


Step 1

Laying the Foundation for a Successful Search



Voice of
Cynthia Evans, 10 Million
Names Research Director

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Talking to Your Family

Search Events Membership Give *A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture*

10 Million Names Publications Expert Help Tools Signature Projects Centers & Initiatives

Research logs are an excellent way to keep track of the research you have already accomplished. They contain a list of every source you consulted—and whether your search was successful or not. Handwritten or typed, these logs help prevent duplicate searches and lookups.

Annotated Research Log
This annotated research log (excel file) provides a starting point for you to track your research and stay focused on the genealogical issue at hand. You can easily add columns, rows, and sort your findings.

Interview Questions
Gather information about your family and ancestors by interviewing family members, friends, and neighbors. These suggested interview questions will help!

Family Questionnaire
Compile additional information for your research or publication by mailing or emailing relatives and family friends a questionnaire.

Early Census Comparison Charts

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Talking to Your Family

Questionnaire for a genealogy to be published by _____

Your full (maiden) name	
Where born (city, state)	
Your father's full name	
Where born (city)	
Your mother's full (maiden) name	
Where born (city)	
Your place and date of birth	
Where (city, state, zip) (if born 1900-1950)	
Education	High School
College (degree and year of graduation)	
University (degree, degree and year of graduation)	
Military service	None and subject of crime
Other outstanding factual information (employment, business, etc.)	(You mention on another sheet of paper if necessary)
Place and date of marriage	
Where (to what Baptist Church, Cleveland, Ohio)	(if applicable only)
Your spouse's full (maiden) name	
Spouse's place and date of birth	
Spouse's place and date of death	
Spouse's father's full name	
Spouse's mother's full (maiden) name	
Education	High School
College (degree and year of graduation)	
University (degree, degree and year of graduation)	

Please include information on divorces, and any previous or subsequent marriages.


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Tip

Ask leading questions—
questions that require
more than a yes or no
answer.

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Talking to Your Family



- Interview them in a space and during a time that is comfortable for them.
- It may help to include other family members/friends of the person you are interviewing to create a comfortable environment that encourages story telling.

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Talking to Your Family



- A recording device can be a helpful way to record information in an unobtrusive way.
- You don't need high-end technology. Most smart phones offer pre-installed voice recording apps. They can also be downloaded from an app store.

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Tip
 Use family reunions
 and family gatherings
 to your advantage!

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Step 2
 Choosing a Chart

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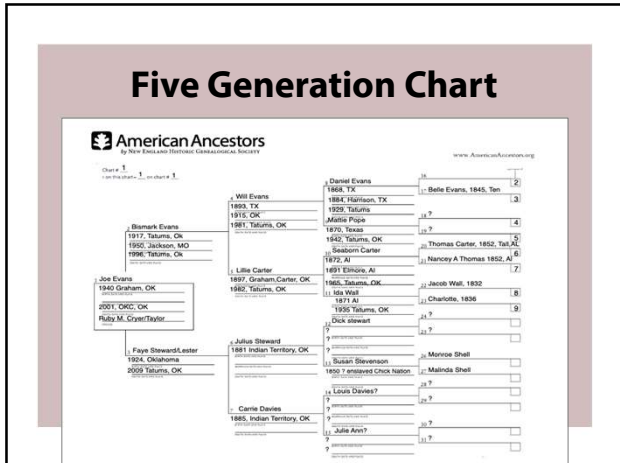
Five Generation Chart



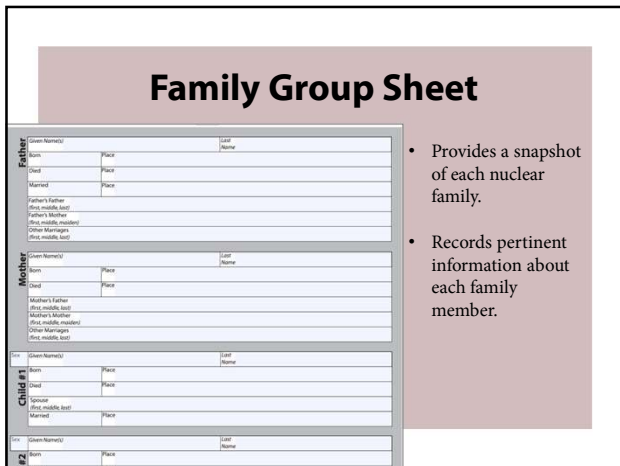
American Ancestors
 By New England Historic Genealogical Society

- A multi-generational chart showing five generations.
- Each person on the chart receives a number.
- The subject of the chart is number 1; the subject's father is 2 (top), the mother is 3 (bottom).

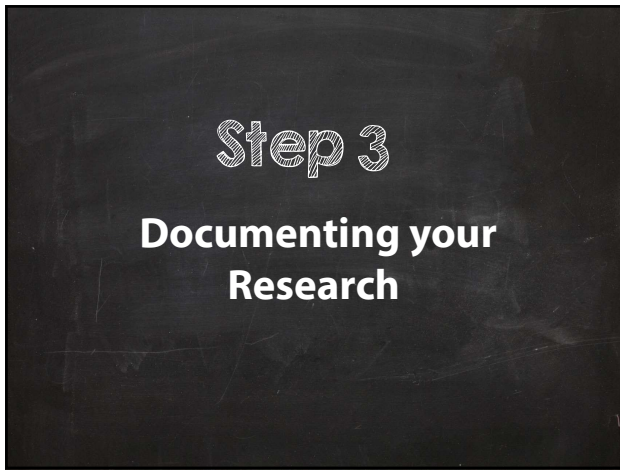
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Research Logs

American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Research Log

Repository: _____ Date: _____

Source Information <small>(URL, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)</small>	Call Number <small>(file number, USA, etc.)</small>	Objective	Results

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Research Logs

Name	New information gained	Date visited	Place	Identified	Notes	Objective	Outcome

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Laying the Foundation for a Successful Search

Once you have:

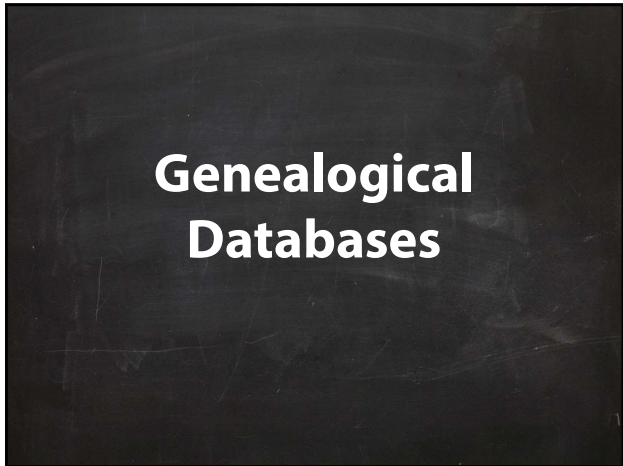
- Talked to your family
- Filled out your Chart
- Set up a system of documenting your findings, and your research...

You are ready to begin your search!

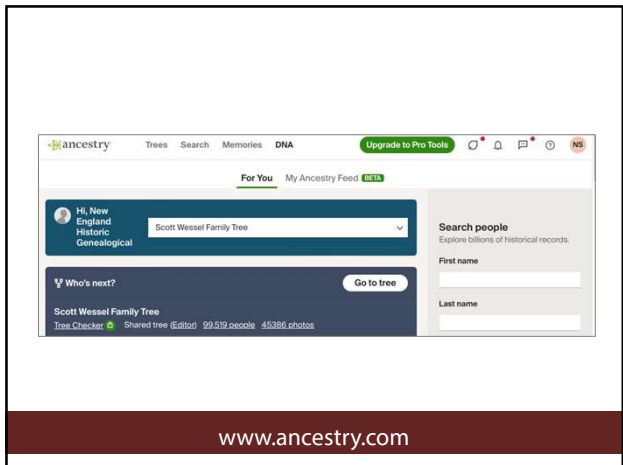
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Centers & Initiatives 10millionnames

31 databases Reset filters Results per page: 20 50 100

Sort by: Most recent, A to Z Sort

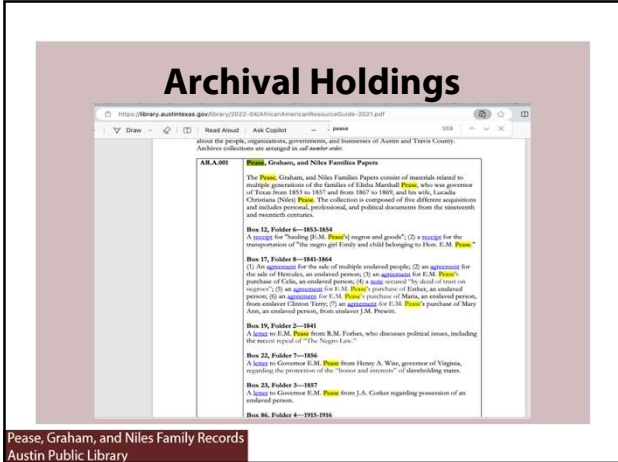
Database: all databases, only databases with images, only my favorite databases, only free databases

Location: United States (30), Canada (1), Sierra Leone (1), United Kingdom (1)

Alabama: Marriages, 1816-1957
United States 1860 Census
Massachusetts: People of Color in the State Census, 1855-1865
United States 1790 Census
United States 1800 Census
United States 1810 Census
United States 1840 Census
United States 1820 Census
United States 1830 Census: Free Negro Heads of Families
Boston, MA: Taking Records, 1800

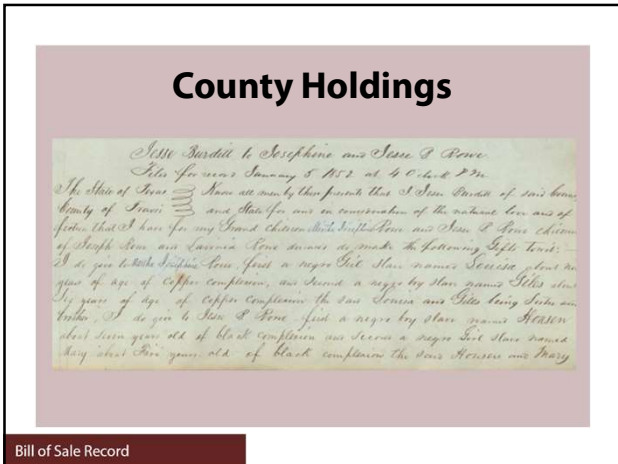
www.AmericanAncestors.org

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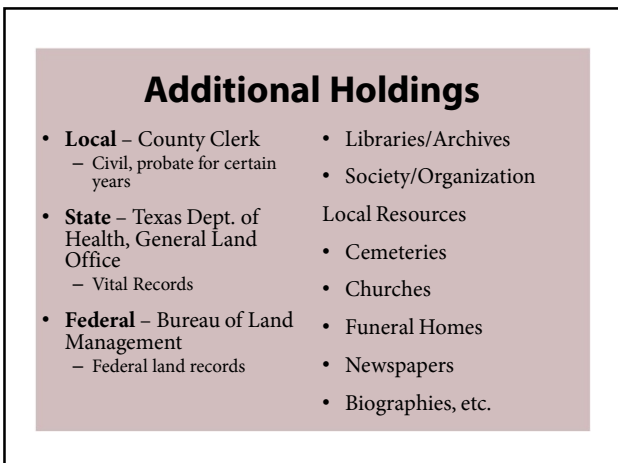
Pease, Graham, and Niles Family Records
Austin Public Library

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Bill of Sale Record

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