

Building Your Genealogical Skills

Class 3 – Analyze

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Session Roadmap

Citations

Why bother?

Principles

Examples

Principles for analysis

Sources

Records

Practice! Evaluate a . . .

Death certificate

Draft card

Census record

Passenger list

Compiled genealogy

But first. . .

Homework – Research Plan

Pros

- Made clear – assumptions
- Helped formulate question and focus the research
- Avoid rework – know what have already done
- What do you already know
- Come up with hypotheses

Cons

Homework – Research Log

Pros

- Kept on the straight and narrow
- Everything in one place
- Avoid rework

Cons

- Takes a lot of time!
- Doesn't feel productive

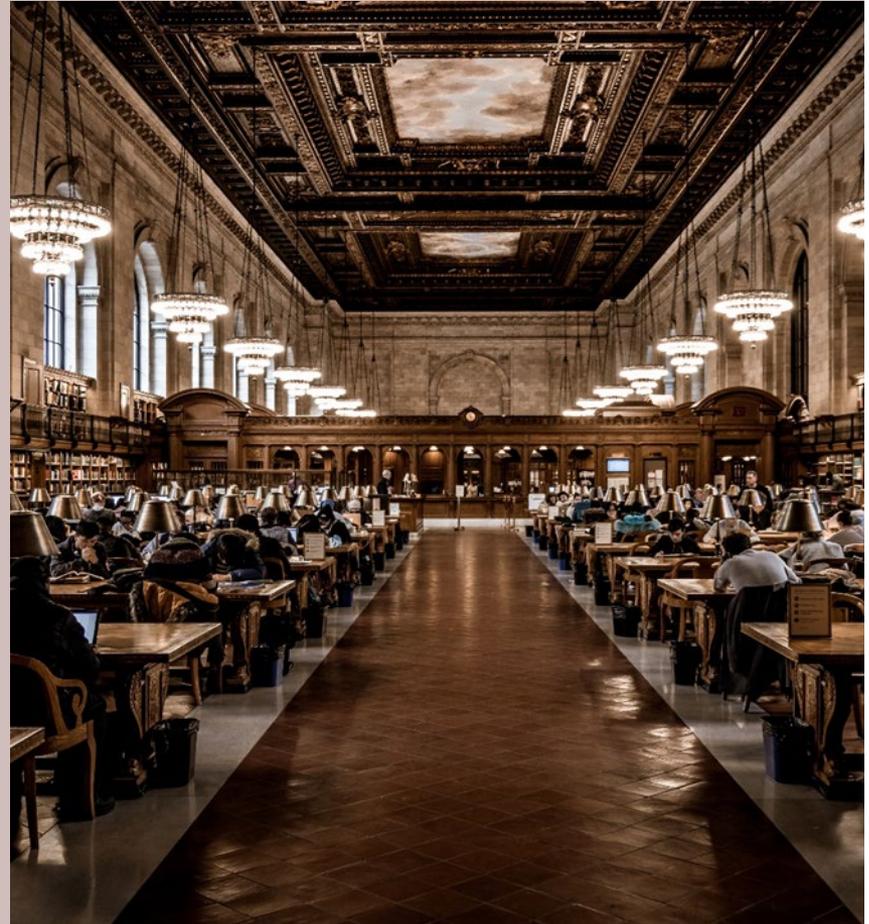
Moving On

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.



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.

Citation is an Art



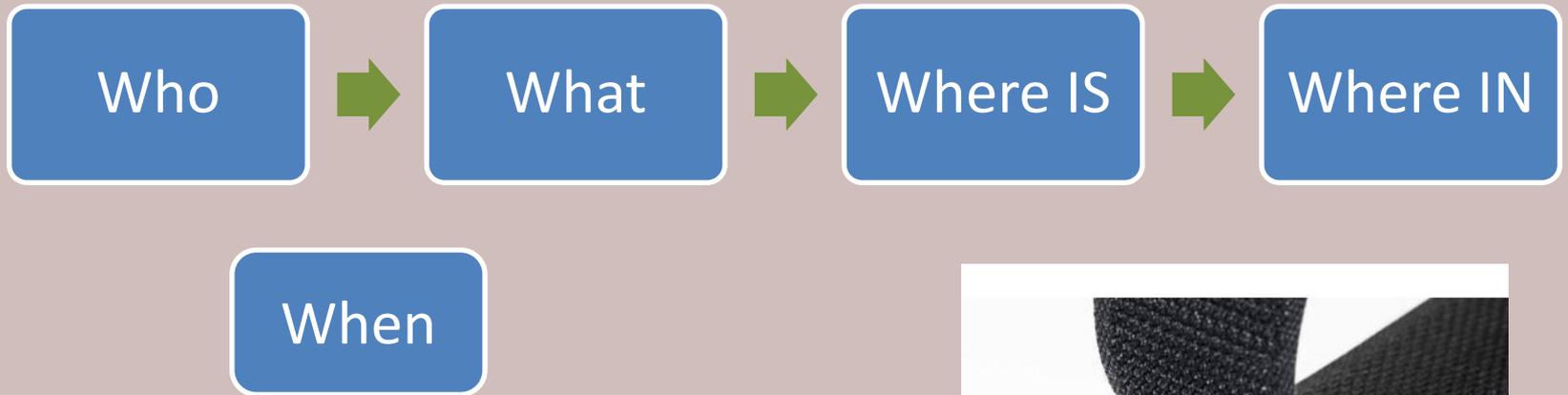
Citation Elements

- **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

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



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.

End with a period.

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

Documentation Conventions

- Book titles and journal 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

Database: Massachusetts Town Clerk and Vital Records

Website: Ancestry

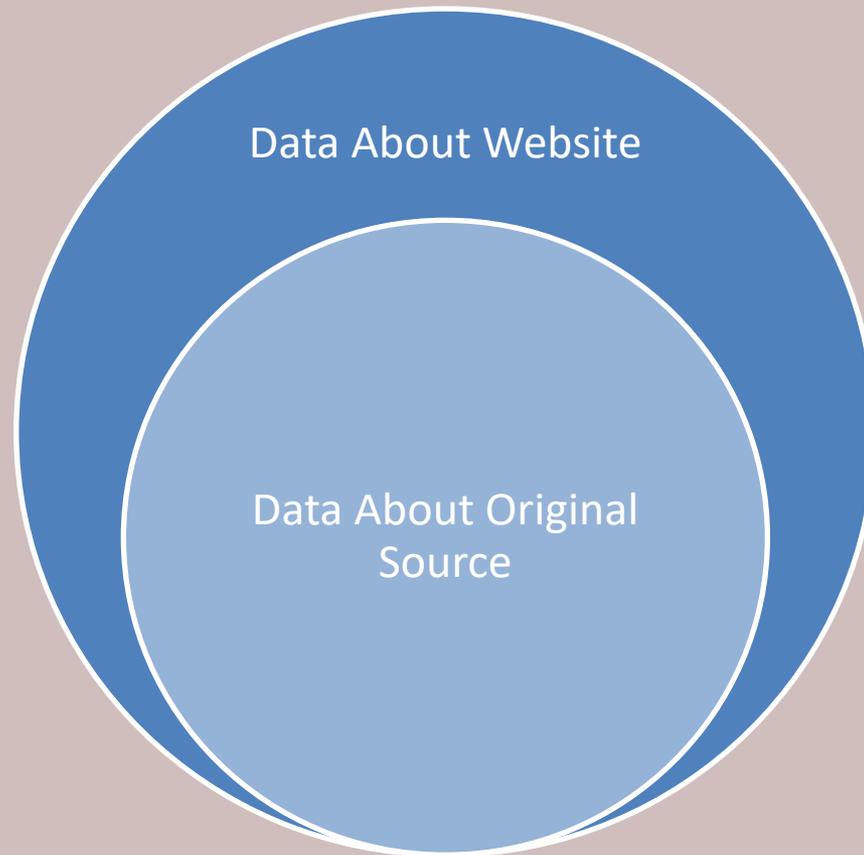


Town: Sutton

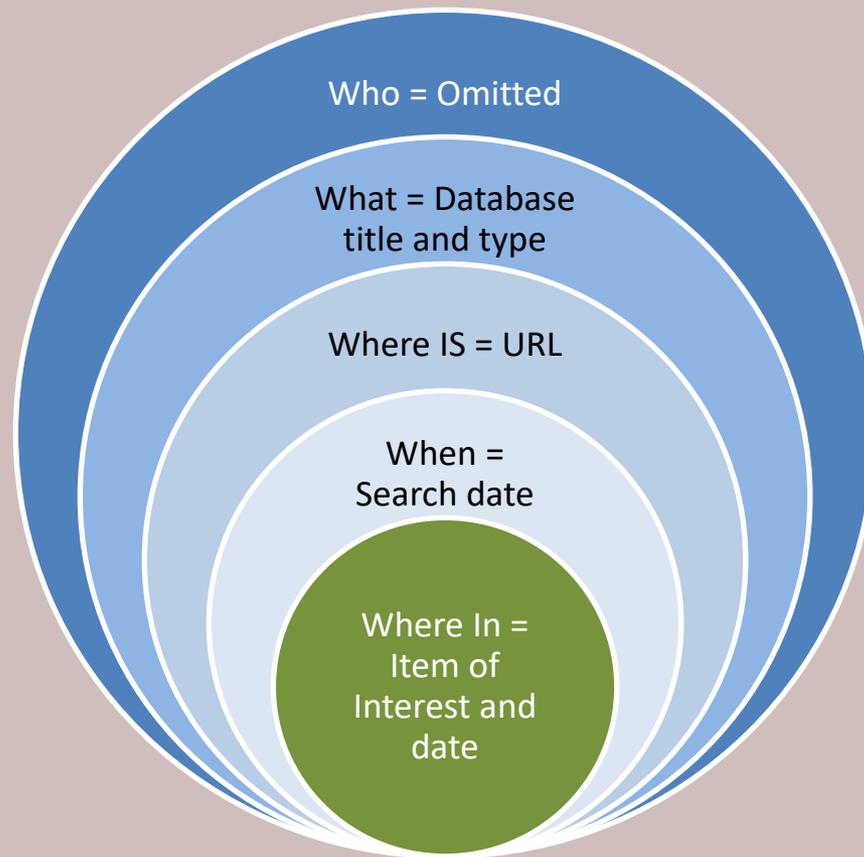
Type of Record:
Death

Item of Interest

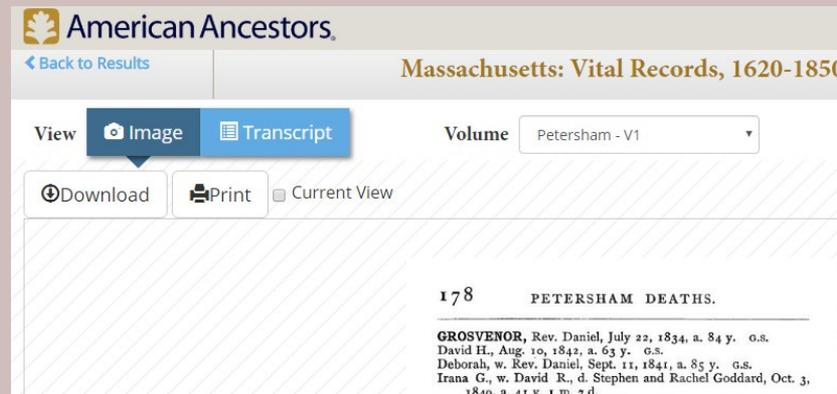
In An Online World – Citations Need Two Parts



Layer 1: Website

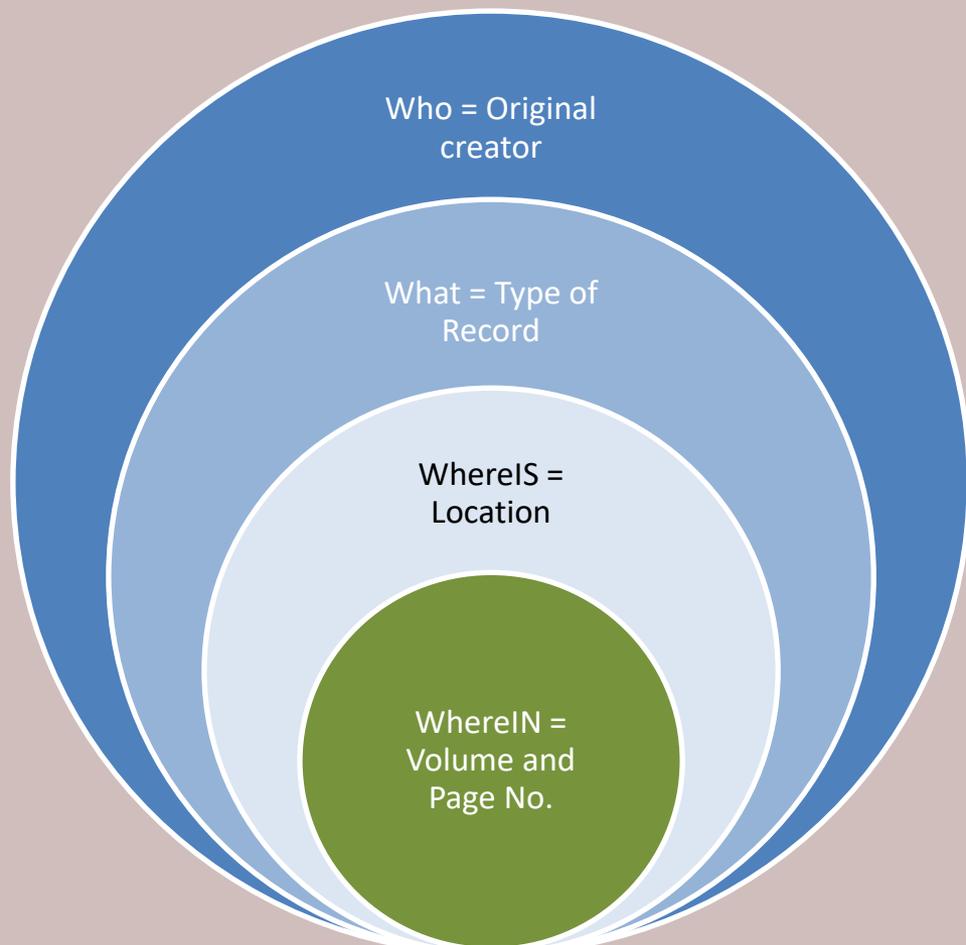


Website Information



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

Layer 2: Original Source



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	

AmericanAncestors.org
Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850

View **Image** Transcript Volume Petersham - V1

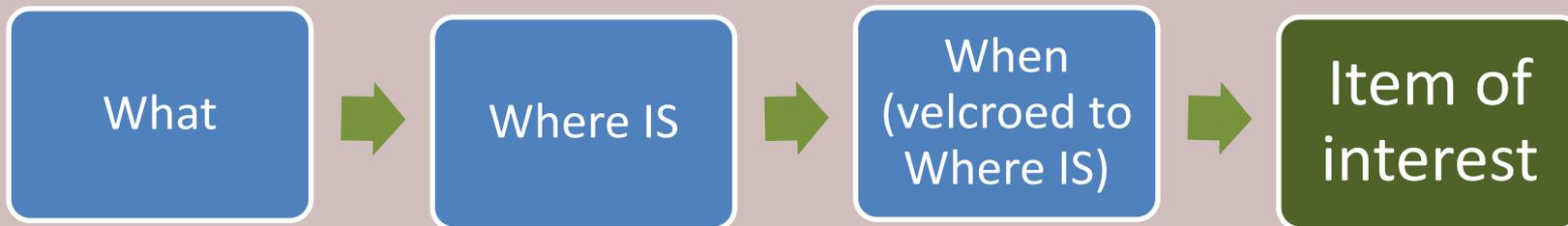
Download Print Current View

178 PETERSHAM DEATHS.

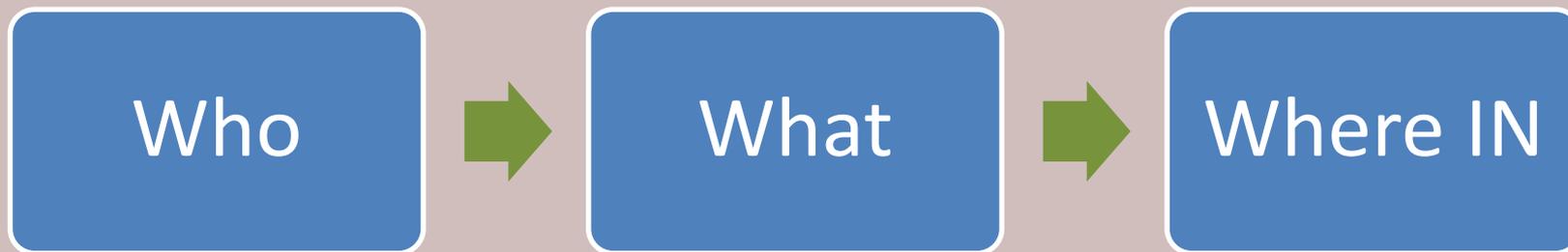
GROSVENOR, Rev. Daniel, July 22, 1834, a. 84 y. G.S.
David H., Aug. 10, 1842, a. 63 y. G.S.
Deborah, w. Rev. Daniel, Sept. 11, 1841, a. 85 y. G.S.
Irana G., w. David R., d. Stephen and Rachel Goddard, Oct. 3, 1840, a. 41 y. 1 m. 7 d.

Online Database Citation Template

Layer 1



Layer 2



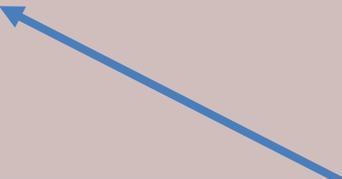
Citations - Online Database

Layer 1: The Website information



“Massachusetts Vital Records, 1620-1840,” online images viewed at *American Ancestors* (www.AmericanAncestors.org : accessed 19 May 2019), record for Deborah Grosvenor, death 11 September 1841; citing Town of Petersham, Deaths, Vol 1:178.

Layer 2: The Original Record



Evidence Explained Template

- “Name of Database in quotation marks”
- Type of database (BMD/land, etc)
- *Title of Website in Italics* (URL : access date)
- specific item of interest
- SOURCE-OF-THE-SOURCE DATA.

QuickLesson 26: Evidence Explained

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

QUESTIONS?

Session Roadmap

Citations

Why bother?

Principles

Examples

Principles for analysis

Sources

Records

Practice! Evaluate a . . .

Death certificate

Draft card

Census record

Passenger list

Principles of Analysis

Source

Original

Derivative

Authored

Information

First-hand

Second-hand

Unknown

Evidence

Direct

Indirect

Negative

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

21. I do hereby constitute and appoint my son Christian Thomas to be sole Executor of this my last Will and Testament, and I do revoke and annul all former Wills by me heretofore made In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Seal this Fourteenth day of May 1777

Signed Sealed published and declared by Christian Thomas the above named Testator as his last Will and Testament in the presence of us, who at his request and in his presence have subscribed our names as Witnesses thereto, the words "thing" and "estate" being first interlined.

Christian Thomas Seal

Unrevoked to the foregoing Will in the following Probate Vizt
 Frederick County to wit the 24th December 1777. Then came Richard Potts, Nicholas Tice and Joseph Doll the three subscribing Witnesses to the last Will and Testament of Christian Thomas late of Frederick County deceased, and severally made Oath on the Holy Evangelis of Almighty God that they did see the Testator therein named sign and seal the said Will, and that they heard him publish pronounce and declare the same to be his last Will and Testament, that at the time of his so doing he was to the best of their Apprehensions of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding and that they respectively subscribed their names as Witnesses to the said Will in the presence and at the request of the Testator, and in the presence of each other

(Sides) Testified by Geo: Muedock Reg^r

Recorded 24th December 1777.

In the name of God amen I Jacob Skumer of Frederick County in the province of Maryland, 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 that is to say First and principally of all I recommend my Soul into the hands of God (that

ADMINISTRATIONS	MAYVILLE	N Y	SURROGATE	JUN 29 1931
Pages 11-13	MISCELLANEOUS	RECORDS	0	
adm of the Estate of Barnabas Cole Jr (not) died intestate. Granted to Justus Hin- man as Admin & Polly Cole as Admin (not) Seal 26 July 1811				
Page 14	MISCELLANEOUS	RECORDS	0	
a blank page				
Page 15	MISCELLANEOUS	RECORDS	0	
adm of the Estate of Jeremiah Potter (not) died intestate. Granted to Polly Potter as Admin (not) Seal third Sept 1812 decree on serial 13 set				
Pages 16-20	MISCELLANEOUS	RECORDS	0	
are blank pages				
Page 21	MISCELLANEOUS	RECORDS	0	
adm of the Estate of Peter Boss (not) died intestate. Granted to Catherine F. Boss as Admin & Seth Snow as Admin				

22 THE PROBATE RECORDS OF ESSEX COUNTY.

Inventory taken 1:1:1642, by John Woodbridg, Henry Short and Richard Knight: howse & land, 30li.; Six kowes, 30li.; foure oxen, 24li.; one bull & one steere, 3 yeare old, 7li. 10s.; three beasts, two yeares old, 8li.; two beasts, one yeare old, 2li. 10s.; three Calves, 1li. 4s.; three hoggs, 1li. 4s.; Bees, 7li. 10s.; haye, 4li.; Soyle, 1li.; Cart, Slead & 3 Yoaks, 1li. 6s.; within the howse: one fetherbed & flockbed, 3li. 10s.; Six fether pillowes, 18s.; 4 Coverleds, 2li.; 5 blanketts, 1li. 10s.; 3 paier of Sheets, 1li. 8s.; 2li. and a halfe of bee wax, 2s. 6d.; bowlster Case & pillow & napkins, 10s.; porke, 2li. 7s.; butter & Cheese, 12s.; barrells & butte[r] Cherne & other lumb., 18s.; Pewter, 1li. 7s. 6d.; Brasse, 3li. 13s.; a Brasse pott, 1li.; iron potts, 1li. 6s.; A chafing dish & a posnet, 5s.; 12 bushells of indian corne, 2li. 2s.; 9 bushells of wheate, 2li. 6d.; 2 bushells of pease, 9s.; hogsheds & howes & other lumber, 16s.; in apparrell, stockins & shoes, 3li.; muskett & fowling peeeces & 2 Swords & bandileers, 1li. 19s.; working Tooles & lanthorne, 15s.; bookes, 1li.; spinning wheeles, 10s.; a chest & chaiers & other lumb., 16s.; harrow tines, 10s.; total, 153li. 8s. 6d. *Ipswich Deeds, vol. 1, leaf 3.*

ESTATE OF GEORGE BROWNE OF NEWBURY.

"The last will & Testament of George Browne May 26th 1642 In the name of God amen I George Browne being sick & weake in body but pfect in minde &c doe make my last will & Testament in mann & forme as followeth Impr I bequeath my soule into the hands of god and my body to the earth to be buried It I give to my beloved wife my howse & land with all my howsehold goods except my muskett & sword my wearing clothes & Tooles. Item I give unto her my kow It I give to my brother Richard Browne my wearing clothes & Tooles It I give vnto Richard Littleale Twenty shillings to be paid out of the rent of the Mill Item: I give vnto my father & to my brother Michael Twenty shillings a peece to be paid out of the Mill, but if god by his prvidence bring them into this land then my will is to give them six pounds a peece or if but one of them ||come over|| then he shall receive twelve pounds & if afterward the other come then he shall repay to him six pounds Item I give to all my brethren & sisters besides Twelve pence a peece my will is that all this shalbe paid out of my Mill after all my debts are discharged It I give unto Joseph Browne sonne of my brother Richard Browne

238 Also on the 26th of July 1817 Alanson Greenolt of Bennington
to Nancy Beaman of Pownal O'Dunham Just Peace

State of Vermont } Be it remembered that at Pownal in the County
Bennington County } Aforesaid on the 26th day of December the year of our
Lord 1819 Lyman Pratt & Lucy Dunning both of Pownal were
Duly joined in Marriage by me John Mooar Just Peace

State of Vermont } Be it remembered that at Pownal in the County
Bennington County } Aforesaid on this 31st day of January 1820 James
Dunsmore & Lydia Nyley both of Pownal were duly joined in
Marriage by me John Mooar Just Peace

State of Vermont } Be it remembered that at Pownal in the County
Bennington County } Aforesaid on the 2d day of February 1820 John
Greenolds & Hannah Patten both of Pownal were duly
joined in Marriage by me John Mooar Just Peace

State of Vermont } Be it remembered that at Pownal in the
Bennington County } County Aforesaid on the 11th day of March in the
The year of our Lord 1819 Charles Wright of East Spring
field County of Camden Commonwealth of Massachusetts &

MARRIAGE-BRIDE

Name of Bride

Fancy Beaman

Name of Groom

Clayton Greenshik

Residence of Bride

Pownal

Date of Marriage

July 24 - 1817

Color

Age in Years

Widowed

Occupation

Place of Birth

Father's Name

Birthplace

Mother's Name

Birthplace

Name Party Officiating

O. Tenham - Justice of Peace

Town

Pownal

Town of
Pownal

I hereby certify that the facts set forth on the reverse side of this card are matters of record in *Book of Surveys & Ear marks*
No 1 - Page 238

Attest: *May F. Sampman*
Town Clerk.

● *May F. Sampman*
Town Clerk.

Derivative Vital Record

SCITUATE BIRTHS

To THE YEAR 1850

ADAMS (see Addams), Margaret, d. James, bp. Mar. 18, 1654.
C.R.2.
Mary, d. John of Marishfield, great grandchild Widdow James,
bp. Dec. 14, 1656. C.R.2.

ADDAMS (see Adams), Anne, d. James, Apr. 18, 1649. [Adams, C.R.2.]

Mary, d. James, Jan. 27, 1653. [Adams, C.R.2.]

Richard, s. James, Apr. 19, 1651. [Adams, C.R.2.]

William, s. James, May 16, 1647. [Adams, C.R.2.]

ADVERD, Elizabeth, d. Henry, bp. June 29, 1651. C.R.2.

Experience, d. Henry, bp. Apr. 18, 1652. C.R.2.

Mary, d. Henry, bp. June 29, 1651. C.R.2.

Sarah, d. Henry, bp. June 29, 1651. C.R.2.

ALBEE, Dianthe, d. Amos and Judith, Sept. 14, 1803.

Judith C. [—], w. Amos, — [1784]. G.R.2.

ALDEN (see Aldin), Isaiah, s. Isaiah and Mercy W., Sept. 1, 1819.

John, s. John and Hannah of Duxborough, bp. Dec. 10, 1710. C.R.2.

Lydia, d. Isaiah and Mercy W., Feb. 5, 1830. [w. Allen Merritt, G.R.2.]

Mercy, d. Isaiah and Mercy W., Apr. 20, 1821.

Mercy, ch. Isaiah and Mercy, bp. Oct. 7, 1832. C.R.1.

Mercy W. [—], w. Isaiah [Jan. —, 1799]. G.R.6.

Thomas, s. Isaiah and Mercy W., Aug. 17, 1827.

Thomas, ch. Isaiah and Mercy, bp. Oct. 7, 1832. C.R.1.

ALDIN (see Alden), Samuel, s. John and Hannah of Duxborough, bp. May 17, 1713. C.R.2.

ALLEN (see Alin), Cornelia Maria, d. George M. and Hannah E., July 10, 1832.

ABBREVIATIONS

a. — age

abt. — about

b. — born

ch. — child

chn. — children

Co. — county

C.R.1. — church record, First Parish, and records from Rev. John Lothrop's original manuscript

C.R.2. — church record, Second Church of Scituate, now the First Unitarian Church of Norwell

C.R.3. — church record, Trinitarian Congregational Church

C.R.4. — records of the Society of Friends of Pembroke, now in the possession of the Society at New Bedford

d. — daughter; died; day

Dea. — deacon

dup. — duplicate entry

G.R.1. — gravestone record, First Parish Cemetery, Meeting House Lane, now Prospect Street, Scituate Harbor

G.R.2. — gravestone record, Groveland Cemetery, North Scituate

G.R.3. — gravestone record, Judge Cushing's Cemetery, Greenbush

G.R.4. — gravestone record, Hatch Burying Ground, Greenbush

G.R.5. — gravestone record, James Burying Ground, Greenbush

G.R.6. — gravestone record, Union Street Cemetery, Scituate Harbor

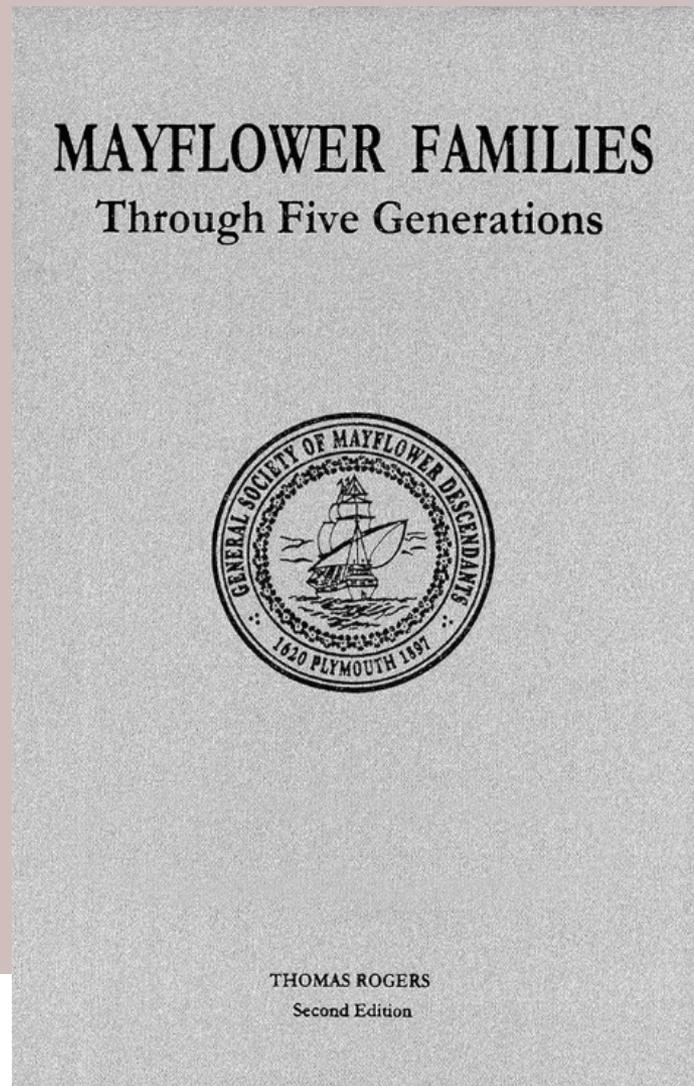
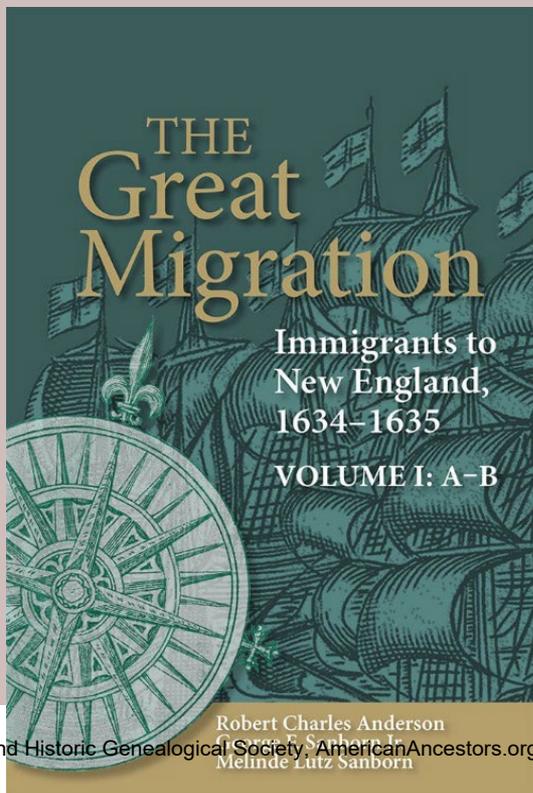
G.R.7. — gravestone record, Fairview Cemetery, Scituate Centre

G.R.8. — gravestone record, Mt. Hope Cemetery, North Scituate

G.R.9. — gravestone record, Town Burying Ground, Scituate Centre

Special Class of Sources

- Authored works
 - Compiled genealogies



Analyze the Record

Principles of Analysis

Source

Original

Derivative

Authored

Information

First-hand

Second-hand

Unknown

Evidence

Direct

Indirect

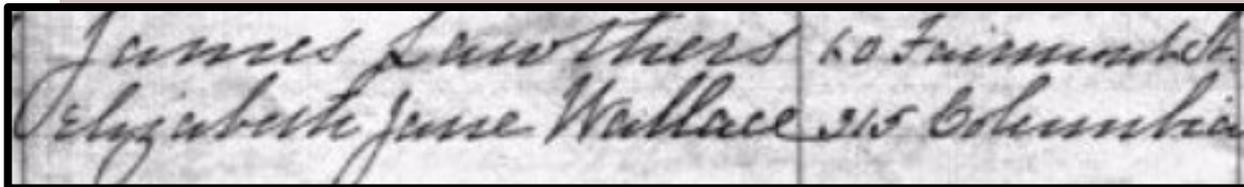
Negative

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

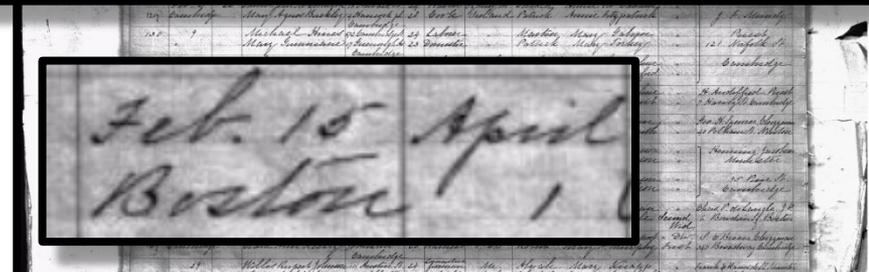
What Genealogical Information Is In the Record?

- Name and Residence

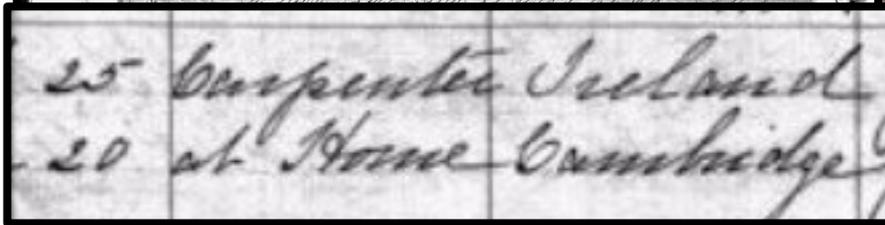


James Sawthers 60 Fairmount St.
Elizabeth Jane Wallace 315 Columbia

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



Feb. 15 April
Boston 1



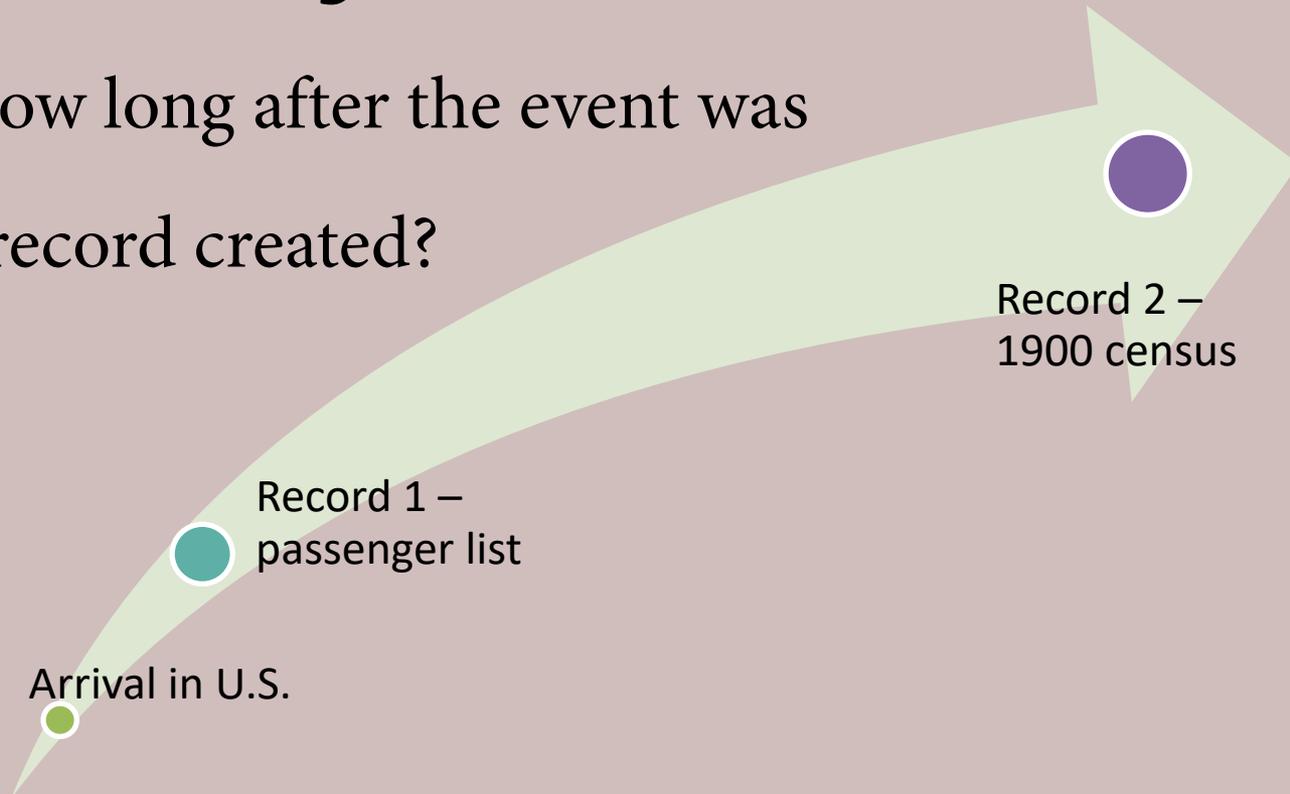
25- Carpenter Ireland
20 at Home Cambridge



James Margaret Henry
Joseph Mary Elizabeth W. Ireland

Analysis – Question 2

- How long after the event was the record created?



How Soon After the Event?

294 MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the City of Cambridge for the Year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

No.	DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE.	DATE OF RECORD.	NAMES AND SURNAMES OF GROOM AND BRIDE. <small>(If the bride is a widow or divorced, give maiden name also.)</small>	RESIDENCE OF EACH AT TIME OF MARRIAGE.	AGE of each in years.	OCCUPATION OF EACH.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH.	SEX.	RACE.	NAMES OF PARENTS. <small>(Give maiden name of mother.)</small>	BOONDS BY WHOM.	SPONSORS. <small>(Give names and addresses.)</small>	What Marriage Lic. No. or No. of License or License No.	NAME, RESIDENCE, AND OFFICIAL STATION OF PERSON BY WHOM MARRIED.
127	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	Joseph C. Elder Sarah Moore	101 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	Henry Leigley John Wilford	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
128	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
129	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
130	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
131	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
132	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
133	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
134	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
135	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
136	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge
137	March 10, 1899 Cambridge	19	John W. Moore Elizabeth M. Deane	111 Cambridge St. Cambridge	24 24	Laborer	Ireland Ireland	M	White	John Wilford Elizabeth M. Deane	James Elisha	Edward D. Deane Elizabeth M. Deane		Edward D. Deane Cambridge

DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE.

DATE OF RECORD.

Feb. 10 April
Boston

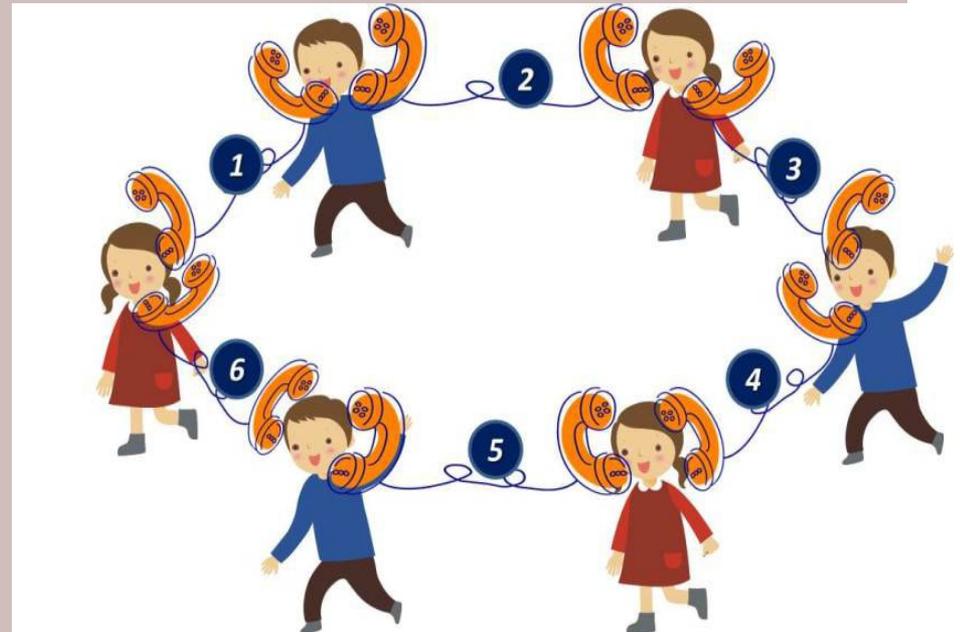
Analysis – Question 3

Who provided the information in the record?

Participant?



Someone else?



Who Was the Informant?

294

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the City of Cambridge for the Year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine.

No.	DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE	DATE OF RECORD	NAMES AND SURNAMES OF GROOM AND BRIDE <small>(If the bride is a widow or divorcee, give maiden name also.)</small>	RESIDENCE OF EACH AT TIME OF MARRIAGE	AGE of each at years	OCCUPATION OF EACH	PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH	NAMES OF PARENTS <small>(Give maiden name of mother.)</small>	Who Married <small>(By, De, &c., and the name of the Minister.)</small>	NAME, RESIDENCE, AND OFFICIAL STATION OF PERSON BY WHOM MARRIED.	
127	Nov 10 Cambridge	18	Joseph Elder Sarah Moore	Cambridge Cambridge	24 24	Laborer at Home	Ireland at Home	Robert Nicholas	Mary Julia	Lucy Robert	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
128	Nov 19 Boston	21	Philip F. W. Donnell Elizabeth Beaton	Cambridge Cambridge	22 18	Domestic at Home	Cambridge at Home	Michael John	Esther Mary Ann	Joseph Thomas	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
129	Feb 2 Cambridge	22	Samuel J. W. Donnell Mary Agnes Buckley	Cambridge Cambridge	22 20	Domestic Clerk	Cambridge Waltham	Samuel Patrick	Mary Ann	Thomas Mary	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
130	" 9	"	Michael Jones Mary Guinn	Cambridge Cambridge	23 23	Laborer Domestic	Cambridge Boston	Michael Patrick	Mary Mary	Thomas Mary	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
131	Jan 30	"	Michael Jones Alice Henshaw	Cambridge Cambridge	23 20	Laborer at Home	Cambridge at Home	Michael Robert	Mary Elizabeth	Thomas Joseph	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
132	Mar 27	27	David Henry Ross Mary Josephine Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	19 17	Free letter at Home	Boston Boston	David James	Ellen Mary M.	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
133	" 24	24	Scott F. Harshey Elizabeth Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William William	Ellen Ellen	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
134	" 27	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
135	" 30	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
136	" 31	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
137	" 1	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
138	" 2	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
139	" 3	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
140	" 4	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
141	" 5	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
142	" 6	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
143	" 7	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston
144	" 8	"	Elizabeth Walker Hester Walker	Cambridge Cambridge	22 22	at Home at Home	at Home at Home	William Robert	Ellen Elizabeth	Thomas Benjamin	Scott F. Harshey 48 Newswell St. Boston

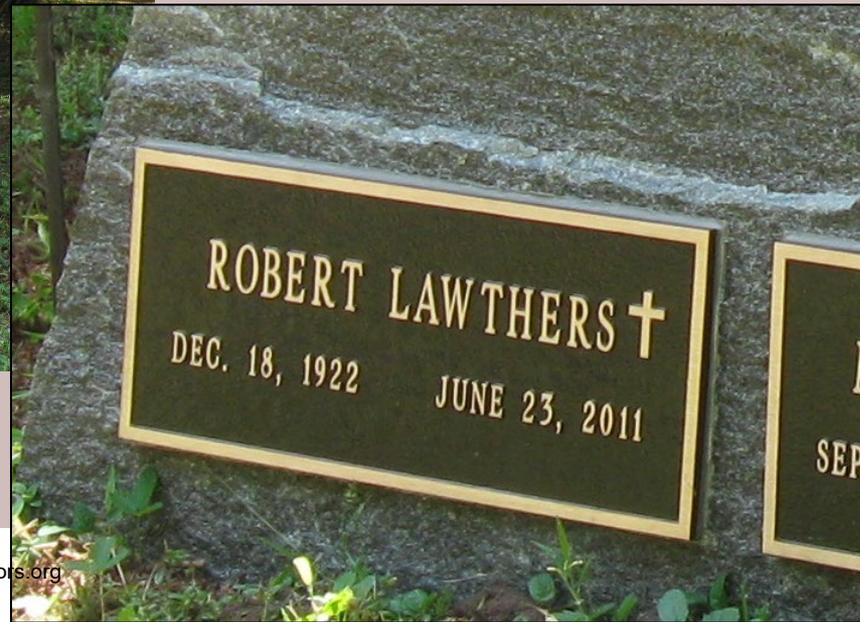
Scott F. Harshey, Minister
48 Newswell St. Boston

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

Principles of Analysis

Source

Original

Derivative

Authored

Information

First-hand

Second-hand

Unknown

Evidence

Direct

Indirect

Negative

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

Robert Lawthers' Death Certificate

Information

Evidence

Date and place of death

Who are Robert's parents?

Cause of death

When did Robert die?

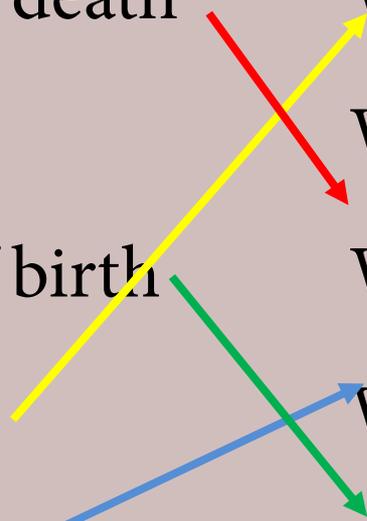
Date and place of birth

Whom did Robert marry?

Names of parents

When was Robert born?

Name of Spouse

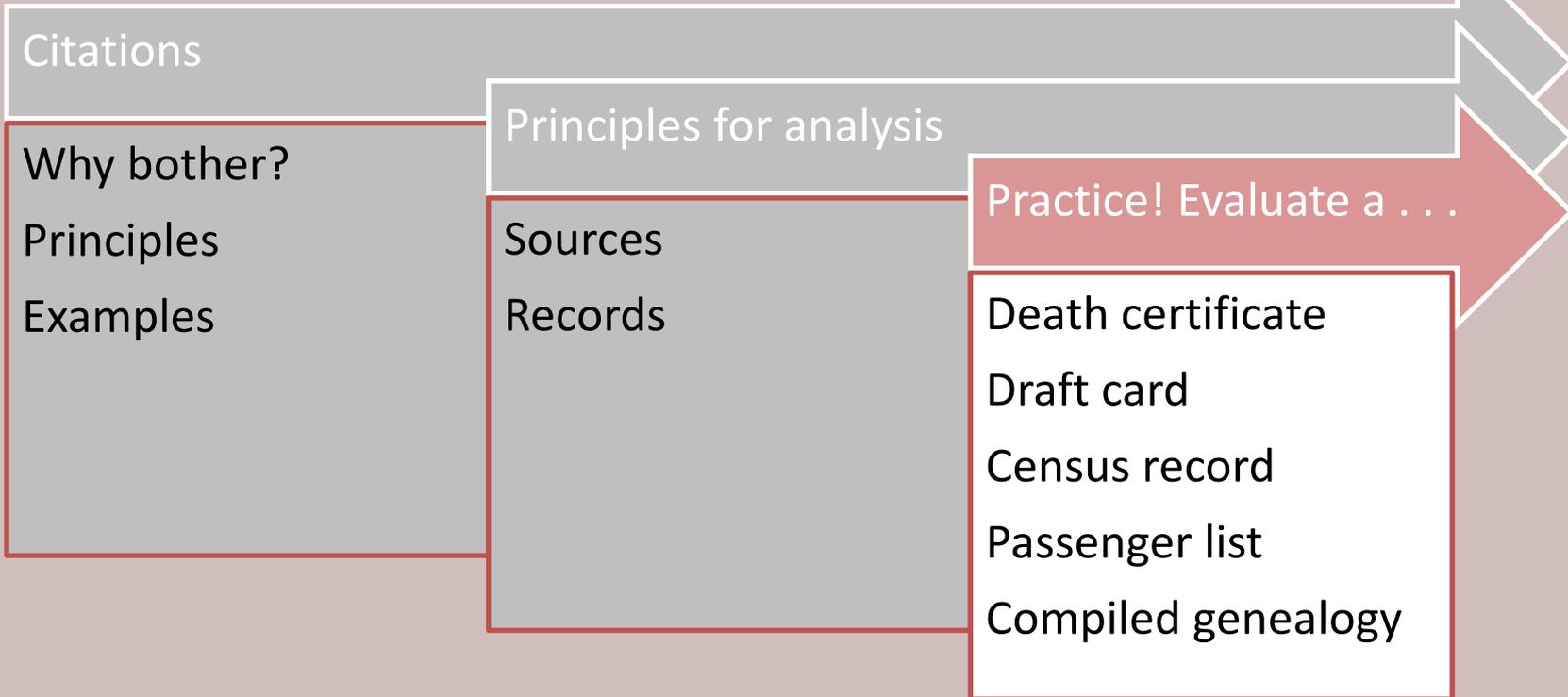


Review Analysis

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?

QUESTIONS?

Session Roadmap



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 event 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

GAED
FUNCTIONS

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

File No. **19393**

Building Year Genealogical Skills, April 2022

Primary
Dist. No. **2**

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Registered No. **897**

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING RECORD
WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD
N. B. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact Statement of OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

1. PLACE OF DEATH:

(a) County Allegheny

(b) Township _____

(c) Borough Pittsburgh

(d) City Pittsburgh

(e) Name of hospital or institution SCHENLEY APARTMENTS
(If not in hospital or inst. write street number or location)

(f) Length of stay:
In hospital or inst. _____ (g) In this community _____

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED:

(a) State Penna. (b) County Allegheny

(c) City or town Pittsburgh
(If outside city or town limits, write RURAL)

(d) Street No. 4000 Fifth Avenue
(If rural give location)

(e) If citizen of foreign country, name country _____

3. (a) FULL NAME MAUDE BELL PLOWMAN

3. (b) If U. S. Veteran, complete reverse side of certificate _____

3. (c) Social Security No. None

4. Sex F **5. Color or race** W **6. (a) Single, widowed, married, divorced** Widowed

6. (b) Name of husband or wife George Taylor Plowman **6. (c) Age of husband or wife if alive** _____ years

7. Birth date of deceased May 30 1874
(Month) (Day) (Year)

8. AGE: Years Months Days 72 8 5 hr. _____ min.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATION

20. Date of death: Month Feb. 5 day 5 year 1947 hour 11 PM minute 58

21. I hereby certify that I attended the deceased from Jan 24, 1947, to Feb 5, 1947, that I last saw her alive on Feb 5, 1947, and that death occurred on the date and hour stated above.

9. Birthplace Turkey
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

10. Usual occupation Retired

11. Industry or business _____

12. Name Rev. Newton Hervey Bell

13. Birthplace Iowa
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

14. Maiden name Emma Hall Curtis

15. Birthplace New York
(City, town, or county) (State or foreign country)

16. (a) Informant's own signature Jenifer Plowman (RD)

(b) Address Schenley Apts., Pittsburgh, Penna.

17. (a) Cremation _____ **(b) Date thereof** 2-10-47
(Burial, cremation, or removal) (Month) (Day) (Year)

(c) Place Homewood County Allegheny State Penna.

18. (a) Signature of funeral director R.T. Dwyer

(b) Address H. SAMSON, Inc., 537 Neville St.

19. (a) _____ **(b)** _____
(Date received local registrar) (Registrar's signature)

Immediate cause of death
Cerebral hemorrhage
Left Hemiplegia
Due to Hypertension
(from history)

Other conditions _____
(Include pregnancy within 3 months of death)

Major findings:
Of operations X BA

Of autopsy X 102

DURATION 12 days

PHYSICIAN
Underline the cause to which death should be charged statistically.

22. If death was due to external causes, fill in the following:

(a) (Probably) Accident, suicide, or homicide (specify) _____

(b) Date of occurrence X

(c) Where did injury occur? X
(City or town) (County) (State)

(d) Did injury occur in or about home, on farm, in industrial place, in public place? X
(Specify type of place)

While at work? X (e) Means of injury _____

23. Signature D. J. Schull (M. D. or other)

Address Schenley apts **Date signed** 2/6/47

Let's look at Document 2 – Draft Registration

REGISTRATION CARD

No. **28**

10785

Building Your Genealogical Skills, April 2022

1 Name in full George Herman Ruth Age, in yrs. 23
(Given name) (Family name)

2 Home address 680 Commonwealth Ave Boston Mass.
(No.) (Street) (City) (State)

3 Date of birth Feb 7 1894
(Month) (Day) (Year)

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born

5 Where were you born? Baltimore Maryland U.S.
(Town) (State) (Nation)

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Base Ball - Boston American Fenway Park -

8 By whom employed? 28
 Where employed? Boston Mass

9 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Wife

10 Married or single (which)? Married Race (specify which)? Caucasian

11 What military service have you had? Rank None; branch _____; years _____; Nation or State _____

12 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? No

1-8. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Height (or by which)? 6' 2" Stature, medium, or stout (which)? Medium

Color of hair? Brown Color of eyes? dark Bald? _____

Is the person, leg, hand, foot, or both otherwise disabled (specify)? _____

I affirm that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers and that all of his answers of which I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have not witnessed his signature are true, except as follows:

8 Lewis A. Armstrong
(Signature of registrar)

9 Boston Mass
June 5/1917
(Date of registration)

1078-5

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

[Signature]
 (Signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, enter off this order

Let's look at Document 3 - Census

Let's look at Document 4 – Passenger List

WOOD & NIEBUHR, Notaries Public and Custom House Brokers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

Sold by McSpedon & Baker, Stationers, 25 Pine Street, adjoining the Custom House, N. Y.

DISTRICT OF NEW YORK—PORT OF NEW YORK.

I, *Samuel Gorton* do solemnly, sincerely and truly *swear* that the following List or Manifest of Passengers, subscribed with my name, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs for the District of New York, contains, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a just and true account of all the Passengers received on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof I am Master, from *Liverpool*

Sworn to this *31st May 1849*
 Before me *[Signature]* So help me God.
Samuel Gorton
 List or Manifest OF ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the *Ship Fidelic* whereof
Gorton is Master, from *Liverpool* burthen *10* tons.

NAMES	Age.		SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The country to which they severally belong.	The country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the Voyage.
	Years	Months					

<i>James Gorton</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Shipper</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
<i>John Mc Kitchie</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Stone Mason</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	
<i>James Gorton</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>do</i>		
<i>Eloya do</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>do</i>		
<i>Michael Fulmer</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Shipper</i>	<i>do</i>		

Let's look at Document 5 – Compiled Genealogy

312a MARY ANN.

312b JOHN, b. Mar. 9, 1785.

312c WILLIAM, b. April 5, 1787.

313. DOLLY COGSWELL (Anna^{12a}, Eliphalet¹¹, Eliphalet⁹, John¹), b. May 22, 1767; m. Stephen Branch; she died July 20, 1802. They resided near Bennington, Vt.

Their children were :

313a DOLLY.

313b CLARISSA.

313c STEPHEN.

MEMORANDA.

In 1800 Mrs. Anna (Whittlesey) Cogswell, her (Dolly's) mother, and John Cogswell, made a journey of one hundred miles on horseback, to visit Mrs. Branch in her Vermont home. [Cogswell Genealogy.]

314. WILLIAM COGSWELL (Anna^{12a}, Eliphalet¹¹, Eliphalet⁹, John¹), b. July 23, 1769; m. Amaryllis Johnson (a sister of his brother Roger's wife), b. Feb. 20, 1765, in Salisbury, Conn. They resided at New Preston, Conn. Col. Cogswell d. Aug. 28, 1823; Mrs. C. d. Mar. 14, 1826.

Their children were :

i MARY ANN, b. Jan. 6, 1792; m. Sept. 12, 1816, John Milton Holley.

ii AMARYLLIS, b. Sept. 24, 1793; m. Mar. 23, 1818, Chauncey Perry.

iii RUTH, b. Aug. 24, 1795; m. Oct. 8, 1828, Dr. Jethro Hatch.

iv SARAH JOHNSON, b. Sept. 26, 1797; m. Sept. 15, 1818, Luman Whittlesey, No. 633.

v WILLIAM JOHNSON, b. Nov. 4, 1799; m. June 12, 1839, Alma Canfield Sterling.

vi THEODORE SEDGWICK, b. April 27, 1801; m. Oct. 19, 1826, Mary Morcia Maria Gregory.

vii ELIZA, b. May 1, 1803; m. Jan. 12, 1829, William H. Downes.

viii JULIA MARIA, b. Feb. 16, 1805; m. 1824, Romanta Seymour.

ix FANNY ARIGAIL, b. Feb. 16, 1809; m. Oct. 8, 1828, Dr. Mark Pratt.

Summary

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.

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat

THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education