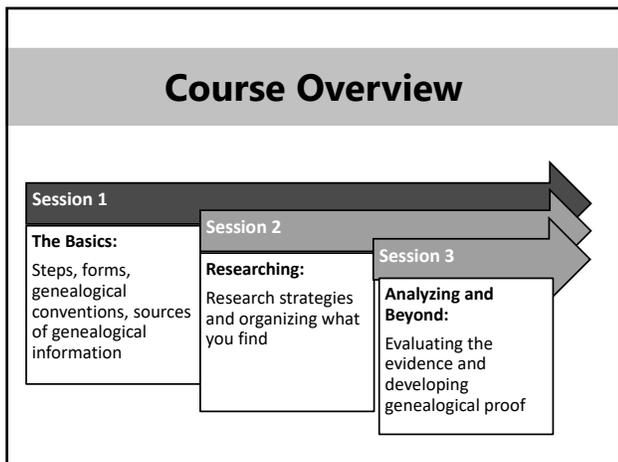
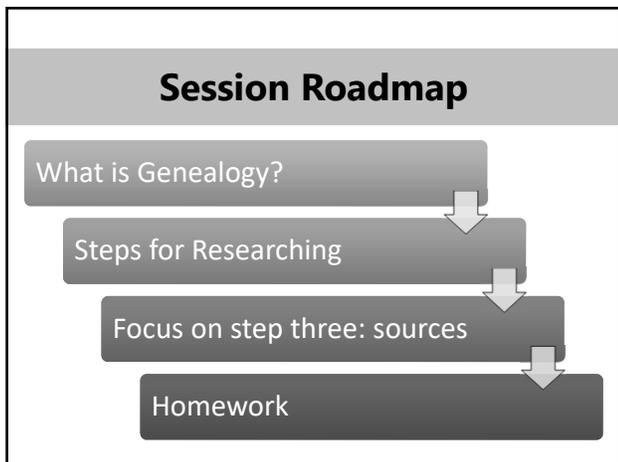


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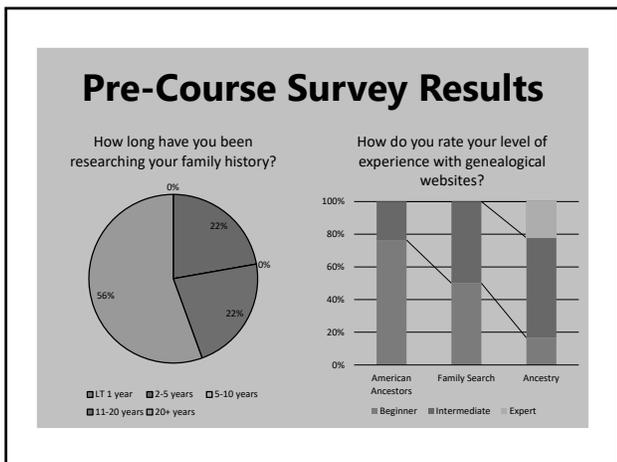
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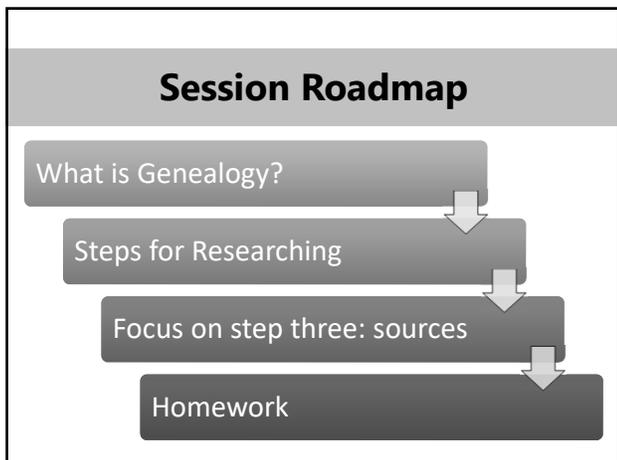
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5

- ### Pre-Course Survey Goals
- Develop research skills
 - How to become a better (more efficient) searcher
 - Learn how to cite/document sources
 - Learn to develop and use a research plan
 - How to verify ancestors
 - How to scale brick walls

6



7

What is Genealogy?

ge·ne·al·o·gy (jĕnĕ'älājĕ)

- Study of a line of descent from an ancestor
- Study of families and their history
- An account of origins
- Stems from ancient Greek
 - *Genea* meaning generation
 - *Logia* meaning telling or discourse or study of

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Why should we study our Family history?

9

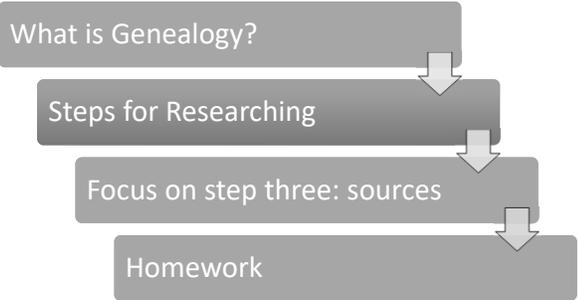
Connect to History

- Window into the past – learn about new people and new places
- Connect your family story to notable events in history



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Session Roadmap



What is Genealogy?

Steps for Researching

Focus on step three: sources

Homework

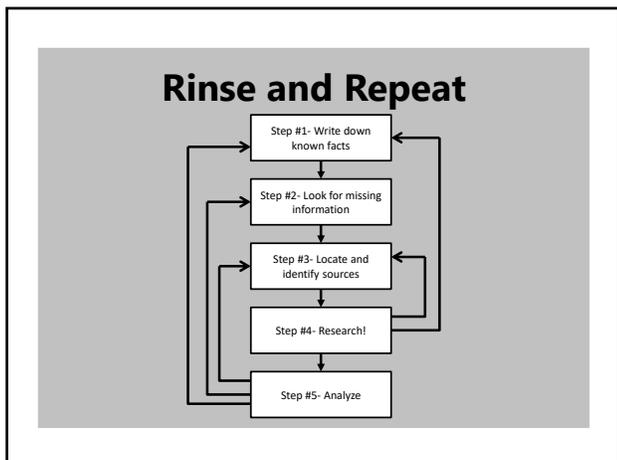
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Genealogical Research Method

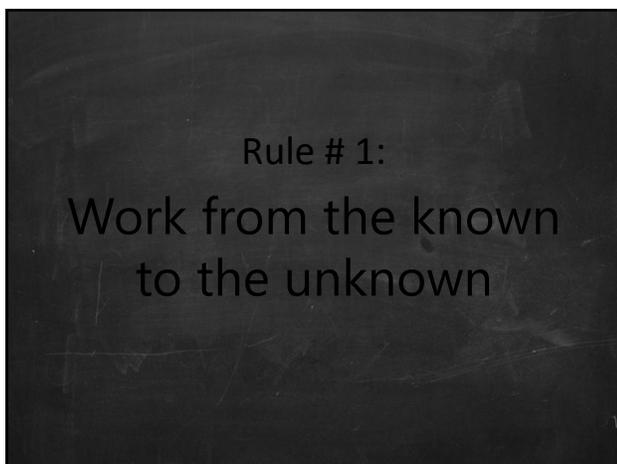
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Step 1: Identify What You Know

- Interview yourself
- Talk to relatives—What do they know? What family stories were they told?
- Record data using a family group sheet, chart, or genealogical software

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Example: Family Interview Questions

- Where did you live when you were growing up?
- How did your family come to live there?
- Were there other family members in the area? What were their name?
- What was your family religion?
- What family stories have you heard about your parents? Your grandparents? More distant relatives?
- What stories have you heard about the European (or other) origins of your family members and their immigration to America?

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Rule # 2: Write It Down

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The Essential Toolkit

- Notebook – paper or Evernote or One Note
- Pedigree chart
- Family Group Sheet
- Research Plan
- Research Log
- Genealogical software program (optional)

Tip
Always Use Pencil!!

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER Find out more

Download Templates and Charts

Free Resources from NEHGS

Education

Learning Resources

Watch

Read

Download

Online Programs

Research Tours & Programs

Events and Programs

Register for a FREE Guest account to access forms, templates and other tools to help organize and present your family history research. [More about Guest benefits.](#)

Already have an account? Log in for access to more resources or join to enjoy full member benefits, including:

- Access to all 1+ billion records on AmericanAncestors.org
- Quarterly delivery of the member magazine, *American Ancestors*
- Delivery of NEHGS's scholarly journal, *The Register*
- Discounts on research-for-hire, consultations and publications
- Free admission to NEHGS's library including special collections and manuscripts
- Member-only online courses
- NEHGS's weekly e-newsletter *The Weekly Genealogist*

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/download>

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Toolkit Item #1: Pedigree Chart

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Record the Information As You Go

- Keep a “working draft”
- Use the forms
 - Tree/pedigree chart
 - Pen/paper
 - Online (Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org)
 - Software (FamilyTreeMaker, RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree)
 - Family group sheet
 - Interview form/family questionnaire
 - Save original images/Documents



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Genealogical Recording Conventions: Names

- Write surnames in all CAPITAL LETTERS
- Record a woman with her maiden name
- When the maiden name is unknown use:
 - [--?--] can be used
 - MNU
 - Just the given name

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Genealogical Recording Conventions: Dates

- Records dates as DD-MMM-YYYY (e.g. 23 MAR 1823)
- Note: Some journals use the date written out in letter form – March 23, 1823
- DON'T:
 - Use slash marks: 3/12/1823
 - Use a two-digit year: 3/12/23

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Genealogical Recording Conventions: Places

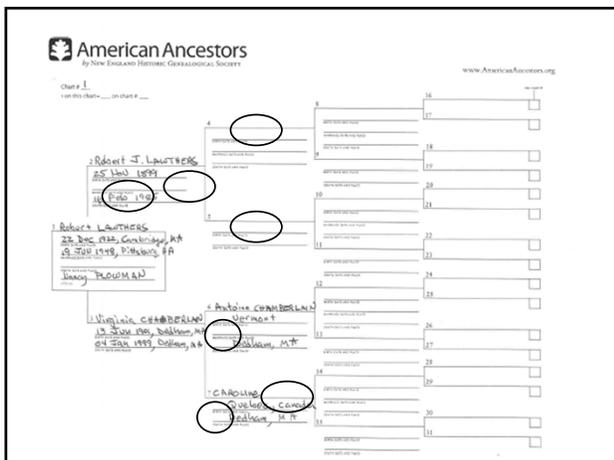
- Note smallest to largest geographic division (e.g. Orleans, Orange County, Indiana)
- For outside the U.S.: townland/parish, county, country
- Be sure to identify counties
- Use a consistent style

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Step 2: Decide What You Want to Learn

- Examine the information you have
- What is missing?
- What individuals or families intrigue you the most?
- Create a list of questions or objectives to research

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Typical Genealogical Questions

- Genealogical Data
 - Identity
 - Events
 - Relationships
- For example:
 - Who are the parents?
 - What is the date or place of birth?
 - What is the date or place of marriage?
 - What is the date or place of death?
 - What is the spouse's name, or maiden name?
 - Who are the siblings?

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Tip

Start slowly. Don't rush to answer all your questions at once.

Don't skip generations in planning your research; it only leads to misattributed people.

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Toolkit Item #3: Research Plan

- Research Plan: A roadmap for research
- Basic Components:
 - Good research question
 - What is already known about the question
 - List of potential records
 - List of repositories



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Step 3: Identify and Locate Your Sources

- Educate yourself – what types of records will supply the information you need?
- Make a list of records that will aid in your specific research
- Find resources in brick-and-mortar repositories and online repositories
- Map out your plan of action
- Don't forget the "Family Archives!"

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Records

Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Age	Census, Vital Records, Church Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date and place	Vital Records, Church Records, Town Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Bible Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Church records, Newspapers	Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Bible Records
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Bible Records, Military Records
Parents' names	Vital Records, Census, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records

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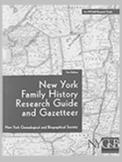
More Records

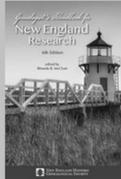
Information Needed	Search These Records First	Then Search These Records
Immigration date	Census, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Census	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Published Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Census	Vital Records, Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration
Places family has lived	Census, Land, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries

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Use Finding Aids/ Research Guides

- Determine when record-keeping began
- Determine what repositories hold records
- Understand unique record types





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Step 4: Research!

- Begin answering your questions
- General principles
 - Consult multiple sources
 - Gather as many records about a family or individual that you can find
 - Track your work!



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Step 5: Analyze

- Don't just read, examine
 - Does the record bring up new questions?
 - How accurate is the record?
 - How accurate is the source?
- Record the information you have
- Record the sources you use



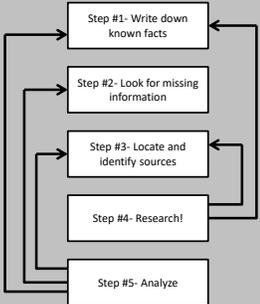
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Principles of Analysis

- Are you looking at a original or derivative source?
- When was the record created, i.e. how soon after the event it is capturing?
- Who created the record? A participant? Someone else?
- Who provided the information?
- Which information is primary (firsthand knowledge) and which is secondary (secondhand knowledge)
- What information do I need to capture for a citation?

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Rinse and Repeat



```
graph TD; S1[Step #1- Write down known facts] --> S2[Step #2- Look for missing information]; S2 --> S3[Step #3- Locate and identify sources]; S3 --> S4[Step #4- Research!]; S4 --> S5[Step #5- Analyze]; S5 --> S1;
```

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Genealogical Proof Standard

- Reasonably exhaustive research
- Complete, accurate citations to the source or sources of each information item
- Tests—through processes of analysis and correlation—of all sources, information items, and evidence
- Resolution of conflicts among evidence items
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

<http://www.bgcercertification.org/resources/standard.html>

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Why Bother With A Proof Standard?

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

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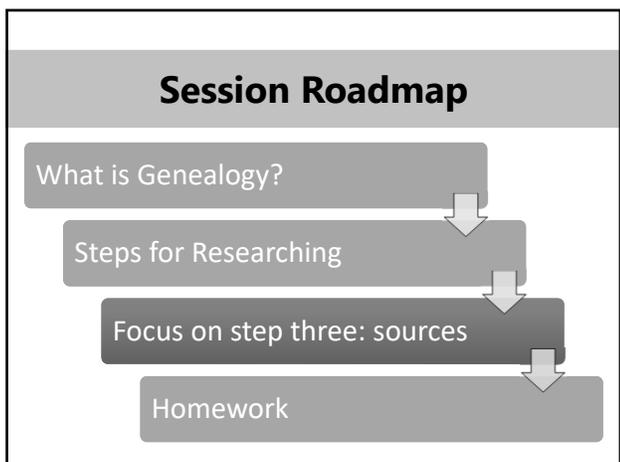
Let's Review

1. Rule #1 – Start with what you know and work backwards
2. Rule #2 – Write it down
3. Use the tools: Pedigree Chart, Family Group Sheet, Research Log
4. Be systematic
 - a) Identify what you know
 - b) Decide what you want to learn
 - c) Identify sources
 - d) Research
 - e) Analyze

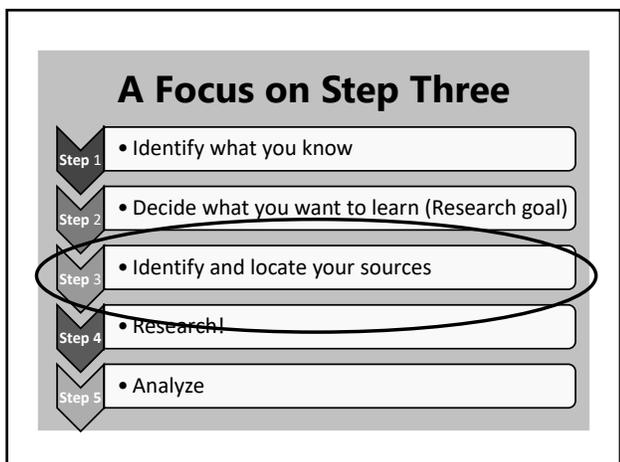
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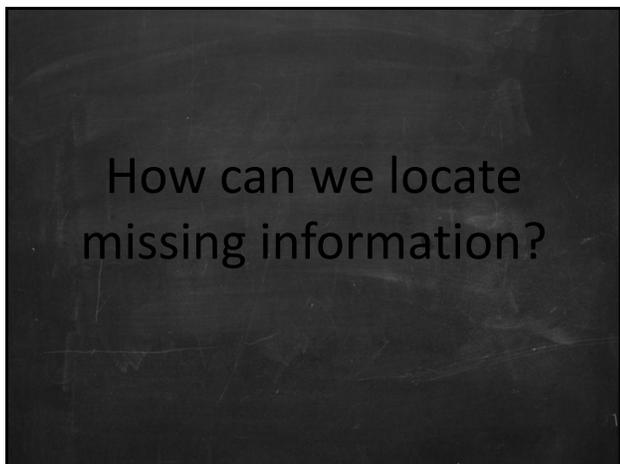
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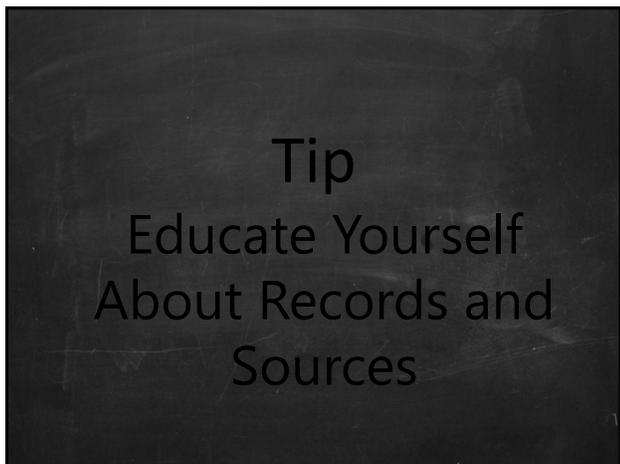
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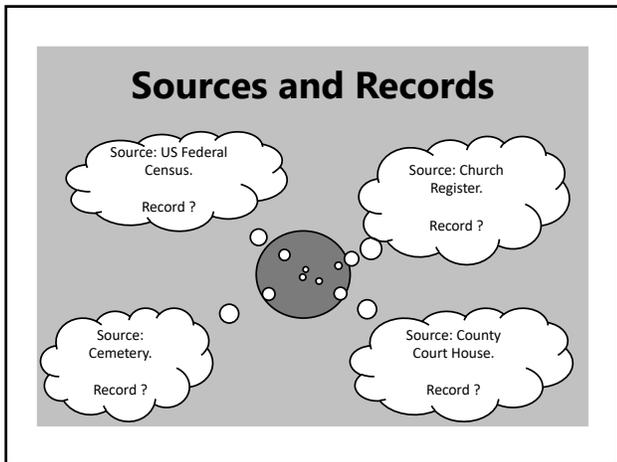
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Definitions: Sources and Records

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

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

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Vital Records – post 1906

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Vital Records Caveats

- Birth, marriage, and death records
- Often provide the names of the individual's parents and/or spouse
- Depending on the state, records may be held on the state, county, and/or town/city level
- Privacy restrictions may limit access

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Vital record substitutes

- VRs are not widely available until late-19th/20th century records
 - Exceptions: New England, NYC, New Orleans
- Use substitute records when VRs don't exist
 - Church records (baptism, marriage, burial)
 - Cemetery transcriptions and records (birth, death/burial)
 - Newspapers (birth and marriage announcements, obituaries)
 - Probate records (death)

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Church Records

194 RECORDS OF THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH IN BOSTON

June 10	Sarah, of David & Mary Maden Abigail, of Nathan & Mary Foster Jeremiah, of Joseph & Sarah Redrup Abigail, of Joseph & Abigail Warren
17	Ann, of James & Ann, Negroes
July 8	Suzanna, of Thomas & Elizabeth Dwyer William, of Cary & Mehitable Harris
15	John, of John & Mary Donald
22	Benjamin-Belcher, of Isaac & Hannah Cusno Nathaniel, of Joseph & Sarah Worng
29	James & Benjamin, of John & Hannah Allen
Aug 5	Mary, of Josiah & Ann Tenney Eleazer, of Reuben & Hannah Higgins
19	George, of John & Ruth Rowlett
Aug 26	Chimera, of Joseph & Susanna Jackson
Sept 2	Mary, of William & Mary Pinnon Ann, of John & Isaac Dimes Mary, of Siler & Hannah Henry Ann, of Bartholomew & Elizabeth Kenney
23	John, of John & Dorcas Brewer
30	Josiah, of Prince & Mary Whitson Henry, of John & Ann Crumpton
Oct 7	Charlotte, of Benjamin & Margaret Green Baker, Negro Servant to Mr Joseph Jackson
21	Abigail, of Moses & Elizabeth Trick
28	Mary, of Robert & Lydia Price
Nov 4	Felix, of Isaac & Elizabeth Vergoose Mary, of Peter & Hannah Roberts
Dec 2	Suzanna, of William & Susanna Breed Benjamin, of Isaac & Sarah Walter
9	Robert, of William & Rebecca Hones
16	Sarah, of Michael & Mary How
20	Daniel, of George & Abigail Hewes Moses & Benjamin, of Moses & Mary Keyes
1744/5	
Jan 7 6	William, of Abraham & Mehitable Tuckerman
13	Mary, of Luke & Mary Roberts
27	Jonathan Clarke, of Ezekiel & Jane Lewis
Feb 10	John, of David & Sarah Jeffries
Feb 10	Sarah, of John & Sarah Huse
	John Hunt Junr
	Mary, of Samuel & Mary Halliwell
	John, of Thomas & Sarah Foster

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Knowing the Family

- 1790–1840: lists only the name of the head of the household
- 1850–1870: lists everyone in household, but not how they are related
Generally, can assume people in same household are family
- 1880–1940: relationships listed

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Using Census Records

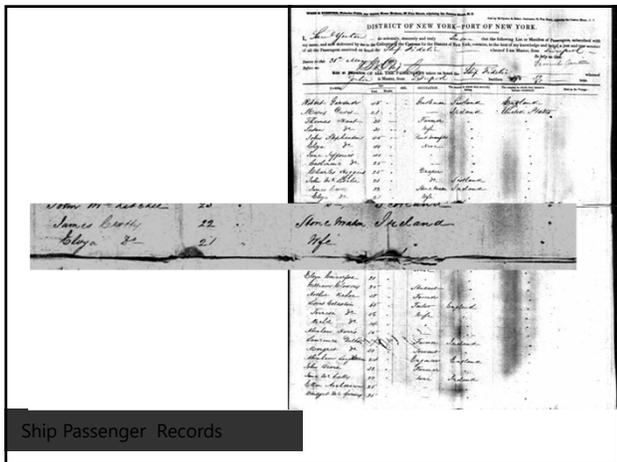
- Try and locate the family in each census record, working backwards in to (1940 to 1930 to 1920, etc.)
- Mistakes/errors are relatively common
 - Give leeway when it comes to ages and spellings
- Use occupation to help confirm the identity
- Look at surrounding families as possible relatives and associates
- Blank census forms available from NARA at <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/charts-forms>

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Immigration Records

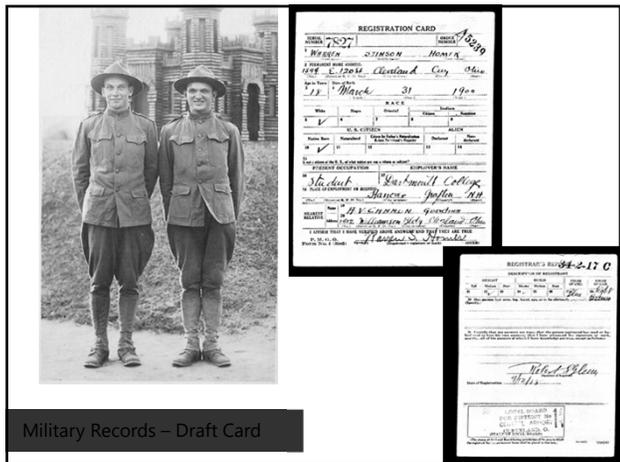
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Building Your Genealogical Skills, 3-Week Course, FY22



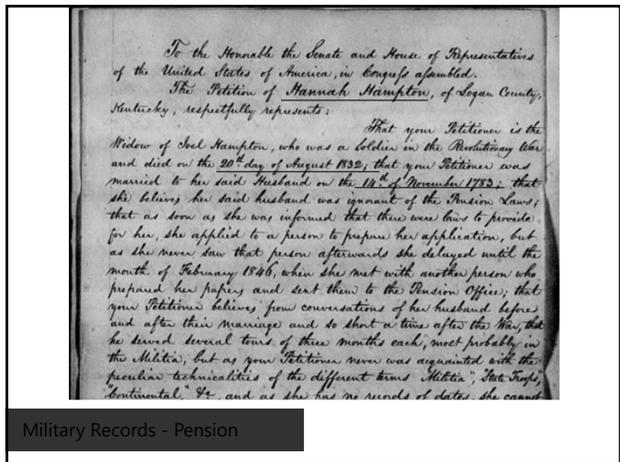


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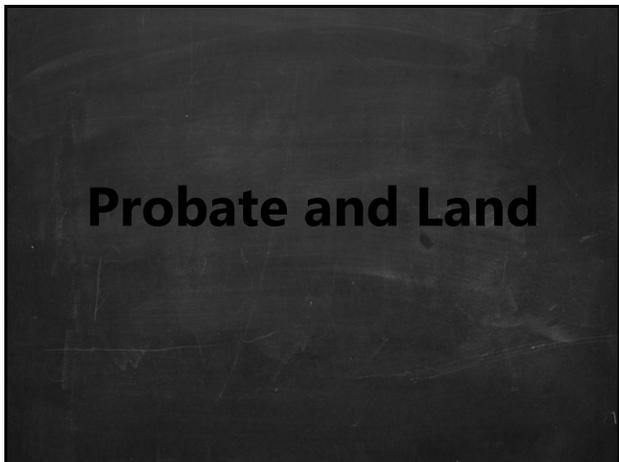
Military Records – Draft Card

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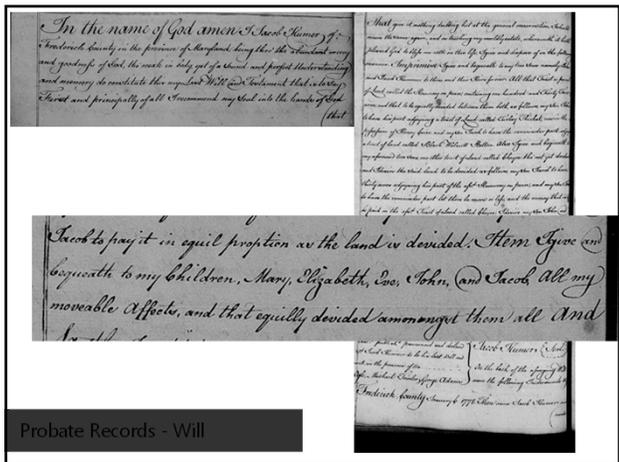


Military Records - Pension

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Probate Boilerplate

- "In the name of God, Amen I [name] of [County] in [State/Province] being thro' the abundant mercy and goodness of God, tho weak in body, yet of a sound and perfect understanding and memory do constitute this my Last Will and Testament...."
- "Then came [name 1] and [name 2] the subscribing witnesses to the Last Will and Testament of [name] late of [place name] deceased and made under oath on the Holy Evangels of God that they did see the testor therein named sign and seal this will...."

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Next Time: How To Organize?

- Organize your research
- Organize your findings
- Organize your files
- Genealogical numbering systems

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Session Roadmap

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Scavenger Hunt

Clue	Answer	Website	Data base	Finding Clues
1. Where was the future writer Laura Ingalls Wilder living in 1870? Give the town, county and state. Hint: The spelling of surname is incorrect on the 1870 census. To do this search efficiently, you will also need to find where and approximately when she was born, using a non-genealogical source.				
2. According to the 1900 census, how many children did Laura Ingalls Wilder give birth to? How many are still living? Hint: You need to look at the original image of the census return.				
3. Jenny Homer died in Cleveland Ohio before 1920. What was her date of death?				
4. Robert J. Lawthers attended what Boston-area educational institution? Hint: You will need to use a military-related database.				
5. When and whom did the artist William Merritt Chase marry in New York City?				

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