Elements of Genealogical Analysis
A Class in Methodology

Class 5
Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
Director of the Great Migration Study Project

OVERVIEW
- Presentation (60 mins.)
  - Problem Resolution: Example #1
  - Problem Resolution: Example #2
  - Review and White Queen Test
- Q&A (30 mins.)

Meet today’s presenter

Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
Director of the Great Migration Study Project
Homework Review

Class 4 Homework
- Read the Great Migration sketch for William White of Ipswich.
- This sketch was written with the methodology of this course in mind.
- Without consulting the discussion of this immigrant in Elements of Genealogical Analysis, attempt to identify the linkage bundles and dossiers constructed in the “Comments” section of this sketch.

Problem Resolution: Example #1
Problem-solving Sequence

Problem Resolution

- The final step in the problem-solving sequence, arising from a series of linkage decisions.
- This step is attained when you have arrived at a new conclusion, at a certain confidence level.

Problem Resolution

- Our primary goal in genealogical research is adding to our knowledge of the genealogical definition of an individual, that is, of providing some evidence that will lead to the identification of that person's parents, spouses and children.
- The solution of a genealogical problem is the result of joining two or more linkage bundles or dossiers.
- The solution of any given genealogical problem is the reciprocal of some other problem.
Example #2: William White

- WHITE, WILLIAM, Newbury, freeman 22 June 1642, had come from London in the Mary and John 1634, and first sat down at Ipswich, then removed probably in 1635 or 6, with many of his fellow passengers, to Newbury, had John and James, the latter born says Coffin, about 1649; removed to Haverhill, there died 1690, aged 80 [James Savage, Genealogical Dictionary of New England 4:515].
Example #2: William White

- Passenger from London on Mary and John, 1634
- First residence in New England at Ipswich
- Removal to Newbury in 1635 or 1636
- Freeman as a Newbury resident, 22 June 1642
- Son John
- Son James, born about 1649
- Removal to Haverhill
- Death at Haverhill in 1690, aged 80

Example #2: William White

\begin{itemize}
  \item 26 March 1634, "William White" was enrolled at Hambrook as a passenger on New England out of the Mary and John.
  \item 29 December 1634, a letter from Mr. Nathaniel Emerson and William White, White's brother, about the computation of the staff, and speed of the ship.
  \item 3 January 1635, the letter to White from White's brother, about the computation of the staff, and speed of the ship.
\end{itemize}

Conclusions:
- A man named William White sailed from England to New England in the spring of 1634, and the death of the same year was recorded at Ipswich, Massachusetts.
- It will be interesting to trace his genealogy from that time forward.

Rationale:
- Building on conclusions in the earlier versions of this lecture, the importance of researchers is best matched by the researcher who had the initiative to ask the right questions and who also had the determination that there were two sons by the name of William White in Ipswich at that time.

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Example #2: William White

**Linkage Example: William White no. 2**

On 1 October 1648, "William White of Ipswich," married to "Holle (one of the same town, liberated ... by law ... in Ipswich)" at Colchester, containing his estimation 299 acres.

William White died at Ipswich on 25 August 1686.

On 4 April 1717, "James White of Ipswich," continued to be William Goodhue, the father of William White, was in 1686, who, in 1686, was a man named William White residing in Ipswich from 1646 until his death in 1686.

**Conclusions:** A man named William White resided in Ipswich from 1646 until his death in 1686.

**Reference:** The linkage of the first and third of these records suggests a detailed analysis of the landholding connected to each. The land in both instances in the same town, the same town, and the same town, suggests that the linkage of the first and third of these records is continuing an action taken by his father, implying that the link of this town and Ipswich from 1646 until 1686. The land in Ipswich for a man named William White in Ipswich is the only one in Ipswich during that period, and there are no records which suggest the presence of more than one William White during the period or question.

**Confidence:** Highly probable.

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Example #2: William White

**Decision: William White**

**William White**

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**Conclusions:**

- Related...
- Confidence...

**Reference:**

- Related...
- Confidence...

**Confidence:**

- Highly probable.

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**QUESTIONS?**
Review and White Queen Test

Elements of Genealogical Analysis consists of two interacting parts:
- Two Fundamental Laws of Genealogy
  - These two laws enforce the separation between evidence and conclusions and provide the tools for solving genealogical problems
- A Problem-Solving Sequence
  - This sequence of five steps provides a template for systematically employing the two fundamental laws and guiding the entire research and analysis process

Review
- First Rule: All statements must be based only on accurately reported, carefully documented, and exhaustively analyzed records
- Second Rule: You must have a sound, explicit reason for saying that any two individual records refer to the same person
**White Queen Test**

- In Lewis Carroll’s *Through the Looking Glass*, the White Queen assured Alice that she was quite capable of believing six impossible things before breakfast.
- In the White Queen Test, you emulate the White Queen by turning your conclusion on its head by asking what you would have to believe if the conclusion were *false*.
- As the propositions you must believe in order to *disprove* your hypothesis become more and more unbelievable, so your proposed conclusions gain in strength.

**White Queen Test**

- John, son of William and Margaret Hunting was baptized at Thrandeston, Suffolk, in 1601, and in 1648 Margaret Hunting of Hoxne, Suffolk, bequeathed to “John Hunting of New England my son.”
- John Hunting had Mary and Margaret baptized at Hoxne, Suffolk, in 1626 and 1628, and Esther, Elizabeth and John at Oakley, Suffolk, in 1631, 1634, and 1636.
Homework

• Select from your own ancestry a genealogical statement, one which you feel solid and perhaps have never questioned, and apply the White Queen Test to it.

QUESTIONS?
Schedule a consultation
consultations@nehgs.org

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org