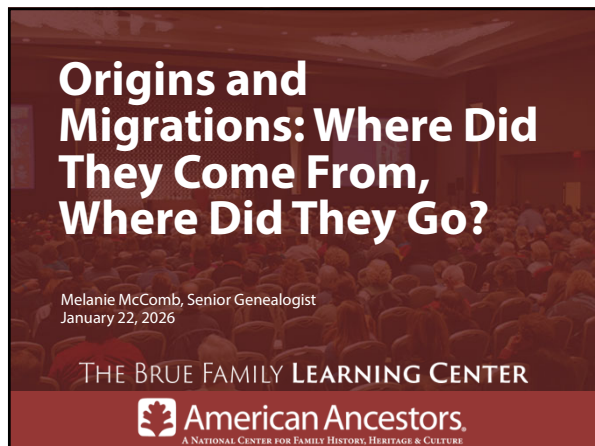




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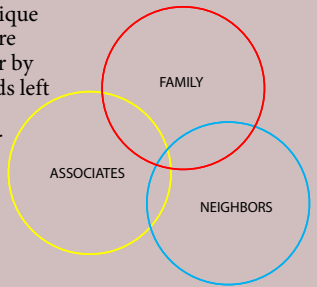


3

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



4



5

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

6

Reasons to Research Family

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

7



8

Associates

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

9

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

10



11

Neighbors

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

15

[illegible]



- 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

19

[illegible]

20

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

21

Neighbors of Neighbors

Associates of Associates

Neighbors and Associates

Family

Your Ancestor

22

- 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

23

[illegible]

24

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

25

5. Locate Resources

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Dates covered	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
Vital Records					
Birth record	Louisa Marie Billings	1833	Ohio		
Marriage record	Louisa Marie Billings and Carlos A. Sperry	before 1837	probably Ohio		
Birth record	Carlos A. Sperry	1833	Ohio		
Death record	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1891	Ohio		
Death record	Carlos A. Sperry	?	probably Ohio		
Census Records					
1840 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1840	Georgia County, Ohio		
1850 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1850	Georgia County, Ohio		
1860 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1860	Georgia County, Ohio		
1870 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1870	Georgia County, Ohio		
1880 U.S. Census	Louisa Marie Billings	1880	Georgia County, Ohio		
Obituary records					
Obituary	Louisa Marie (Billings) Sperry	1891	Ohio		
Obituary	Carlos A. Sperry	?	Ohio		

26

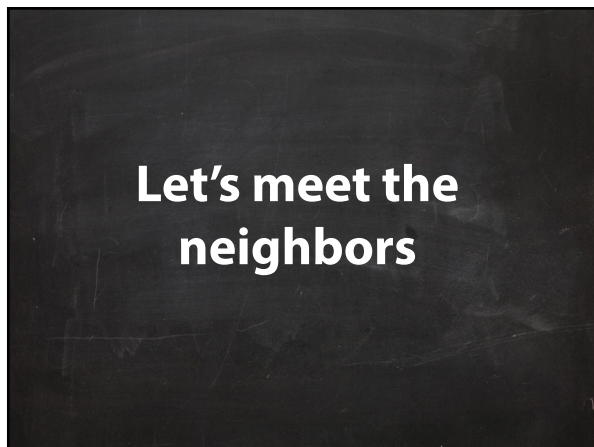
6. Research!



27



28



29

F.A.N.

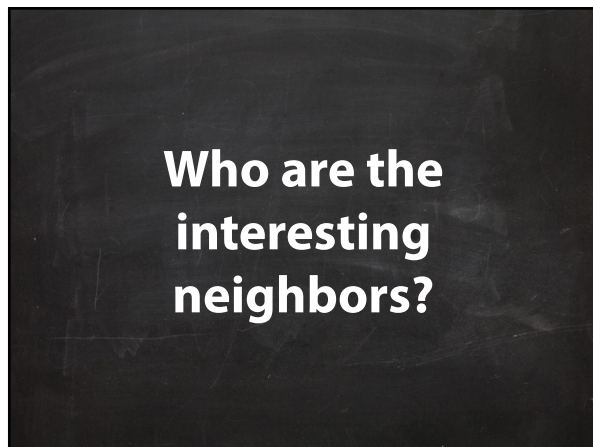
- Neighbors
 - Who are the Neighbors enumerated with Ransom?
What do they have in common?
 - Place of birth?
 - Occupation?
 - What records for the Neighbors could help to determine place of birth?
 - Update your Research Log with these records.

30

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

Name	Age	Sex	Color	Occupation	Birthplace
John	25	M	W		Ireland
Mary	20	F	W		Ireland

31



32

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?

33

34

35



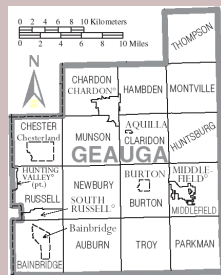
36

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



37

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



38

[illegible]

39

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.

40

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

41

*The State of Ohio,
Gauga County p. Court of Common Pleas, March Term 1816.
At a Court of Common Pleas helden 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 Safflen, Veni Stone and Oris 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
Horia King and Isaac Stone 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

42

- 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

43

- 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.

44

[illegible]

45

Enfield, CT



46

2. Look for MORE missing information and identify your goal

Source	Name (and variant spellings)	Date examined	Place	Relevant Record	Notes
7th Printed and General History of Georgia County with details of the present and past of the County. The Historical Society of Georgia. 1881.	Billings, Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Georgia County, Ohio	1881	1851 Jonathan Allen and Nathan, Connecticut with a National Trust and National Society. Their names are for the town of Sheldahl, Georgia County, Ohio.
17th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
18th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
19th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
20th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
21st Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
22nd Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
23rd Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
24th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
25th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
26th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
27th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
28th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
29th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
30th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
31st Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
32nd Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
33rd Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
34th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
35th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
36th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
37th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
38th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
39th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
40th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
41st Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
42nd Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
43rd Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
44th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
45th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
46th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
47th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
48th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
49th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	
50th Library of American County Ohio with	Ransom Billings, Jonathan Allen		Sheldahl County, Ohio	1881	

47

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?

48

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

49

Tip: Understand the Index

50

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

51

Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6

General Index to Deeds; Geauga County, Ohio. 29

Date of Deed	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	Vol.	Page	R.	T.	Town.	To	Sec.	Lot	Ac.	Ro.	Remarks
Jul 10 1799	Samuel Dorem	Benj Dorem Jr.	1	89	7	2	Easton			57		150 6	
Aug 24 1799	Samuel Dorem	Andrew Dorem	2	97	7	2	Easton			24		133 6	
25 1817	Jonathan Dorem	Andrew Dorem	3	119	1	2	Hamlet			36		101 25 1/2	Chas.
Aug 15 1820	Jonathan Dorem	Oliver Dorem	4	15	1	2	Easton			2		7 20	
Aug 15 1820	Jonathan Dorem	Elizabeth Dorem	4	11	1	2	Easton			11		5 20	
Aug 15 1820	Jonathan Dorem	John A. Dorem	4	232	6	1	Easton			3		1 00	
18 74	Jonathan Dorem	William Dorem	4	247	7	9	Easton			7 8		131 22	
21	Jonathan Dorem	William Dorem	4	248	8	10	Easton			8		196 4	

52

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)**

53

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	Booth		Gauga County, Ohio		
Probate Index, 1800-1917 - "family research"	Booth		Gauga County, Ohio		
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga					
Probate Index, 1800-1917 - "family research"					
Land Records					
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Township 9, Range 7 (153 acres, 130 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (121 acres, 64 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (396 acres, 30 rods)
Vital Records					
Birth record	Daniel Booth		probably Connecticut		
Marriage record	17		probably Connecticut		
Death 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		

54

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

55

Identify Individuals

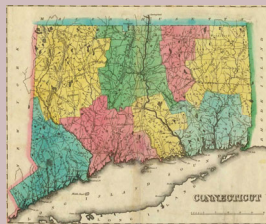
- Who are they?
 - Early settlers of Hambden
 - Neighbors



56

Identify Individuals

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

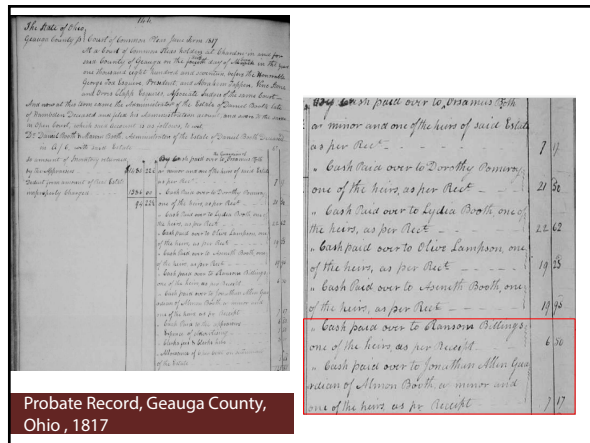


57

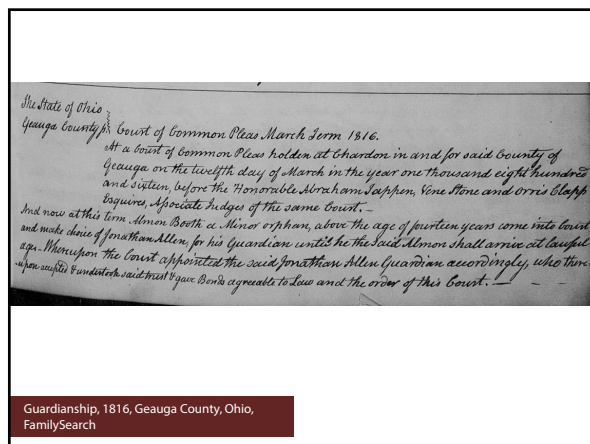
Daniel Booth

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

58



59



60

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	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Heir of Daniel Booth/Thomas Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Oliver Langston Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
Ohio Probate Records, 1789-1996; Geauga; Probates Index 1805-1917 vol. 1 "family search"	Booth		Gauga County, Ohio		
Land Records					
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Township 9, Range 7 (130 acres, 100 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 11 (124 acres, 64 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Part of Lot 8 and part of Lot 7 (161 acres, 144 rods)
Gauga County, Ohio, Deeds, all volumes	Daniel Booth	before 1824	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Lot 28, Township 10, Range 6 (196 acres, 30 rods)
Vital Records					
Birth record	Daniel Booth		probably Connecticut		
Marriage record	17		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 Speer Ann DeVan Billings ...					

61

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

62

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	Gauga County, Ohio	yes	Heir of Daniel Booth/Thomas Booth Dorothy Pomeroy Lydia Booth Oliver Langston Aseneth Booth Ransom Billings Almon Booth
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Death record	Daniel Booth's wife		Ohio		
Death record	Daniel Booth		probably Ohio		
Ransom Billings, Laura Devan Daniel Booth Louisa M. Billings, Carlos Speer Ann DeVan Billings ...					

63

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.

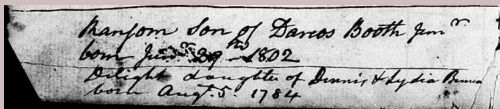
64

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

65

Who is Ransom's mother?

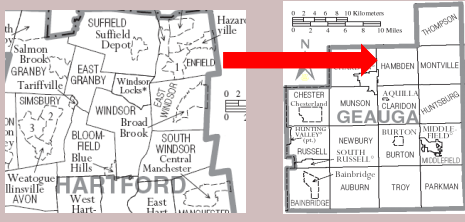


Ransom son of Dorcas Booth Jr. born January 29, 1802

66

Chain Migration

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



67

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

68

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



69



70

"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

71



72

Types of Town Records

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

73

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

74

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts D^o 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 3rd 1830 to July 31st 1831. inclusive.

Support.

Geo Ann Bryan	302	90	27 45
Mary Butterfield	302	do	27 45
Mary Bantlett	302	do	27 45
Mrs. Balf	8	do	7 20
John Rogers	302	do	27 45
John Campbell & wife	302	180	54 90
Esther Haynes	302	90	27 45
Eliza Small	302	50	15 25
Mary Allen	302	90	27 45
Sons Children of Adam Lane	302	100	30 50
Christopher Gardner	7	90	6 30
James Stogam	302	50	15 25
Saml Sallis	22	90	19 80
Mary Ann Allen	302	90	27 45

Newburyport, MA Welfare Records via FamilySearch

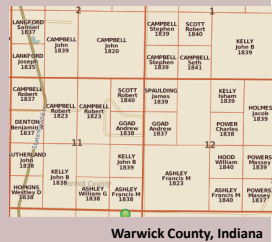
75

Land Records

76

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



77

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

78

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.

79

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

80

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
General Land Office Records

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

Search Documents

Patents

Search

Location

State: ALABAMA

County: Any County

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](#).

Names

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

☒ search patents ☒ search warrants

Land Description

Township:

Range:

Meridian: Any Meridian

Section #:

Miscellaneous

Land Office: Any Land Office

Document #:

Indian Allot. #:

Survey #:

Authority: Any Authority

Issue Date:

Notes:

Tribe: Any Tribe

Geo. Name/ Mining Claim:

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

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

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Probate Records

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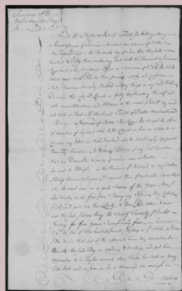
Wills

- 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

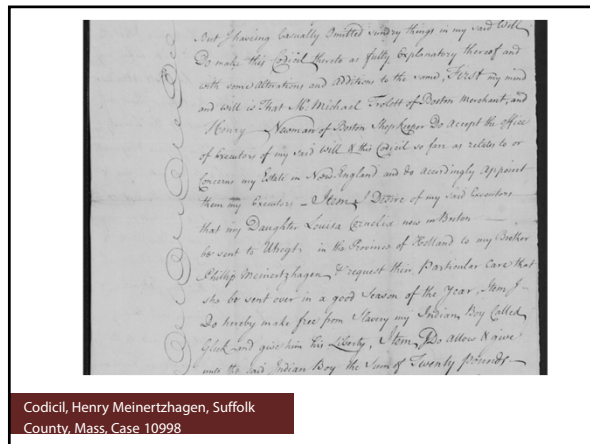
83

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



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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

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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

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Tax Records

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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

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Locations for Tax Records

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

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Assessors Return of Non-Residents July 6th 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:

Names	District, S. & L.	Place of Residence	Description of Real Estate	Value	Taxes
William A. Park	Boston	Boston	Part of a House 12x8x6	600.00	26.00
Samuel W. Taylor	Lancaster	Lancaster	House 12x8x6	350.00	21.00
Sylvanus Wetherbee	Andover	Andover	House 12x8x6	1200.00	12.00
Robert John L. Bolcom	Lewiston	Lewiston	A Building spot	20.00	12.00
John M. Foster	Boston	Boston	Part of a House 12x8x6	600.00	26.00
Abijah Lawrence	Boston	Boston	House 12x8x6	1400.00	14.00
Robert S. Newman	Boston	Boston	House 12x8x6	2200.00	12.00

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

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Tax Records Webinar

The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Search', 'Events', 'Join', and 'Give'. Below this, a banner for a webinar titled 'Using Tax Records in Your Family History Research' is displayed. The banner features a play button icon and the text 'The Blue Family Learning Center'.

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Employment Records

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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

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The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com search page for 'California, U.S., Railroad Employment Records, 1862-1950'. The search bar is at the top with fields for 'First & Middle Name(s)', 'Last Name', 'Any Event', 'Day', 'Month', 'Year', and 'Keyword'. Below the search bar are filters for 'Railroad Description', 'Employment Start Date', and 'Day', 'Month', 'Year'. A 'Search' button is at the bottom left. On the right, there is a 'Browse this collection' section with a 'Record Group' dropdown, a 'Description' field, and a 'Year Range' dropdown. Below that is a 'Related data collections' section with a link to 'California Birth Index, 1905-1995'.

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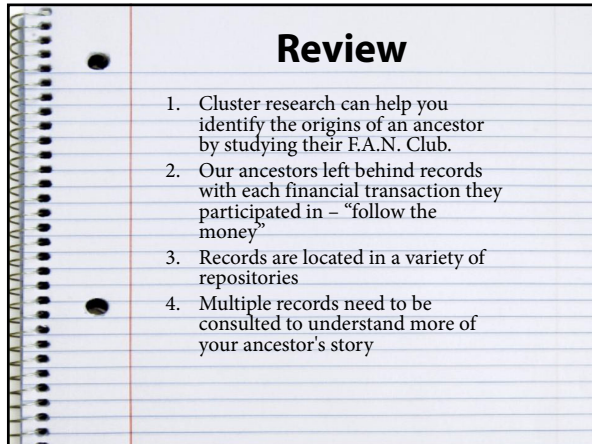
The screenshot shows a historical pay roll document from the Central Pacific Railroad Company, dated February 1863. The document is titled 'PAY ROLL, NO. 29, for month of February 1863'. It lists the names of employees, their positions, and their wages. The document is signed by C. Crocker, Contractor, Central Pacific Railroad Company, the Sine set opposite our respective names, for services performed, during the month of February 1863.

NAME	POSITION	WAGES	TOTAL	REMARKS
P. Leland	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
M. Keenan	By Driver	5 1/2	5 1/2	
One Kelley	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
A. Lee	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
B. Branstetter	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
M. L. Sullivan	"	9 1/2	9 1/2	
S. Riley	"	14 1/2	14 1/2	
M. Keenan	"	12 1/2	12 1/2	
R. Leland	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
B. Gilbo	Laborer	8 1/2	8 1/2	
B. Keenan	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
One Keenan	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
M. Keenan	Laborer	12 1/2	12 1/2	
			41 1/2	

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101102



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

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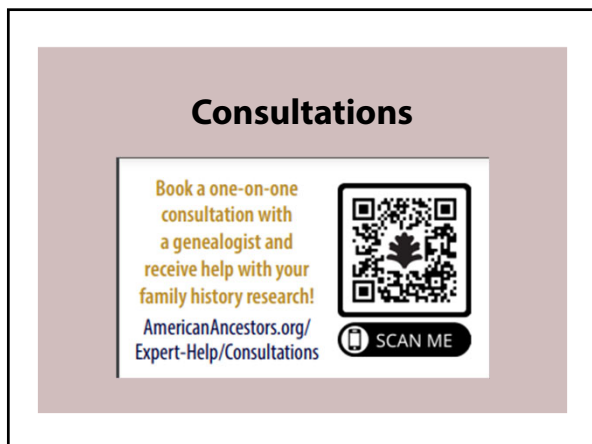


QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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Consultations

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

AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations



SCAN ME

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Upcoming Events

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

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

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

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THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education

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