Follow the Money: Tracing Ancestors on the Move

Melanie McComb Genealogist

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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



"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

Types of Records

Town Records

Land Records

Military Pension and Bounty
Land Records

Probate Records

Tax Records

Employment Records

Town Records

Types of Town Records



Ear Marks and Cattle Marks



Pauper and Orphanage Records



Indenture Agreements



Town Payments



Mortage Records



Dog Licenses

Ear Marks and Cattle Marks

- Owners mark their cattle and sheep with distinct patterns
 - Easily identify their own livestock and help prevent against theft
- The marks were submitted to the town clerk to be registered
- Marks could be passed down from father to son
 - ➤ Only one son could inherit the father's mark
- Registered marks could also be sold (part of the owner's estate)

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Cattle and Sheep Ear Marks – Waitsfield, Vermont Town Records

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

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Newburyport, MA Welfare Records

Indenture Agreements

- Legal contracts made between an indentured servant and an employer "master"
- Outlines the duration of servitude and the rules that servant and master will abide by

INDENTURE OF A GIRL, BOSTON, ABOUT 1701.

THIS INDENTURE Witnesseth that Mary Clifford, daughter of Stephen clifford late of Boston Deceased aged nineteen years of her own Free & Voluntary Will hath put her self Apprentice or Servant to John Pastre and Marget his wife and to their. assignes and with him or them after the manner of a Servant to Dwell and Serve from this present first day of August into the full End and Term of four years from thence next ensuing the Date hereof: by all which Term of four years the said Servant the said Mr or Mistris well and truly shall Serve ther Secrets shall keep close their Command lawful and honest everywhere. She shall gladly do, hurt to her said M or M she shall not do, to the Value of Twelve pence by the year. but shall let if she may, or else Immediately admonish her said Master thereof: the Goods of her said Mr or Mrs she shall not Inordinately wast, nor them to anybody Lend, whereby her Mr may incur any hurt: Fornication in the House of her said Mr or else where, she shall not Commit: Matrimony she shall not Contract. without the Special License of her Sd Master. From the Service of her Mr day or night she shall not absent or prolong herself; but in all things as a good and faithful Apprentice or Servant, shall bear and behave her self toward her said Master and all theirs during the Term aforesaid: and the said John pastre and Marget his wife doe ingage the finding and providing of their said Servant Apparel. Meat. Drink and Bedding, and all other necessaries meet and convenient for a Servant, for and during the Term aforesaid: And at the Expiration of the abovesaid Term her said Master or Mrs shall give unto said Servant desent Apparel both of Linnen and Woolen In Witness whereof the Parties above mentioned for the true performance of the abovesaid Covenants & Agreements have Joyntly & Severally Interchanchably Set, their Hands & Seals to each Indenture being both of one Tenor & Form: And Date in Boston - this first - day of August in the first - Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lady &c And in the year of Our Lord one thousand Seven hundred.1.

Boston Record Commissioners Report Vol. 10, p. 151 (Archive.org)

Mortgage Records

Moody Shright to Josep Ath Might. Received May 32 1839. It so minutes part Elever of Eloch & I. Mordy Might of Soylister in the Eventy of Virester, in consideration of Eighty Dollars paid to me by Joseph M. Night of Boylister. Eventy aforesaid, the receipt where I be hereby acknowledge, to hereby grant, bargain, sell & convey anto the said Joseph Mb. Wright, the following hersonal property, to sot: The Measure Maggon. I Wheelbarrow, 1/2 dozen dinery Ehairs, 1/2 dozen their power quality, I Rocking Chairs, 1/2 tooking Store, 4 Teather beds with the bed clothes, steads & cords, 1 Barran, 3 Tables, 2 light stands. These with knowers, 2 Lorking Glasses, 15 ergen hillion Elairs, 1 Grindstone m I how har. I have & 16 hold the property aforegranted unto the said Joseph. Mr. Mright has Executors, Administrators to essent forcor,

Town Payments

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Dog Licenses

- Dog Owner
- Year of license
- Name of dog
- Description of dog
- Sicensed Dogs 1859

 No.1. Licensed May 32

 Us a male dog named Tiger.
 Owned by Denophon Adams.
 Described as large sized rather
 dark brindled color

 No.2 Sicensed May 9th

 els a male dog named Rome.
 Owned by Elbridge Tenney.
 Described as rather large sized

 Holack color
- Alternative record to establish residency for a person within a town

Land Records

Census Documents

- Identify the occupation of your ancestor as well as the amount of real estate they owned
- Agriculture census schedules should be consulted if you have farmers in your family
 - ➤ Indicate the amount of land they owned

Value of Real Estate Owned

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welling-house numbered in order of visita	amilies numbe in the order visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	11	ex.	olor, White, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	alue of Real E	PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	year. ttended School within the year	Whether deaf at dumb, blind, insar idiotic, pauper, convict.
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1850 Census, Marion County, Iowa

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Ancestry.com



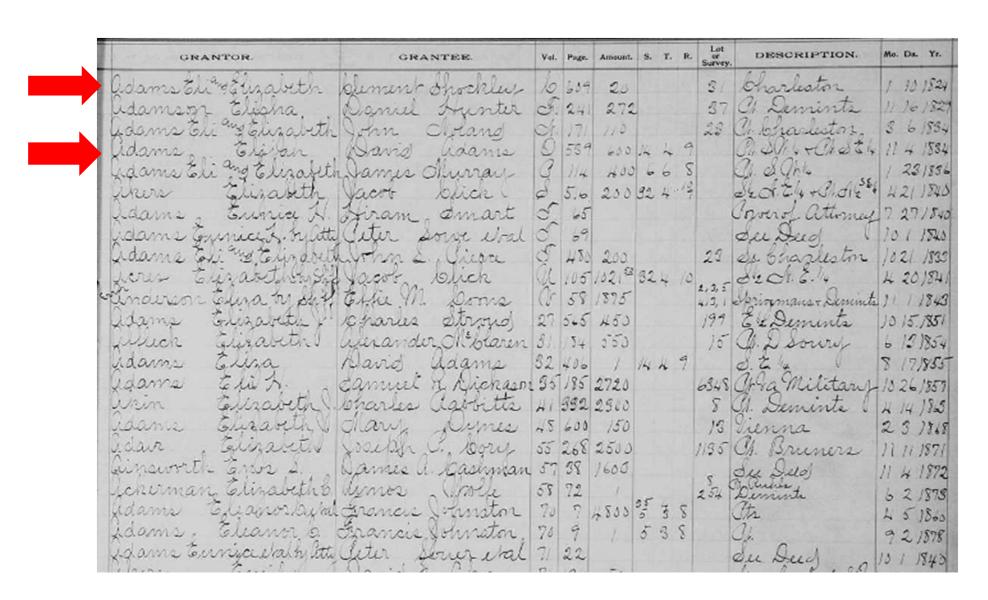
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1850 Non-Population Schedule, Marion County, Iowa

Deeds

- Legal document transferring ownership of property from one person to another
 - ➤ Grantor = seller
 - ➤ Grantee = buyer
- Kept at the county level
 - Connecticut, Vermont, and Rhode Island are recorded at the town level



Clark County, Ohio Grantor and Grantee Index

Eli Adams et ux. 3 beed This Indentures made and conclude Juil Hentle Vecorder bl. This 10 day of January in the year of our Lord one Thousand eight hundre and twenty four Between Eli Adams and Elizabeth his wife of the one parta Clement Thockley of the other part all of the bounty of black in the State of this Witnefeth that the said bli Adams and Bligabith his wife for and in count exaction of the own of twenty dollars to them in hand paid the Receipt wheney They do hereby acknowledge and former acquit and discharge the said Clemment thockley his heir Executors & administrators from - have granter , bargained, sold, en feoffer, and Confirmed and by these presents do grant, be. gala, sell, enfeof air confirm unto the said Clement Thockley his heirs ale apigus forever all that lot number thirty one containing fifty roas of land man in left in the Fown of Charleston in the said bounty and State. Together with all the improvements and affurtenances whatsoever to the said premises belonging or in anywin affectaining and the reversions remainders and profits thereof and all the estate dight title claim aid demand of the sais Ele Adams and lizabeth his wife of and in the same. To have and to hold the Lot kerely comp

Deed, Clark County Land Records

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If the deed sale is \$1, this indicates a relationship between both parties

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Deed, Clark County Land Records

The Homestead Act

- Signed in 1862, this law allowed any American (including freed slaves) to purchase up to 160 acres of federal land
- Buyer was required to live on the land for five years and perform necessary upkeep and additions
- Civil War Union veterans could use time served in military towards the residency requirement

Locating Homesteading Files

- Use the Bureau of Land Management web site to search for land patents in the U.S.
- Land entry files can be obtained from the National Archives in Washington, DC
 - ➤ Homesteading files are starting to become available on Ancestry.com



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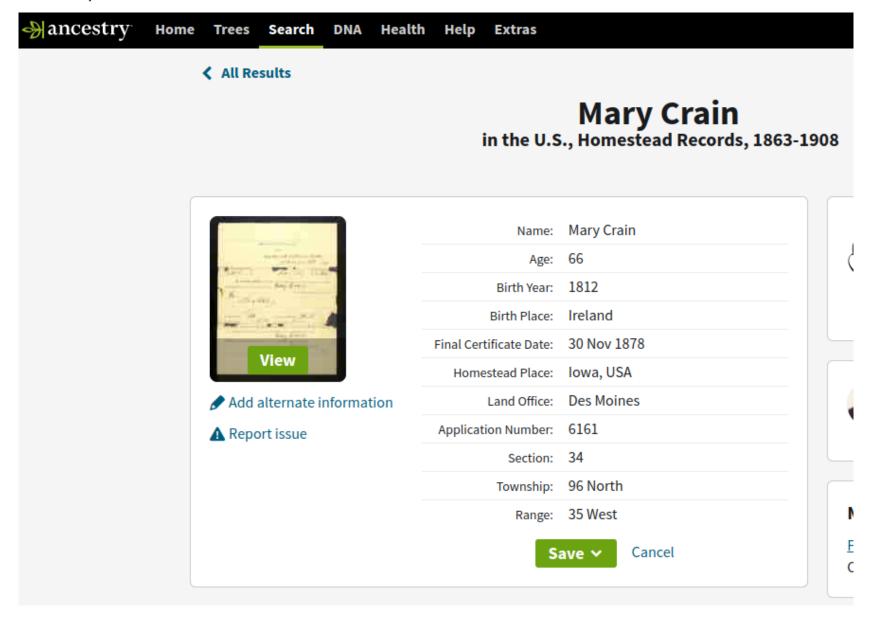
Ancestry.com

Clear search

Search

also included.

1870 United States Federal Census This database is an index to individuals



Ancestry.com

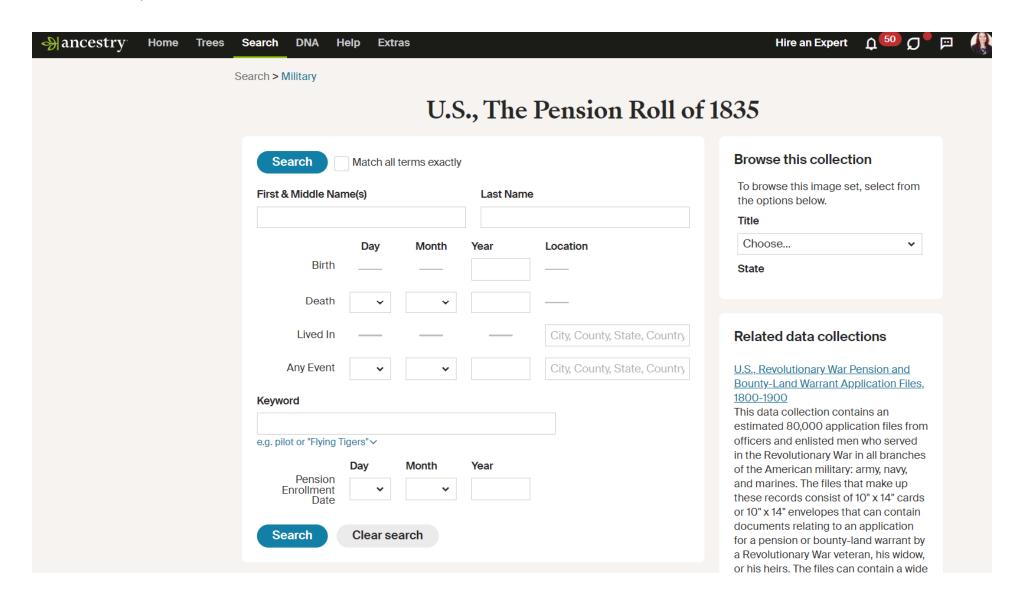
Military Pension and Bounty Land Records

Revolutionary War Pension History

- 24 August 1780 Congress passed an act to offer pensions to widows and orphans of Revolutionary War soldiers
- 1818 Congress passed a resolution granting pensions to veterans who were not disabled but were having financial difficulties – lifetime pension
- 1832 Full pay for life to officers and enlisted men who served 2+ years; partial pay for 6 months to 2 years
- Original files are kept at the National Archives, Washington D.C. (digitized and available on Fold3.com)

Pension Roll of 1835

- In 1834/1835, the U.S. Senate passed a series of resolutions requiring a list be compiled of pensioners who were drawing pensions for service in the Revolutionary War
- Some War of 1812 veterans may be listed
 - ➤ Most appear in later pension rolls



Ancestry.com

Statement showing	the Names, Rank, &c. of	Invalid Pensioners	residing in	Cheshire county.	in the State of New
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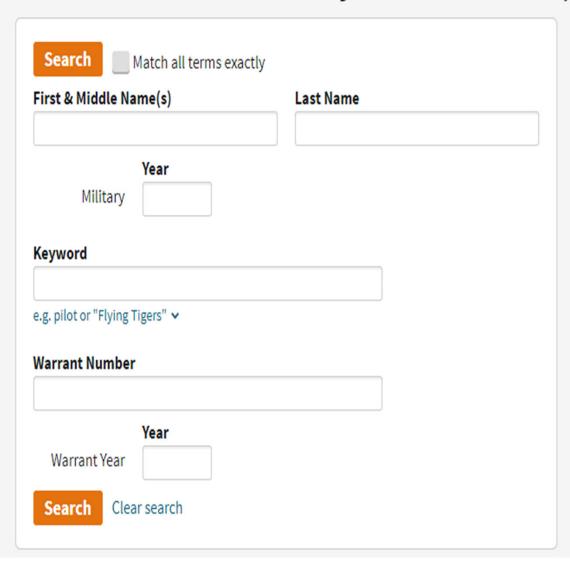
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Pension Roll of 1835, vol. 1 – Cheshire County, New Hampshire

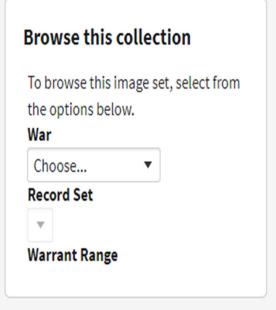
Military Bounty Land

- Federal government provided bounty land for those that served in the following wars:
 - ➤ Revolutionary War
 - ➤ War of 1812
 - ➤ Mexican War
 - ➤ Indian Wars (1775-1885)
- Claimed by veterans or their heirs; many sold off their scrips for cash
- Applications recorded the veteran's age and residence at the time of application

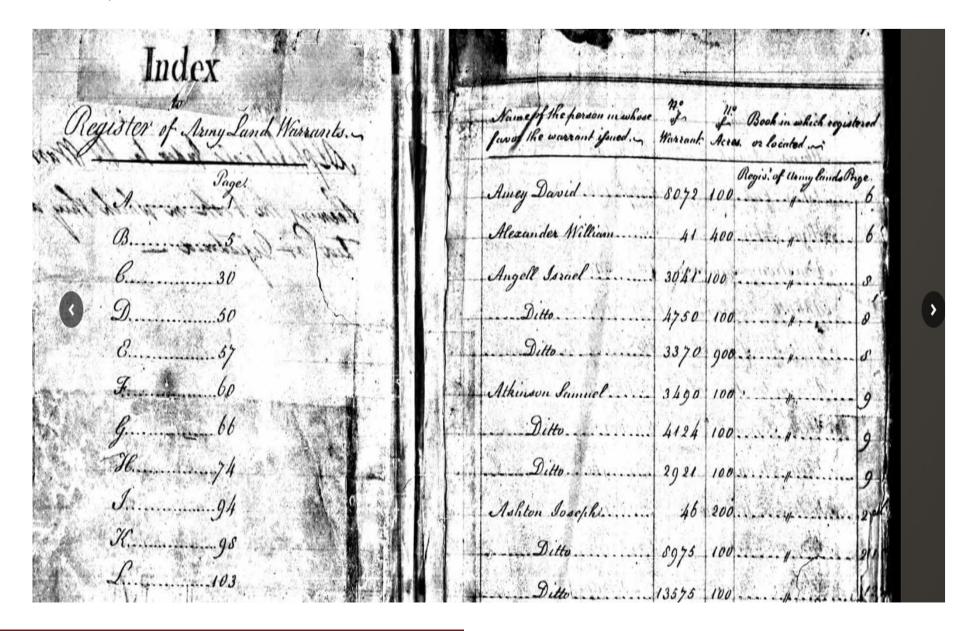
U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858







Ancestry.com



U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1788-1848 Index

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U.S. War Bounty Land Warrants, 1789-1858 Register

United States Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900

Description

Pension and bounty land warrant application files of veterans and widows of veterans who served in the Revolutionary War. The files correspond to National Archive publication M804 Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files and contain applications and other documents in support of a claim. The index was created by Fold3.

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Search Colle	ction	
Deceased Ance	estor's Information	
First Names		Last Names
Search with a	life event:	
Birth Marriage	Residence Death Any	
Birth Place		Birth Year (Range)
		From To
Search with a	relationship:	
Spouse Father	Mother Other Person	
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Location Type	Batch Number Film Number	
Country	State or Province	

familysearch.org

A L Stockbridge Review and Attach Record Tools United States Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900 Images Available Veteran's Name: John Stockbridge To view these images you must do one of the following: Pensioner's Name: Mary Stockbridge • At www.fold3.com. By clicking here you will be leaving Massachusetts State: FamilySearch.org (fees and other terms may apply). Veteran's Military Service Branch: Continental Mass. Pension Number: W 25075 Record Collection: Additional Name: A H C Standish, A L Stockbridge, A United States Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Amos G Draper, Carolina W D Rich, Land Warrant Applications, 1800-1900 Emojene D Champine, F H Lucke, Frank C Griffith, Frank Carlos Griffith, **Document Information:** V H L Standish, Harriott L Standish, J G P Stokes, Lewis F Hobbs, V D Similar Historical Records Stockbridge Affiliate Identifier: 19506707 No similar records were found.

Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Abstract

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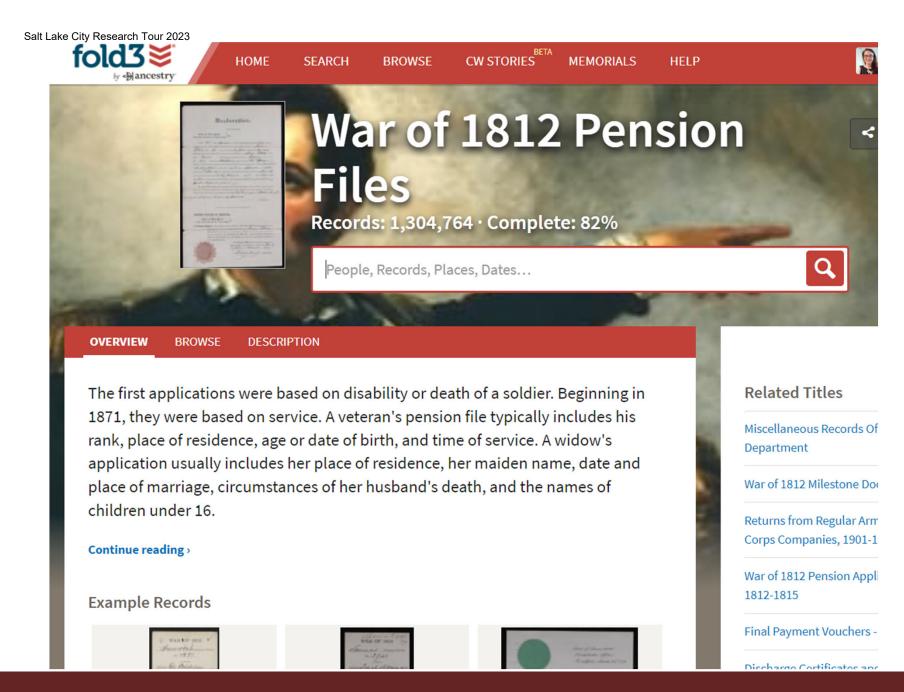
Pension Jacket on Fold3.com

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Pension file affidavit

War of 1812 Pension History

- 1871 Act provided pensions to veterans who served at least 60 days or to their widows if they married before 1815
- 1878 Act provided pensions to veterans or their widows, who served at least 14 days
- War of 1812 pensions are being digitized and uploaded to Fold3 (approximately 80% complete)
 - For files not online, use NATF-85 form to request from the National Archives, Washington DC

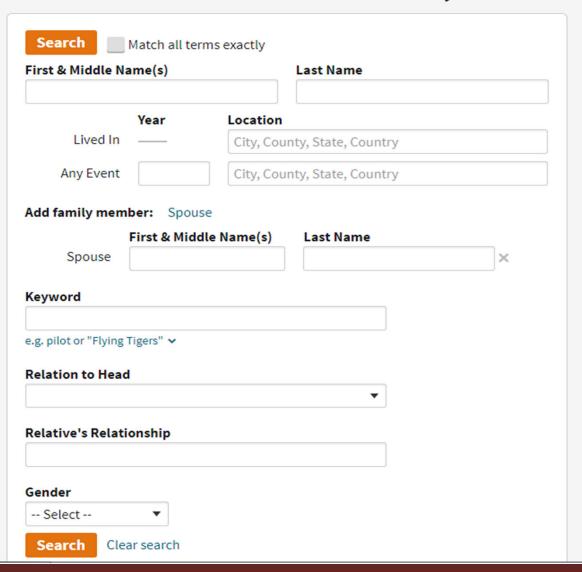


fold3.com

Civil War Pensions

- Federal pensions were granted to Union veterans and their surviving family (spouse, children, parents, dependents)
- Original files are kept at the National Archives, Washington D.C. (widow's pensions being digitized and added to Fold3)
 - ➤ Use NATF-85 form to make your request
- Confederate pensions were granted by the individual states
 - Link: https://www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/confederate/pension

U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934





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To browse this image set, select fro the options below.	m
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Related data collections

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Civil War Pension Index Card

Probate Records

Testate vs. Intestate

Testate

- Will
- Codicil
- Letters of testamentary
- Inventory

Intestate

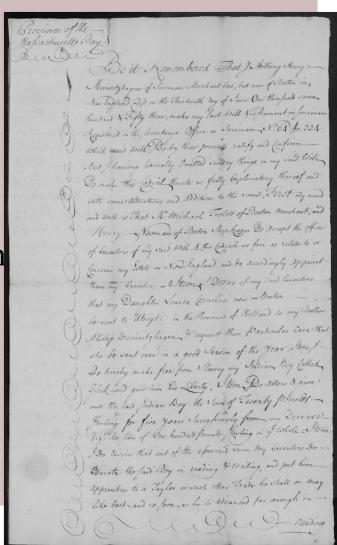
- Letters of Administration
- Inventory
- Guardianships
- Distributions

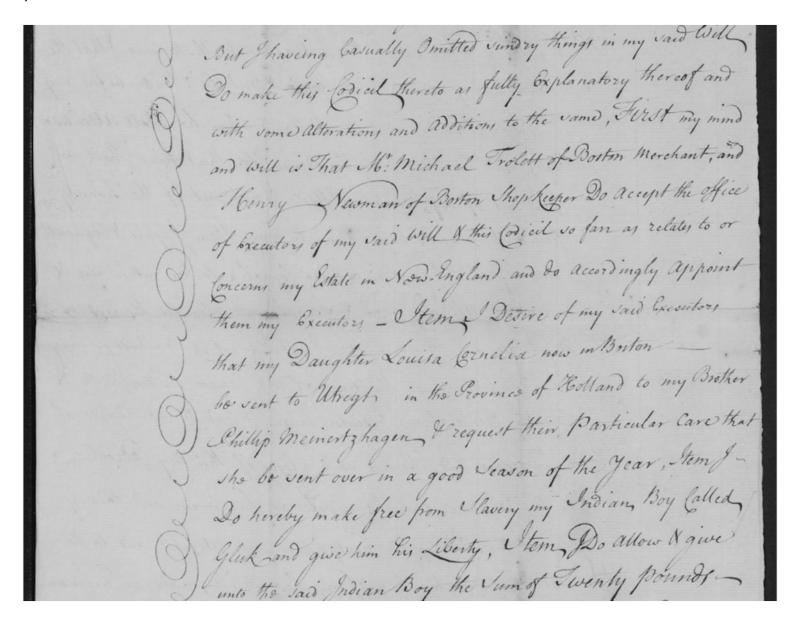
Wills

- 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

Codicils

- An addition or change to a will
- Common changes:
 - Add or remove heirs
 - Change distribution of estates
 - Acknowledge deaths of heirs in
 - Administrators of estate





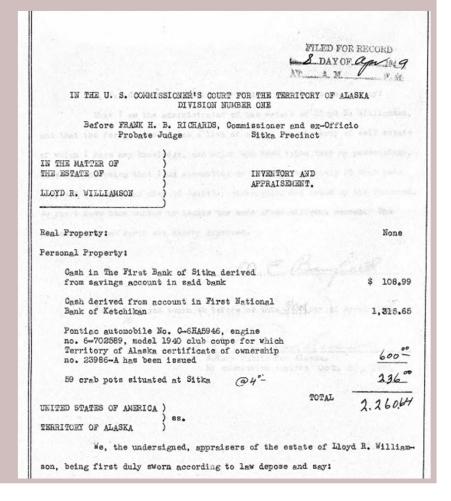
County Mass Case 10998

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

Inventories

- A list of the deceased's belongings and property was taken and distributed to heirs
 - ➤ Keep note of the persons who took the inventory they may be family or close friends/business partners



Letters of Administration

- Issued if an individual died intestate
- The court appoints an administrator/trix
 - ➤ Distributes the estate of the deceased
 - ➤ If the deceased is married, typically the widow/widower

To Samuel Hollon Lig! Judge of Probate for the Coun ty of Efiex. Sir Sheeby certify your Hon? that Irefuse to take administration of the Estate of my lake Alse band Joseph Knight of Sperwick merchant, & pray that your Honr would grant the same to Capt abraham Wheelwright of New Buryful & as in duly bound that overfray Juwich Nov. 28th 1998. The subscriber Father in land to so Deceased, To signify to your Hon his acquiescing in y above prayer. Rowley 28 Nov. 1798 Nathe Cogswell

Letters of Administration – estate of Joseph Knight, Essex County Mass, Case 16001

Accounts

- List of debts owed to the estate
- List of debts the estate owes to others
- Published in newspapers

Why look at accounts?

- Hint at status of ancestor
 - ➤ Do they owe a lot of money?
 - > Are they lending money frequently?
 - ➤ Do the debts add up to more than the value of the estate?
- Potential family and associate connections
 - > Extended family
 - ➤ Business associates



List of Debts, Leonard Cutter, Suffolk County, Mass, Case 34906

Distributions

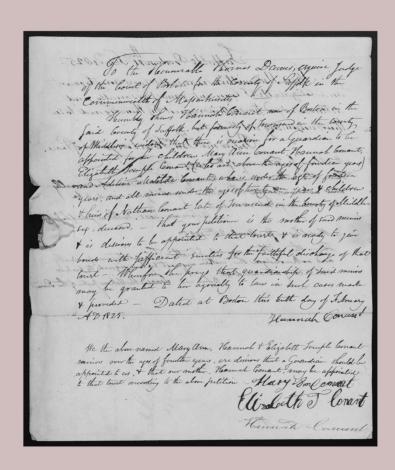
- Dividing an estate among heirs
- Occurs after bills are paid and debts collected
- Heirs (children, widow, etc.) mentioned in distribution
- Genealogical importance:
 - List of children if vital records aren't available
 - ➤ Married names of daughters
 - > Children of deceased heirs

of sprinch in said county, merchant, deceased, muora Whereas by your account of administration of said estate, this day settled and allowed, it appears that there is now remaining in your hands the seem of four hundred minety one dollars seventy seven cents and a half, being the balance of said account, to be distributed among the heirs of said ritestate, agreeably to formerly birabeth height, who was the wisow of said intestate, the new of one hundrest sixty three dollars injusty two cents, as her distributive who is might belones and to the very b. Knight, the said sure young henry b. Knight, Frederick Knight and Sutonio Knight, children of said intestate, each the sum of one hundred twenty two dollars twenty freight cents, as their distributive shares of said balance, taking their receipts for the same; all to be still held, so far as their said shares will extend, to pay their rateables to al what further debts and charges shall here after avise against said

Order Distribution, Joseph Knight estate, Essex County, Mass, Case 16001

Guardianships

- Appointed for minor children
 - Males: under 21
 - Females: under 18
- Guardians protected the inheritance of minor heirs to an estate
 - > Can provide financial support
- After minor becomes of age, the guardian is released
 - ➤ Guardian would then make an account of compensation



To the Honourable Money Dawes]	Esquire,
Judge of the Court of Probate for the County of Suffolk,	in the Com-
monwealth of Massachusetts,	
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in said County Luffolk; wide that there is occasion to be appointed for Mary and Comment. He	or a Guardian
to be appointed for Mary llun Camant. He	annah
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Comount, attendent Temple Convant, as destitute Comment, and fourteens years and Mexitoda Comment, who is under the a	se of
minory and children of Nathan &	mant
fromerly of Townsend in the bounts of	Willing

Guardian Bond, Suffolk County, Mass., Case 27577 We the above named Mary arm, Hearmoh & Elizabeth Temple Consult of services over the ages of fourteen years, are desirous that a Generalian should be appointed to us. A that our mother. Hearmand Conaut, may be appointed to the above petition. Heavy Some comment Elizabeth Thomast

Therework Conversely

Tax Records

Poll Tax

- Tax levied as a prerequisite to voting
- Massachusetts was the first to enact the poll tax in 1646, followed by New Haven in 1649
- Re-introduced in the South after the Civil War to disenfranchise African Americans from voting
 - ➤ "Grandfather clause" for poor white Americans
- Abolished in 1964 when 24th Amendment was passed

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Women Poll Taxpayers, Dallas

Taxes on Real and Personal Estates

- Tax rolls may detail the type of structures they have on estate (house, farm, mill, etc.)
- Tax rolls are a great census alternative. They can help you recreate the community they were living in.

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New York, Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804

IRS Tax Assessment Lists

- 1 Jul 1862 Bureau of Internal Revenue was created (later renamed to Internal Revenue Service)
- The United States was divided into collection districts
- Two lists created
 - ➤ A list of names of individuals subject to taxation who lived in the division
 - A list of names of individuals who lived outside the division but were owners of property in the division

LIST OF PERSONS in Division No. One of Collection District No. Factor of and the amount thereof as assessed by M.C. Gelch,

Assistant Assessors must be particular to enter in this list, under the proper head, the names of parties,

		186 .		DESCRIPTION.					
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U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918 (California)

Employment Records



www.familysearch.org

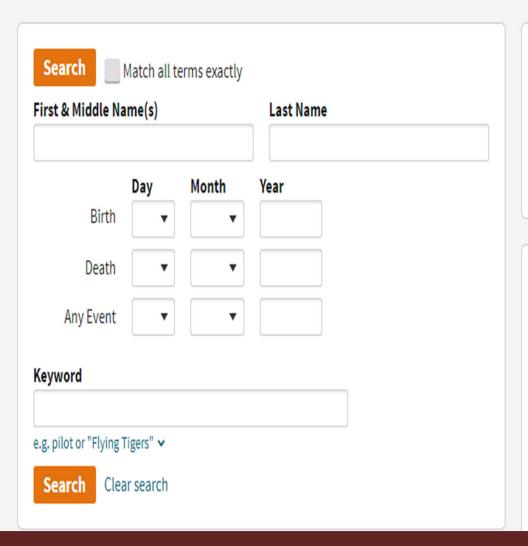
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					7				

Panama Canal Service Record Card

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

U.S., Railroad Retirement Pension Index, 1934-1987





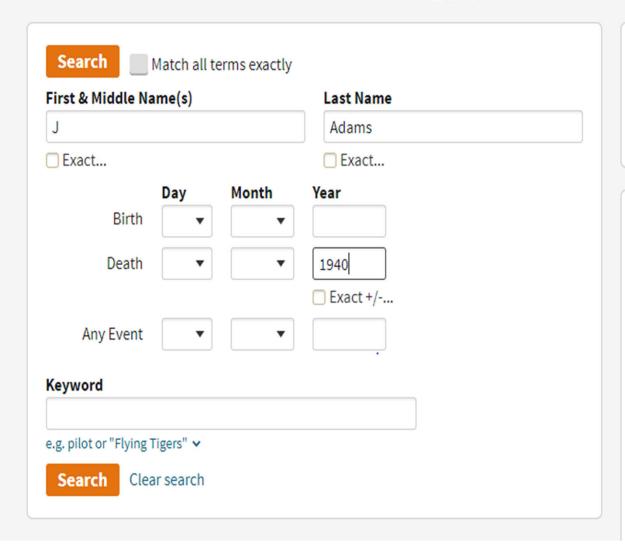
Related data collections

U.S., Northern Pacific Railway

Company Personnel Files, 1890-1963
Find your Minnesota railroading
ancestors in this rich collection of
personnel files from the Northern
Pacific Railway Company.

Ancestry.com

U.S., Railroad Retirement Pension Index, 1934-1987





Related data collections

<u>U.S., Northern Pacific Railway</u> <u>Company Personnel Files, 1890-1963</u>

Find your Minnesota railroading ancestors in this rich collection of personnel files from the Northern Pacific Railway Company.

<u>California, Railroad Employment</u> <u>Records, 1862-1950</u>

This is a collection of employment records from railroad companies

and the state of t

Ancestry.com

Name: J Adams

Birth Date: Jul 1902

Death Date: 1940

Claim ID: D035136

U.S. Railroad Retirement Pension Abstract



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Railroad Retirement Board Records

Overview

The National Archives at Atlanta has received approximately 54,000 cubic feet of Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) Inactive Claims Folders from the National Archives Great Lakes Region.

The information found within these records will be of interest to genealogists and historical researchers. The U.S. Railroad Retirement Board administers a Federal retirement benefit program covering the nation's railroad workers. The Inactive Claim Folders deal primarily with the administration and payment of these benefits. We will provide information on deceased persons for the purpose of genealogical or historical research. However, we will not release information on a person who is still living without the written consent of that person.

The Railroad Retirement Board continues to retain ownership of claim files deemed to be active. Records transferred to NARA have been inactive for at least seven years. If you are looking for information in your own claim file, or are researching someone whose file may have been recently active (claims filed, payments made, etc), you should begin by contacting the Railroad Retirement Board (https://www.rrb.gov/index.php/Resources/Genealogy or (877) 772-5772).

The RRB Inactive Claims Folders are limited to individuals who worked in the rail industry after 1936. Please do not contact us with requests for records before that date. We do not have that information, nor do we generally have any pertinent records for an individual whose rail service was performed on a casual basis and/or was of short duration. Also, the claim folders are only on persons whose employers were covered under the Railroad Retirement Act. Employers such as streetcar, interurban, or suburban electric railways are not covered under this Act.

Archives.gov

Fee:

Based on information provided by the researcher, staff from the National Archives and Records Administration will attempt to confirm if a claim folder exists. If a claim folder does exist, NARA will provide a cost estimate for copying based on the National Archives fee of \$0.80 per page (full schedule is available at: http://www.archives.gov/research/order/fees).

What We Need:

Please provide as much of the following information about the claimant or pensioner as possible:

- First Name, Middle Name/Initial, Last Name
- · Railroad Retirement Board Claim Number
- Social Security Number
- Year of Birth
- · Year of Death

Where to Send Requests:

National Archives at Atlanta 5780 Jonesboro Road Morrow, Georgia 30260 Email: atlanta.archives@nara.gov

Sample Railroad Retirement Board Files:

To help clarify the type of information found within a RRB file, please view the following sample files:

- Full Version of RRB File 🗷 for Edward Hoff
- Abbreviated Version of RRB File for Edward Hoff

Archives.gov

FORM APPROVED BUOGET BUREAU NO. 70-R143.6 FORM NO. AA-17 (12-61) UNITED STATES OF AMERICA RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD	ENTER EMPLOYEE'S RRB CLAIM NO. (IF NONE OR UNKNOWN, MAKE NO ENTRIES IN THIS SPACE)
APPLICATION FOR WIDOW'S OR WIDOWER'S INSURANCE ANNUITY	an appearing to continue to the continue of th
(THIS MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED AN APPLICATION FOR ANY INSURANCE BENEFITS PAYABLE UNDER TITLE II OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT, AS AMENDED)	Dates Sature 14, 1967 By Method A Walsh fort Cy.
ALL ITEMS REQUIRING AN ANSWER MUST BE ANSWERED OR MARKED "UNKNOWN." RETURN THIS FORM TO THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD,	Jersey City Field Office
sums payable to me under the provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act, as an INFORMATION ABOUT DECEASED EMPL	
1. Name: Found George Hoff (PRINT FIRST - MIDDLE - MAIDEN LAST NAME IE FEMALE - LAST NAME 2. Date and place of birth: Jul. 24, 1888 MONTH - DAY - YEAR) (CITY OR TOWN)	(SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NO.) Thew Sureny
	(STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)
Date and place of death: (Month - DAY - YEAR) (CITY OR TOWN)	(STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)
4. In what State or foreign country did the deceased employee have his fixed,	
4. In what State or foreign country did the deceased employee have his fixed, 2 Larida 5. Was the deceased employee survived by:	permanent home when he died?
4. In what State or foreign country did the deceased employee have his fixed,	permanent home when he died?
4. In what State or foreign country did the deceased employee have his fixed, 5. Was the deceased employee survived by: (a) An unmarried child under age 18? (VES OR NO) If "Yes," give name an (b) An unmarried child, age 18 or older, who is unable to engage in any re	d address of such child:
4. In what State or foreign country did the deceased employee have his fixed, 2 Lawids 5. Was the deceased employee survived by: (a) An unmarried child under age 18? (YES OR NO) If "Yes," give name an	d address of such child:
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Application for Widow's or

Midawara laguranga Anguitu

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Southern Pacific Railroad Employee Record Card

Review

- 1. Our ancestors left behind records with each financial transaction they participated in
- 2. Records are located in a variety of repositories
- 3. Multiple records need to be consulted to understand more of your ancestor's story





New England Historic Genealogical Society

American Ancestors.org

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