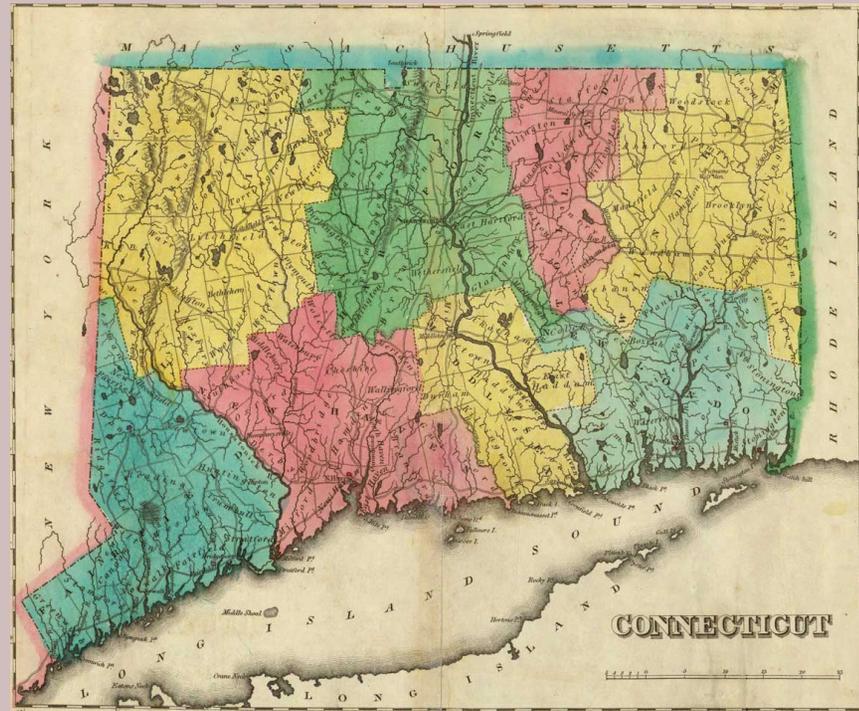
Identify Individuals

- Who are they?
 - Early settlers of Hambden
 - 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

The State of Ohio,
 Geauga County ss 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 Tox Esquire, President, and Abraham Tappan, Vene Stone and Orris Clapp Esquires, Associate Judges of the same Court—

And now at this term came the Administrator of the Estate of Daniel Booth late of Hambleton Deceased and filed his Administration account, and swore to the same in Open Court, which said account is as follows, to wit,

D: Daniel Booth & Marvin Booth, Administrators of the Estate of Daniel Booth Deceased in A/c, with said Estate

To amount of Inventory returned by the Appraisers	\$1450 22c	By Cash paid over to Ursamus Both or minor and one of the heirs of said Estate as per Rec ^t	7 17
Deduct from amount of Real Estate improperly charged	1356 00	" Cash Paid over to Dorothy Pomroy one of the heirs, as per Rec ^t	21 50
	94 22c	" Cash Paid over to Lydia Booth, one of the heirs, as per Rec ^t	22 62
		" Cash paid over to Olive Lamphson, 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 Guardian of Almon Booth, or minor and one of the heirs as per Receipt	7 17
		" Cash Paid to the appraisers	6 50
		" Expense of Advertising	1 38
		" Clerks fees & Clerks hire	3 00
		" Allowance of 6 per cent on settlement of the Estate	3 63
			72 87

1817 Cash paid over to Ursamus Both or 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 Lamphson, 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 Guardian of Almon Booth, or 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 Sappin, 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

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	March 1817	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Heirs of Daniel Booth:Orsamus Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Olive Lampson Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
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)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
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		

▶
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 Laura Devan at Geauga County, Ohio, 23 August 1831, 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
Probate, Wills, and Other Court Records					
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 <family search>	Booth	March 1817	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Heirs of Daniel Booth: Orsamus Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Olive Lampson Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
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)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
Geauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Geauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
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		

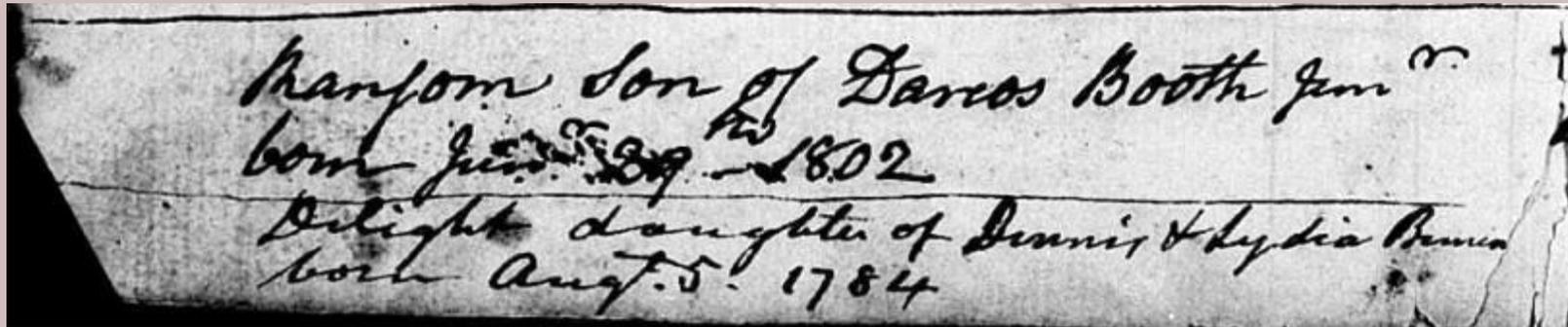
Daniel Booth of Enfield

- 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

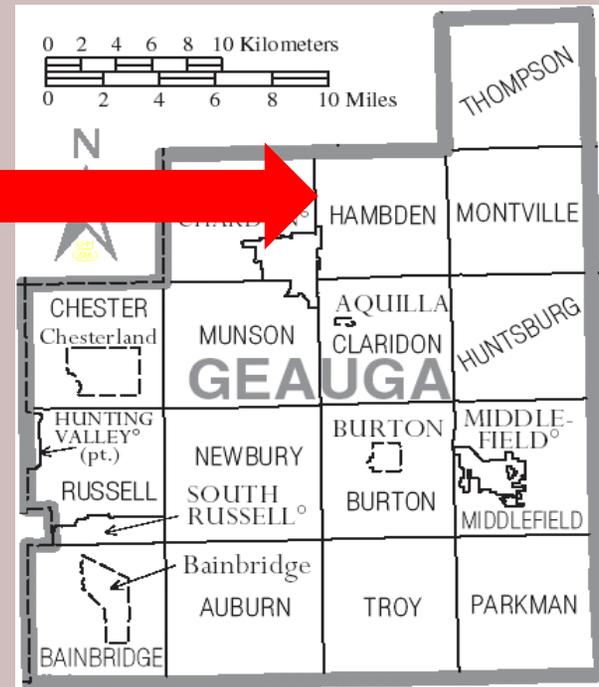
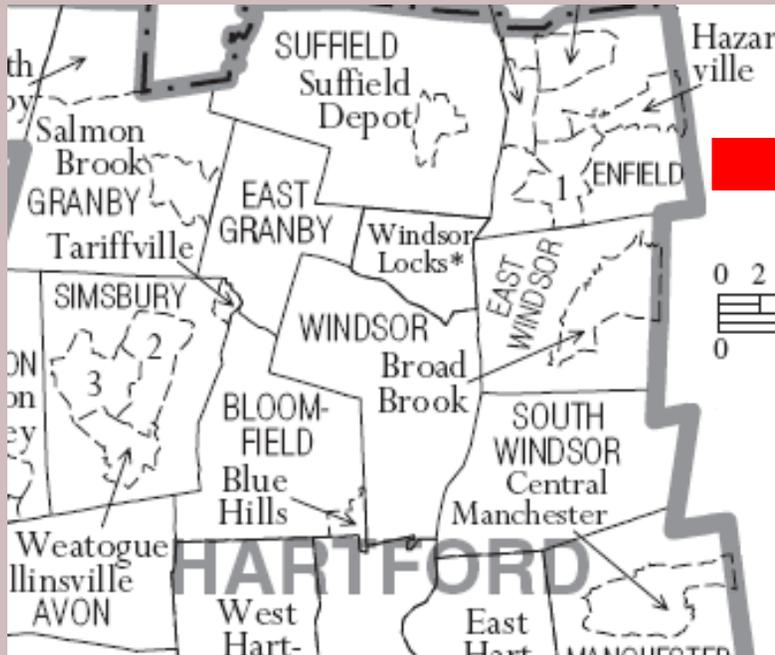
Who is Ransom's mother?



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

Chain Migration

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



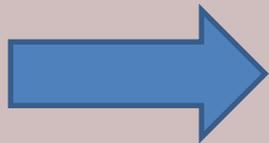
Ransom Billings

- 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



QUESTIONS?

"Follow the Money" Approach

- When vital records do not exist or have significant gaps, we turn to financial records to learn more about our ancestors
- This approach can be used to track an individual's movements through a country or overseas
- It can help clarify relationships between families

Town Records

Types of Town Records

- Ear Marks and Cattle Marks
- Pauper and Orphanage Records
- Tax Assessments
- Town Payments
- Mortgage Records
- Dog Licenses

Pauper and Orphanage Records

- Town officials were responsible for supporting the poor and orphaned children
- Guardians may be appointed to care for orphans who were heirs to property
- Orphaned children may be "bound out" to learn a trade or sent to an institution like an orphanage

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts To the Town of Newburyport for the support of and supplies to sundry Paupers not belonging to this nor any other town in this Commonwealth from June 1st 1830 to July 1st 1831. inclusive.

Support.

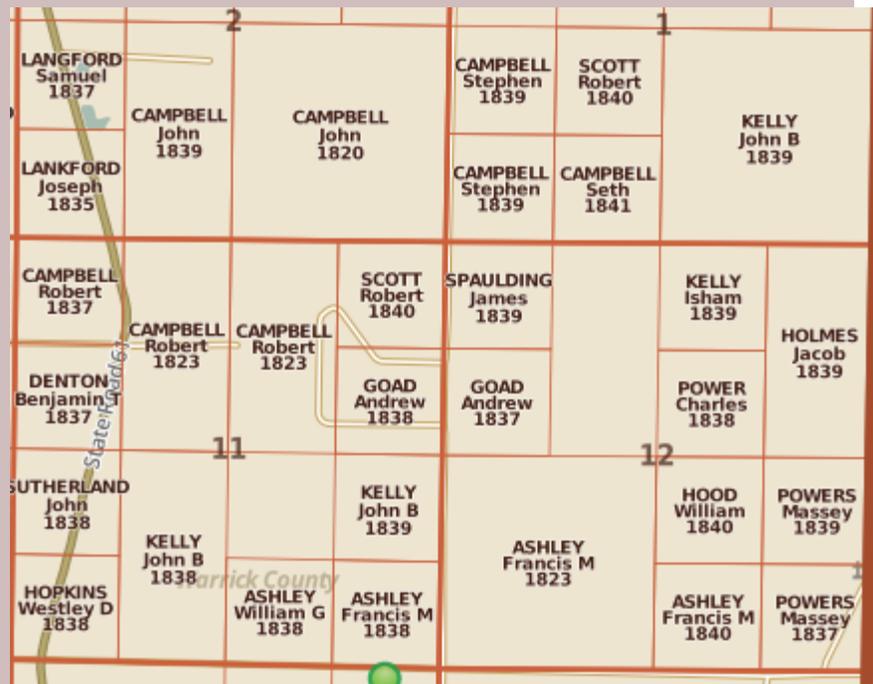
Name	Weeks	Rate	Total
For Ann Ryan	30½	90¢	27 45
Mary Butterfield	30½	do	27 45
Mary Bartlett	30½	do	27 45
Moses Paley	8	do	7 20
John Lyons	30½	do	27 45
John Campbell & wife	30½	180	54 90
Ester Sparrow	30½	90	27 45
Ebenr Small	30½	50	15 25
Mary Aiken	30½	90	27 45
Two Children of Adam Lane	30½	100	30 50
Christopher Grandner	7	90	6 30
James Hogan	30½	50	15 25
Saml Saltus	22	90	19 80
Mary Ann Aiken	30½	90	27 45

Newburyport, MA Welfare Records via FamilySearch

Land Records

Post-1796 Federal Survey System

- Based on a grid
- Township – six square miles, measured N/S from base
- Section – one square mile in a township
- Range – distance E/W from referenced meridian
- Quarter – NE, NW, SE, SW portion of township



Warwick County, Indiana

Bounty Land – Federal

- Revolutionary War
 - Beginning in 1788 soldiers from the Continental Line could apply to the Treasury Department for a land warrant
 - Amount of land depended on rank and length of service
- War of 1812 through the year 1858
 - Non-commissioned officers and soldiers who served at least 5 years

See Clifford Neal Smith, *Federal Land Series*, Chicago: American Library Association, 1973

Bounty Land – State (Rev War)

- For military service: Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia
- For damage inflicted by British: Connecticut
- For neutrality (or military service): Georgia
- Soldiers could “double-dip,” federal and state
- See Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants*, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1996.

Homestead Act of 1862



- Receive up to 160 acres of land – for free
- Any adult citizen over the age of 21 who had not borne arms against the U.S. could apply
- Process
 - File application for \$18
 - Improve the land for 5 years
 - Build a house
 - File for deed of title
- After six months residency could purchase land for \$1.25 per acre

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PRIVATE CLAIMS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

General Land Office Records

[Home](#)
[Search Documents](#)
[Reference Center](#)
[Support](#)
[Pathfinder](#)
Shopping Cart

▶ Search Documents

Search Documents By Type
Search Documents By Location
Search Documents By Identifier

Patents ▶

[Surveys](#)

[LSR](#)

[CDI](#)

[Tract Books](#)

Search
Clear Form

Location

State: ▼

County: ▼

Names

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

search patentees search warrantees

Land Description

Township: -- ▼ / ▼

Range: -- ▼ / ▼

Meridian: ▼

Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office: ▼

Document #:

Indian Allot. #:

Survey #:

Authority: ▼

Issue Date: -- ▼ to -- ▼

Militia:

Tribe: ▼

Geo. Name/
Mining Claim:

[Search Patents](#)

Note: This site does not cover every state, but we do have [resource links](#) for most states.

To search for land patents:

1. Start by selecting the State.
2. **You do not have to fill in all fields**, but provide *at least* one additional field.
3. Click the **Search Patents** button.

Search Tips:

- Hover your mouse over a field to get a brief description.
- Get detailed information by checking the [Glossary](#) in the Reference Center.
- For more tips and help, check out our [Patent Search Overview](#).

BLM

<https://gloreCORDS.blm.gov/search/default.aspx>

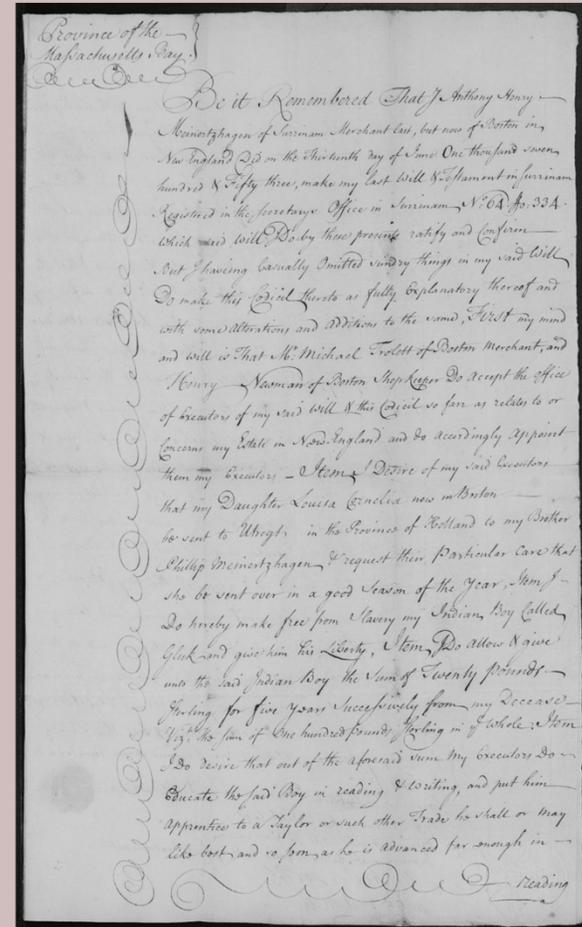
Probate Records

Wills

- A will is a legal document where property is transferred upon the party's death to family, friends, servants, business partners, and the community
- Kept at the county level where the deceased had their primary residence
- Wills can include the following:
 - Names of children (and their spouses)
 - Name of spouse
 - Names of grandchildren, nieces/nephews
 - Names of servants
 - Names of slaves

Codicils

- An addition or change to a will
- Common changes:
 - Add or remove heirs
 - Change distribution of estates
 - Acknowledge deaths of heirs in will
 - Administrators of estate



But Having casually Omitted sundry things in my said Will
Do make this Codicil thereto as fully explanatory thereof and
with some Alterations and Additions to the same, First my mind
and will is That Mr: Michael Trolett of Boston Merchant, and
Henry Newman of Boston Shopkeeper Do accept the office
of Executors of my said Will & this Codicil so far as relates to or
Concerns my Estate in New-England and do accordingly Appoint
them my Executors - Item I Desire of my said Executors
that my Daughter Louisa Cornelia now in Briton
be sent to Utrecht in the Province of Holland to my Brother
Phillip Meinertzhagen, I request their Particular Care that
she be sent over in a good Season of the Year, Item I
Do hereby make free from Slavery my Indian Boy Called
Gluk and give him his Liberty, Item Do allow & give
unto the said Indian Boy the Sum of Twenty pounds -

Codicil, Henry Meinertzhagen, Suffolk
County, Mass, Case 10998

Why isn't someone mentioned in a will?

- Deceased
- Moved away
- Already received their inheritance
- Not yet born/considered a minor when the will was written
- Estrangement

Distributions

- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid and debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
 - List of children if vital records aren't available
 - Married names of daughters
 - Children of deceased heirs

Louis L. Angell

THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE:

July 26 1901

The petition in writing of Louis L. Angell _____ administrator
of the estate of Margaret Revere _____
late of said Providence, deceased, praying for an order of distribution of the balance which may be found in his hands as administrator aforesaid, among the _____ widow and heirs at law of said deceased, which was
on February 13, 1901 _____ received and referred to March 5, 1901 _____ with an order of notice
thereon, and ~~subsequently continued from time to time until this date~~ and subsequently continued from time to time until this date _____ this day for consideration, is now
taken up, notice having been duly given thereon pursuant to said order, and ~~upon consideration of the evidence submitted, no objections being made thereto~~ upon consideration of the evidence submitted,

IT IS ~~ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, That~~ ordered and decreed, That Louis L. Angell as
administrator as aforesaid, pay and distribute ~~the sum of three-fifths (3/5) of the balance in his hands as administrator as~~ the sum of three-fifths (3/5) of the balance in his hands as administrator as
dollars, being the balance in his hands, as administrator aforesaid, among the ~~aforesaid, namely the sum of \$39,248, among the~~ aforesaid, namely the sum of \$39,248, among the
widow and heirs at law of said deceased in the following manner, to: ~~persons and in the proportion hereinafter stated, they being~~ persons and in the proportion hereinafter stated, they being
the only heirs at law of the said Margaret Revere, deceased that can be ascertained at present by this Court, namely:

NAME	PROPORTION	AMOUNT
To Garrett Revere of Barron, Cill County Michael, Ireland	the sum of	\$974.93
To Thomas Foley of Uxbridge, County of Waterford, Ireland	the sum of	\$487.46
To Kate O'Connell of Cobh, County Waterford, Ireland	the sum of	\$487.46
To Margaret Revere now or formerly of Lynn, Massachusetts	the sum of	\$162.49
To Mary Maloney now or formerly of Lynn, Massachusetts	the sum of	\$162.49
To Kate Maloney of Clashmore, County of Waterford, Ireland	the sum of	\$162.49
To Simon Revere of Ballinacorney, County of Waterford, Ireland	the sum of	\$162.49
To John Revere of Ballinacorney, County of Waterford, Ireland	the sum of	\$162.49
To Garrett Revere, of Youghal, County of Cork, Ireland	the sum of	\$162.49

Order of Distribution, Providence, Rhode Island, FamilySearch

Guardianships

- Appointed for minor children
 - Males: under 21
 - Females: under 18
- Guardians protected the inheritance of minor heirs to an estate
 - Can provide financial support
- After minor becomes of age, the guardian is released
 - Guardian would then make an account of compensation

In the Probate Court of Bingham County, State of Idaho

517

In the Matter of the Estate
and Guardianship of Durwood
Saville Butler. a Minor.

DECREE ALLOWING ACCOUNT.

The current account of Emma Jenkins, the guardian of the person and estate of Durwood Saville Butler, a minor heretofore rendered and presented coming on regularly to be heard this day, and proof having been made to the satisfaction of the Court that the Clerk had given notice of the settlement of said account in the manner and for the time heretofore ordered and directed by the court, and no objections being filed thereto, and it appearing that the said account is correct, and that the said guardian and her ward have removed to the State of California, and that the said Emma Jenkins has been appointed guardian of the person and estate of the said minor by the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles,

IT IS ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED That the said current account of the said guardian be and the same is hereby allowed, approved and settled.

Done in open Court this 25th day of January, 1927.

J. E. Good. Judge of said Probate Court.

In the Matter of the Estate
and Guardianship of Durwood
Saville Butler, a Minor.

DISCHARGE OF GUARDIAN.

Emma Jenkins, the guardian of the person and estate of Durwood Saville Butler, a minor, having heretofore filed in this Court her account as such guardian, and the said account having been heretofore allowed, approved and settled, and the said guardian having heretofore removed to the State of California with her said ward, and having heretofore filed her petition for her discharge as such guardian upon her appointment as such guardian in the State of California, and it now appearing that the said Emma Jenkins has been duly appointed as the guardian of the person and estate of the said Durwood Saville Butler, a minor, by the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Los Angeles, and it appearing that there is now no reason for the continuation of the guardianship proceedings in the State of Idaho,

IT IS ORDERED that the said Emma Jenkins be and she is hereby discharged as the guardian of the person and estate of the said Durwood Saville Butler, a minor, and her bond furnished at the time of her appointment as such is hereby discharged and exonerated.

Done in open Court this 25th day of January, 1927.

J. E. Good, Judge of said Probate Court.

Guardianship Records, Bingham County,
Idaho, FamilySearch

Tax Records

Why use tax records?

- Identifies your ancestor at a specific place and time
- Provides information about occupation and housing status not found in other records
- Overlooked source in early published genealogies
- Adds to the life story of your ancestor

Locations for Tax Records

- Tax Assessor's Office
- Historical Societies
- City or State Archives
- Genealogy Websites
- Newspapers
- Published Records
- University/College Collections

486

Assessors Return of Non-Residents. July 5th 1852.

Harvard July 5 1852.

To the Town Clerk of Harvard.

We the Assessors of the Town of Harvard have this day determined that the following Persons, owners of Real Estate in said Harvard but Non-residents shall have their respective Estates set to them in the several School Districts in this town as follows. viz:

District No. 1.

Names.	Place of Residence	Description of R. Estate	True Value	Proportion
William S. Park	Boston	Part of a House Shop & Garden.	600.00	36.00
Samuel W. Taylor	Lancaster	House Barn & Garden.	350.00	21.00
Sylvanus Wetherbee	Newton	House Barn & 40 acres land	1200.00	72.00
Heirs of John L. Folsom	Lowell	A Building spot	20.00	1.20
John M. Porter	Groton	Part of a House & Garden	600.00	36.00
Abijah Lawrence	Bolton	House Barn & 14 acres land	1400.00	84.00
Robert E. Newman	Boston	3 Houses Shop & 2 Garden	2200.00	132.00

Non-Residents Charged, Harvard, Massachusetts, 1852, Ancestry.com

Tax Records Webinar

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

Bookstore About Us MY ACCOUNT

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

Using Tax Records in Your Family History Research

American Ancestors THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

Proctor	Rate	The	Pro	Rate	The	Pro		
8	2	1	5	6	1	2		
6	2	8	10		2	4		
5	3	1	7		1	1		
4	3	1	5	9	1	2		
11	1	2	13	1	2	6		
12		14	3			8		
8	5	1	13	3	2	1	5	
2	6	1	1	6	5	2	1	2

Employment Records

Railroad Records

- Pensions granted by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board starting in 1934
 - Ancestry.com has the Pension Index for 1934-1987
 - Original claim files can be obtained from the National Archives, Atlanta, Georgia
- Each railroad company has their own archives, which include employee records

Search > Schools, Directories & Church Histories

California, U.S., Railroad Employment Records, 1862-1950

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Any Event Day Month Year

Day: ▼ Month: ▼ Year:

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▼

Railroad Description

Employment Start Date Day Month Year

Day: ▼ Month: ▼ Year:

Search **Clear search**

Browse this collection

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

Record Group
 ▼

Description

Year Range

Month or Surname Range

Related data collections

[California Birth Index, 1905-1995](#)
This database is an index to over 24.5 million births occurring in California between 1905 and 1995. Information



C. P. R. R. *Division No 3*

PAY ROLL, NO. *29*, for month of *February* 186*3*

Received from C. CROCKER, Contractor, Central Pacific Railroad Company, the Sums set opposite our respective names, for services performed, during the month of *February* 186*3*

NAMES.	OCCUPATION.	No. Absent Days	Per Diem	Total Amount	Rate per diem.	TOTAL	SIGNATURES.
<i>P. Dolan</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1495</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>1345</i>	<i>P^{ms} Dolan</i>
<i>W. Kearsday</i>	<i>Op. Gunster</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>154</i>			<i>1232</i>	<i>P. to Kearsday</i>
<i>Am. Kelly</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>12 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1293</i>	<i>513</i>	<i>780</i>	<i>Michael Kelly</i>
<i>W. Mc Dermot</i>	<i>Gunster</i>	<i>13 1/2</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>1809</i>	<i>125</i>	<i>1684</i>	<i>James W. Dermott</i>
<i>B. Mansette</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>13 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1523</i>	<i>713</i>	<i>1410</i>	<i>Mollot</i>
						<i>6451</i>	
<i>M. L. Sullivan</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1035</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>960</i>	<i>M. L. Sullivan</i>
<i>D. Riley</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1610</i>	<i>375</i>	<i>1235</i>	<i>D. Riley</i>
<i>W. Hickey</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>11 1/2</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1322</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>1060</i>	<i>W. Hickey</i>
<i>R. Gilmore</i>	<i>Gunster</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>134</i>	<i>1742</i>	<i>713</i>	<i>1039</i>	<i>R. Gilmore</i>
<i>J. Gibbs</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>8 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>1005</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>930</i>	<i>J. H. Gibe</i>
<i>J. Schneider</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>34 1/4</i>	<i>166</i>			<i>5768</i>	<i>Thomas Shilton</i>
<i>James Law</i>	<i>Freeman</i>	<i>26 1/4</i>	<i>293</i>			<i>7572</i>	<i>James Law</i>
<i>W. Christy</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>36 1/4</i>	<i>115</i>			<i>4169</i>	<i>W. Christy</i>

Pay Roll, Central Pacific Railroad Company, Feb. 1863 (Ancestry.com)

(12-21-08-20M-S-6025) Form 2331

NAME Paul Geldner
[EMPLOYEE MUST SIGN IN INK]

SHOP Copper OCCUPATION Coppersmith

RATE 40¢ per hour

DATE EMPLOYED January 27th - 1910 ADDRESS 716 - 2nd Street

DATE OF BIRTH April 18 - 1866

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT _____

DATE OF LEAVING 6-18-10 CAUSE Laid off

APPROVED: [Signature] G. Baumann
FOREMAN

M. M. OR M. C. R.

Southern Pacific Railroad Employee Record Card via FamilySearch

Search > Schools, Directories & Church Histories

U.S., Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1884-1937

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

	Day	Month	Year	Location
Birth	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lived In	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Any Event	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Keyword

e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers"

Ship

Browse this collection

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

Record Description

[Metal check issue card requests, box 01, cards 20,000-20,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests, box 02, cards 21,000-21,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests, box 03, cards 22,000-22,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests, box 04, cards 23,000-23,999, 1930-1937](#)

[Metal check issue card requests.](#)

U.S., Panama Canal Zone, Employment Records and Sailing lists, 1884-1937 for John Buckner Smith

Metal check issue card requests, box 14, cards 33,000-33,999, 1930-1937

60-1 REQUEST FOR METAL CHECK ISSUE

NAME John Buckner Smith LEAVE THIS SPACE BLANK
(FIRST) (MIDDLE) (LAST)
J. B. Smith Lock Operation 503 **33939**

SHOW NAME EXACTLY AS ENTERED ON TIME BOOK DIVISION GANG NUMBER (NEW METAL CHECK No.-LEAVE BLANK)
Atlantic Locks Laborer 22¢ per hr. 91901 ✓

LOCATION OCCUPATION RATE OF PAY PREVIOUS CHECK NUMBER

FILL OUT FOLLOWING IF ORIGINAL ISSUE FILL OUT FOLLOWING IF REPLACEMENT

DATE OF EMPLOYMENT 1/12/34 WHERE LAST EMPLOYED Dredg. Div.
DATE OF BIRTH OR AGE 25 yrs. NATIONALITY African

BRIEF REASON FOR REQUEST, IF PREVIOUS

CHECK WAS LIFTED, STATE WHY AND BY WHOM

HAS FORM 253 BEEN SUBMITTED? Yes

LEFT THUMB RIGHT THUMB

J. B. Smith J. B. Smith
SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE
E. T. Howard
SIGNATURE OF FOREMAN

RECEIVED _____ ISSUED _____

5288 BY _____

1893 of 2016

Ancestry.com

Review

1. Cluster research can help you identify the origins of an ancestor by studying their F.A.N. Club.
2. Our ancestors left behind records with each financial transaction they participated in – “follow the money”
3. Records are located in a variety of repositories
4. Multiple records need to be consulted to understand more of your ancestor's story

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

Consultations

Book a one-on-one
consultation with
a genealogist and
receive help with your
family history research!

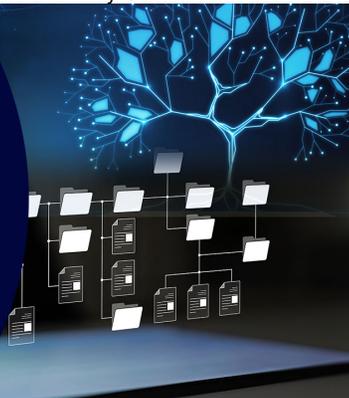
[AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations)



Upcoming Events

Leveraging Tech Tools in Family History Research

 American Ancestors. THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



ONLINE SEMINAR

For Leveraging Tech Tools in Family History Research

February 5, 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2026, 6:00-7:30 p.m. (ET)

Presented by June Henry, Rhonda R. McClure, and, Melanie McComb

Planning a Research Trip to New England

 American Ancestors. THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



ONLINE LECTURE

Researching Black Patriots and Loyalists During the Revolutionary Era

February 7, 2026, 2:00-3:00 p.m. (ET)

Presented by Danielle Rose

From Dates to Stories: How Timelines Can Transform Your Family History Research

 American Ancestors. THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



ONLINE LECTURE

Faith and Family: Tracing the Religious Roots of Ireland's Past

February 10, 2026, 3:00-4:00 p.m. (ET)

Presented by Rhonda R. McClure

AmericanAncestors.org/events



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



American Ancestors[®]

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Copyright ©2026