



Homework – Research Plan

Pros	Cons
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Homework – Research Log

Pros	Cons
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Homework Review – Sep Class

- Pros and Cons of Making a Research Plan
 - Pro – make explicit what was known and what was missing
 - Con – realized very hard to find the event due to lack of records
 - Pro/Con – family stories are hard to parse
 - Pro – process to test assumptions – what is true and what is not???
 - Pro – evaluate how you know something
- Pros and Cons of Using a Research Log (next slide)

Research Log – Sep Class

- Pro –helps keep people (ancestors) straight
- Pro –keeps you out rabbit holes
- Pro - helps keep track of “serendipity”

Moving On

Why Bother With Citations?

1. Knowing the source of a fact allows you, or someone else, to go back and find it again
2. Knowing the source of a fact helps you evaluate its credibility
3. Citations are part of the Genealogical Proof Standard

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.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

Citation Principles

- Capture enough information about the source and its record so you can find the record a second time.
- Thomas W. Jones, noted genealogist, has said, — “This idea that there is one way to cite a source is **false**,” [emphasis added] (2015, APG Conference)
- Pick a style and stick with it—Consistency is important.

*Thomas W. Jones, Mastering Genealogical Proof, Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2013, pp8-40.

Citation is an Art



Citation Elements

- **Who** (or what) created the source?
 - Author
 - Organization
- **What** is the source?
 - Book title
 - Database name
 - Not the website name – that is the publisher
- **When** was the source created?
 - Date the source was created
 - Date the record within the source was created
 - Date the record was accessed

Thomas W Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation* (Arlington, VA : National Genealogical Society, 2017), p. 40

Citation Elements (cont.)

- **Where IS** the source now?
 - Publisher
 - Geographic location
 - Repository
 - Web address
- **Where IN** the source is the item?
 - Volume and page number
 - NARA roll
 - Certificate number
 - Person and event

General Citation Format

Who

→

What

→

Where IS

→

Where IN

When

Velcro Principle – Don't separate items that ought to stick together



Source Citations - Books

Who

Author (first name first)

What

Title, followed by subtitle, in italics

Martin E. Hollick, *New Englanders in the 1600s: expanded Edition* (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 125.

Where IS and When

Location within parentheses (City, Publisher, year). When the city is well known, you can omit the state.

Where IN

Page number

End with a period.

Documentation Conventions

- Book titles, journal names, website names are *italicized*
- Database names, article titles are in "quotes"
- Parentheses group publication details (print and online)
- Semicolons divide complex citations with two or more nested groups

Two Principles for Writing a Citation

Velcro



Nesting Dolls



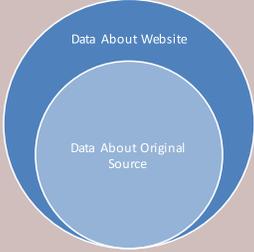
Nesting Doll Principle



The diagram illustrates the Nesting Doll Principle using five nesting dolls of decreasing size from left to right. Each doll is labeled with a specific genealogical concept:

- Website:** Ancestry (points to the largest doll)
- Database:** Massachusetts Town Clerk and Vital Records (points to the second largest doll)
- Town:** Sutton (points to the third largest doll)
- Type of Record:** Death (points to the fourth largest doll)
- Item of Interest** (points to the smallest doll)

In An Online World – Citations Need Two Parts



The diagram shows two concentric circles representing the components of a citation:

- Outer Circle:** Data About Website
- Inner Circle:** Data About Original Source

Layer 1: Website



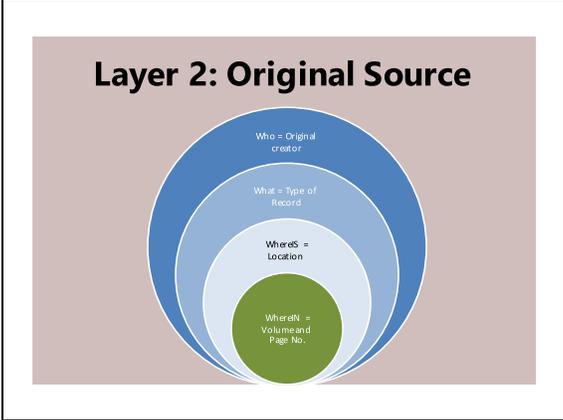
The diagram shows five concentric circles representing the layers of a website citation:

- Outermost Layer:** Who = Omitted
- Second Layer:** What = Database title and type
- Third Layer:** Where IS = URL
- Fourth Layer:** When = Search date
- Innermost Layer:** Where In = Item of Interest and date

Website Information



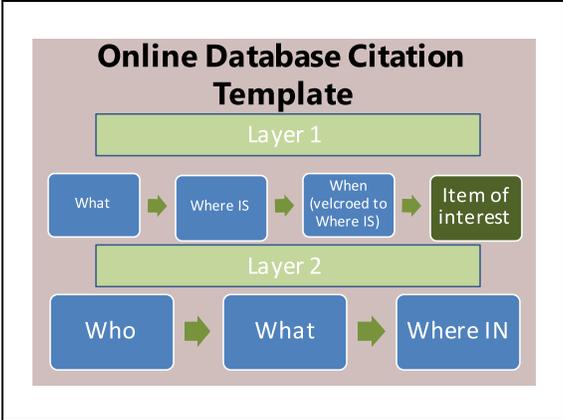
Who	Author/Creator	American Ancestors
What	Title and Type	Massachusetts Vital Records, 1620-1850, Database with images
Where IS	Web Address	www.AmericanAncestors
When (usually referred to Where IS)	Date Accessed	13 May 2019
Where IN	Item of Interest	Death of Deborah Grosvenor, 11 Sep 1841

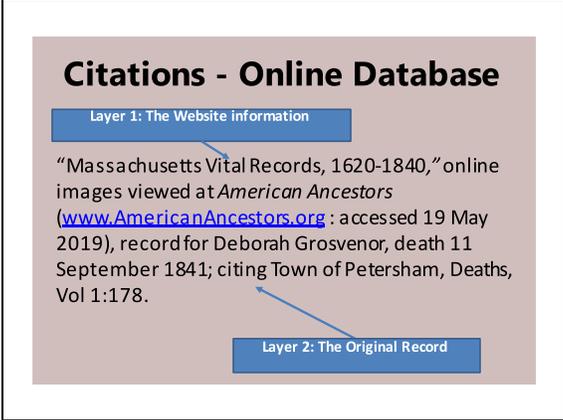


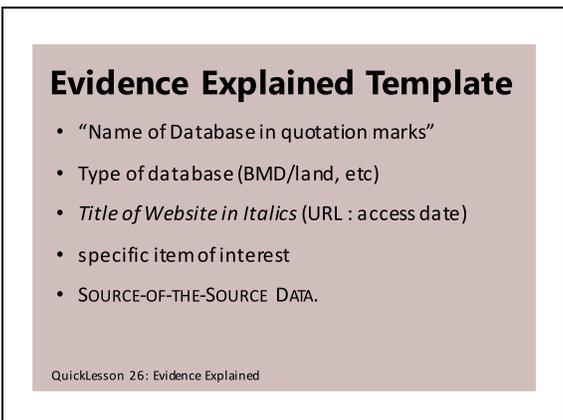
Town Records Information

Who	Author	Town of Petersham
What	Title	Deaths
Where IS	Location – can be omitted	We've already captured it under the Author
Where IN	Details	Vol 1, Page 178
When	Often omitted	



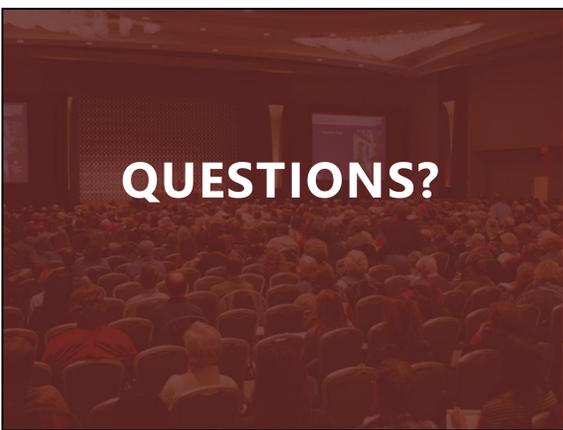


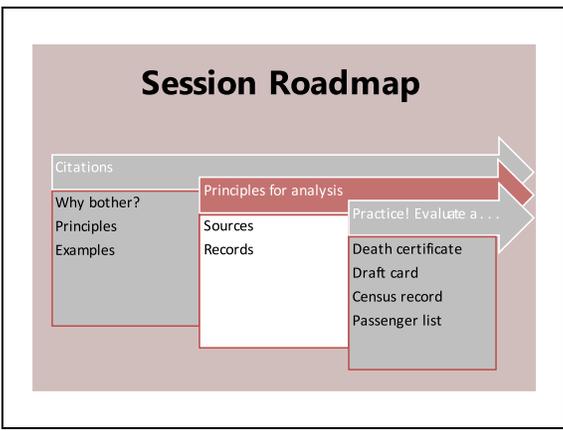


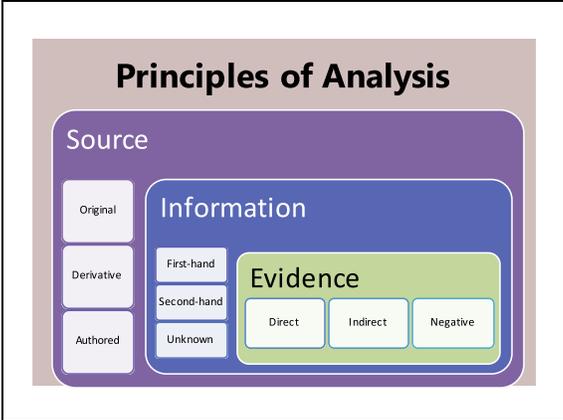


Review Citations

1. Citations help you find the record again and help you evaluate the quality of what you found
2. Capture Who (Author, Organization), What (Title), Where IS (Publisher, location), Where IN (Record of Interest), When (date – velcroed to item)
3. Think of nesting dolls and moving from general to specific
4. Remember to velcro dates to appropriate element
5. Citations are an art; do not get tied in knots over them







Analyze the Source

Tip
Citations Help You
Evaluate the Source

Analysis – Question 1

- Are you looking at an original or derivative source?



Original Sources

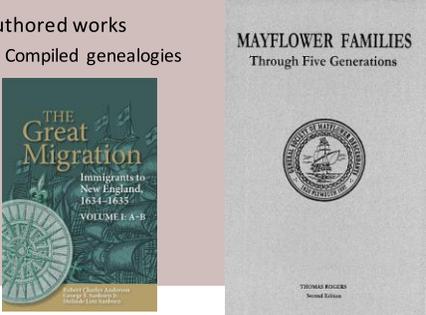
- Original – From the time period being researched. Includes:
 - Duplicate original
 - Record (Clerk’s) copy
 - Image copy
- Digital copies, microfilm, microfiche **considered original for analysis purposes**
- BCG Article - QuickLesson 10

Derivative Sources

- Derivative – Written by someone who did not experience the events or time period. Includes:
 - Transcripts
 - Extracts
 - Abstracts
- https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Primary_sources

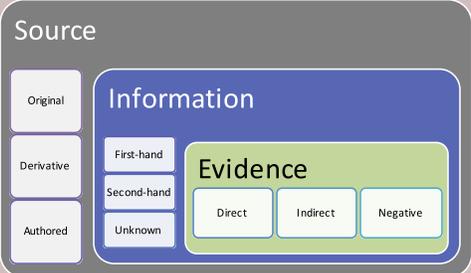
Special Class of Sources

- Authored works
 - Compiled genealogies



Analyze the Record

Principles of Analysis

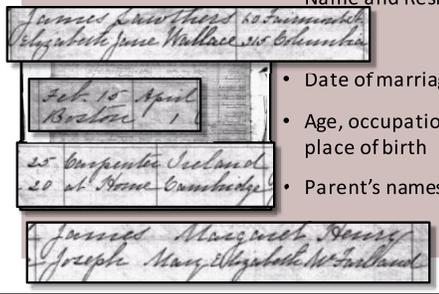


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graph TD; subgraph Source; S1[Original]; S2[Derivative]; S3[Authored]; end; subgraph Information; I1[First-hand]; I2[Second-hand]; I3[Unknown]; end; subgraph Evidence; E1[Direct]; E2[Indirect]; E3[Negative]; end; S1 --> I1; S1 --> I2; S1 --> I3; S2 --> I1; S2 --> I2; S2 --> I3; S3 --> I1; S3 --> I2; S3 --> I3; I1 --> E1; I1 --> E2; I1 --> E3; I2 --> E1; I2 --> E2; I2 --> E3; I3 --> E1; I3 --> E2; I3 --> E3;
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It Is All About the Information

- Is the Information . . .
- First-hand
 - Immediately following the event
 - Long after the event
- Second-hand
 - From a non-participant
- Cannot tell who provided the information

What Genealogical Information Is In the Record?



- Name and Residence
- Date of marriage
- Age, occupation and place of birth
- Parent's names

Analysis – Question 2



- How long after the event was the record created?

Analysis Question 4
Is the information first-hand (primary) or second-hand (secondary)?

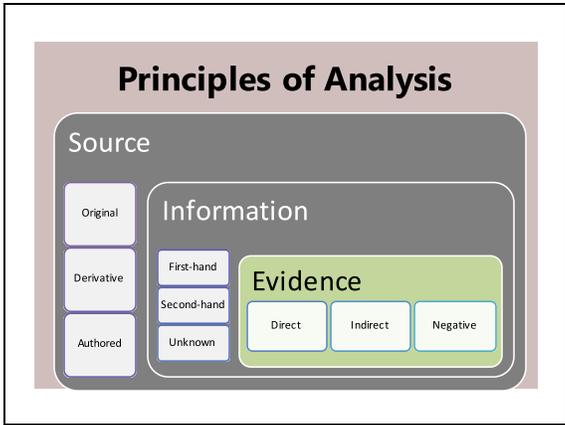


- Death date – primary
- Birth date - secondary

Common Errors When Reading Records

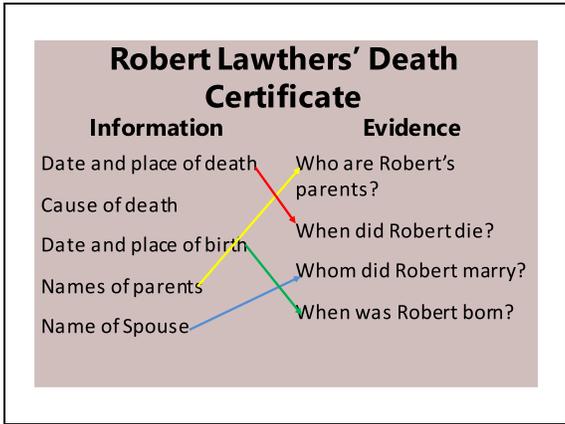
- Misreading words and dates
- Failing to understand why the source was created
- Failing to understand the origin and history of a record
- Interpreting past events with a 21st century lens
- Misunderstanding legal terms - see Barbara Jean Evans – A to Zax: A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians, Alexandria, VA: Hearthside Press: 1995
- Overlooking relevant information

Analyze the Evidence



Not All Information Is Evidence

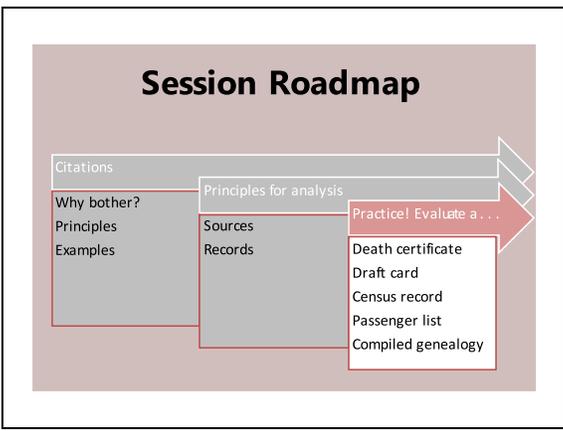
- Identify the genealogical information in the record and ask:
 - Does this answer my question directly (direct evidence)?
 - Can this be used with other evidence to answer my question (indirect evidence)?
- Most records contain multiple pieces of information; only some will be evidence for your question



Review Analysis

1. Ask yourself questions about the source and record within the source
2. Are you looking at an original, derivative, or authored document? Duplicate originals, clerk's copies, images are all considered original.
3. How long after the event was the record created?
4. Who provided the information for the record?
5. Is the information first-hand, eye-witness (primary) or second-hand, non-participant (secondary)?
6. Does the information answer my question?





First

- In your group designate one person to report back to the group

Then Answer for Your Document

1. Are you looking at an original, derivative or authored source?
2. How soon after the interview with the household was the record created?
3. Who provided the information in the record? A participant? Someone else?
4. Which information is primary (firsthand knowledge)
5. Which information is secondary (second-hand knowledge)

**Analysis:
Document 1 – 20th
Century Death
Certificate**



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.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

Genealogy Research Roadmap

<https://www.thinkgenealogy.com/wp-content/uploads/Genealogy%20Research%20Map%20v2.pdf>

