Chapter 29: Advanced Record Types

Spiritual Thought Box



"Anytime you do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—take a step toward making covenants with God and receiving their essential baptismal and temple ordinances, you are helping to gather Israel. It is as simple as that."

(Russell M. Nelson, "Hope of Israel," worldwide devotional for youth, June 3, 2018, churchofjesuschrist.org/broadcasts).

Sorting through record types can seem very insignificant when it comes to gathering Israel. But think of it as President Nelson thinks of it, helping someone take a step toward making covenants with God and truly "helping to gather Israel."

Overview

Study Questions

1. As you examine these advanced record types, look up at least one in each category in order to get the practice of finding the vast information that can be found in them.
2. What might be some surprising information you can find or determine from a record type that you wouldn't have previously expected to find there?
3. What is one record type you haven't used before that you think you will use for your research in the future? What do you hope to find?

Vocabulary

Decedent: A person who has died.

Immigration: The act of coming to live in a foreign country.

Emigration: The act of leaving one's country of origin.

Migration: Movement from one place to another.

Naturalization: The process by which a native or citizen of one country becomes a citizen of a different country.

Differentiate: Recognize or ascertain what makes someone or something different.

Grantor: A person that makes a grant to someone.

Grantee: A person to whom a grant is made.

Dower: A widow's share for life of her husband's estate.

Advanced Record Types

In FHGEN 241 you were introduced to many record types. Now you will add more record types to your knowledge base. You will continue to develop effective research plans using the knowledge of the typical contents of advanced US record types and

gather and use the information found in these records to solve problems.

Probate Records

Probate records are key resources for genealogists. They deal with the distribution of an individual's estate after death and are an important source for tying family members together. Wills are probably the best-known type of probate record and usually provide the most genealogical information. But other types of probate records may also offer a wealth of interesting information and evidence that link family members together. These may include administration bonds, guardianship records, and more.

Probate records may reveal not only an individual's heirs, but also the individual's lifestyle, economic status, residence, property ownership, religious affiliation, occupation, and much more. However, probate records do not include specific birthdates or birthplaces.

As you practice using probate records to answer genealogical research problems, focus on the information that provides evidence of death dates or places, and family relationships.

Benefits of Probate Records

Probate records define relationships between people and offer a direct and personal account of a decedent's heirs that was usually made by the decedent or an individual who knew the family well. Information found in probate records may also allow a genealogist to do the following:

- Extend a pedigree by one or more generations.
- Discover previously unknown family members.
- Verify uncertain relationships.
- Distinguish between multiple people with the same name.

A will may list an individual's parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, in-laws, cousins, nephews, aunts, etc. All of this information expands a pedigree and helps establish complete family groups.

Previously unknown relations—such as additional children, in-laws, or an uncle—may be mentioned in a will. A testator may have named a deceased child if a legacy was being left to that deceased child's spouse or children. A married woman's maiden name may be discovered in her husband's will by his inclusion of the name of her father or brother.

A probate record can be used to prove whether an individual who is suspected of being related to the decedent was actually related to him. This is particularly true when the decedent mentioned the individual by name and relationship in a will.

Probate records may also be used to distinguish between multiple people with the same name. Information provided in a probate document, such as an occupation, residence, and names of children, will help to uniquely identify each individual from others who shared the same name.

Creation of Probate Records

The death of an individual often generated records that were handled by a court, whether or not the individual left a will. The responsibility to convey property, pay taxes, or care for loved ones was transferred from the deceased to heirs or others through the probate process. The probate process varied by state and time period but generally followed a similar procedure.

Individuals who composed a will before their death left a testate estate. Those who died without a will left an intestate estate. In either case, the probate procedure typically began with an heir of the decedent petitioning the court for the authority to

distribute the deceased's estate.

- If a will was written, the executor(s) (or the executrix, if female) named in the will, petitioned the court for the authority to carry out the instructions provided in the will. The individuals whose names appeared on the will, as witnesses, would provide sworn testimonies to the court as to the will's authenticity. The executor could begin distributing the estate after the court declared the will to be valid.
- If a will was not written, the court appointed (an) administrator(s) (or an administratrix, if female) and authorized the individual(s) to distribute the estate according to local laws. The administrator was required to post a bond as a guarantee that the estate would be administered properly, and that the heirs would be protected.

An inventory of all intestate estates and many testate estates was then made. Appraisers inventoried all of the personal property that was part of the estate and determined the value of each item. Occasionally, the decedent's real property may have also been listed in the inventory. Appraisers also made a list of debts owed by the decedent. Some or all items in the estate may have been sold to pay debts or provide financial support for the widow and dependent children. If a sale was determined to be necessary, it would be authorized by the court and publicly advertised in advance. Everything that was sold was carefully recorded by item with its sale price and name of purchaser, and this list was submitted to the court.

Public announcement of the pending probate was made in early years by posting a notice on a public building. In later years, a legal notice was published in newspapers. The purpose of the publication was to allow creditors, heirs, or other interested parties the opportunity to file a claim against the estate.

When the final distribution of the estate was made among the heirs, each recipient may have been asked to sign a receipt that defined the property received.

Definitions

Probate records introduce new terms that may be unfamiliar to beginning genealogists. Take a few moments to review the following terms:

Administration: A document issued by a court that named the person(s) who would disperse the estate of a deceased individual who died without a will.

Administration Bond: A bond posted on behalf of the administrator of an estate to assure that he conducts his duties according to the legal requirements of the jurisdiction. It covers any financial losses to the estate due to dishonest or improper acts by the administrator.

Administrator (or Administratrix): One who is named by a court to disperse the estate of a deceased individual who died without a will.

Administrator's Settlement: An account of the administrator's dealings pertaining to settling the decedent's estate. It may include a list of all transactions, money received and paid by him, names of the decedent's heirs, and more.

Appraiser: One who gives an expert judgment of the value or merit of something, such as a decedent's estate.

Beneficiary: One who is named to receive proceeds or benefits.

Bequeath: To give personal property by will.

Bequest: A gift of personal property by will; legacy.

Codicil: An addition or change to a will.

Decedent: A deceased person.

Devise: To give real property by will.

Estate Papers: Documents created when an estate is settled (for example, will, inventory, bills of sale, or accounts).

Executor (or Executrix): One who is named by a testator in a will to distribute his or her estate.

Guardian: One who is invested with the right and responsibility to manage the rights and property of a minor-age child.

Heir: One who inherits or is entitled to inherit property.

Holographic Will: A will and testament handwritten and signed by the testator. It should include names of witnesses, but many courts will probate this type of will without witnesses.

Intestate: Having made no valid will.

Inventory: An itemized list of the property of an individual or estate.

Legacy: A gift of personal property by will; bequest.

Legatee: One to whom a legacy is bequeathed. (This term is sometimes also used to describe a person who received real property by will.)

Letters of Administration: A court order authorizing an administrator to manage or distribute the property of a decedent who did not make any such arrangement in his will or died intestate.

Nuncupative Will: An oral declaration before witnesses of one's desires for distribution of his or her estate.

Overseer: One who is assigned to oversee tasks by a testator, such as ensuring that minor children received their proper inheritances at the appointed time.

Personal Property: Any personal or movable property; goods and chattels.

Preamble: An introductory statement, as in the beginning portion of a will.

Real Property: Relating to land, as distinguished from personal property; real estate.

Testate: Having left a valid will.

Testator (or Testatrix): One who dies leaving a will or testament in force.

Will: A document that defines a testator's wishes concerning the distribution of his or her estate.

Other Probate Documents

Guardianship Records

When minor children survived their father's death, they needed a guardian to act on their behalf in legal matters. The guardian was invested with the right and responsibility to manage the rights and property of the children. He or she was appointed by the court if the children were under 14, but he or she may have been selected directly by the child if the child was over 14. Guardianship records can help genealogists identify family relationships.

Inventories

Probate inventories itemize the personal property owned by the decedent at his or her death and give a monetary value for each item. Inventories were drawn up by appraisers after a person's death. They can help researchers gain a sense of the socioeconomic status of an ancestor who died. They may also suggest the decedent's occupation by indicating what tools he or she owned.

If the decedent's personal property was sold at an estate sale after his death, a list of purchasers may have been made that shows which purchasers bought which items. This list may be included with the inventory. Relatives may have purchased items from the decedent's estate, and though their relationships might not be spelled out in the list of purchasers, their names may be clues for future research on the decedent's family.

Miscellaneous Estate Papers

In some cases, miscellaneous estate papers may also survive. These may include things like receipts from executors, statements describing the distribution of property, appraisals of property, sale bills, or legal notices. These miscellaneous papers may identify additional relatives not named in the actual will or administration.

Administrations

When a person died intestate, a probate administration may have been created to distribute the decedent's estate. The person to whom the court granted administration was often a relative, and the relationship between the administrator and the decedent might be identified in the record.

Probate administrations come in a wide range of formats, from a brief note in court minutes to several pages of information. Although some administrations do not include much detail, others contain a wealth of genealogical information. They usually list at least the name of the deceased, the person to whom the court granted administration, and the names of securities who guaranteed proper handling of probate matters. But they may also list all the known heirs of the decedent, a description of the decedent's real and personal property, debtors and creditors of the decedent, and more. An administration may be the only record of death for some people.

Finding Probate Records

How and where probate administrations were recorded varies by state, as well as the amount of information required. In some courts, will records were recorded in will books or registers, while in other states they appear among county court orders. Wills and administrations were usually filed separately, although some courts will include a general probate index to both types of records. Some states kept estate packets or files rather than a register, in which the physical documents were kept together. Miscellaneous probate papers may also be found in courthouse records, not obviously attached to the probate file.

Probate records are typically found in county or district courts, which may also be known as surrogate or orphans court records in certain states. Probate records were also kept at different jurisdictional levels, including early colonial and territorial records. In certain states, special documents were required, such as in New York, in which probate estates after 1829 had to include a petition to probate or administer an estate that included names of the decedent, petitioner, and all heirs-at-law with their known residences.

Original Records

In the United States, the original records are typically housed in one of the following locations:

- County Courthouse: The first place to search for probate records is the county courthouse that served the place where an ancestor lived.
- Regional or State Archives: In states such as Maryland and Illinois, many probate record collections are housed at regional or state archives.
- Probate District: In some parts of New England, such as Vermont and Connecticut, states are divided into probate districts. In these places, genealogists will need to determine which probate district serviced a particular town or county in order to locate an ancestor's probate records.
- Historical and/or Genealogical Society: Sometimes, those in charge of probate collections think it is best for a society or library with keen historical interest to take over the older records. The creator of the records tends, over time, to have a diminished legal need to maintain them; simultaneously, demands on courthouse space increase.

Microfilm Copies

Probate records are also available at genealogical libraries across the United States. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City, for example, has microfilmed many counties' probate records from the time the county was organized through the early twentieth century. Look for these collections in the Family History Library by searching for a county in the FamilySearch Catalog and checking under the heading "Probate Records."

Digital Copies

Recently, FamilySearch has begun digitizing probate record collections. Their online offerings include records from many states, and the list continues to grow. Ancestry also has a large collection of United States probate records.

Some state archives, such as the North Carolina State Archives, have also begun to digitize probate collections.

Accessing Probate Records

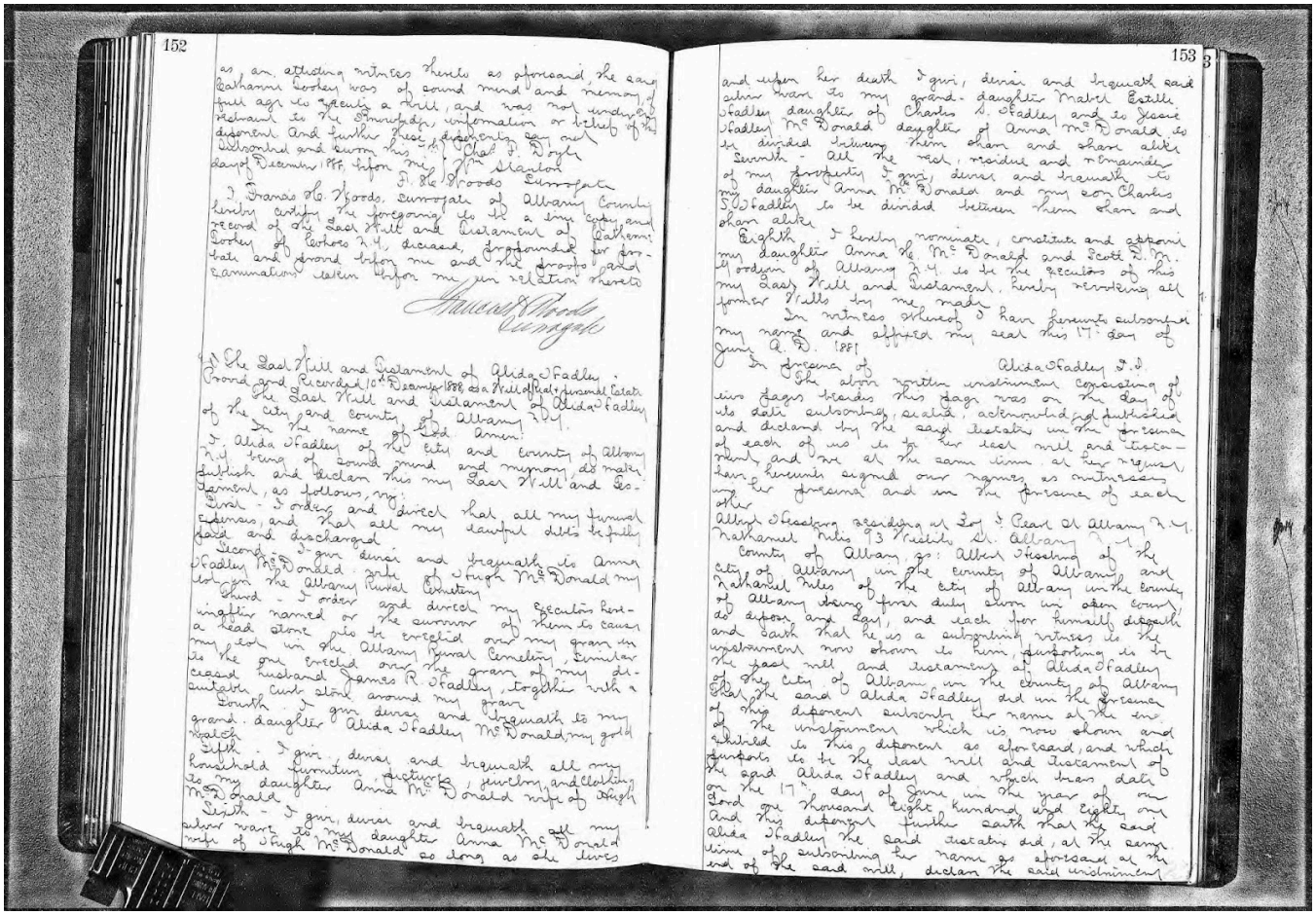
Tips for accessing probate records:

- Determine approximately when and where an ancestor died. Then learn where probate records for that time and place are kept.
- Use indexes to quickly search for your ancestor. Handwritten indexes to testators often appear at the front of each will book. Published indexes to all of the wills proved in a state are sometimes available, depending on the time, period, and place. These can help genealogists quickly learn if an ancestor left a will anywhere in the state. For example, Byron Sistler's Index to Tennessee Wills and Administrations, 1779–1861 (Nashville, Tenn.: Byron Sistler and Associations, 1990) informs readers if a Tennessee ancestor who died before the Civil War left a will. For Virginia, the Library of Virginia has created a free online Index to Wills and Administrations covering more than 50 counties through the year 1800.
- For wills and administrations in the UK, consult the National Probate Calendar of England and Wales 1858-1957.
- Use published abstracts of will books if available. Many will books, including handwritten indexes found in the original records at courthouses, index only the names of the testators. Published abstracts, in contrast, often index the name of every person mentioned in a will. They can typically be found in libraries with genealogy collections covering the area where an ancestor died. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has published abstracts from all across the country.
- Search for administrations among probate records and in court records. They may have been recorded in either place.
- Even if a county has will books, probate packets may exist that contain the original holographic will. Here is an example of a collection of digitized probate packets: FamilySearch Catalog: Probate packets and index.

- For records on FamilySearch that have been digitized but not indexed, the first step is to find a handwritten index.
  - Once you click to browse a digitized probate collection, you will see a list of record sets within the collection. If one of those record sets has index in the title, it could be a handwritten index for a large portion of the entire collection. You can check that index for the name of the individual you are researching.
  - If there is not an index record set, click the record set where you believe the ancestor will appear. The first images will likely contain an alphabetical, handwritten index of everything in that set. You can check that index for the name of the individual you are researching. The next step is to use the information from the index to find the digitized record.

- For records on Ancestry, some of the records are indexed, but many are not. You will want to follow the same tips for searching probate records in general, as well as the general process used for a search on FamilySearch as described above. Here are some additional tips for navigating Ancestry's collection of probate records.
  - In cases of similarly named people living in the same area, you'll want to look for other people named in the records to narrow in on the correct individual's record.
  - Search for friends, neighbors, and associates (FANs) records which might also list information about the person you are searching for as witnesses or guardians.
  - Find the original images—don't stop at the index or transcription.
  - Don't overlook inventories.
  - When viewing a record, check the Related button to see if there are any other probate records that have been identified as related to the one you are viewing.

Example of a will:



Public Record

Will of John Powell [Sr.] of Garway, Herefordshire, England; Registered Wills, 1847–1849, “Original Wills, administrations, and inventories for the Diocese of Hereford, Episcopal Consistory Court.” Volume 6, page 495–496. FHL British Film #91620

Powell John

This is the Last Will and Testament of me John Powell of the Parish of Garway in the County of Hereford Mason Whereby I dispose of all my freehould and copyhould Estates and Effects as I am possesed of or entitled unto at the time of my death in manner following that is to say I give devise and begueath unto my loving wife Sarah powell All my Estates and Effects to hould to her for and during the term of her natrel life and after the death of my wife I give devise and begueath unto my Grand daughter Sarah Elizabeth Powell ∴ the Copyhould Estate called Krump To have and to hould to her and her heirs for ever without any interuption of any person or persons whatsoever. I did make a covenant Deed to my daughter Elizabeth and her received the rent and profit for the Copyhould Estate above mensoned for a time but if my daughter did marry again the Covinant was to voyde so therefore I cammand my frend daughter Sarah Elizabeth Powell to maintain her mother what her stand in need of And Secondly I give devise and begueath unto my Grandson John Powell my Estate called the High Rock as I lives in at this time in the parish of Garway in the County of Hereford I allso give devise and begueath unto my Grandson John powell my Estate called Kesent Morris situated in the parish Orcop in the County of Hereford with house out buildings and lands for him to have and to hould to him and his heirs executers or assigns for ever I also give devise and begueath unto my Grandson John Powell my Estate called Caty cummas with two dwelling houses and Garden in the parish of Garway in the County Hereford To have and hold to him his heirs executers administers and assigns for ever according to a deed before made I hereby cammond you and each of you namely John Powell and Sarah Elizabeth Powell to pay my funeral expences and my wife Sarah Powell funeral expences. I also appoint my wife Sarah powell to be executer to this my will for the tearm of her life and after her discase I apoint my daughter Elizabeth to be executer to this my will hereby revoking all former and other wills by me hereto mad and do declare this only to be my last will and Testament In Witness whereof I the Testator John powell have to this set my hands and seal the twelph day of Aprie one thousand eaight hundred and forty three — John Powell (L.S.) — Signed sealed published and declared by the by the said Testater John powell in the presences of us who at his reqest in his

presances of each other have Subscribed our names as witnesses thereto — William Phillips — William Langford — Mary Ann Phillips ✓

Affidavit filed as to attestation.

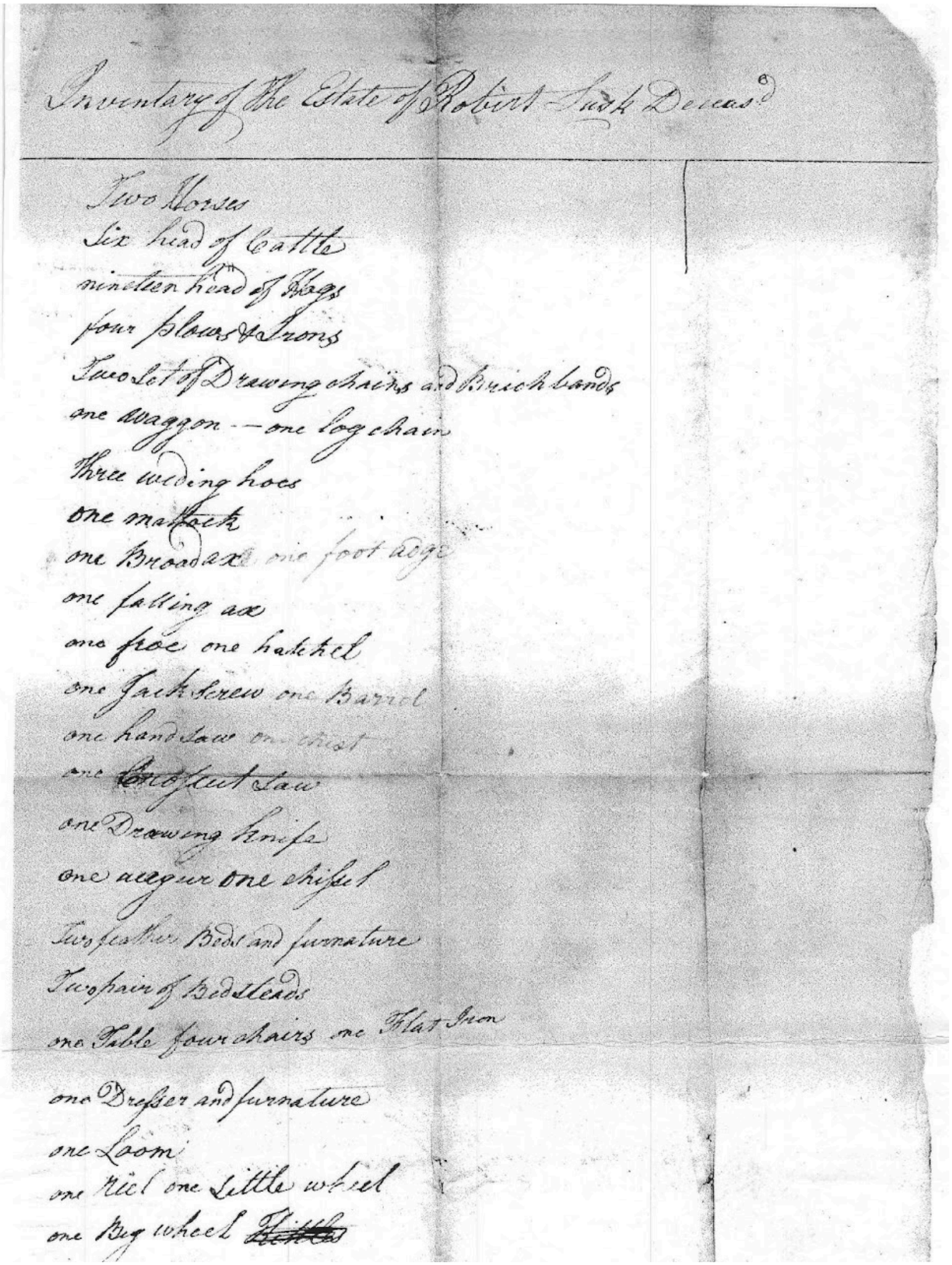
for. 5 - Sh. 6d. 6.

Testator died 6 June 1846

Proved at Hereford 17th Aprie 1849 Before the Revd Henry Walter Corbett Clerk M.A. Vicar General &c by the oath of Elizabeth Powell widow, the Executrix named in the within written will after the death of Sarah powell, she having departed this life on the 2nd March 1849 without having administered to the said will. To whom &c.

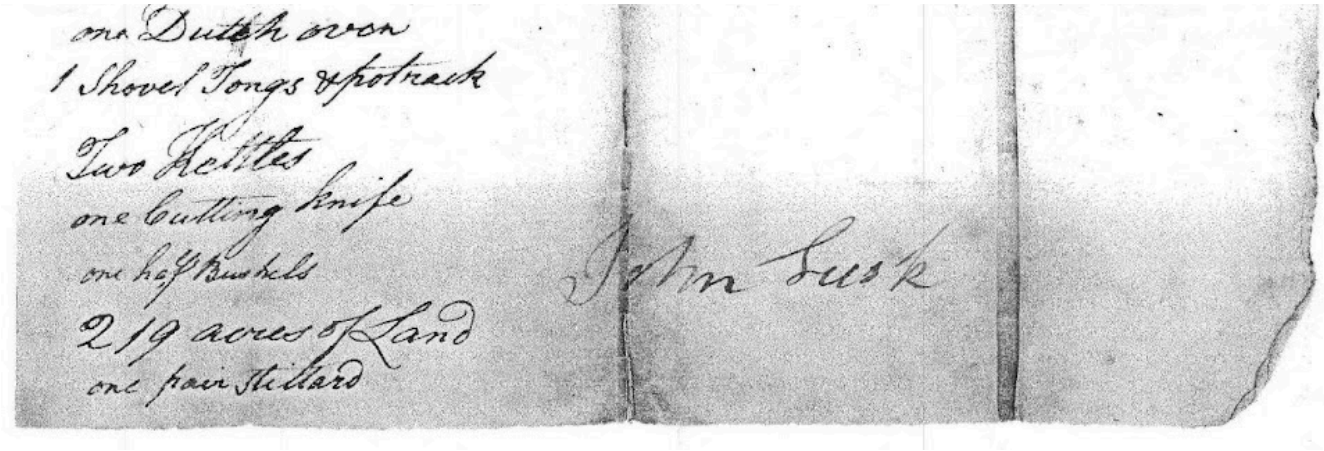


Example of an Inventory:



Inventary of the Estate of Robert Sisk Deceas'd

Two Horses
Six head of Cattle
nineteen head of Hogs
four plows & Irons
Two Set of Drawing chains and Breech bands
one Waggon -- one log chain
Three weeding hoes
one mattock
one Broad ax one foot adze
one falling ax
one froe one hatchel
one Jack Screw one Barrel
one hand saw one chisel
one whipsaw
one Drawing knife
one auger one chisel
Two feather Beds and furniture
Two pair of Bedsteads
one Table four chairs one Flat Iron
one Dresser and furniture
one Loom
one Reel one Little wheel
one Big wheel Tittles



Original Inventory of the Estate of Robert Lusk

Example from a page in the National Probate Calendar of England and Wales:

1883.

6 October 1883 at 7 Richmond-road was granted at **Wakefield** to Florence Blenkiron of 7 Richmond-road Widow the Relict.

BLESSLEY Henry George.

Personal Estate £277.

28 March. Administration of the Personal Estate of Henry George Blessley late of Solihull in the County of **Warwick** Inland Revenue Officer who died 23 February 1883 at Solihull was granted at **Birmingham** to Emma Jane Blessley of 4 Mill-lane Landport in the Parish of Portsea in the County of Southampton Widow the Relict.

BLETCHER Stephen Joseph.

Personal Estate £18,345 11s. 7d.

21 April. The Will with a Codicil of Stephen Joseph Bletcher late of Wadworth in the County of **York** Farmer who died 12 February 1883 at Wadworth was proved at **Wakefield** by Thomas Bingley of Gainsborough in the County of Lincoln Farmer and Draper and Robert Charles Bentley Wine and Spirit Merchant and Jane Ann Bletcher Spinster the Daughter both of Doncaster in the County of York the Executors.

BLETHYN Mary.

Personal Estate £297 19s. 6d.

25 January. The Will of Mary Blethyn late of 32 Frederica-street Bute Docks Cardiff in the County of **Glamorgan** Widow who died 1 November 1882 at 32 Frederica-street was proved at **Llandaff** by John Josiah Blethyn of 98 Richmond-road Cardiff Marine Engineer the Son the sole Executor.

BLEVIN John.

Personal Estate £272 4s.

6 February. The Will of John Blevin late of Knight-street in the City of **Liverpool** Plumber and Painter who died 23 December 1882 at Knight-street was proved at **Liverpool** by Catherine Blevin of 39 Knight-street Spinster the Daughter the sole Executrix.

BLEWETT Edward.

Personal Estate £931 15s. 3d.

7 March. The Will of Edward Blewett late of the Parish of Gwinear in the County of **Cornwall** Mine Agent who died 8 February 1876 at Gwinear was proved at **Bodmin** by Edward Blewett of 1 the Mall Clifton in the County of Gloucester Chemist and Druggist the Son the other Executor. The **Probate** granted at Bodmin May 1876 having ceased and expired.

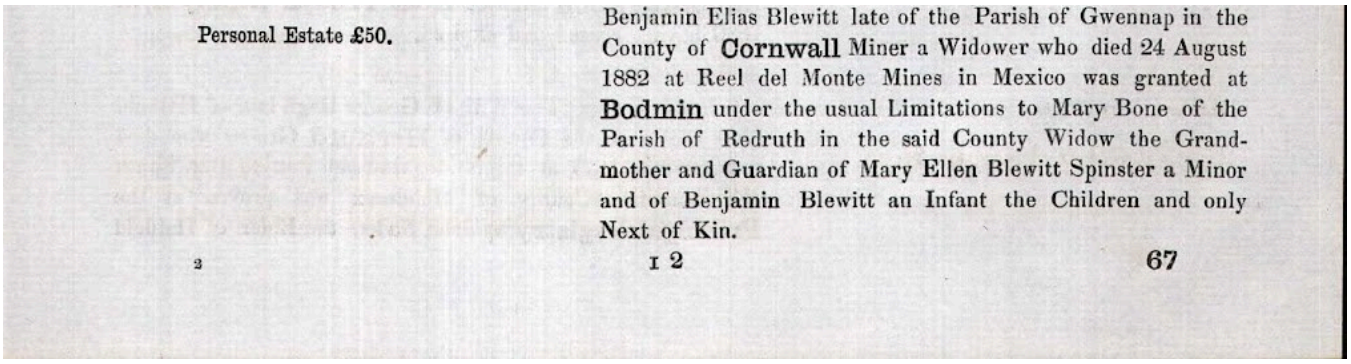
BLEWETT Jasper.

Personal Estate £400.

15 October. Administration (with the Will) of the Personal Estate of Jasper Blewett late of the Parish of Perranarworthal in the County of **Cornwall** Telegraph Clerk who died 2 March 1883 at Batavia in the East Indies was granted at **Bodmin** under the usual Limitations to Grace Blewett of Perranarworthal Spinster the lawful Attorney of Frederick Von Der Pfordten the sole Executor now residing at Batavia.

BLEWITT Benjamin Elias.

2 March. Administration of the Personal Estate of



Personal Estate £50.

Benjamin Elias Blewitt late of the Parish of Gwennap in the County of **Cornwall** Miner a Widower who died 24 August 1882 at Reel del Monte Mines in Mexico was granted at **Bodmin** under the usual Limitations to Mary Bone of the Parish of Redruth in the said County Widow the Grandmother and Guardian of Mary Ellen Blewitt Spinster a Minor and of Benjamin Blewitt an Infant the Children and only Next of Kin.

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Immigration and Naturalization Records

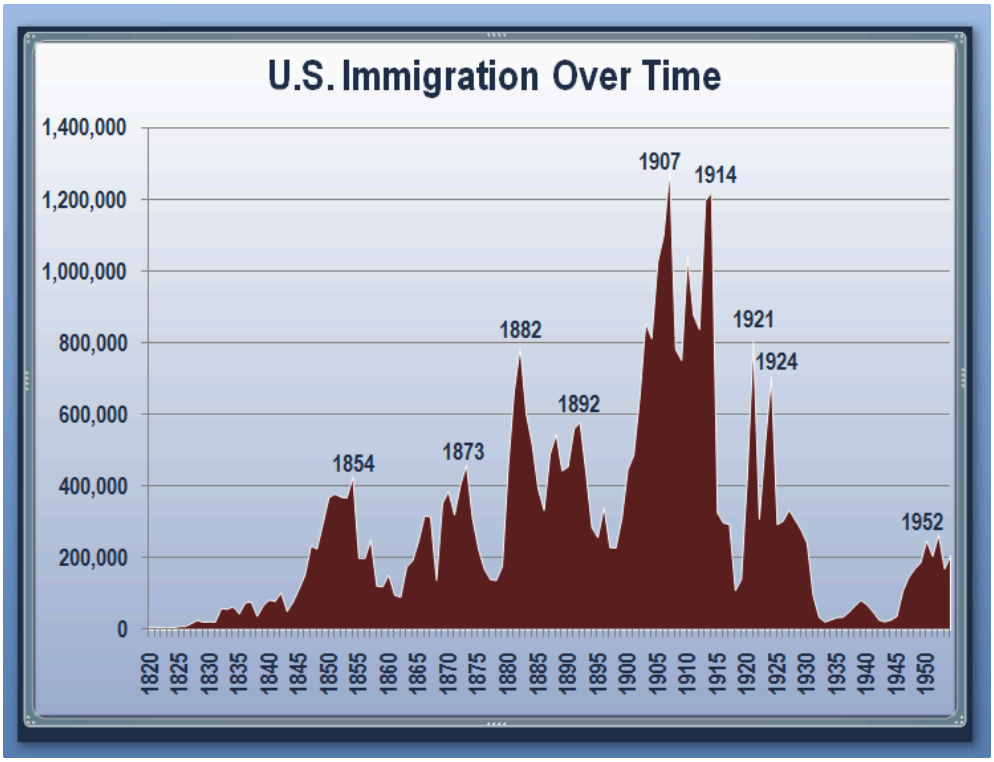
From what country did my ancestor emigrate? What ship did my ancestor travel on to the United States? When did my ancestor cross the ocean? Did my ancestor become a United States citizen? These intriguing questions are at the heart of American genealogy. The United States saw many waves of immigration during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Many people contact genealogists, wanting to find their immigrant ancestor's place of birth. Records such as passenger lists and naturalization records are important sources for research.

First you will learn important introductory information about immigration and naturalization records after 1820. Pay particular attention to the information typically contained in these records, along with information these records might contain. This helps you use online indexes to locate immigration and naturalization records, and determine when immigration and naturalization records will solve your research problem.

History of Immigration to the United States after 1820

The United States saw many waves of immigration (the act of coming into a country) during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Immigrants came to America for many reasons. Many left their home of origin (emigration) to avoid being forced into military service or to escape famine, overcrowding, unemployment, and poverty. African slaves, on the other hand, were forced to emigrate. Free immigrants came in search of land, religious freedom, improved employment opportunities, or to join relatives who were already here.

Irish emigrants fleeing the potato famine and Germans avoiding forced military service came in massive groups in the 1800s. In the second half of the century, Scandinavians settled in the Midwest. Many French Canadians crossed over the US border and made their homes in states bordering Canada. The largest wave of immigrants occurred between the mid-1890s and World War I, and was dominated by Italian and Eastern European emigrants. Since World War II, most immigrants have traveled overseas by air rather than by ship. More recently, millions of Hispanics from Latin America have entered the United States. In 2000, US residents identified German, African American, Irish, English, Mexican, Italian, Franco-American, Hispanic, Polish, and Scottish ancestry as their top ten ethnic origins.



Major American ports during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, Galveston, and San Francisco. New York was by far the largest port. Many Europeans also landed in less expensive Canadian ports en route to the United States. Immigrants who wished to settle in the Midwest often chose New Orleans as their port of arrival (ship's place of entrance into a country). From there, they traveled by steamship up the Mississippi River to St. Louis.

Many US cities developed ethnic communities. Italian communities in Chicago and New York City, Irish communities in Boston, and Chinatown in San Francisco are just a few examples. Often, families, relatives, and neighbors from the same European villages came to America together.

Chain Migration

Sometimes immigrants wrote home to family members in the old country to encourage them to come to the United States, and these family members eventually followed in a chain migration. A father may have come to America first to find a job and a place to live. After becoming established, he would send money to his wife and children in Europe to enable them to pay for the voyage across the ocean. In other situations, a young man may have come over and established himself, and later written to his parents to encourage them to join him.

Records

- The 1819 Steerage Act of the US Federal Government went into effect on 1 January 1820 and required that a copy of each ship's passenger list be filed with the customs agent at the port of entry and forwarded to the US Secretary of State.
- The 1891 Immigration Act required passenger lists to be filed with federal inspection agents. Inspection agents boarded ships prior to docking and were responsible for medical and personal examinations.

- The 1924 Immigration Act limited the number of aliens entering the United States. Immigrants were required to obtain an immigration visa from a Consular Office (US Embassy) prior to sailing for America. The United States set quotas on the number of immigrants allowed to enter the country each year based on country of origin.

The Naturalization Process

Naturalization is the process by which a native or citizen of one country becomes a citizen of a different country. Throughout American history, many immigrants have chosen to become naturalized US citizens. Although it was not mandatory for American immigrants to become naturalized, many of them wanted to do so. They had to become citizens if they wanted to vote or own land (federal and some states), and many immigrants wanted to become citizens to feel more connected to their new country or show support during times of war.

Differences in the Naturalization Process over Time

Before 1790, colonial naturalizations consisted mostly of lists of individuals who took the oath of allegiance. From 1790 to 1906, naturalization had to be performed in a court. The immigrant had to be a resident of the United States for five years, a resident of their state for one year, and have a good moral character. In 1906, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was created. The INS standardized naturalization forms and expanded the set of questions the immigrant had to answer.

An immigrant may have completed naturalization proceedings through any of 5,000 federal, state, or local courts that had authority to grant citizenship. Prior to 1906, naturalization proceedings were most often completed in county, superior, or common pleas courts, or in state and US circuit and district courts. However, some municipal police, criminal, probate, and other courts also provided this service. After 1906, most naturalization proceedings took place in federal courts, though other courts still provided this service.

Three Steps to Becoming a Naturalized US Citizen

There were three steps to the naturalization process. Records were created during each step:

1. **Declaration of Intention.** The declaration of intention, often called First Papers, was the first step in the naturalization process. After a specified period of residency, the immigrant filed a declaration of intent to become naturalized. The immigrant had to be an adult (at least 18 or 21, depending on the law at that time), renounce his allegiance to foreign governments, and prove he had resided in the country long enough to apply for citizenship. The immigrant sometimes filed the declaration as soon as he had met the residency requirements, meaning some immigrants filed declarations near the ports of entry at which they arrived.
2. **Petition.** The petition, often called Second Papers, was the second step in the naturalization process. One to three years after filing the declaration of intention, an immigrant could petition the court for naturalization. The applicant signed an Oath of Allegiance to pledge his or her allegiance to the United States and renounce his loyalty to his former country. The petition did not have to be filed in the same court, or even the same state, as the declaration. During the waiting period between first and second papers, the immigrant may have moved to a new location or selected a different court in the current location. Most often, the petition was filed in a court where the immigrant eventually settled.
3. **Certificate of Naturalization.** The certificate of naturalization was the third and final step in the naturalization process. The immigrant received full privileges in the new country and received a certificate of naturalization. The court retained the certificate stub. The certificate of naturalization was always recorded in the same court as the petition.

Exceptions to the Regular Naturalization Process

There were some exceptions to the regular naturalization process. No records exist for people who were naturalized by collective naturalization. It is important to be aware of the following exceptions so you do not unnecessarily spend time

looking for records that do not exist:

1. In 1776, the Continental Congress granted citizenship to everyone living in the colonies that were loyal to the new government in a collective naturalization.
2. Women and children received derivative citizenship (women beginning in 1855 and children beginning in 1790), meaning they obtained their citizenship from a husband or father who was naturalized. After 1804, if a husband or father died after filing his declaration but before filing his petition, his widow and children could become citizens by taking an Oath of Allegiance. In 1922, women were no longer eligible for derivative citizenship. See information on The Cable Act for more information: When Saying "I Do" Meant Giving Up Your U.S. Citizenship.
3. In 1868, African Americans were made citizens in a collective naturalization.
4. From 1907 to 1922, women lost their US citizenship by marrying an alien. In order to regain it, a woman had to go through the naturalization process.
5. In 1918, aliens who served in the US military did not need to file a declaration, and residency requirements were waived. Servicemen were naturalized at military posts.
6. In 1924, Native Americans were made citizens in a collective naturalization.
7. In 1936, women who had lost their US citizenship by marrying an alien during the period from 1907 to 1922 could regain their citizenship if their marriage was terminated by divorce or death. In 1940, women could regain their citizenship regardless of their marital status by taking an Oath of Allegiance.

The Type of Genealogical Data That Can Be Found in Naturalization Records

Naturalization records can provide the key to tracing an immigrant ancestor to his country of origin. They indicate the ancestor's country of origin and sometimes even list the specific town from which the ancestor emigrated.

Before 1790, naturalization records contained very little genealogical information. Typical content of these naturalization records included the immigrant's name, age, and country of origin.

From 1790 to 1906, naturalization records included more genealogically useful information. Typical content of naturalization records included the following information about the immigrant:

1. Name
2. Port of arrival
3. Date of immigration
4. Country of origin
5. Age
6. Residence

During this time period, naturalization had to be performed in a court. The immigrant had to be a resident of the United States for five years, a resident of his state for one year, and have a good moral character.

In 1906, the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) was created. Forms were standardized, and the set of questions the immigrant had to answer was greatly expanded. Typical content of naturalization records from 1906 and thereafter included the following information about the immigrant:

1. Name
2. Age
3. Birth date
4. Residence

5. Date of application
6. Last foreign address
7. Country of birth or allegiance
8. Occupation
9. Physical description
10. Port of arrival
11. Date of arrival
12. Vessel of arrival
13. Marital status
14. Wife's and children's names, birth dates, and birthplaces

Immigration and Naturalization Records and Terms

Certificate of Naturalization: The third and final step of the naturalization process; the immigrant received full privileges in the new country and a certificate of naturalization. The original copy was given to the immigrant, and a duplicate copy was kept by the government.

Chain Migration: Part of a family immigrated first, and the rest of the family immigrated later.

Customs Passenger Lists: Lists of passengers entering the United States. Information typically recorded on customs passenger lists includes each immigrant's name, age, gender, occupation, country of origin, country or place of intended destination, and ports and dates of arrival and destination. Lists before the 1880s rarely indicate the immigrant's town of origin. Passenger lists were open to the public through 1957.

Declaration of Intent: The first step of the naturalization process; a filed declaration of intent to become naturalized.

Emigration: The act of leaving one's country of origin.

Immigration: The act of coming to live in a foreign country.

Naturalization: The process by which a native or citizen of one country becomes a citizen of a different country.

Naturalization Records: Naturalization records (declaration of intent, petition, and certificate) after 1820 and before 1906 include the immigrant's name, port of arrival, date of immigration, country of origin, age, and residence. Naturalization records after 1906 include the immigrant's name, age, birth date, residence, date of application, last foreign address, country of birth or allegiance, occupation, physical description, port of arrival, date of arrival, vessel of arrival, marital status, and wife's and children's names, birth dates, and birthplaces.

Petition: The second step of the naturalization process; an immigrant's petition to the court for naturalization.

Port of Arrival: Ship's place of entrance into a country.

Port of Departure: Ship's place of exit from a country.

Ship Manifests: Federal inspection agent's records of passengers entering the United States. These records included the same information found in the customs passenger lists, plus more detail, such as the immigrant's place of origin, last residence, marital status, previous US residence, place of destination, and the names of relatives in home countries and in the United States.

Visa Files: Official arrival records of immigrants between 1 July 1924 and 31 March 1944. The records contain date of arrival, port of arrival, complete name, a photograph, birth date, birthplace, and names of parents. Sometimes vital records of birth or marriage or other records are attached.

Finding Immigration and Naturalization Records

Immigration Records

Indexed images of all readily available United States passenger lists from 1820 to 1957 are on Ancestry.com. Free sites with the port of New York collections include EllisIsland.org, CastleGarden.org, FamilySearch.org, and Internet Archive (archive.org).

FamilySearch has digitized passenger lists from the National Archives for arrivals to New York from 1820 to 1897: New York Passenger Lists, 1820–1897.

The website of the US National Archives and Records Administration at NARA - AAD includes four free passenger list databases:

- Immigration of Russians to the United States 1834–1897.
- Immigration of Russians to the United States 1834–1897.
- Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine 1846–1851.
- Immigration of Germans to the United States 1850–1897.
- Immigration of Italians to the United States 1855–1900.

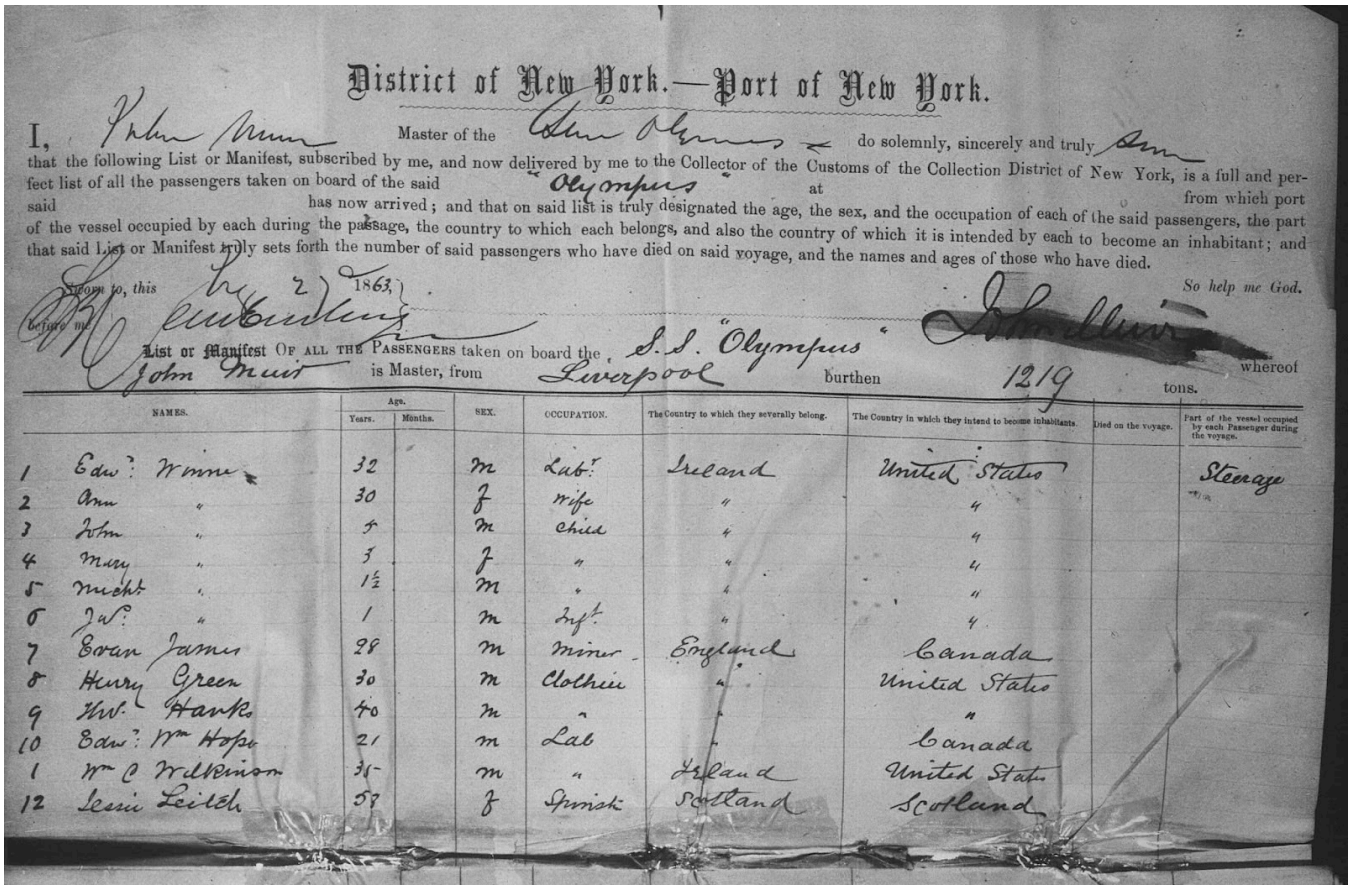
NARA also has a page that lists passenger list holdings by state for all states, not just New York: Browse by Port of Entry | National Archives.

Select on the plus (+) sign next to each state to see the holdings for each location and how to access them. This list also provides a direct link to search each record collection at Ancestry.com.

Indexed information in database entries for passenger lists very often do not contain all the information that the actual passenger list included. **Do not rely on indexes to extract all the information that an original passenger list may have contained.**

Passenger lists can contain a variety of information including names, birth places, age, prior residences, occupations, who paid for the passage, whether they had ever been in the US before, names and addresses of relatives in the destination country, and many other pieces of data.

Example of an incoming passenger list from New York, 1863:



District of New York.—Port of New York.

I, John Wynne Master of the Steam Ship Olympus do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare that the following List or Manifest, subscribed by me, and now delivered by me to the Collector of the Customs of the Collection District of New York, is a full and perfect list of all the passengers taken on board of the said "Olympus" at from which port said has now arrived; and that on said list is truly designated the age, the sex, and the occupation of each of the said passengers, the part of the vessel occupied by each during the passage, the country to which each belongs, and also the country of which it is intended by each to become an inhabitant; and that said List or Manifest truly sets forth the number of said passengers who have died on said voyage, and the names and ages of those who have died.

Sworn to, this 2 day of 1863. So help me God.

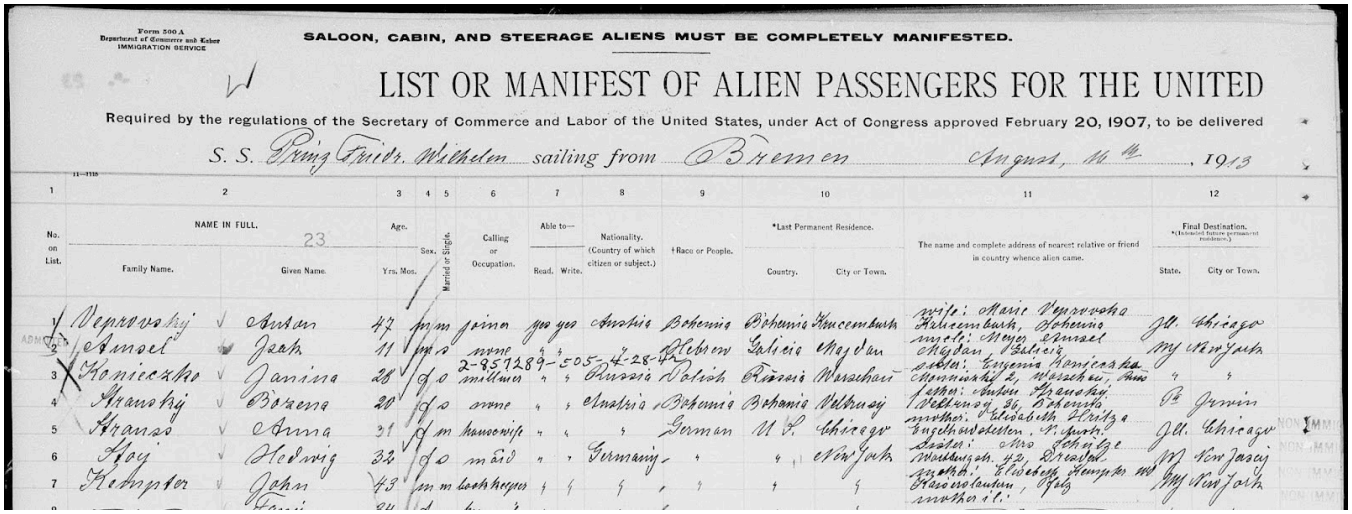
before me

List or Manifest OF ALL THE PASSENGERS taken on board the S.S. "Olympus" whereof John Muir is Master, from Liverpool burthen 1219 tons.

	NAMES.	Age. Years.	Months.	SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The Country to which they severally belong.	The Country in which they intend to become inhabitants.	Died on the voyage.	Part of the vessel occupied by each Passenger during the voyage.
1	Edw? Wynne	32		m	Labr	Ireland	United States		Steerage
2	Ann "	30		f	Wife	"	"		
3	John "	5		m	Child	"	"		
4	Mary "	3		f	"	"	"		
5	Michl "	1½		m	"	"	"		
6	Jas? "	1		m	Infr	"	"		
7	Evan James	28		m	Miner	England	Canada		
8	Henry Green	30		m	Clothier	"	United States		
9	Wm Hanks	40		m	"	"	"		
10	Edw? Wm Hope	21		m	Lab	"	Canada		
1	Wm C Wilkinson	35		m	"	Ireland	United States		
12	Jessie Leitch	57		f	Spinst	Scotland	Scotland		

Formatting for passenger lists changed over time, as laws were passed requiring them to contain additional information. Passenger lists often spanned more than one page. Always examine the original record whenever an image is available, and check for subsequent pages in the next two or three images. Always extract data directly from the image of the original passenger list whenever possible.

Example of the first and second page of an incoming passenger list from New York, 1913. **Always check the next image for a second page.**



Form 500 A
Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

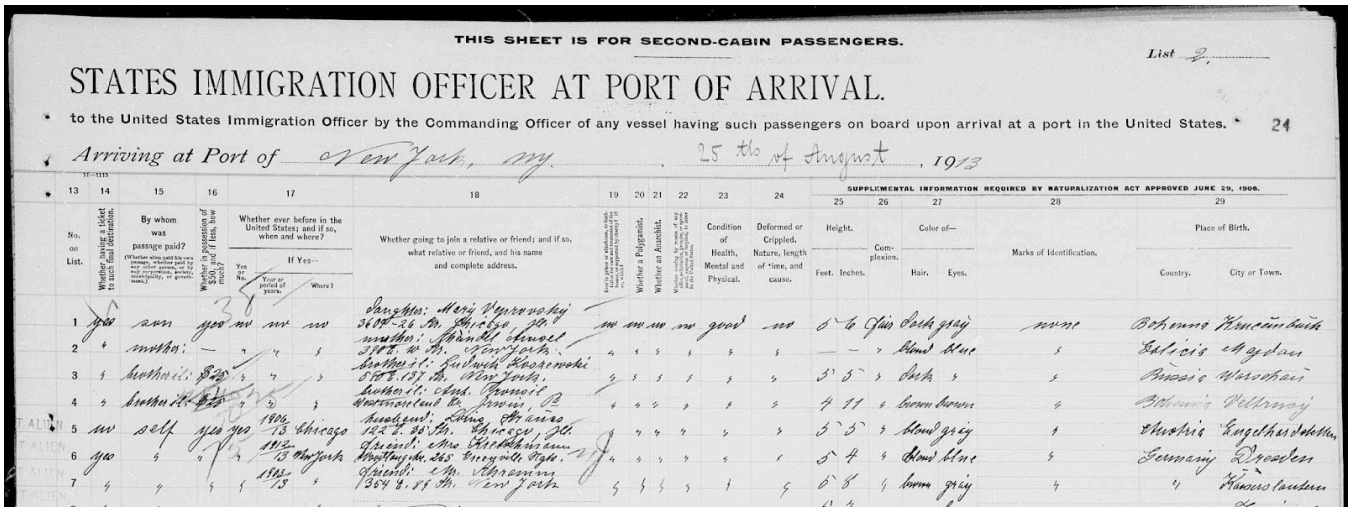
SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

S. S. Prinz Friedr. Wilhelm sailing from Bremen August, 16th, 1913

1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	
No. on List.	NAME IN FULL. Family Name.	Given Name.	Age. Yrs.	Mos.	Sex. Married or Single.	Calling or Occupation.	Able to— Read.	Able to— Write.	Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	†Race or People.	*Last Permanent Residence. Country.	*Last Permanent Residence. City or Town.	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.	Final Destination. (Intended future permanent residence.) State.	Final Destination. (Intended future permanent residence.) City or Town.
1	Neprovsky	Anton	42		m m	farmer	yes	yes	Austria	Bohemia	Bohemia	Kuncemburk	wife: Marie Neprovska Kuncemburk, Bohemia	Ill.	Chicago
2	Samuel	Jack	11		m s	none	"	"	Russia	Polish	Galicia	Chrydan	uncle: Meyer Samuel Chrydan, Galicia	My	New York
3	Konieczko	Janina	20		f s	milliner	"	"	Russia	Polish	Russia	Warschau	sister: Eugenia Konieczka Tschmielska 2, Warschau, Russia	"	"
4	Hranotzj	Bozena	20		f s	none	"	"	Austria	Bohemia	Bohemia	Veltrusy	father: Antonin Hranotzj Veltrusy 26, Bohemia	Pa	Grmin
5	Hranso	Anna	31		f m	housewife	"	"	"	German	U.S.	Chicago	mother: Elizabeth Hranso Engelhardstetten, Wurtt.	Ill.	Chicago
6	Hoy	Hedwig	32		f s	maid	"	"	Germany	"	"	New York	sister: Mrs Johnitze Washington 42, Dresden	My	New Jersey
7	Kempter	John	43		m m	bookkeeper	"	"	"	"	"	"	mother: Elisabeth Kempter Kaiserslautern, Pfalz	My	New York



THIS SHEET IS FOR SECOND-CABIN PASSENGERS.

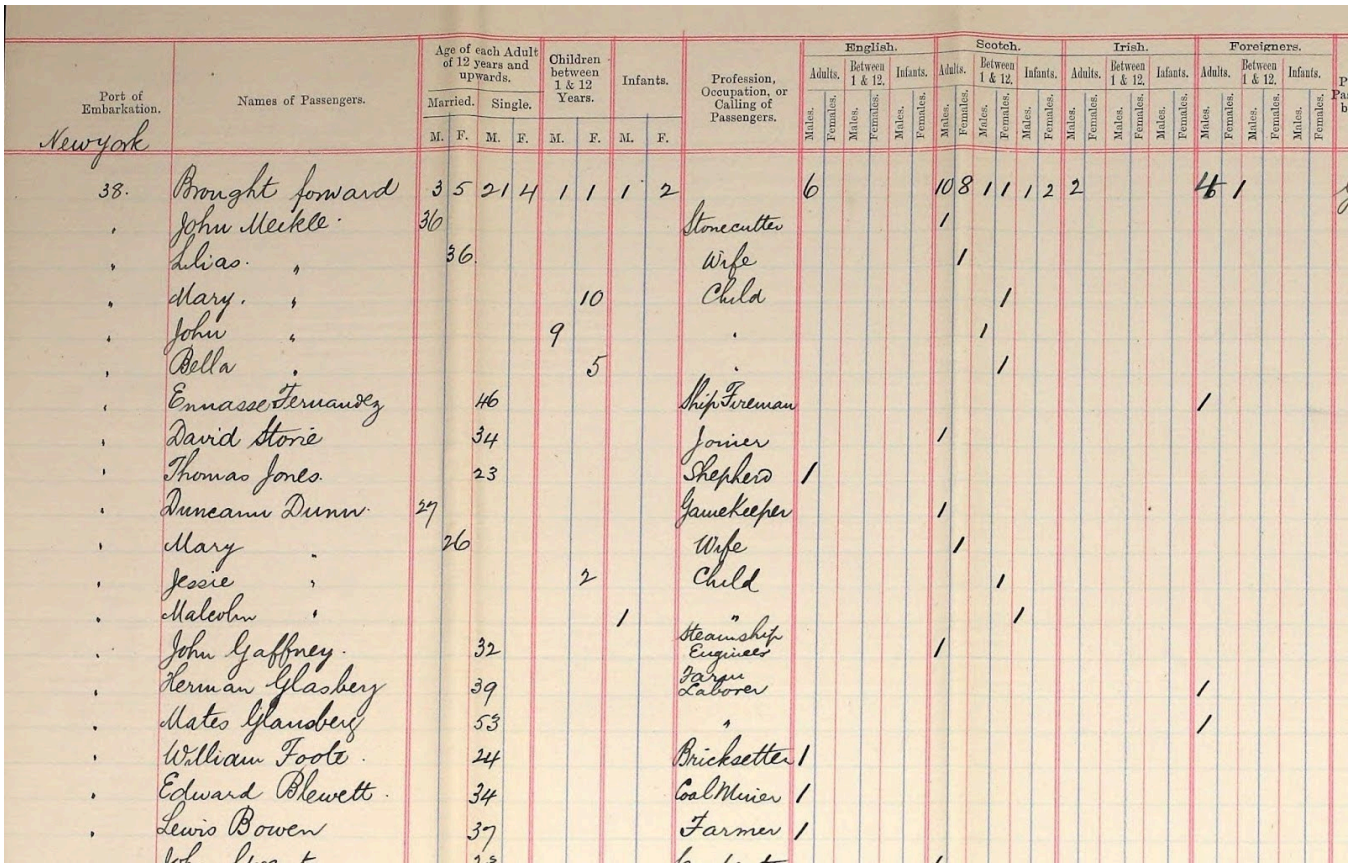
List 2.

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States. 24

Arriving at Port of New York, my. 25 th of August, 1913

Example of incoming passenger list from Glasgow, Scotland, 1894. (UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960 database)



Port of Embarkation: Newyork

	Names of Passengers.	Age of each Adult of 12 years and upwards. Married. M.	Married. F.	Single. M.	Single. F.	Children between 1 & 12 Years. M.	Children between 1 & 12 Years. F.	Infants. M.	Infants. F.	Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers.	English. Adults. Males.	English. Adults. Females.	English. Between 1 & 12. Males.	English. Between 1 & 12. Females.	English. Infants. Males.	English. Infants. Females.	Scotch. Adults. Males.	Scotch. Adults. Females.	Scotch. Between 1 & 12. Males.	Scotch. Between 1 & 12. Females.	Scotch. Infants. Males.	Scotch. Infants. Females.	Irish. Adults. Males.	Irish. Adults. Females.	Irish. Between 1 & 12. Males.	Irish. Between 1 & 12. Females.	Irish. Infants. Males.	Irish. Infants. Females.	Foreigners. Adults. Males.	Foreigners. Adults. Females.	Foreigners. Between 1 & 12. Males.	Foreigners. Between 1 & 12. Females.	Foreigners. Infants. Males.	Foreigners. Infants. Females.
38.	Brought forward	3	5	21	4	1	1	1	2		6						10	8	1	1	1	2	2						46	1				
,	John Meckle	36								Stonecutter							1																	
,	Elias ,		36							Wife								1																
,	Mary ,						10			Child										1														
,	John ,					9				,									1														
,	Bella ,						5			,										1														
,	Ennasse Fernandez			46						Ship Fireman																			1					
,	David Storie			34						Joiner							1																	
,	Thomas Jones			23						Shepherd	1																							
,	Duncann Dunn	27								Gamekeeper							1																	
,	Mary ,		26							Wife								1																
,	Jessie ,						2			Child										1														
,	Malcolm ,							1		,											1													
,	John Gaffney			32						Steamship Engineer							1																	
,	Herman Glasberg			39						Barge Laborer																			1					
,	Mates Glandberg			53						,																			1					
,	William Foote			24						Bricksetter	1																							
,	Edward Blewett			34						Coal Miner	1																							
,	Lewis Bowen			37						Farmer	1																							

There are also compiled sources of immigration records. Newspapers for port towns in the 1700s and 1800s occasionally listed passengers or new arrivals. Lists have also been compiled by genealogical and historical societies, and by ethnic heritage organizations. Compiled records will always point back to an original source. Any information found in compiled sources should always be verified by finding the original record whenever possible.

Naturalization Records

Naturalization records can be found in a variety of courts. An individual may have begun the naturalization process in one court and finished it in another—sometimes in an entirely different state.

After many of the minor courts stopped conducting naturalization proceedings, their records were frequently filed in county or city offices, and many of the old court records have been dispersed to archives, historical societies, libraries, etc.

Some naturalization records can be ordered for a fee from the US Citizenship and Immigration Services website.

Some naturalization records are available at the National Archives and Records Administration.

Some websites, such as Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org have digitized naturalization records.

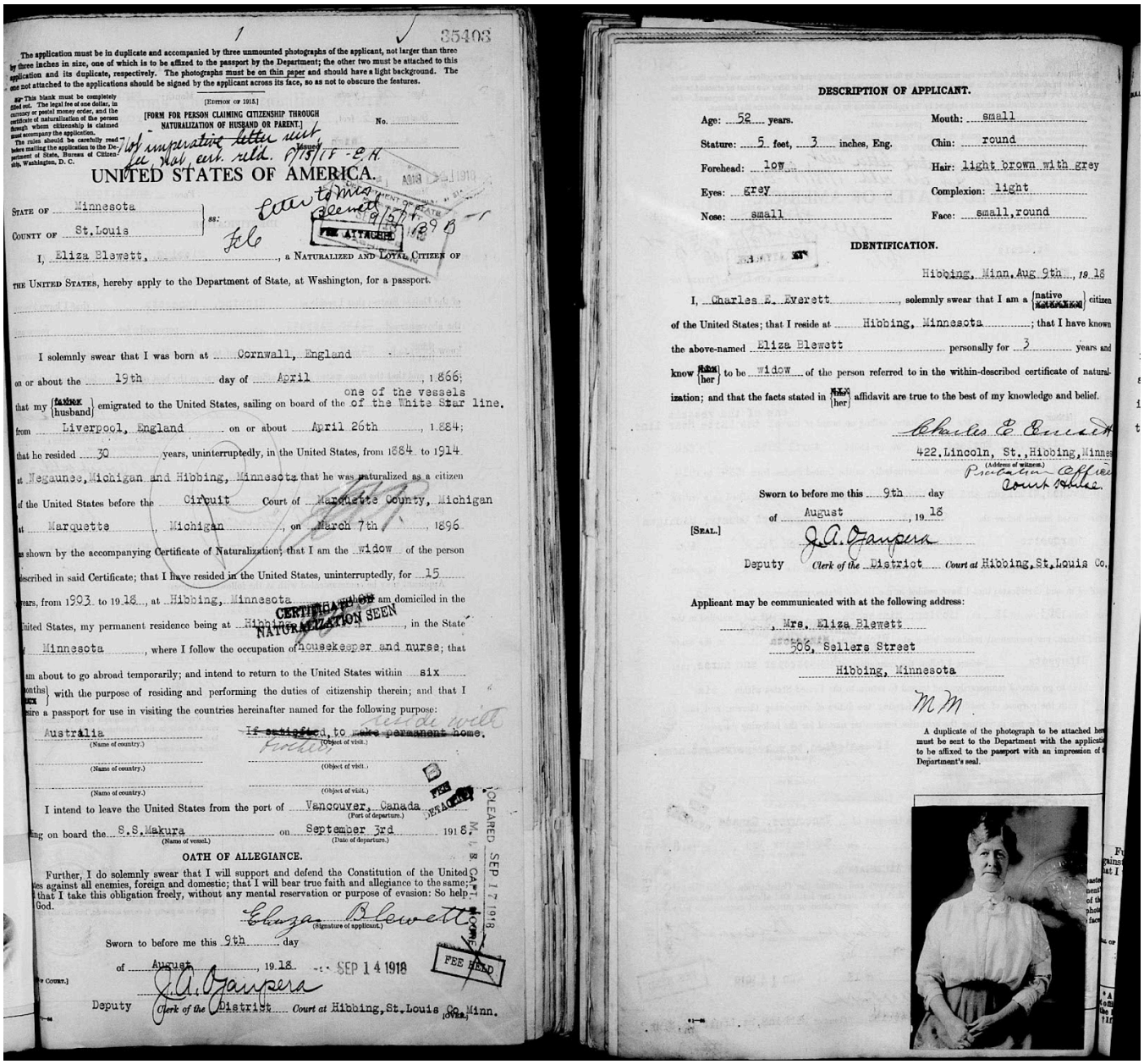
In order to find the naturalization record of an ancestor, first determine where that person was living when he would have naturalized. Then identify all courts that serviced the area where the ancestor lived, learn where their naturalization records are kept, and look at records of each court until the ancestor is found. Use indexes whenever possible.

Remember that before 1906, most naturalization proceedings were completed in county, superior, or common pleas courts, or in state and US circuit and district courts. If the ancestor naturalized in this time period, search those courts first. After 1906, most naturalization proceedings took place in federal courts, so during this time period, search federal court records first. Also, remember that women will not have their own naturalization paperwork prior to the Cable Act of 1922.

Look for the ancestor's name using multiple name variants. Consider all possible spellings of the surname, keeping in mind that the ancestor's name may have been spelled as it was in the old country, or it may have been Americanized or written phonetically.

Passports

The US Government began issuing passports in 1795. These valuable records contain the applicants' name, birth date, birthplace, physical description, and information about immigration and naturalization. Most even include a photograph. US Passports from 1795–1925 have been digitized and are available to search for free at FamilySearch.org: United States Passport Applications, 1795–1925.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF Minnesota
COUNTY OF St.Louis } ss:

I, Eliza Blewett, a NATURALIZED AND LOYAL CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.

I solemnly swear that I was born at Cornwall, England on or about the 19th day of April, 1866; that my husband emigrated to the United States, sailing on board of the one of the vessels of the White Star line. from Liverpool, England on or about April 26th, 1884; that he resided 30 years, uninterruptedly, in the United States, from 1884 to 1914 at Negaunee, Michigan and Hibbing, Minnesota that he was naturalized as a citizen of the United States before the Circuit Court of Marquette County, Michigan at Marquette, Michigan, on March 7th, 1896 as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Naturalization; that I am the widow of the person described in said Certificate; that I have resided in the United States, uninterruptedly, for 15 years, from 1903 to 1918, at Hibbing, Minnesota and that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Hibbing, in the State of Minnesota, where I follow the occupation of housekeeper and nurse; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and intend to return to the United States within six months with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein; and that I desire a passport for use in visiting the countries hereinafter named for the following purpose:

Australia (Name of country.) — If satisfied, to make permanent home. (Object of visit.)

I intend to leave the United States from the port of Vancouver, Canada (Port of departure.) on board the S.S.Makura (Name of vessel.) on September 3rd (Date of departure.) 1918.

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE.

Further, I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion: So help me God.

Eliza Blewett (Signature of applicant.)

Sworn to before me this 9th day of August, 1918. SEP 14 1918

Deputy J.A.Gampera Clerk of the District Court at Hibbing, St.Louis Co., Minn.

CERTIFIED COPY OF NATURALIZATION SEEN

FEE PAID

CLERKED SEP 17 1918

FEE HELD

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: 52 years. Mouth: small
Stature: 5 feet, 3 inches, Eng. Chin: round
Forehead: low Hair: light brown with grey
Eyes: grey Complexion: light
Nose: small Face: small,round

IDENTIFICATION.

Hibbing, Minn. Aug 9th, 1918

I, Charles E. Everett, solemnly swear that I am a native citizen of the United States; that I reside at Hibbing, Minnesota; that I have known the above-named Eliza Blewett personally for 3 years and know her to be widow of the person referred to in the within-described certificate of naturalization; and that the facts stated in her affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Charles E. Everett

422, Lincoln, St., Hibbing, Minn. (Address of witness.)

Sworn to before me this 9th day of August, 1918.

[SEAL.] J.A.Gampera

Deputy Clerk of the District Court at Hibbing, St.Louis Co.

Applicant may be communicated with at the following address:

Mrs. Eliza Blewett
506, Sellers Street
Hibbing, Minnesota

M M

A duplicate of the photograph to be attached here must be sent to the Department with the application to be affixed to the passport with an impression of the Department's seal.

Determine the Immigration Date

It is difficult to search for immigration records if you do not have an estimated immigration date. The more narrow and specific an arrival date, the easier it is to know you have found the correct individual. Information recorded in immigration records can vary greatly depending on when the individual immigrated and some immigration records do not contain much identifying information, so trying to determine, for example, which Johann Schmidt is your Johann Schmidt can be very difficult. If you know more about an individual, his or her life, and who they lived near or with, then you will be much more successful in identifying the correct individual, as well as recognizing the indirect evidence and contextual information in the immigration record. Research first in US records to learn more about the individual and to narrow down an immigration date before diving head-first into immigration records.

Here are some records to search:

1. Newspapers: Newspapers often published lists of immigrants as they arrived. Your ancestor's obituary might state a date of immigration.
2. Local Histories: Local histories often recorded waves of immigration into the area or groups that came to that area for specific reasons.
3. Family Records: Journals or diaries might list dates of immigration.
4. Lineage Society Records: Some lineage societies compile lists of immigrants.
5. Census Records: The 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 censuses each have a column for information about the individual's immigration.

Determine Whether an Ancestor Was Naturalized

Page Content

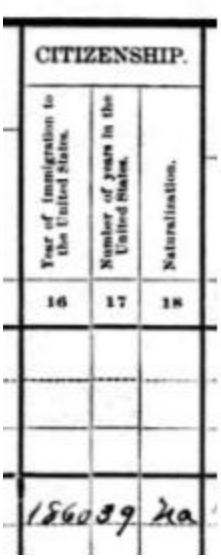
Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers. Documents found in your family's possession may indicate if your ancestor naturalized, particularly a certificate of naturalization or a certificate of citizenship.

Census records of 1900–1930 contain a column for naturalization, including the following abbreviations:

- AL = Alien, no papers filed.
- NA = Naturalized.
- PA = Declaration (First Papers) filed.
- NR = Not reported.

Compare the following citizenship column headings from 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 US census records. In most instances, examples of the information provided about an individual are also provided (See Week 10, FHGEN 242).

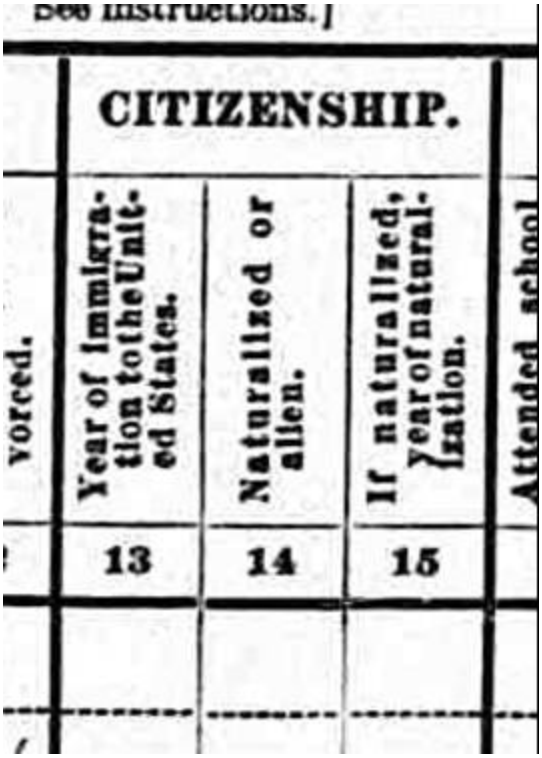
Column Heading from 1900 US Census:

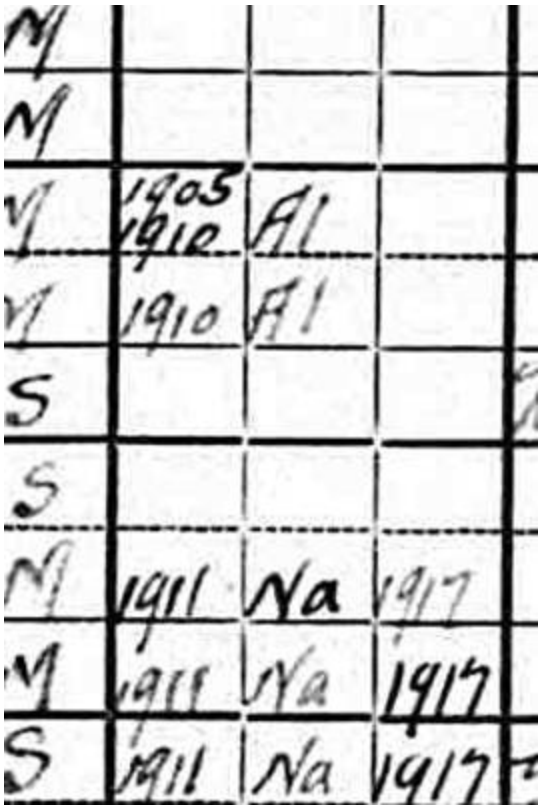


Column heading from 1910 US Census:



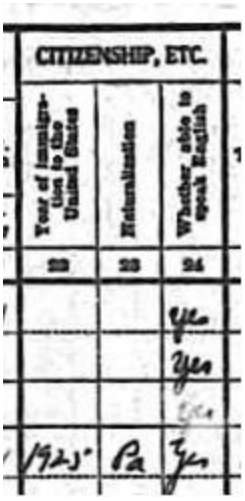
Column Heading from 1920 US Census:





M			
M			
M	1905 1910	Al	
M	1910	Al	
S			
S			
M	1911	Na	1917
M	1911	Na	1917
S	1911	Na	1917

Column Heading from 1930 US Census:



CITIZENSHIP, ETC.		
Year of immigration to the United States	Naturalization	Whether able to speak English
23	23	24
		Yes
		Yes
		Yes
1923	Pa	Yes

Column Heading from 1940 US Census:



Strategies for Tracing Elusive Immigrants

At times, when you input an immigrant ancestor's name in an online passenger-list search engine (such as Ancestry.com), you will not immediately find the record you seek. In these cases, it is helpful to think of additional strategies for locating the immigration record.

If other sources indicate the year of arrival, you may find it necessary to read through microfilmed or digitized versions of passenger lists page by page for that year. This is possible online for the port of New York for the years 1820 to 1891. Digital images of these passenger lists are available at FamilySearch.org and Internet Archive (see the "Free Online New York Passenger Lists, 1820–1897" article in the FamilySearch Research Wiki).

In other situations, you may find that passenger lists have been indexed independently by multiple publishers. When one passenger list index fails to locate an immigrant, try another index.

Immigrants may have used Anglicized versions of their names in the United States. It is often necessary to determine the foreign birth name to locate immigrants on passenger lists.

Steve Morse, the architect of the Intel 8086 processor, has created several useful tools for genealogists. For instance, he created enhanced search options for popular genealogical databases, which can be accessed at stevemorse.org. If you are having difficulty locating immigrants in passenger lists, you'll want to learn more about Morse's site.

The Ellis Island Gold Form (1892–1924) is one of Morse's most popular search tools. This tool provides improved search capabilities over the standard search engine, including the following:

1. Ability to leave the last name field blank.
2. Sounds-like searches for first names and towns.
3. Traveling companion searches.
4. Marital status searches: single, married, widowed, divorced.
5. Day, month, and year of arrival searches.
6. Port of departure searches.
7. Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex searches.
8. Display formats that can be manipulated.

If your immigrant ancestor had a common name, filtering the list by traveling companion's name (such as a wife or child) can help you focus on the correct person.

Pre-1820 Immigration

Many of the Post-1820 Immigration records, such as naturalization records and federal census records, are not available or contain little information about immigrant ancestors who arrived in the United States before 1820. The following information focuses on records that are well-suited for tracing pre-1820 immigrant ancestors.

Pre-1820 Immigrants

Immigrants arriving in America prior to 1820 came for many reasons: to escape persecution in their homelands, to find religious freedom, to purchase land, and to pursue the economic opportunities that the New World offered. The majority of pre-1820 immigrants came from western, northern, and central Europe. Many immigrants paid their own passage. Travel costs for some poor immigrants were paid by benefactors such as churches. Some immigrants arrived as indentured servants. Others came unwillingly, notably convicts and slaves.

Identifying the exact birthplace of an immigrant ancestor can be more challenging for pre-1820 immigrants than for those who immigrated after 1820. Naturalization records during this time period often provide little more than the country of origin. Passenger lists were more difficult because shipcaptains were not required to present their passenger lists to government officials before 1820. Most records that list information about ship passengers before 1820 are now in derivative form. Many entries in immigration indexes (such as Filby's lists) for pre-1820 immigrants did not get their information from actual passenger lists. An ancestor's inclusion in an immigration index like Filby's list does not mean there was ever an actual passenger list for that person's arrival. Federal census records before 1850 did not include any information about a head of household's place of origin.

Because of the small amount of records about immigration before 1820, many other record types are particularly useful for discovering the place of origin for an immigrant ancestor who arrived in America before 1820. These records include church

records, cemetery records, probate records, court records, land and property records, genealogies, and periodicals.

Sometimes clues to pre-1820 immigration can be found in records created after 1820. When researching immigrant families, be on the lookout for clues in any record type that you may find in the destination location. The example below is from the 1842 Quebec Census:

2	1	
	"	Number of NATIVES of ENGLAND, belonging to each Family.
	"	Number of NATIVES of IRELAND, belonging to each Family.
	1	Number of NATIVES of SCOTLAND, belonging to each Family.
		Number of NATIVES of CANADA, belonging to each Family, of French origin.
		Number of NATIVES of CANADA, belonging to each Family, of British origin.
		Number of NATIVES of the Continent of EUROPE, or otherwise, specifying the same separately.
		Number of NATIVES of the UNITED STATES of America.
		NUMBER of years each person has been in the Province, when not natives thereof.
		NUMBER of ALIENS not naturalized.

the other Statistical Information to be obtained in such

Although the census was taken in 1842, it provides clues for the country of origin for many people who immigrated prior to 1820, how many years they'd been in Canada, and whether they were naturalized.

Land Records

Land! The desire for land ownership was one of the most powerful forces driving US immigration and settlement of the American frontier. Immigrants were lured to America by the dream of fertile soil where they could harvest bountiful crops and improve their lives. Americans were enticed to move ever farther into the wilderness by the enticement of cheap or free land. Land ownership was the American dream.

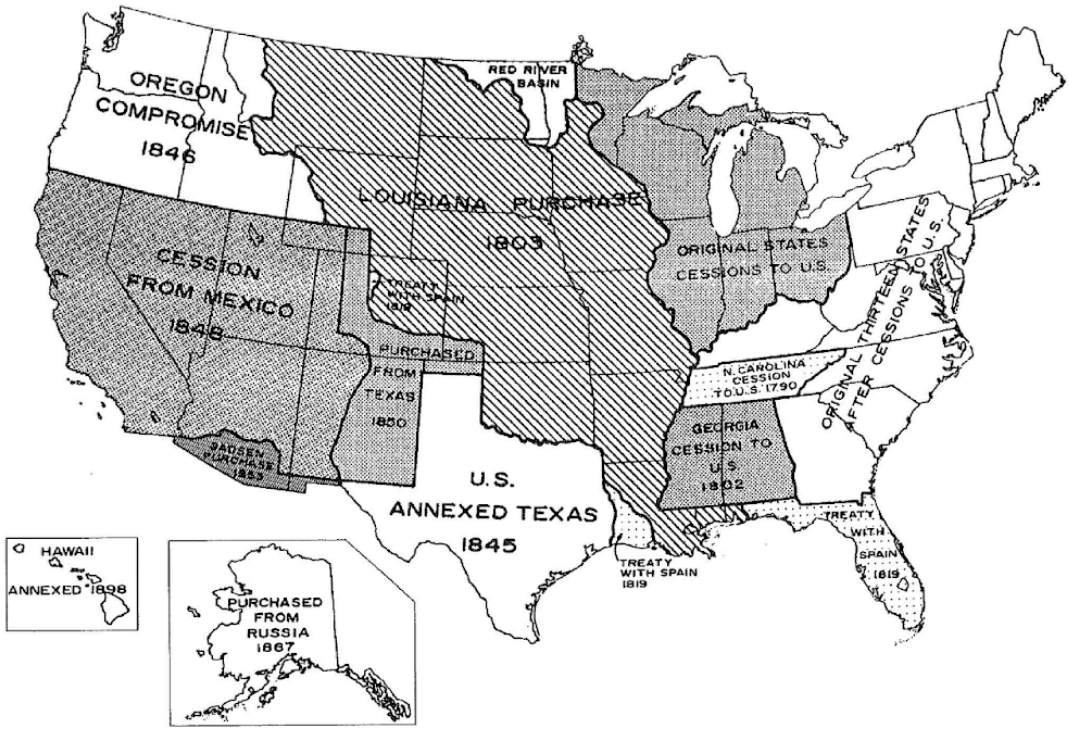
Land records are one of the major record groups used by genealogists when performing US research due to their extensive coverage, availability, and valuable information. Many free adult males living in the United States before the mid-1800s owned land. Therefore, land records are a valuable source for pinpointing a family in a particular time and place. Land records usually pre-date vital records and may pre-date census and church records in some areas.

Land transactions were carefully recorded and preserved due to the importance of proving one’s ownership of land. Even when a courthouse or other repository was burned or flooded, attempts were made to recreate records concerning property ownership due to their significance in people’s everyday lives.

Land records may benefit genealogical research in many ways. For example, they may do the following:

- Reveal connections between family members.
- Provide names of spouses or previously unknown children.
- Identify many or all of an individual’s living heirs when they jointly sold inherited land.
- Include information about a person’s previous residence or the location to which an individual moved.
- Indicate when an individual likely moved into the area, where he lived, and how long he lived there.
- Identify an individual’s occupation.
- Specify whether an individual served in the military or was an immigrant.

Land Distribution Practices Used in the United States



Acquisition of U.S. Territory

how the records were generated and how to access them. Specific guidelines are used to define applicable content. The selection criteria include:

- Major record collections and indexes
- Records covering more than one state, or
- Records covering more than just a portion of a state
- Records applying to a wide spectrum of immigrant or migrant populations

Effort has been made to refer the reader to other sources which will provide additional or more detailed information on the records, repositories, and accessibility for each area.

Foreign governments once claimed large amounts of territory now within US boundaries. Spain, Great Britain, France, and Mexico issued grants of land to individuals that they in turn could sell to other settlers.

Land in the original thirteen colonies was initially granted by the British government to companies or individuals by charter. Well-known examples are the charters granted to the Massachusetts Bay Company for a tract of land now in Massachusetts and to William Penn for land in what is now Pennsylvania. Companies or individuals who were granted charters were authorized to subdivide the land within their charter by granting smaller tracts to individuals loyal to the British crown.

Even after these foreign governments sold, traded, or otherwise dispersed their properties, their influence upon the land distribution practices of the states formerly within their jurisdiction remained.

Acquisition of Land in the United States

The first colonial-era settlements in New England and Virginia were established via royal charter by two joint venture companies, the Plymouth Company and the (London) Virginia Company. Other companies followed, and charter-settled areas became the norm in the British colonies throughout the 17th century. The company charter gave permission for each company to manage land ownership within their chartered area as they saw fit.

The Plymouth and Virginia companies sustained a communal land system for several decades. Systems of individual land allotments and land grants to individuals began to develop in the mid-1600s but were not well established in most areas until well into the 1700s. Therefore, many land record collections throughout New England and Virginia do not have land records going back all the way to the beginning years of settlement.

As allotment and grant systems developed over time, more individuals were able to acquire individual plots of land, either from a charter company, a colonial government jurisdiction, or from an individual. When a government sold land for the first time to an individual, the individual was awarded a grant. The property was then under private ownership and any subsequent sale of that property was handled by a deed.

Individuals may also have acquired property by inheriting it from other people (usually relatives) or by being granted land by the government as a reward for military service. Squatting and land grabbing were also very common throughout the colonial period, so there may have been no record created for the initial ownership of the land. Company charters were often issued without precise boundary descriptions. Disputes over boundaries between charter companies were common.

Grants

After the US government was created in 1782, land allotment systems became more standardized. When the government sold property to an individual or granted bounty land in exchange for military service, the purchaser received a land grant.

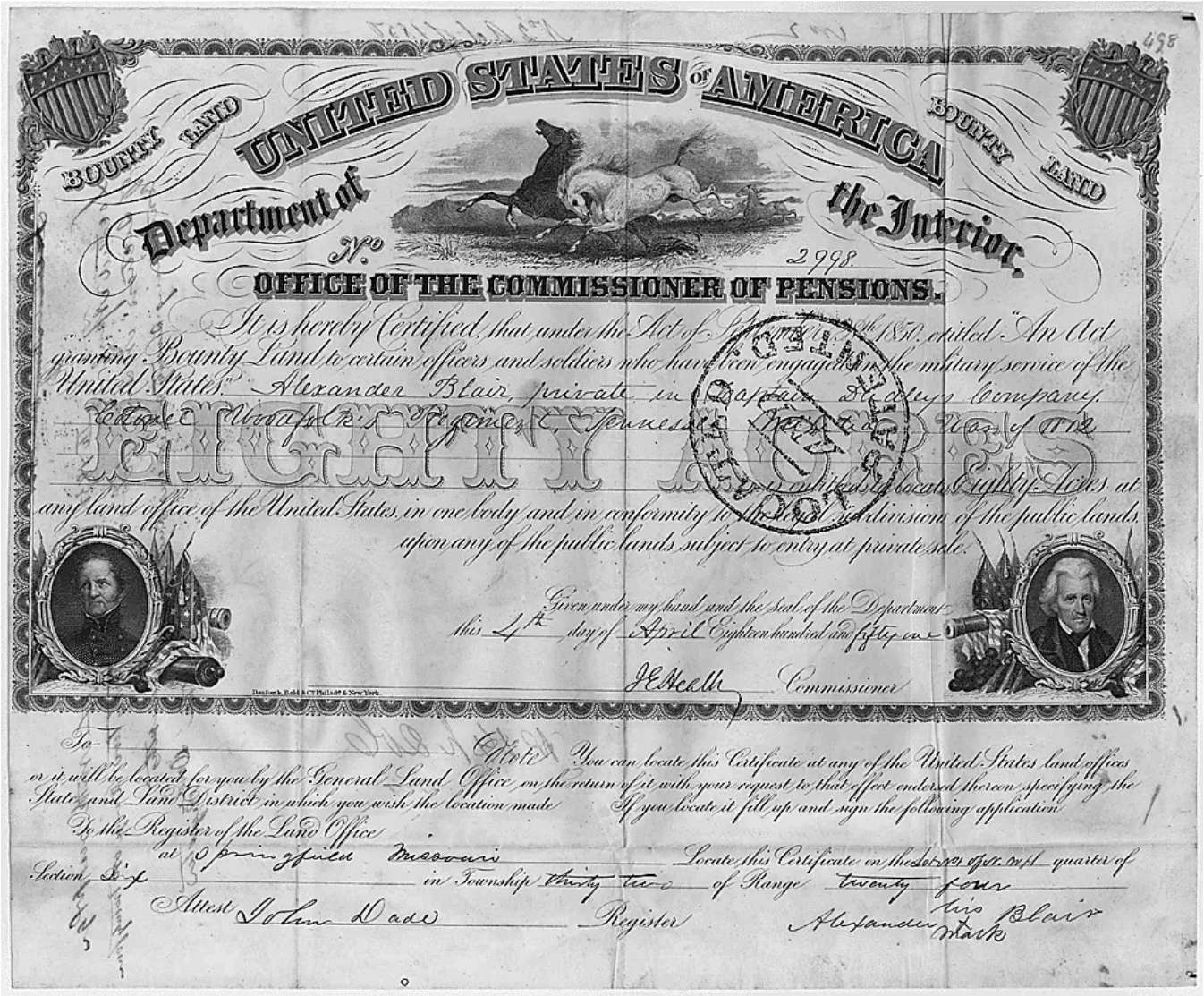
Several documents were created during the process. An application to purchase or acquire the land was filed at a land office or by a government official. A warrant was then issued, which authorized the purchaser to receive the land and have it surveyed. A surveyor produced a survey of the land, which consisted of a legal description of the property including its boundaries. The purchaser’s name and the location of the property were recorded in a tract book at a land office or by a government official.

The final document created during this process was a patent (also called a grant or first-title deed), which was issued to the new owner. The patent proved the individual’s claim to the property and served as the first deed. The new owner retained the patent, and the remaining documents created during this process were kept in case files and stored at the National Archives for federal land sales or at state archives for state land sales.

Bounty Land

Bounty land was a type of land grant awarded to veterans or their heirs by a state or federal government for military service. Bounty land was awarded to veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Indian War between 1775 and 1855. Tracts of federal land and some state lands (New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) were reserved for Revolutionary War veterans. The veteran filed an application for the bounty land, detailing his military service. Successful applicants were issued a warrant (authorization for an individual's right to claim a specific property). Most veterans sold or exchanged their warrants and did not settle on the land to which they were entitled.

Here is an example of a bounty land grant for military service in the War of 1812:



Deeds

A deed is a legal document that transfers ownership of property from one individual or company to another. For most states, deeds are recorded and kept at the county level. Some New England states are notable exceptions, where deeds may have been recorded at the town level for a number of years.

Deeds are the most common land documents and the ones most often used by genealogists. They are discussed in greater detail later.

State-land States and Federal-land States

US states are divided into two categories according to which government entities initially controlled and dispersed their land. State-land states are states whose land was initially distributed by the state government. The twenty state-land states include the original thirteen colonies plus an additional seven states, some of which were organized from the original thirteen colonies (for example, Kentucky).

The federal government was the entity that initially controlled and dispersed land in the remaining thirty states, which are known as federal-land states. The federal government acquired western lands ceded by the original thirteen colonies after the Revolutionary War. It also acquired much of the land west of the Appalachian Mountains by purchase, treaty, or other means from foreign governments. Much of this land was sold or transferred to individuals or states through grants. The government gave away some land for specific projects, such as the building of canals and railroads. The 1862 Homestead Act offered 160 acres for free to settlers who agreed to live on the land they claimed for five years and make improvements to that land.

The following table shows the breakdown by state according to which government entity controlled the sale of land within that state—the state government or the federal government.

Table 1 Breakdown of US States by Government Ownership of State Land

State-land States	Federal-land States
Connecticut	Alabama
Delaware	Alaska
Georgia	Arizona
Hawaii	Arkansas
Kentucky	California
Maine	Colorado
Maryland	Florida
Massachusetts	Idaho
New Hampshire	Illinois
New Jersey	Indiana
New York	Iowa
North Carolina	Kansas
Pennsylvania	Louisiana
Rhode Island	Michigan

State-land States	Federal-land States
South Carolina	Minnesota
Tennessee	Mississippi
Texas	Missouri
Vermont	Montana
Virginia	Nebraska
West Virginia	Nevada
	New Mexico
	North Dakota
	Ohio
	Oklahoma
	Oregon
	South Dakota
	Utah
	Washington
	Wisconsin
	Wyoming

State-land states and federal-land states also typically differ in their survey methods. The survey method used will determine how a property is described within a deed.

Survey Methods

State-land states generally used some variation of the metes and bounds system. This land system began under the administration of foreign governments. After the Revolutionary War, states typically distributed land in the same manner as they did when they were colonies.

The metes and bounds survey method consisted of four elements: physical markers such as trees, river banks, and rocks; measurements of distance such as chains and rods; directions (compass bearings); and degrees (between 0 and 90). Descriptions of a property included these elements.

For example, a deed may describe a property being sold as "beginning at a large beech tree next to Taylor's creek at a point where the highway crosses said creek thence 50 degrees westerly three rods to a stake thence 10 degrees northerly five rods

to a white oak thence 45 degrees easterly three rods to the west line of the highway."

A modified version of this system is still used today for property that was acquired before the present system of surveying land was adopted. The following extract from an 1854 deed exemplifies a more recent version of the metes and bounds system that was being used in New York.

All that certain piece and parcel of land situate at Canaan in the said town and county and bounded northerly by land of George Dayton westerly by a ditch running from the southwest corner of the said land now of George Dayton toward the land of John S. Soper southerly by land of John S. Soper and easterly by Patchogue Stream containing two acres by the same more or less.

The metes and bounds system was not completely accurate, especially when markers such as trees died and rocks were moved.

Federal-land states used the rectangular system. This system divided land into square units at six-mile intervals based on a meridian (an imaginary line running north and south) and a baseline (an imaginary line running east and west). The east and west boundaries of the six-mile intervals were called ranges (imaginary lines that run north and south and are six miles apart). Townships, each 36 square miles in size, were bounded on the east and west by ranges. Each township consisted of 36 one-mile square sections that were numbered.

The diagram below represents a typical township divided into 36 sections.

Township 7, Range 14

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

Just as a piece of property is uniquely identified by its position within a section and a township, so is each township uniquely identified by its position within a meridian. Townships are numbered according to their relationship to the intersection of a meridian (imaginary line running north and south) and a baseline (imaginary line running east and west). A township's number represents its count north or south of a baseline. The number of a range is determined by its count east or west of a meridian. The diagram below demonstrates how townships are uniquely numbered.

T3N R3W					
			T2N R1E	T2N R2E	
Baseline		T1N R1W			
		Meridian	T1S R1E		
	T2S R2W	Principal		T2S R2E	
		T3S R1W			

Information in Deeds

Deeds are some of the best records to use in genealogical research. Though they are full of technical and legal jargon, deeds include valuable genealogical information. Land records normally do not contain birth dates, birthplaces, or even the age of the buyer or seller. However, individuals had to be 21 years old in order to buy, own, or sell their own land.

Key pieces of information to look for in a deed include the following:

1. Location of land (county and state).
2. Names of transacting parties (grantor and grantee).
3. Residences of transacting parties.
4. Description and acreage of the land.
5. Watercourses near the land.
6. Bordering neighbors.
7. Payment (consideration money).
8. Names of witnesses.

9. Signatures.
10. Dates the deed was written and recorded.
11. Dower release (name of grantor's wife).
12. Relatives identified or implied.

Often, this information is recorded in a certain order. Knowing approximately where in a deed to look for the key information will make it easier to find what you need. The order of information is often recorded as follows:

1. Transaction date.
2. Name(s) and residence of the grantor.
3. Name(s) and residence of the grantee.
4. Consideration (purchase price).
5. Description, location, and acreage of land or number of lots; also sometimes bordering neighbors and nearby waterways.
6. Signatures of transacting parties.
7. Witnesses.
8. Dower release.
9. Recording date.

Don't be alarmed if a deed you are using doesn't contain all of this information or it isn't in this exact order.

Et al is a Latin abbreviation that means *and others*. Deed indexes often include this phrase next to a name. It means that the deed's transacting party included that person and others. The deed provides clues to these others. They were often relatives.

Et ux is a Latin abbreviation that means *wife*. Deed indexes often include this phrase next to a man's name. It indicates that the wife of the transacting party was also named in the deed. Look at the deed to learn her name.

Until women gained the right to own property, they encountered sharp restrictions on their business activities—the law assumed that women would not act independently of their husbands. However, women's rights were gradually expanded beginning in 1839 with a series of statutes called the Married Women's Property Acts. These acts increased the rights of married women to act as independent agents in legal contexts. After women gained the right to own property, they could buy and sell land in their own names. Around the start of the twentieth century, a new phrase was seen in deed indexes, *Et vir*. This is a Latin phrase that means *husband*. It indicates that the husband of the transacting party was also named in the deed. Look at the deed to learn his name.

Importance of Deed Indexes

To search land deeds, you will generally need to use an index because deeds are recorded chronologically by the date of registration, not the date of transaction. Although many land record collections are now online, few have been indexed into a searchable database, and you will need to browse through images to find the records you are searching for.

Most deed collections include grantor and grantee indexes. If you are looking for a deed in which your ancestor sold land, look for him in the grantor (direct) index. If you are looking for a deed in which your ancestor bought land, look for him in the grantee (indirect) index. It is a good idea to always search both indexes and record every instance of your ancestor's surname, including variant spellings. Note others with the same surname for possible relationships.

Definitions of Land-Related Terms

Land records introduce new terms that may be unfamiliar to beginning genealogists:

Application: A petition to appropriate officials to acquire land.

Bounty Land: Land awarded by a state or federal government to veterans or their heirs for military service.

Deed (noun): Document that records a land transaction between individuals, companies, or organizations.

Deed (verb): To convey or grant real property.

Dower Right: A share of the land owned by a woman's husband during marriage that was designated for her support during widowhood.

Et al: And others.

Et ux: And wife.

Federal-land States: The federal government made the land grants.

Folio: Page.

Grant: A government-authorized right of title to property previously owned by a government entity.

Grantee: Buyer.

Grantor: Seller.

Homestead: Land given to a settler on the condition he lived there and improved the land for a period of time, such as five years. Given to encourage settlement.

Indenture: A formal or official document.

Land Office: Government office that handled applications to purchase federal or state land and issued patents.

Liber: Book.

Metes and Bounds: Survey method used by state-land states. Described land by measuring and naming boundary features.

Patent: The final document issued to a purchaser by a government for the purchase of property previously owned by the government. Also known as the first-title deed.

Power of Attorney: A written instrument that gives a legal agent authority to act on behalf of the issuer.

Ranges: Imaginary lines that run north and south and are six miles apart. They form the east and west boundaries of a township.

Rectangular Survey: Survey method used by federal-land states. Described land by its position within a township and section.

Section: A one-square-mile piece of land within a township. Each section contains about 640 acres.

State-land States: The state or colony made the land grants.

Survey: Inspection and recording of the boundaries of a piece of property.

Township: A 36-square-mile piece of land within a specific meridian.

Tract Book: Contained the paperwork concerning land purchases, including the purchaser's name and the location of the property.

Warrant: A document that declares an individual's right to a specific property and authorizes a surveyor to survey that property.

Availability of Land Records Today

Deeds were generally recorded and kept at the county courthouse, with the exception of several New England states that recorded transactions at the town clerk's office. Many deeds are still kept at these locations today. In other cases, deeds may be stored at another repository, such as the state land office or the state archives. Some states, such as Maryland, created digitized copies of their deeds, which are available online.

The Family History Library has an extensive collection of microfilmed deeds and deed indexes that represent most counties in the United States. To find these, search place-name, then select the county (or town in the case of New England states) and Land and property records.

Federal land patents are digitized and available on the Bureau of Land Management's website (Official Federal Land Records Site). This database is an index to individuals named in federal land patents and warrants created from 1788 to the 1960s. The case files, which may include biographical information about the buyers, are not digitized, but they may be obtained from the National Archives.

State land patents and foreign government grants are typically found in state archives and state land offices. The Family History Library collection includes copies of many colonial land records and indexes. To find these, use a Place Name search by typing in the county and state (for example, Essex, Massachusetts). Then, search for Land and Property in the list of record types for that county.

Strategies for Using Land Records in Genealogical Research

Glean Clues from Both Grantee and Grantor Information

Deeds reveal important clues about the transacting parties (grantor and grantee). These clues can help do the following:

1. Differentiate between individuals of the same name.
2. Narrow down an estimate of when your ancestor was born.
3. Determine if a female ancestor was married, single, or widowed at the time of the transaction.
4. Track ancestors' arrival or departure if they moved from one location to another.

Differentiate between individuals of the same name: Following the tracts of land can help you distinguish people with the same name in the same area. Check to see if the occupations of the grantor and grantee are given. Knowing a man's occupation will also help you keep him separate from others with the same name. Notations such as Jr. and Sr. may also help, but keep in mind that sometimes when a Sr. died, the Jr. and Sr. designations were no longer used because they were no longer needed, or a Jr. may eventually become a Sr. Remember that Sr. or Jr. doesn't necessarily indicate a father and son relationship. Sometimes, Sr. and Jr. were used to differentiate individuals for tax purposes, even if they were not related at all. It only signifies that one was older than the other, even if the individuals were fairly close in age.

Narrow down an estimate of when your ancestor was born: Land records do not provide a specific date of birth, or provide a specific age for either the grantee or grantor. However, a person usually had to be either 21 years old to be a transacting party or a witness to a deed. In a few rare cases, a man could buy or be granted land before he was 21, but he could not sell it in his

own name. Any land inherited by minor children after the death of a parent would be administered by the estate administrator or the minor's guardian until the child was of age.

Determining if your female ancestor was married, single, or widowed: Before the Married Women's Property Acts, a single woman or widow over age 21 could buy or sell property, but a married woman could not. When married, the husband became the property owner if a woman bought or inherited property.

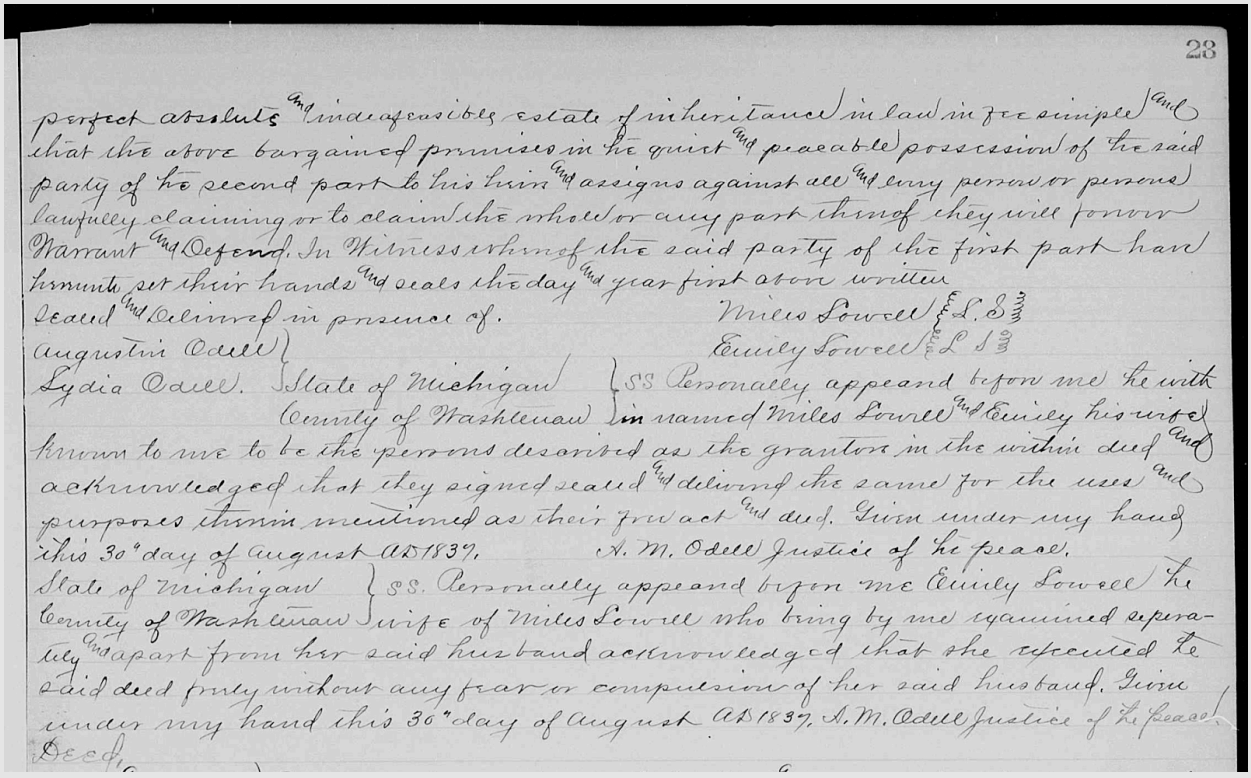
Tracking an ancestor's migration: When a person moves from one place to another, they usually sell the old residence. This transaction generated a deed. Very often, a deed was the person's last record in a geographic region. Most deeds identified the current residence of the grantee and grantor.

Look for the Wife

The most significant property right of women was the dower. A Dower right was a share of the land designated to support a married woman during widowhood. Dower was necessary in a legal system that denied women the ability to provide for their own financial security. Acting alone, married men could not sell their property to deny their wives dower. Unless a wife consented to sell or mortgage the family land, the buyer's title was not secure. In many states, a widow could sue for dower rights even several years after a transaction. Therefore, when a parcel of land was sold, most states required the wife to release her dower right before the sale was final. Importantly, a dower release recorded the wife's given name.

TRY IT OUT

Look at the following deed. Read the dower release at the end of the deed and become familiar with the terminology typically used in such a record.



28

perfect absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in law in fee simple and that the above bargained premises in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part to his heirs and assigns against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof they will forever Warrant and Defend. In Witness whereof the said party of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written

Sealed and Delivered in presence of.
Augustin Odell
Lydia Odell.

Miles Sowell [L.S.]
Emily Sowell [L.S.]

State of Michigan } SS Personally appeared before me the within
County of Washtenaw } named Miles Sowell and Emily his wife
known to me to be the persons described as the grantors in the within deed and
acknowledged that they signed sealed and delivered the same for the uses and
purposes therein mentioned as their free act and deed. Given under my hand
this 30th day of August AD 1837. A. M. Odell Justice of the peace.

State of Michigan } SS. Personally appeared before me Emily Sowell the
County of Washtenaw } wife of Miles Sowell who being by me examined separ-
ately and apart from her said husband acknowledged that she executed the
said deed freely without any fear or compulsion of her said husband. Given
under my hand this 30th day of August AD 1837. A. M. Odell Justice of the Peace.

Deed

Larger image & Download Larger image

What was the name of the grantor's wife?

1. A.M. Odell
2. Lydia Odell
3. Emily Lowell [Correct Answer]

Note Every Person

Not every person is mentioned in connection with your ancestor. This includes named relatives as well as neighbors, witnesses, etc.

Many deeds state family relationships, sometimes two or more generations of relatives or heirs. This information is extremely valuable to genealogists. Having family relationships spelled out in deeds greatly facilitates the process of organizing people into families, especially since so many deeds pre-date other records of genealogical value.

In addition to a grantor's wife, deeds often identify children (sometimes even grandchildren). Some deeds indicate if people were brothers, father and son, or heirs to a deceased person's estate. A deed might name a person's aging parents, specifying that a portion of land was to be used by them or arranged for their care in exchange for property.

As you research in deeds, don't just focus on family relationships. Also, identify your ancestor's neighbors and associates as indicated by deeds. Who were your ancestor's neighbors (the people on bordering land)? Was there a common person or family that your ancestor's family bought from or sold to? These families might have intermarried or moved to the area with your ancestors. If you can't determine where your ancestor moved from, try tracing his neighbors' previous location. Perhaps your ancestor was from the same place.

A power of attorney is a written instrument that gives a legal agent authority to act on behalf of the issuer. Sometimes a person wanted to engage in a transaction but could not be present. He may have given a power of attorney to a friend, acquaintance, or relative. If the power of attorney was not given to a hired attorney, who was it given to? What was his relationship to your ancestor?

Examine the Property Description

The deed's property description is important. How many acres or lots was it? What was the physical description of the land? Was the land known by an estate name? These bits of information are important to genealogical research.

If your ancestor died possessed of land, look for later deeds. This person who sold the land was most likely a lineal descendant. If the surname is the same, he may have been a son, grandson, or later descendant. If the surname is different, search marriage bonds and other records for the daughter of the previous owner who may have married a man now selling the land. If a later grantor conveys the entire parcel, he probably was the previous owner's sole heir. Recheck deeds to make sure he did not buy out the other heirs. If a later grantor conveys only part of the parcel, do the math to figure the fraction of this parcel to determine the total number of heirs.

Suppose you are researching John Simmons of Westchester County, New York. You notice that in 1856, he sold a parcel of land called Three Sisters. However, you do not find a deed for purchase. You research other Simmons individuals in Westchester County, New York, and discover that William Simmons bought Three Sisters forty years earlier, in 1816. You do

not find a deed stating William Simmons sold this land. What does this imply? It suggests John Simmons was the son and legal heir of William Simmons. He inherited Three Sisters upon his father's death and later sold it.

Note the Dates

Always note the dates the deed was written and recorded. A deed may not have been recorded for many years. Filing was not required at the time of the transaction. Search at least twenty years beyond the last known date of an ancestor's existence to find all deeds that named your ancestor.

By noticing transaction dates, you can sometimes identify when a person arrived in and left an area. If your ancestor bought or was granted the same number of acres that he sold, he may have moved away from the locality.

Note the Payment (Consideration Money)

Was the purchase price of the land $1,000 or $1? Such clues may indicate a possible relationship. If a grantor deeded 100 acres of land to a grantee for an amount that is significantly lower than the going rate, perhaps a father was selling land to a child. In order to learn the going rate, examine several other deeds recorded about the same time and note the quantity of land and the purchase price of each transaction. This will give you a general idea of the value of land in this area and time period.

Occasionally, there is no purchase price or consideration money noted. Instead, you may see a phrase like, "For love and affection." This means the grantor gave the land to the grantee as a gift, and it also suggests a relationship between the transacting parties. These clues warrant further investigation.

Identify Boundary Changes

County boundaries were constantly changing as new counties were created, and sometimes new states were created from other states or territories. Make sure you check the right location(s) for the time period.

For example, in the late eighteenth century, Woodford County, Kentucky, was the edge of the American frontier. In 1788, Woodford County was formed from part of Fayette County, Virginia, it was called Woodford County, Virginia. Then in 1792 when the state of Kentucky was created, Woodford County became part of that state. So, if a genealogist is researching an individual who lived in Woodford County between 1780 and 1795, they would need to search records of Fayette County, Virginia; Woodford County, Virginia; and Woodford County, Kentucky; as well as perhaps Fayette County, Kentucky.

Military Records

Genealogists consult military records to document the service and history of individuals in the United States military. Whether an ancestor fought in Europe in World War II or whether a family had sons serving on both sides during the Civil War, each person impacted by war has a fascinating story to tell. Review muster rolls, draft registers, service records, pension records, or lists of local veterans to find information about servicemen and women.



Above: Soldiers at rest after drill, Petersburg, Va., 1864. NARA 111-B-220, identifier 524639

Introduction to Military Records

Old medals and black and white photographs of men dressed in uniform found in trunks in attics, often prompt people to learn more about their military ancestors. Whether your ancestor fought in Europe in World War II or had his property ransacked in the South during the Civil War, each person impacted by war has a fascinating story to tell. There are many records available to document the military service and history of individuals in the US military.

If your ancestor was male and between the ages of 15 and 60 during periods of war, you should consider the possibility that he served in the military. The US Armed Forces are currently divided into six branches: the Army, the Marine Corps, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard, and the Space Force. Most of this lesson will focus on the Army, which historically has been the largest of these branches.

Armies were arranged in a hierarchy. Before the twentieth century, the United States Army was divided into regiments. Regiments consisted of two or more battalions, numbered approximately 3,000 to 5,000 soldiers, and served from particular states. Battalions numbered approximately 300 to 1,200 soldiers and were made of two or more companies. A company often consisted of 100 to 200 soldiers.

Wars Involving the United States

Over the years, Americans have engaged in numerous wars. The major conflicts include:

Dates	Wars	Major Participants
1756–1763	French and Indian War	French colonies vs. Great Britain and colonies
1775–1783	Revolutionary War	American colonies (Patriots) vs. Great Britain (including Colonial Loyalists)
1812–1815	War of 1812	United States vs. Great Britain
1846–1848	Mexican-American War	United States vs. Mexico
1861–1865	Civil War	Union (northern states) vs. Confederacy (southern states)
1898	Spanish-American War	United States vs. Spain
1914–1918	World War I	Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey (Ottoman Empire) vs. Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, and the United States
1939–1945	World War II	Germany, Italy, and Japan vs. the United States, Great Britain, France, and Russia
1950–1953	Korean War	United States, United Nations, and South Korea vs. North Korea and China
1960–1975	Vietnam War	United States and South Vietnam vs. North Vietnam
1990–1991	Persian Gulf War	United States and coalition forces vs. Iraq
2001–2014	War in Afghanistan	United States and coalition forces vs. Taliban regime in Afghanistan
2003–2011	Iraq War	United States and coalition forces vs. Iraq

Types and Content of Military Records

There are a variety of records about individuals in the military, such as muster rolls, draft registers, service records, pension records, or lists of local veterans.

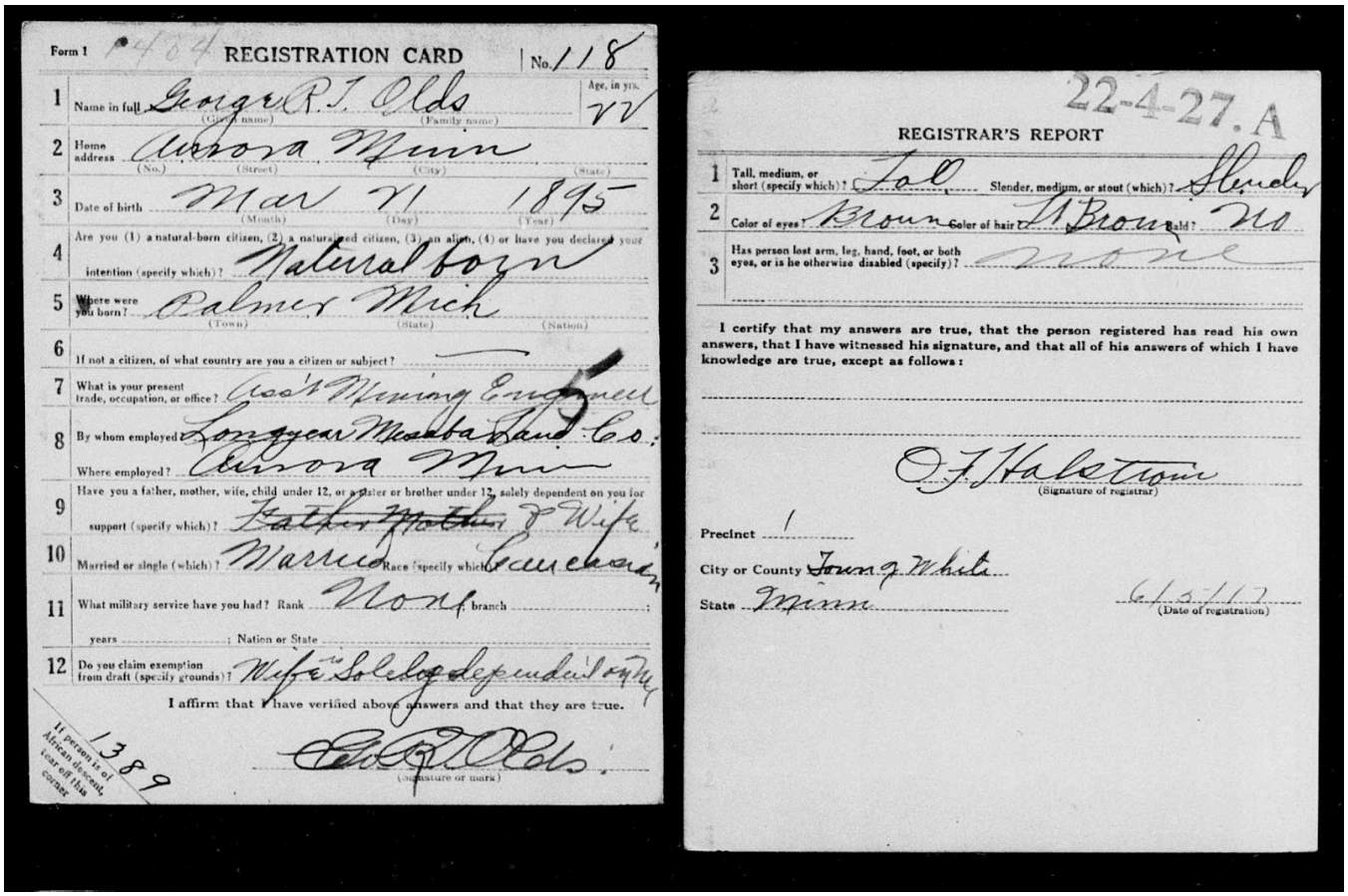
Draft Cards and Draft Registers

Draft registers identify people who were of the proper age to serve in the military during times of war. They do not necessarily provide evidence that the person entered service, but they are a valuable source collection for the adult male population at specific points in time. Draft Registers and Draft Cards exist for the Civil War, World War I, and World War II.

World War I draft cards include full names, exact birth dates, birthplaces, immigrants' naturalization status, and the name and address of the nearest relative. WWI Draft cards came in three formats, depending on the man's age and when he was drafted. More information about WWI Draft Cards can be found here: [NARA - WWI Draft Registration.]

A few men were of age to be eligible for the draft in both WWI and WWII. Below are examples of WWI and WWII draft cards for the same individual.

WWI Draft Card for George R.T. Olds, 1917



Form 1 — REGISTRATION CARD — No. 118

1 Name in full: George R. T. Olds (Given name) (Family name) — Age, in yrs.: 22

2 Home address: Aurora (No.) (Street) Minn (City) (State)

3 Date of birth: Mar 11 (Month) (Day) 1895 (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? Palmer (Town) Mich (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? Ass't Mining Engineer

8 By whom employed? Longyear Manitoba Land Co. Where employed? Aurora Minn

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)? ~~Father, Mother~~ & 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)? Wife & Sole dependent on Me

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

(Signature or mark) Geo R T Olds

If person is of African descent, cross off this corner

1389

22-4-27.A

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 Tall, medium, or short (specify which)? Tall Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Slender

2 Color of eyes? Brown Color of hair? Lt Brown Bald? No

3 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)? None

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

O. J. Halstrom (Signature of registrar)

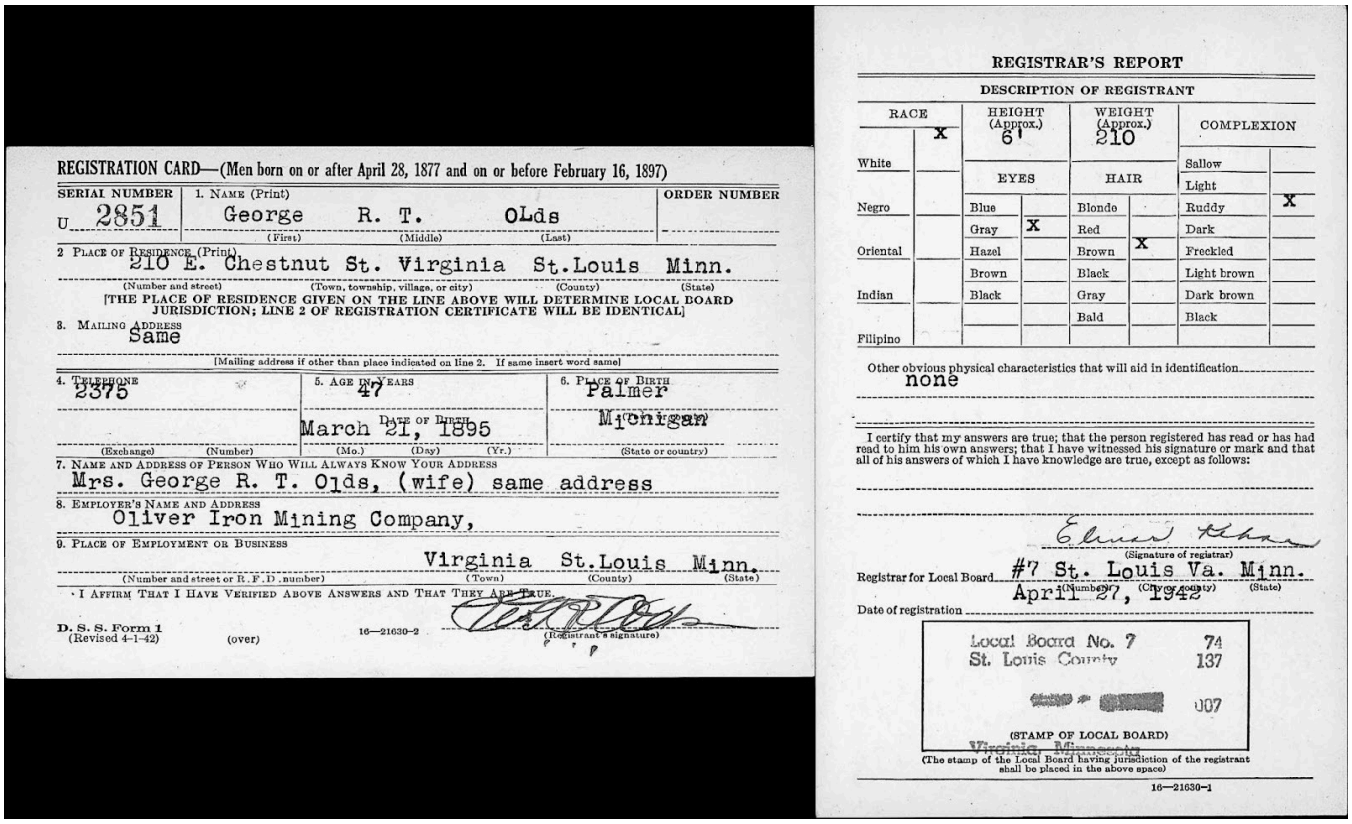
Precinct 1

City or County Itasca

State Minn

6-5-17 (Date of registration)

WWII Draft Card for George R.T. Olds, 1942



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)

SERIAL NUMBER U 2851 | 1. NAME (Print) George R. T. OLds (First) (Middle) (Last) | ORDER NUMBER

2 PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 210 E. Chestnut St. Virginia St.Louis Minn.
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same
[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]

4. TELEPHONE 2375 (Exchange) (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS 47 DATE OF BIRTH March 21, 1895 (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH Palmer Michigan (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. George R. T. Olds, (wife) same address

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Oliver Iron Mining Company,

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Virginia St.Louis Minn.
(Number and street or R.F.D. number) (Town) (County) (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. [redacted] (Registrant's signature)

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42) (over) 16—21630-2

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE		HEIGHT (Approx.)		WEIGHT (Approx.)		COMPLEXION	
White	X	6'		210		Sallow	
		EYES		HAIR		Light	
Negro		Blue		Blonde		Ruddy	X
		Gray	X	Red		Dark	
Oriental		Hazel		Brown	X	Freckled	
		Brown		Black		Light brown	
Indian		Black		Gray		Dark brown	
				Bald		Black	
Filipino							

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification none

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Edward Olds (Signature of registrar)

Registrar for Local Board #7 St. Louis Va. Minn. (Number) (City or county) (State)

Date of registration April 27, 1942

Local Board No. 7 St. Louis County 74 137 [redacted] 007

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD) Virginia, Minnesota

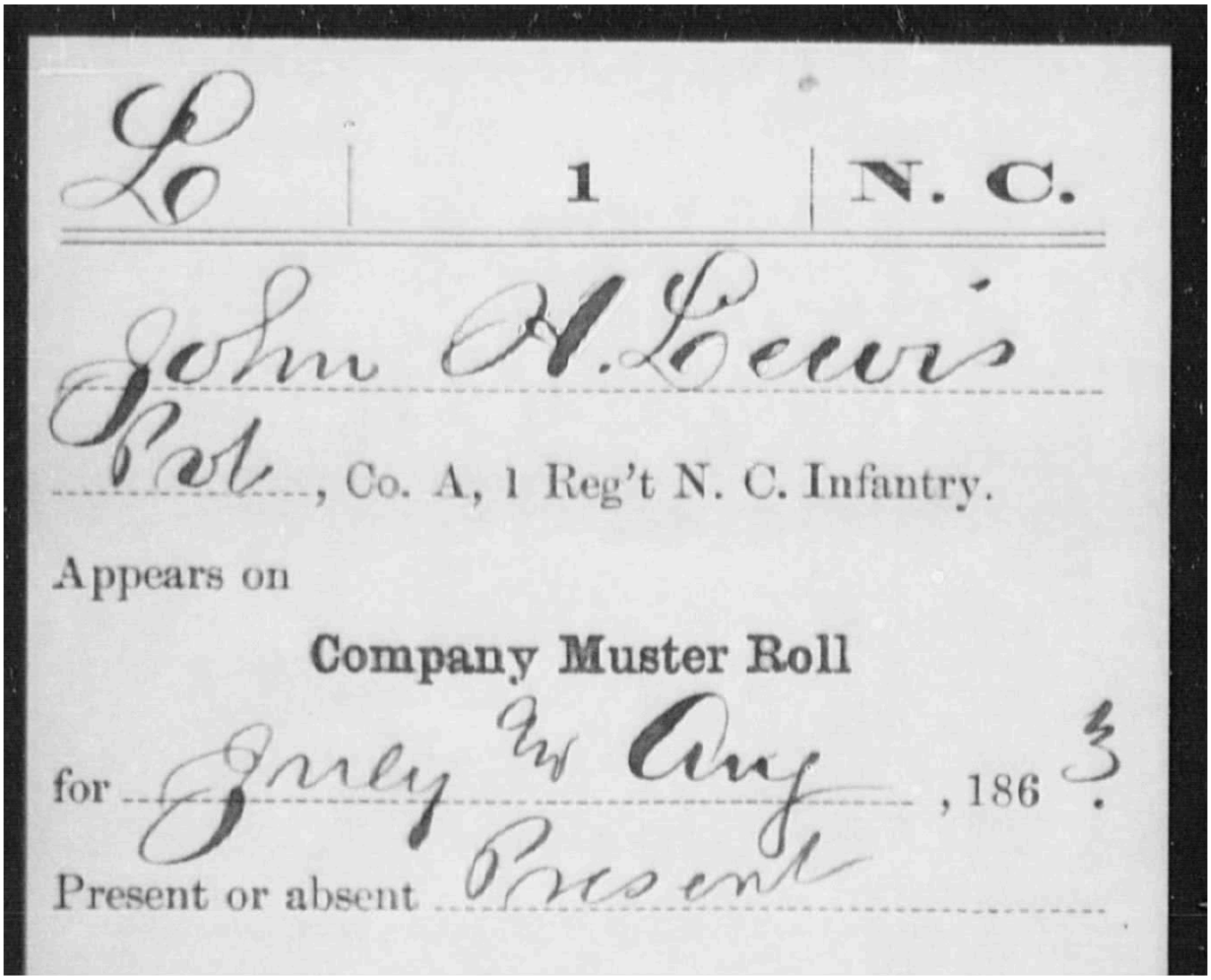
(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

16—21630-1

Service Records and Muster Rolls

Service records are packets of information compiled about particular soldiers. They may include the soldier's name, age, birthplace, military career details, and reports of injuries. These exist for major wars from the Revolution to the present. Civil War service records sometimes provide overseas birthplaces for soldiers who immigrated to the United States. NARA has provided a page with details of what Civil War Service Records include, and how to use them: Using Civil War Service Records.

Muster rolls are lists of soldiers who served in particular military units. A soldier's individual muster roll cards are generally included in his service record packet. Muster Rolls may provide soldiers' names, ages, birthplaces, and physical descriptions. They are some of the only records that document Americans in the French and Indian War, and they also survive for later conflicts.


L 1 N. C.

John A. Lewis

Pvt., Co. A, 1 Reg't N. C. Infantry.

Appears on

Company Muster Roll

for Sept & Oct, 1863.

Present or absent Present

Pension Records

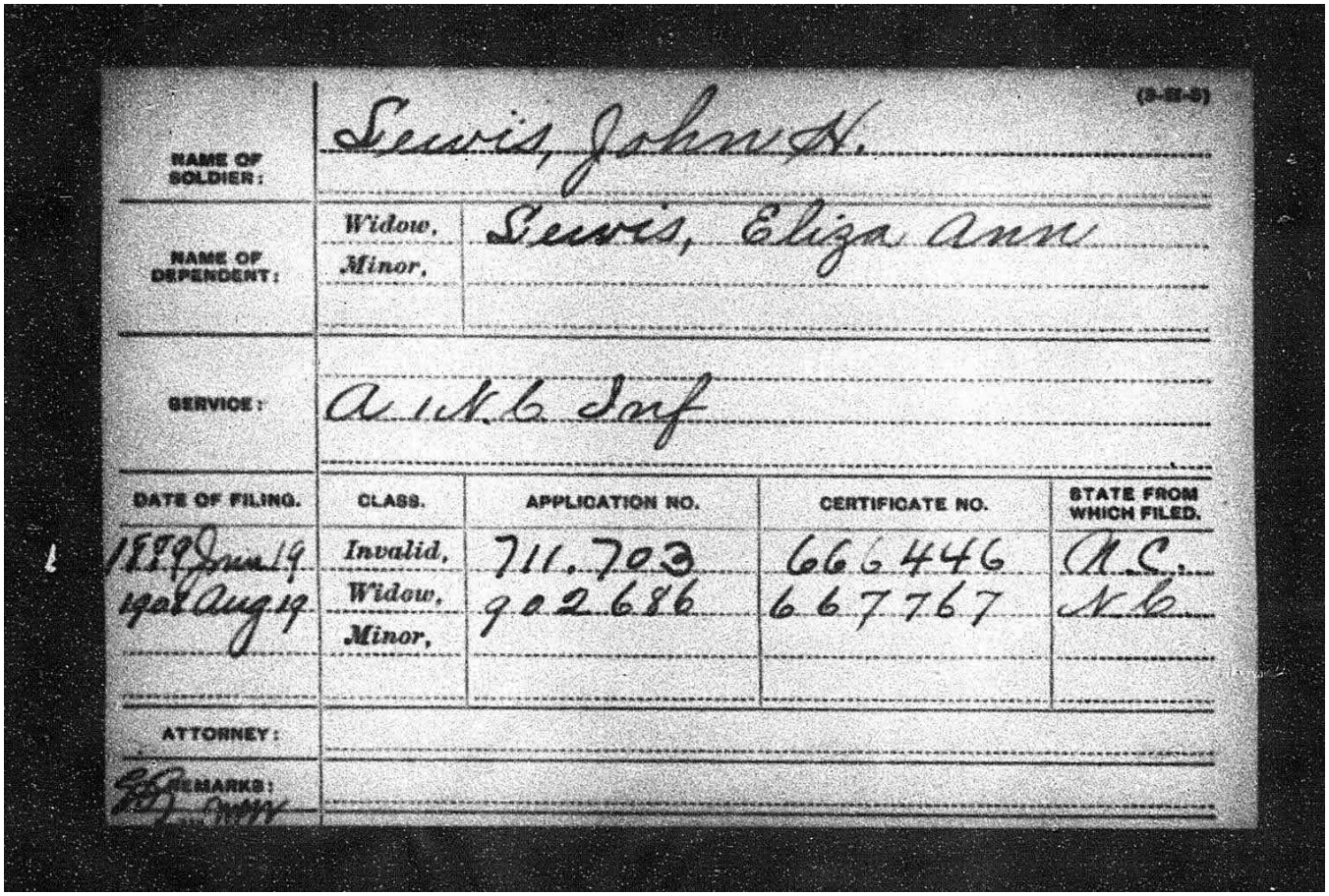
Pension records document payments made by the government to veterans who were injured during wars or to support them and their families during old age or poverty. Veterans, and their widows who obtained widow's pensions, had to fill out their own pension applications personally, making them a rich source of primary information. The veteran or widow had to prove military service (and sometimes provide evidence of injury) to the US Government's satisfaction. Sometimes pension applications contain very detailed family history information.

Laws that governed the issuance of pensions changed over time. After the Civil War, thousands of pensions were issued to veterans of the Union Army who were injured in the war and war widows. **Only Union soldiers received federal pensions**. The Dependent and Disability Pension Act of 1890 opened pension eligibility to more veterans, their widows, and their children. This resulted in a dramatic uptick in pension applications.

Until recently, pension applications were not digitized and had to be ordered directly from NARA. Some pension applications have now been digitized; however, the General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934 still remains a valuable tool.

Remember that indexes are always derivative sources, even if it is a handwritten index like this one.

How to Interpret a Pension Index Card



NAME OF SOLDIER:	Lewis, John H.			
NAME OF DEPENDENT:	Widow, Lewis, Eliza Ann			
	Minor,			
SERVICE:	Pvt N.C. 6 Inf			
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
1889 June 19	Invalid,	711,703	666446	N.C.
1908 Aug 19	Widow,	902686	667767	N.C.
	Minor,			
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS:				

Pension index cards, like the typical example shown above, include the following information:

- Soldier's name.
- Name of widow or minor children who applied for a pension.
- Unit the soldier served in.
- Date of application filing. Note that **multiple filing dates may be included**. A soldier's original application for his own pension will appear first. Later on after his death, a widow may have applied for her own pension, and that date will have been added to the same card. If any minor children were awarded a pension, a separate filing date will be included for their application.
    - Look at the example image above. John Lewis applied for his own pension in 1889. His widow applied for a widow's pension on 19 August 1908. We can safely deduce that John was dead before she filed for a widow's pension. **This is indirect evidence that John Lewis died prior to 19 Aug 1908.**
- Application Number and Certificate Number. All applications were numbered, whether a pension was granted or not. **A certificate number indicates that a pension was granted.** If the certificate number is blank, this may indicate that the application was denied.

Guided Example: A Very Thorough Pension Application

Here is an example of documents from a pension application for a widow's pension. The original file can be examined here, in the "Case files of approved pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents" at Fold3: File #WC47478: Pension, John W Dougherty

Background information:

John Dougherty and Phebe Comstock were both born in New York. They came to Ohio in the mid-1830s and were married there in 1839. John later died while serving in the Union Army during the Civil War. Phebe applied for a widow's pension, and she was very thorough in her application papers.

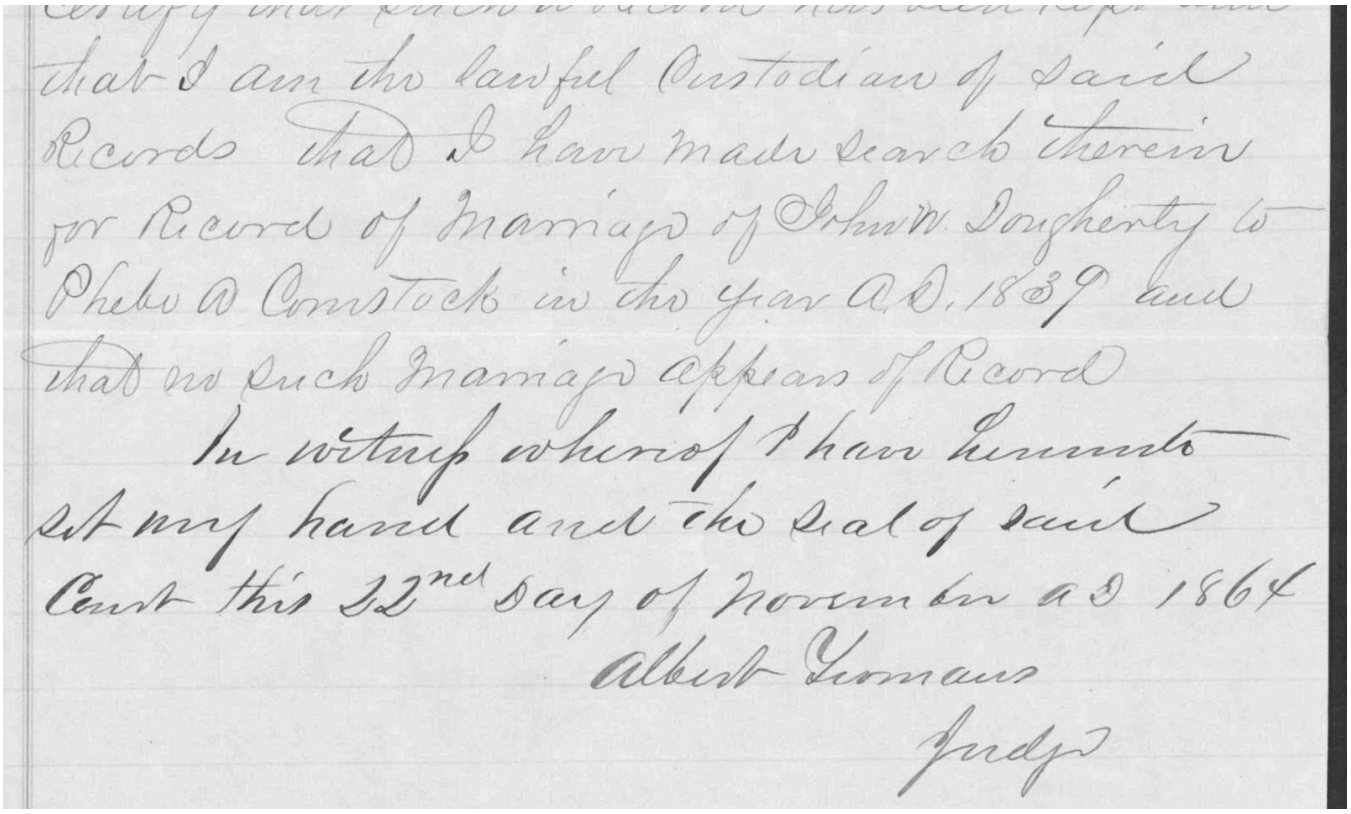
Phebe had been living in Iowa for about 20 years and had to provide proof of her marriage that had taken place back in Ohio. She had to provide proof of other data as well, such as her husband's death in a Tennessee hospital, and the birth of her children. However, their marriage had not been recorded in any official documents.

Many people in Ohio, including the Doughertys, were from New York. People in New York were, for some reason, unusually hostile to the idea of marriage licenses registered at a County level. New York tried to enact a law requiring marriage registration in 1847, but the law fell flat. The state actually dropped the law by 1850 because of low compliance. New York did not enact another law requiring marriage license registration until 1881.

Likewise in Ohio, compliance with marriage registration laws was lower than normal. There were many marriages in Ohio that were never registered at a county level, even though the law technically required it at the time. However, clues may be found in other records, such as pension packets, to establish proof of marriage or calculate reasonable estimates.

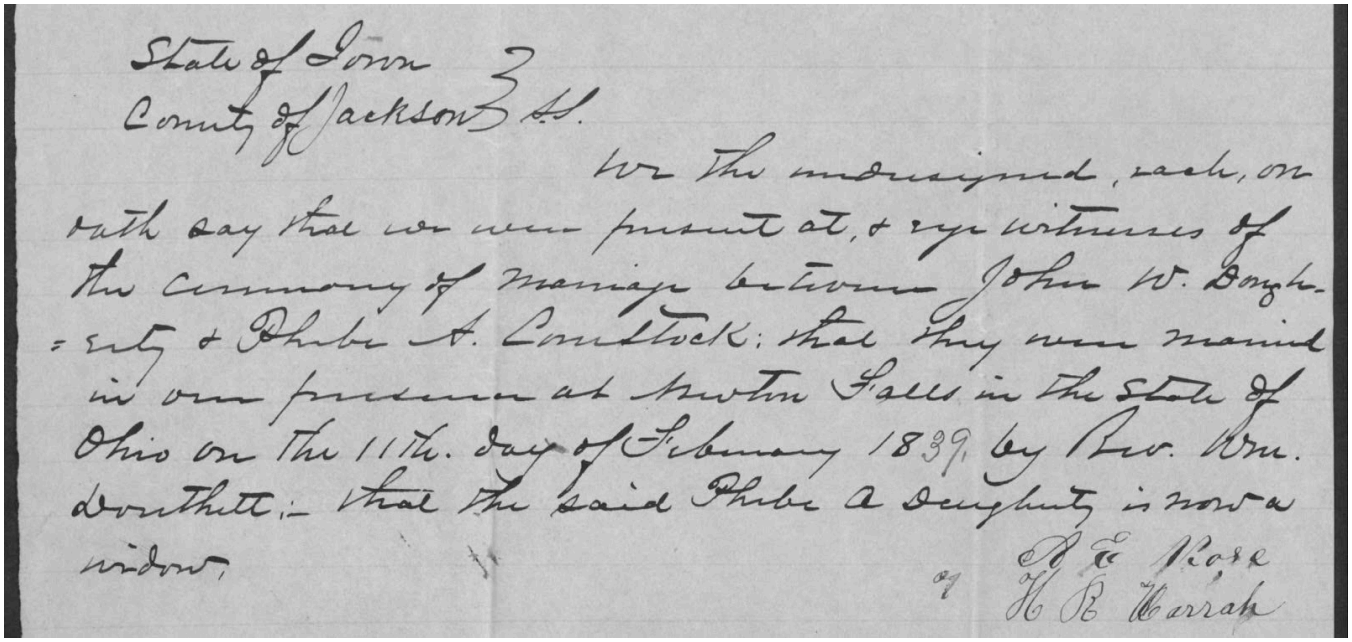
Documents from the pension application:

Document 1: An affidavit from a county official in Trumbull County, Ohio, stating that he is the custodian of the marriage records there. He says he searched for the marriage records of John Dougherty and Phebe A. Comstock, but that the county does not have any record of their marriage. This is common in Ohio. Phebe had to find other documentation to prove her marriage.



that I am the lawful Custodian of said
Records that I have made search therein
for Record of marriage of John W. Dougherty to
Phebe A Comstock in the year A.D. 1839 and
that no such marriage appears of Record
In witness whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and the Seal of said
Court this 22nd day of November A.D. 1864
Albert Lomans
Judge

Document 2: An affidavit from two of Phebe's neighbors in Iowa who had attended her wedding over 20 years previously.



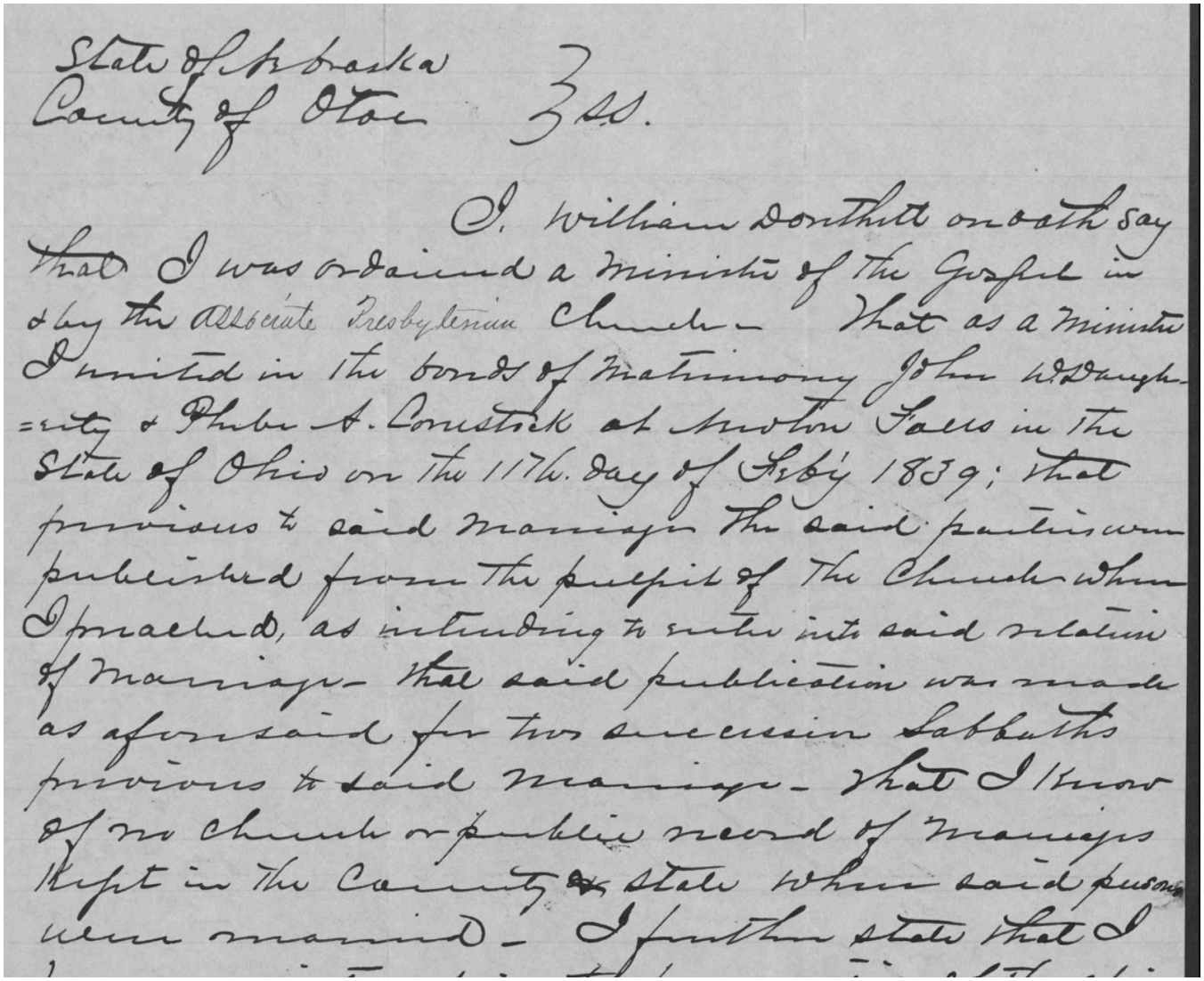
State of Iowa }
County of Jackson } ss.

We the undersigned, each, on
oath say that we were present at, & eye witnesses of
the ceremony of marriage between John W. Dough-
erty & Phebe A. Comstock; that they were married
in our presence at Newton Falls in the State of
Ohio on the 11th. day of February 1839 by Rev. Wm.
Douthett:- that the said Phebe A Dougherty is now a
widow,

H E Rose
H R Warrah

Document 3: An affidavit from the preacher who performed the marriage, stating that he had basically published banns verbally from the pulpit, but that he "knows of no church or public record of marriages kept in the county or state when said

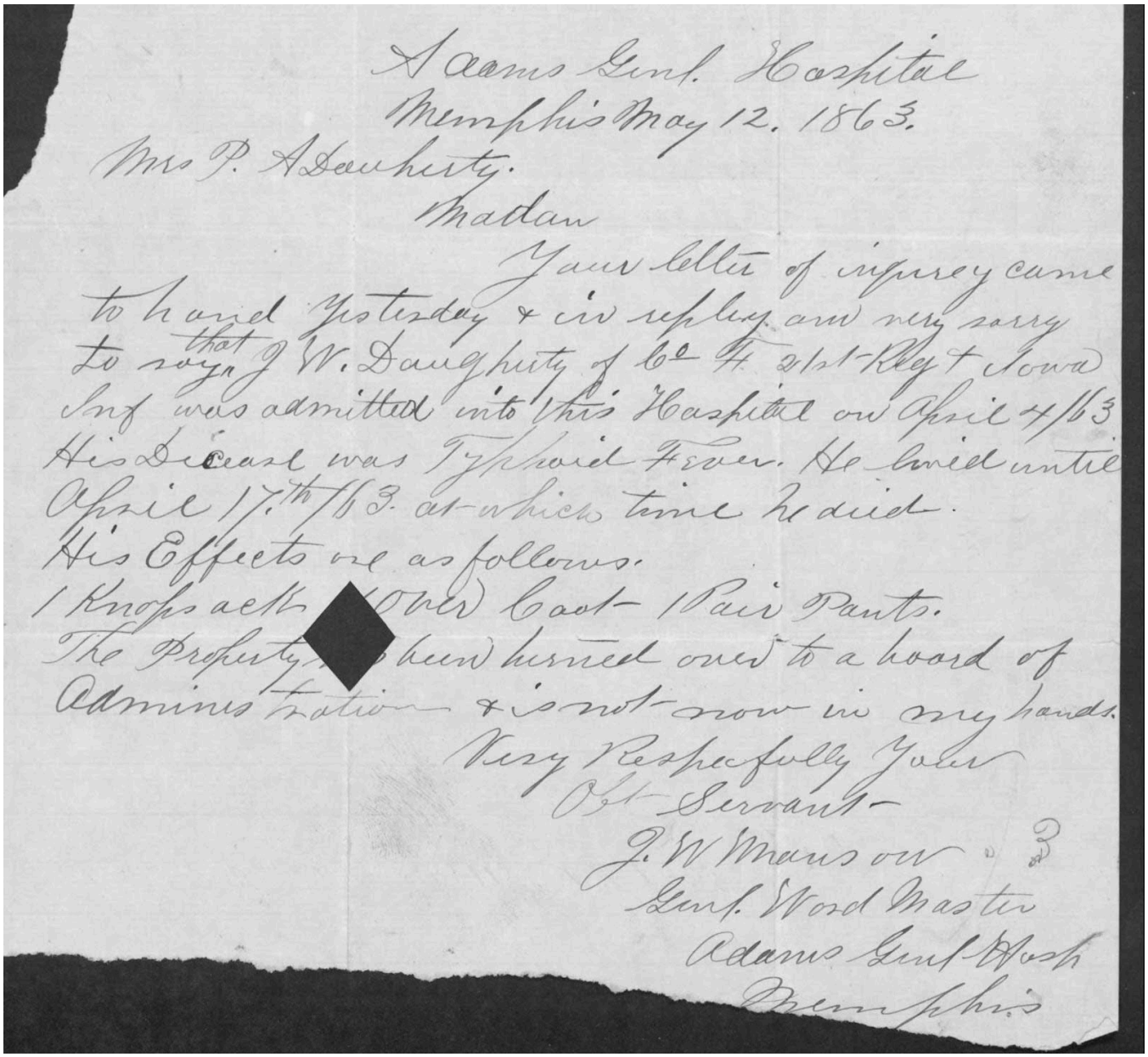
persons were married." It would have been difficult for Phebe to track this preacher down to obtain this affidavit. He was living in Nebraska at the time, but preachers tended to travel often and widely on the frontier.



State of Nebraska
County of Otoe } S.S.

I, William Donthitt on oath say that I was ordained a Minister of the Gospel in & by the Associate Presbyterian Church — That as a Minister I united in the bonds of Matrimony John W Dougherty & Phebe A. Comstock at Minnehaha Falls in the State of Ohio on the 11th. day of July 1839; that previous to said marriage the said parties were published from the pulpit of the Church where I preached, as intending to enter into said relation of marriage — that said publication was made as aforesaid for two successive Sabbaths previous to said marriage — That I know of no church or public record of marriages kept in the County & State where said persons were married — I further state that I

Document 4: A letter from J.W. Manson, General Ward Master, Adams General Hospital, Memphis. He had the sorry task of informing Phebe that her husband had passed away. This document provided an exact date of death and is the closest thing we are going to get to a death record for John Dougherty.



Adams Genl. Hospital
Memphis May 12. 1863.

Mrs P. A Dougherty.

Madam

Your letter of injurey came to hand Yesterday & in reply am very sorry to say that J W. Daughtity of Co H 21st Ky & Iowa Inf was admitted into this Hospital on April 4/63 His Disease was Typhoid Fever. He lived until April 17th/63. at which time he died.

His Effects are as follows.

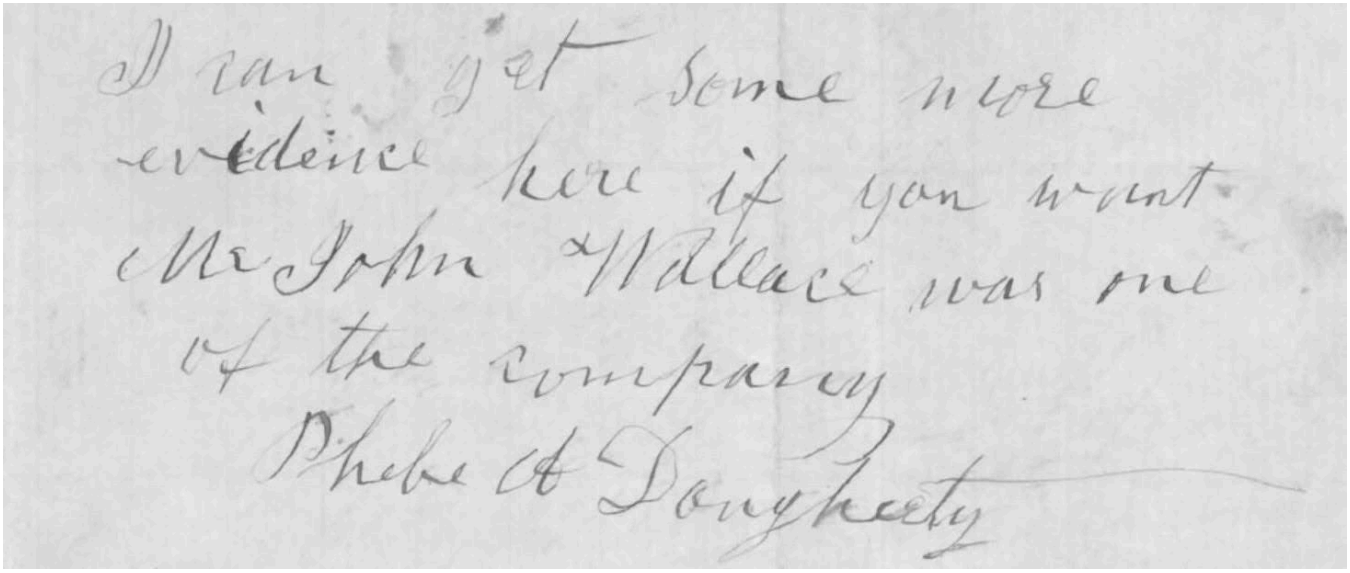
1 Knapsack 1 Over Coat 1 Pair Pants.

The Property has been turned over to a board of Administration & is not now in my hands.

Very Respectfully Your Obt Servant

J. W Mans or
Genl Ward Master
Adams Genl Hosp
Memphis

Document 5: Phebe would have made a great genealogist herself. This note was on the back of document 4. "I can get some more evidence here if you want."


I can get some more
evidence here if you want
the John Wallace was one
of the company
Phebe A Dougherty

Document 6: An affidavit from Jennett C. Cunningham, the midwife who "was present and acted as midwife at the birth of Abel C. Dougherty, son of Phebe S. & John W. Dougherty, who was born on the 21st day of Jan., AD 1853." Information doesn't get any more primary than that.

State of Iowa
County of Dubuque } ss

I, Ennett C Cunningham being duly sworn depose and say, that I am a resident of Jackson County in the State of Iowa, and acquainted with Phebe A Dougherty, widow of John W Dougherty, deceased Private, Co "H" of the 21st Reg. Iowa Vol. and was present and acted as Midwife at the birth of Abel C Dougherty, son of Phebe A. & John W Dougherty, who was born on the 21st day of Jan. A.D. 1865. That I have often seen said Abel C Dougherty, since that time - being a near neighbor.

Further certify that I am not interested in the prosecution of the Pension Claim of said Phebe A Dougherty -

Ennett C. Cunningham

Other Sources

Lists of veterans from a particular county may be published in local histories, genealogical newsletters, or monuments. Military service markers have been placed at the graves of many veterans. Be sure to check for special census rolls, such as the US 1890 Veterans Schedule.

Some Americans made careers out of military service by serving during times of peace. Records of United States Army enlistments, for example, typically include soldiers' names, ages, birthplaces, occupations, physical descriptions, remarks, and details of their military careers. United States Navy enlistments often include exact birthplaces, ages, physical descriptions, and brief military career details.

Availability of Military Records

The majority of United States military records are held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, DC, and the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Some have been digitized. FamilySearch offers a reference page listing many online databases of military records: FamilySearch: List of Online Military Record Databases. The military collections at Ancestry.com and Fold3.com are great places to start. Genealogical libraries, lineage societies, and state archives are good places to find additional military records.

French and Indian War

A centralized collection relating to American participants in the French and Indian War is not available. Normally researchers will check for publications about participants in the colonies where they served. An example is Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck's Virginia's Colonial Soldiers (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1988). Records relating to this war are incomplete. Many French and Indian War soldiers remain anonymous because records of their service have either not been discovered or do not survive.

Indian Wars

Since colonial times, there have been wars between European colonizers and American Indians. Several of these wars have generated military paperwork. A popular index to some of these records is Virgil D. White, Index to Pension Applications for Indian Wars Service Between 1817 and 1898 (Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1997).

Revolutionary War

Revolutionary War service records are kept at NARA. They are available online at Fold3.com. Pension records are also kept there and have been digitized by Ancestry.com, Fold3.com, and Heritage Quest Online, who provide the images to the public for a fee. The Heritage Quest Online version is less complete than the other two online offerings and includes only select papers from each pensioner's file. The Family History Library has microfilms of the original records. Published indexes and abstracts are also available. A popular publication is Virgil D. White's Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files (Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1990–1992), 4 vols.

Many records are also available for loyalists. Loyalists were Americans who remained loyal to Great Britain during the Revolutionary War, as opposed to patriots, who supported the American cause. Many loyalists settled in Canada, which remained under British control. A helpful organization for people who descend from loyalists is the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada. Their website is: http://www.uelac.org/. The website includes a detailed list of known loyalists and points to sources where more information can be obtained.

War of 1812

War of 1812 service records and pensions are also kept at NARA. An index to service records is available at Ancestry.com. Fold3.com is currently digitizing pension records. Published indexes and abstracts are available. A popular publication is Virgil D. White's Index to War of 1812 Pension Files (Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1992), 2 vols.

Civil War

Civil War service records are stored at different facilities depending on whether the soldier belonged to Union or Confederate forces. **Do not assume that your ancestor served for the Confederacy if he lived in a state that seceded from the Union. And, do not assume that your ancestor served for the Union if he lived in a Northern state.** Both armies recruited across state lines, especially along the dividing line between north and south.

Be aware that both the Union and the Confederate armies were organized using a nearly identical unit hierarchy. This means that the same unit number may have been used by both armies. North Carolina, for example, had a unit called the "1st North Carolina Infantry Regiment" that belonged to the Union Army, **and** a unit called the "1st North Carolina Infantry Regiment" that belonged to the Confederate Army. However, internet searches for "1st Infantry North Carolina" usually only bring up hits for the Confederate army unit, because it was larger, and because it is the unit that is searched for more often. Do not make assumptions when researching Civil War soldiers about which side they served for.

Union service and pension records are kept at NARA. Confederate service and pension records are typically stored in archives in the state where the soldier enlisted or later lived. **Only Union soldiers were granted federal pensions**. Some pensions for Confederate soldiers were granted by individual states.

Most Civil War service records have now been digitized for both sides of the conflict by Fold3.com. Some pension records for Union soldiers have now been digitized and are available through Fold3. Many pensions for Confederate soldiers have been microfilmed and are available online from FamilySearch or through individual State Archive websites. Ancestry.com has digitized images of Confederate pension applications for some states. Ancestry.com also offers many Civil War indexes to subscribers. The Civil War was the first major American conflict during which photographs of soldiers were taken. Other popular Civil War websites include:

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, (free): http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/. Contains brief details of soldiers' and sailors' military careers.

American Civil War Research Database, (subscription): American Civil War Research Database. May include biographies, photographs, and details of soldiers' military careers.

World War I to the Present

World War I draft cards are available on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. For World War I, cards exist for the majority of the male population living in the United States in 1917 and 1918 who were born between 1872 and 1900. At present, only a portion of World War II draft registration cards have been digitized. These pertain to men born between 1877 and 1897 who were not enlisted in the military in 1942.

An accidental fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri in 1973 destroyed many official World War I and World War II records. Privacy restrictions also limit the public's access to twentieth and twenty-first century military sources. To learn what survived or can be reconstructed about an ancestor's service, use guides available at NARA's website: Request Military Service Records | National Archives. Veterans or next of kin can complete form SF 180 to request records of the US Armed Forces from World War I to the present. Ancestry.com has also digitized a large collection of US World War II army enlistment records, 1938–1946, containing details about 8.3 million men and women.

Career Soldiers and Sailors

Ancestry.com has digitized US Army enlistments for the years 1798 to 1914. FamilySearch.org is adding these records to its online collection.

Some US Navy records have been digitized, such as:

- Naval Enlistment Rendezvous, 1855–1891, (free): FamilySearch
- United States Navy Widows' Certificates, 1861–1910, (subscription): Fold3

Records of Marine Corps enlistments, 1798–1904, and the Coast Guard, 1791–1919, are available at NARA.

Accessing Fold3

You can access Fold3.

Strategies for Using Military Records

There are important strategies to be aware of in researching military records:

1. **Distinguish between soldiers of the same name:** Because many men shared common names, it is easy to misidentify men in military records unless you are very careful. Research all individuals of the same name until you can compile a profile for each of them that will allow you to tell them apart in the records. Correlate data carefully to ensure that you have not mistaken someone else of the same name for your person of interest.
2. **Use World War I draft registration cards in conjunction with census records to pin down residences:** At times, it is difficult to find individuals through online census searches due to indexers' errors, hard-to-read documents, or unexpected recordings of names. World War I draft registration cards (1917–1918) provide an alternative strategy to locate a person's residence just prior to the 1920 census. The indexing of the draft registration cards was often completed more accurately than the indexing of contemporary census records. Names were sometimes also recorded more clearly. If you are having trouble finding an adult male in the 1920 census, search for his draft registration card and learn where he was living in 1917–1918. Then carefully search for him in the 1920 census in that locality.
3. **Use special census records to determine military service in the wars:** Sometimes it is not known if an individual served in a war or if an individual served with the Union or the Confederacy during the Civil War, which makes searching directly in military records difficult or even unnecessary. The 1840 Veterans Schedule listed living pensioners of the Revolutionary War or other military service. The 1890 Veterans Schedule listed Union Civil War veterans and their widows. While some Confederate soldiers were mistakenly enumerated in the Veterans Schedule, being listed on the Veterans Schedule is a good indicator that an individual likely served with the Union during the Civil War.
4. **Use military histories to learn historical background about your military ancestor:** Thousands of books and articles have been written about these conflicts, and few topics are more popular in United States history. Once you identify the unit in which your ancestor served or a battle in which he fought, it is likely you will be able to find historical accounts written about that specific unit or battle. Again, for the Civil War, be very careful to ascertain which army the unit belonged to, since the Union and Confederate armies could both have units of the same name. Resources, such as Cyndi's List and the United States Civil War Series of articles on FamilySearch Wiki, can help researchers locate published histories pertaining to specific military units.

Court and Tax Records

Court and tax records are an important source of both biographical and genealogical information, and may establish familial or social relationships within a community. Tax records contain information about tax payments by individuals, but also may help

to reveal that person's family relationships, lifestyle, economic status, residence, migrations, property ownership, occupation, and much more. Court records may reveal, economic status, changes in relationships, guardianship of minors, residence, property ownership, religious affiliation, occupation, or even include testimony about a person's character.

Tax Record Research Strategies

At first glance, researchers might conclude that tax records contain very little family history data. But one soon learns that valuable genealogical conclusions can be deduced from these records that have been nicknamed annual censuses. These records may indicate relationships, approximate years of birth, socio-economic status, the names of neighbors, evidence of land inheritance, years of migration, and years of death. Tax records may also provide the information necessary to distinguish between persons of the same name. However, be aware that tax records do not list the whole family like a census does, and they do not list the person’s age or year of birth outright. Tax records only list the property owner, though sometimes it may list an estate administrator or widow of a male property holder that died. As far as approximating a year of birth, we can only infer that. If they were on the tax list, they were over 21.

Tax Records Substitute for Missing Censuses

For several states in the United States, the earliest censuses did not survive (refer to the census lesson for further details). For some states, like Kentucky, substitute censuses have been reconstructed, using tax lists, in attempts to replace the lost records. They provide excellent guides to the names of heads of households who lived in these areas.

This is the title page for the reconstructed 1800 Census of Kentucky. Note that it states it is based on tax records.

"SECOND CENSUS" OF KENTUCKY 1800

A PRIVATELY COMPILED AND PUBLISHED ENUMERATION OF TAX PAYERS APPEARING IN THE 79 MANUSCRIPT VOLUMES EXTANT OF TAX LISTS OF THE 42 COUNTIES OF KENTUCKY IN EXISTENCE IN 1800

BY

G. GLENN CLIFT

Assistant Secretary, Kentucky Historical Society



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976.9

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X 24
1800
copy 2

Identify Migrations through Tax Records

Learn how to trace ancestral migrations using clues recorded in tax records.

When a man disappeared from the tax records of a county, it usually signified that he had either (1) died, (2) moved away, or (3) become tax exempt. Migration data can be gleaned from tax records.

In 1805, in Henry County, Virginia, three Murphey men paid taxes. The family paid taxes in that county since the 1790s, but 1805 was the last year that they paid taxes. What happened to them?

In 1806, in distant Mercer County, Kentucky, three Murfy men with the same given names began paying taxes, along with a fourth Murfy man.

Could these be the same three men who were previously paying taxes in Henry County, Virginia?



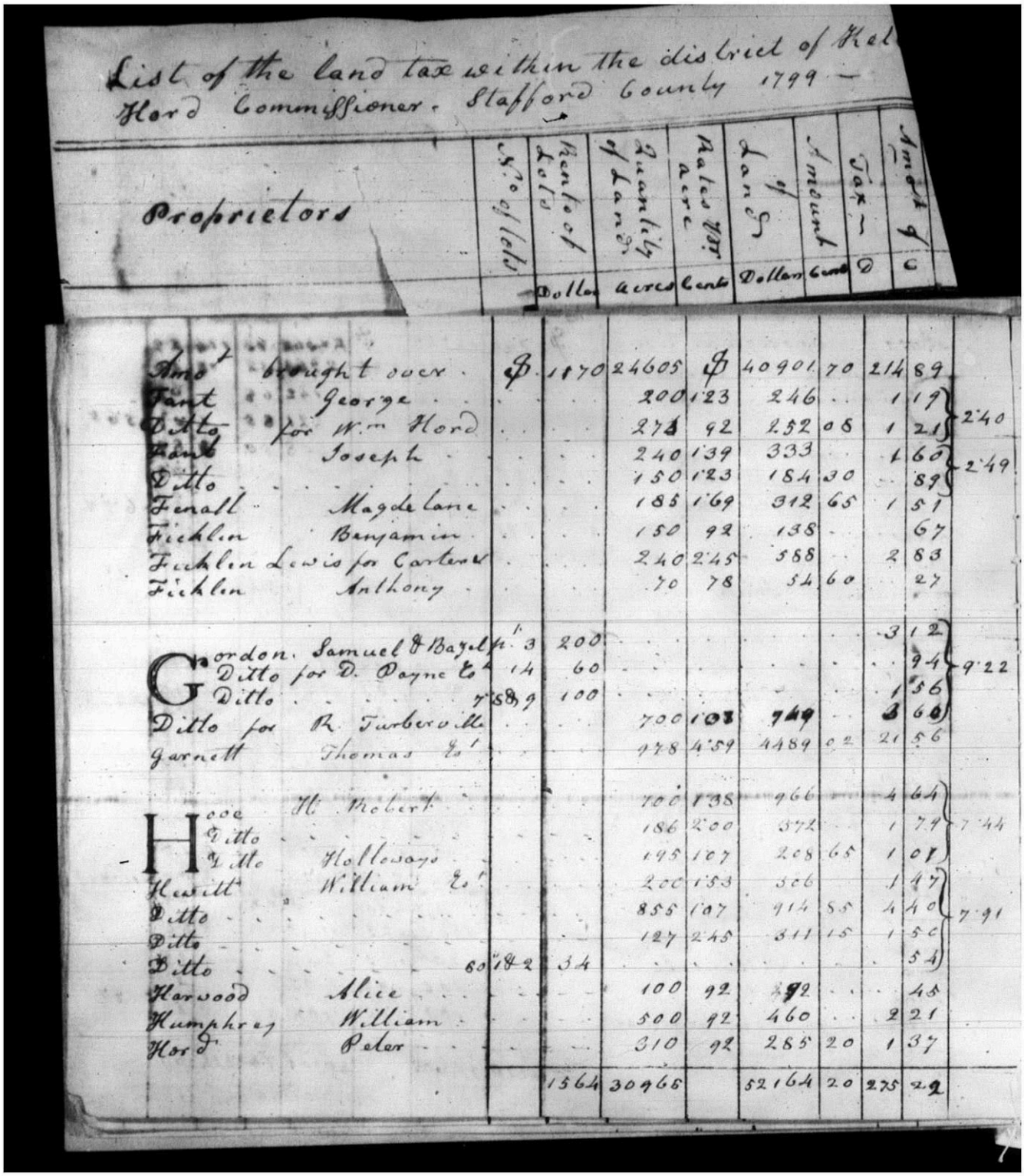
1805 Virginia			1806 Kentucky		
Jesse Murphey	3 white tithes	4 horses	Jessee Murfy	2 white tithes	3 horses
Jeremiah Murphey	1 white tithe	1 horse	Jeremiah Murfy	1 white tithe	1 horse
William Murphey	1 white tithe	1 horse	Wm Murfy	1 white tithe	2 horses
			Spencer Murfy	1 white tithe	2 horses

Several clues in these two sources suggest these were the same men and they moved together to Kentucky. A migration from Virginia to Kentucky was common at this time. Multiple families who were friends or relatives often moved to the frontier together. The Murphey men in each area paid taxes for approximately the same number of white male tithes and horses. Note that if these were the same families, Jesse lost a tithe and a horse between 1805 and 1806, and in 1806, Spencer Murfy first paid taxes independently on horses. This suggests a hypothesis, which can be further tested, that Jesse was Spencer's father and had given his son a horse when he came of age. Spencer might have recently turned 21. It also suggests that these Murpheys were related and had moved from Virginia to Kentucky together.

Identify Death Information through Tax Records

Learn how to estimate an individual's year of death by using tax records.

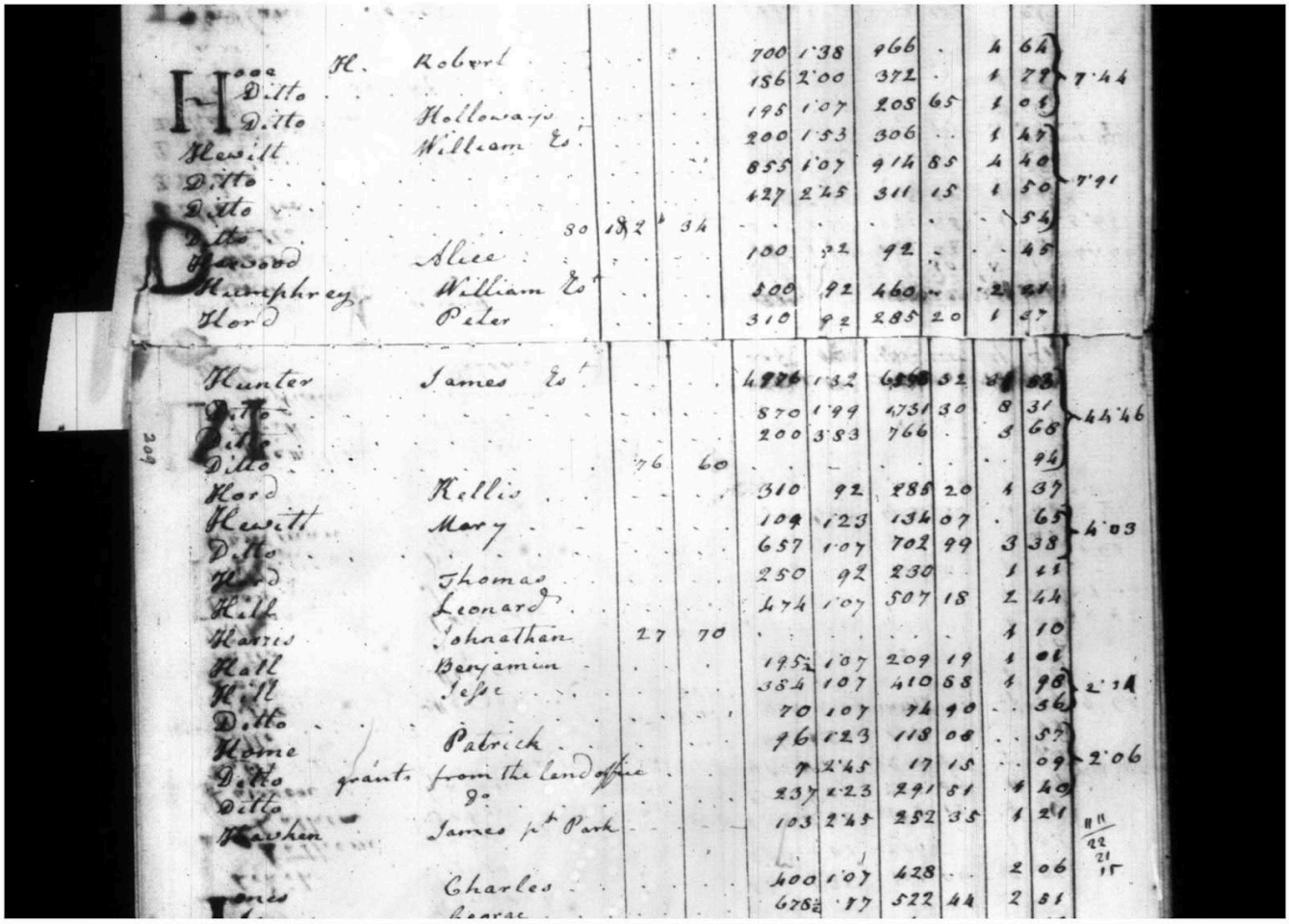
In 1799, William Humphrey paid taxes for owning 500 acres in Stafford County, Virginia.



List of the land tax within the district of Hol
Hord Commissioner. Stafford County 1799 —

Proprietors	No. of lots	Rent of Lots	Quantity of Land	Rates per acre	Amount of Land	Tax	Amount
		Dollars	acres	Cents	Dollars	Cents	D c
Amo[t] brought over		1170	24605		40901	70	214 89
Faint George			200	123	246	..	1 19 } 2 40
Ditto for Wm Hord			274	92	252	08	1 21
Faulk Joseph			240	139	333	..	1 60 } 2 49
Ditto			150	123	184	30	.. 89
Fenall Magdelane			185	169	312	65	1 51
Fichlin Benjamin			150	92	138	..	67
Fichlin Lewis for Carter			240	245	588	..	2 83
Fichlin Anthony			70	78	54	60	.. 27
Gordon Samuel & Bazel	3	200					3 12
Ditto for D. Payne Est[d]	14	60					.. 94 } 9 22
Ditto	7	100					1 56
Ditto for R. Turberville	58	9	700	103	749	..	3 60
Garnett Thomas Est[d]			978	459	4489	02	21 56
Hooe H. Robert			700	138	966	..	4 64
Ditto			186	200	372	..	1 79 } 7 44
Ditto Holloways			195	107	208	65	1 01
Hewitt William Est[d]			200	153	306	..	1 47
Ditto			855	107	914	55	4 40 } 7 91
Ditto			127	245	311	15	1 50
Ditto	60	182	34	..	..	..	.. 54
Harwood Alice			100	92	92	..	.. 45
Humphrey William			500	92	460	..	2 21
Hord Peter			310	92	285	20	1 37
		1564	30965		52164	20	275 22

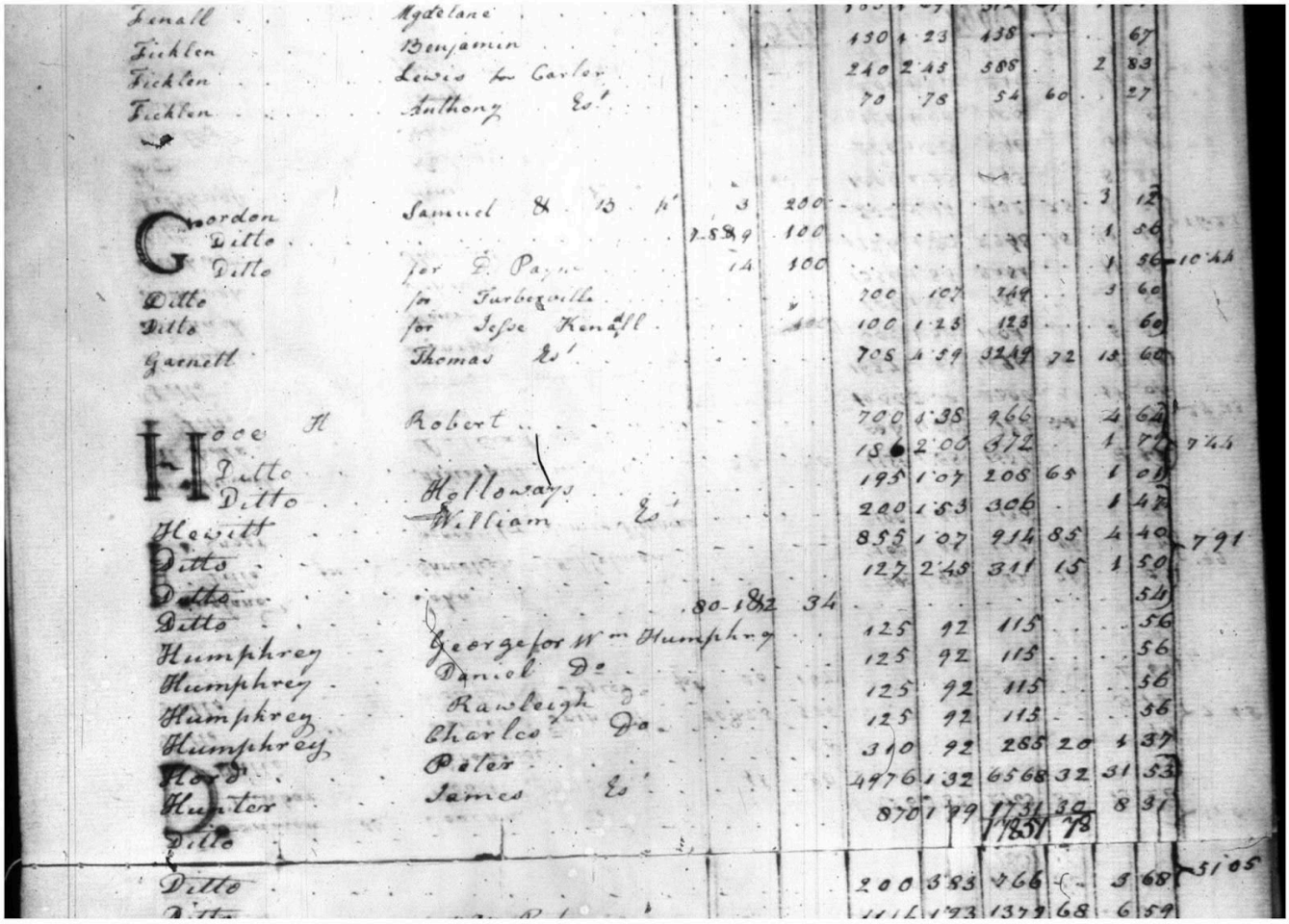
In 1800, the tax assessor described William as Humphrey William Est. Est. is an abbreviation for the word Estate. In other words, the estate of William Humphrey was taxed rather than William Humphrey himself. This signifies that Humphrey had died in 1799 or 1800.



In 1801, four Humphreys were taxed for land in Stafford County, Virginia.

1. Humphrey George for Wm Humphrey 125 acres
2. Humphrey Daniel D[itt]o 125 acres
3. Humphrey Rawleigh D[itt]o 125 acres
4. Humphrey Charles D[itt]o 125 acres

Note that these four Humphrey men were paying land taxes for a total of 500 acres (125 x 4). They were paying for Wm Humphrey, as the Ditto (Do) elaborates. Who were these four men? How did they acquire this land that had belonged to William Humphrey?

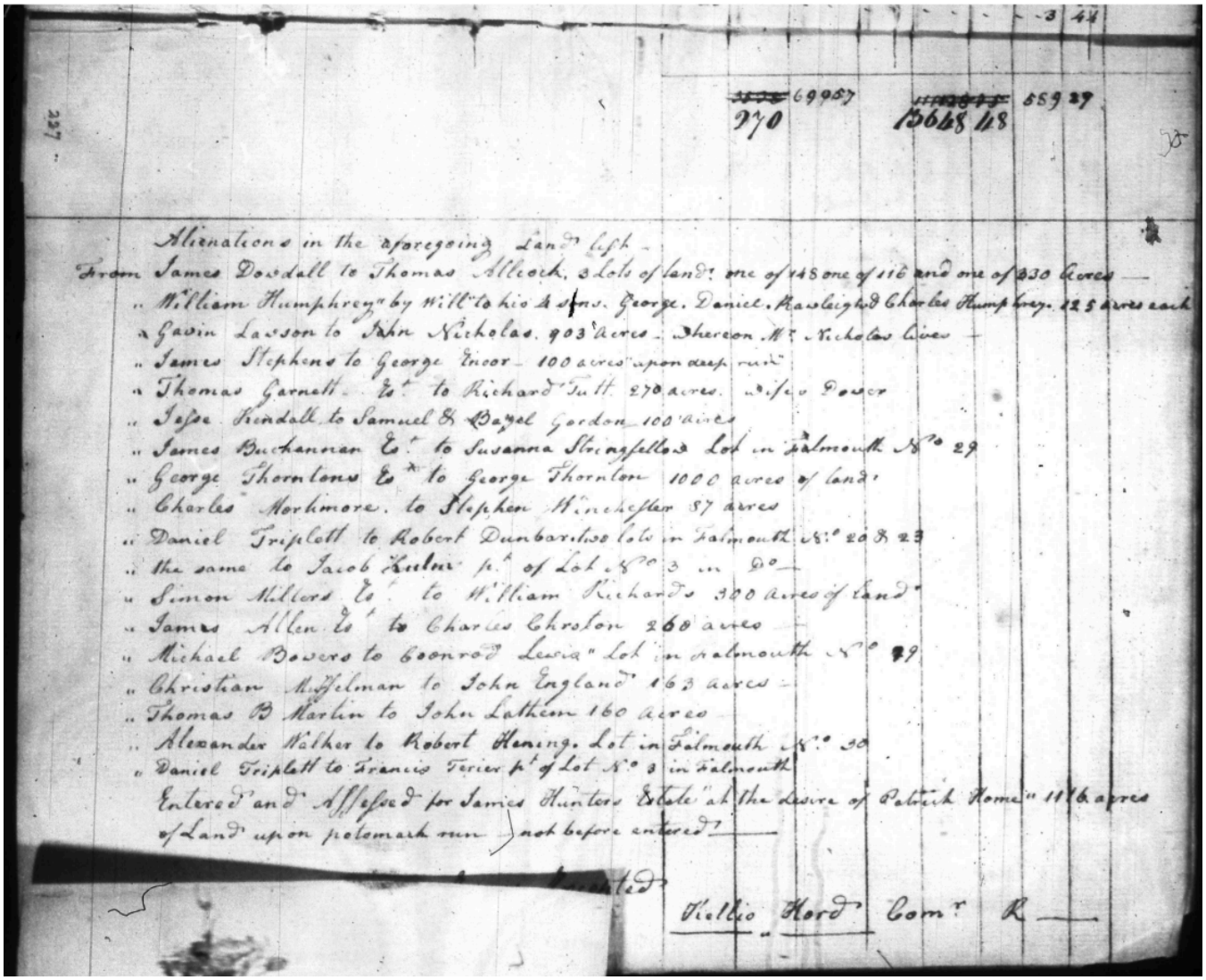


The tax assessor provides answers to those questions at the end of the tax list.

In a list of "Alienations in the foregoing Land list," or in other words, transfers of land that made the 1801 tax list differ from the 1800 tax list, it is stated:

"From William Humphrey by Will to his 4 sons, George, Daniel, Rawleigh & Charles Humphrey 125 acres each."

This was a particularly insightful notation by the tax assessor, as the Stafford County Will books for this period were destroyed.



Alienations in the aforegoing Land^r list —
From James Dowdall to Thomas Allcock. 3 Lots of land^s one of 148 one of 116 and one of 230 Acres —
" William Humphrey^s by Will^t to his 4 sons. George. Daniel. Rawleigh & Charles Humphrey. 125 Acres each
" Gavin Lawson to John Nicholas. 903 Acres — thereon M^r Nicholas lives —
" James Stephens to George Knox — 100 acres upon deep run
" Thomas Garnett Es^r to Richard Tutt 270 acres. adjo Dower
" Jesse Kendall to Samuel & Bazel Gordon 100 Acres
" James Buchannan Es^r to Susanna Steingfellow Lot in Falmouth N^o 29
" George Thornton Es^r to George Thornton 1000 acres of land^s
" Charles Mortimore. to Stephen Winchester 87 Acres
" Daniel Triplett to Robert Dunbar three lots in Falmouth N^os 20 & 23
" the same to Jacob Kuhn p^t of Lot N^o 3 in Do —
" Simon Millers Es^r to William Richards 320 Acres of land^s
" James Allen Es^r to Charles Chrston 260 Acres
" Michael Bowers to Coonrod Lewis^s Lot in Falmouth N^o 29
" Christian Miffelman to John England^s 163 Acres —
" Thomas B Martin to John Latham 160 Acres
" Alexander Walker to Robert Herring. Lot in Falmouth N^o 30
" Daniel Triplett to Francis Ferier p^t of Lot N^o 3 in Falmouth
Entered and Assessed for James Hunters Estate at the desire of Patrick Home 1176 Acres of Land upon Potomack run not before entered —

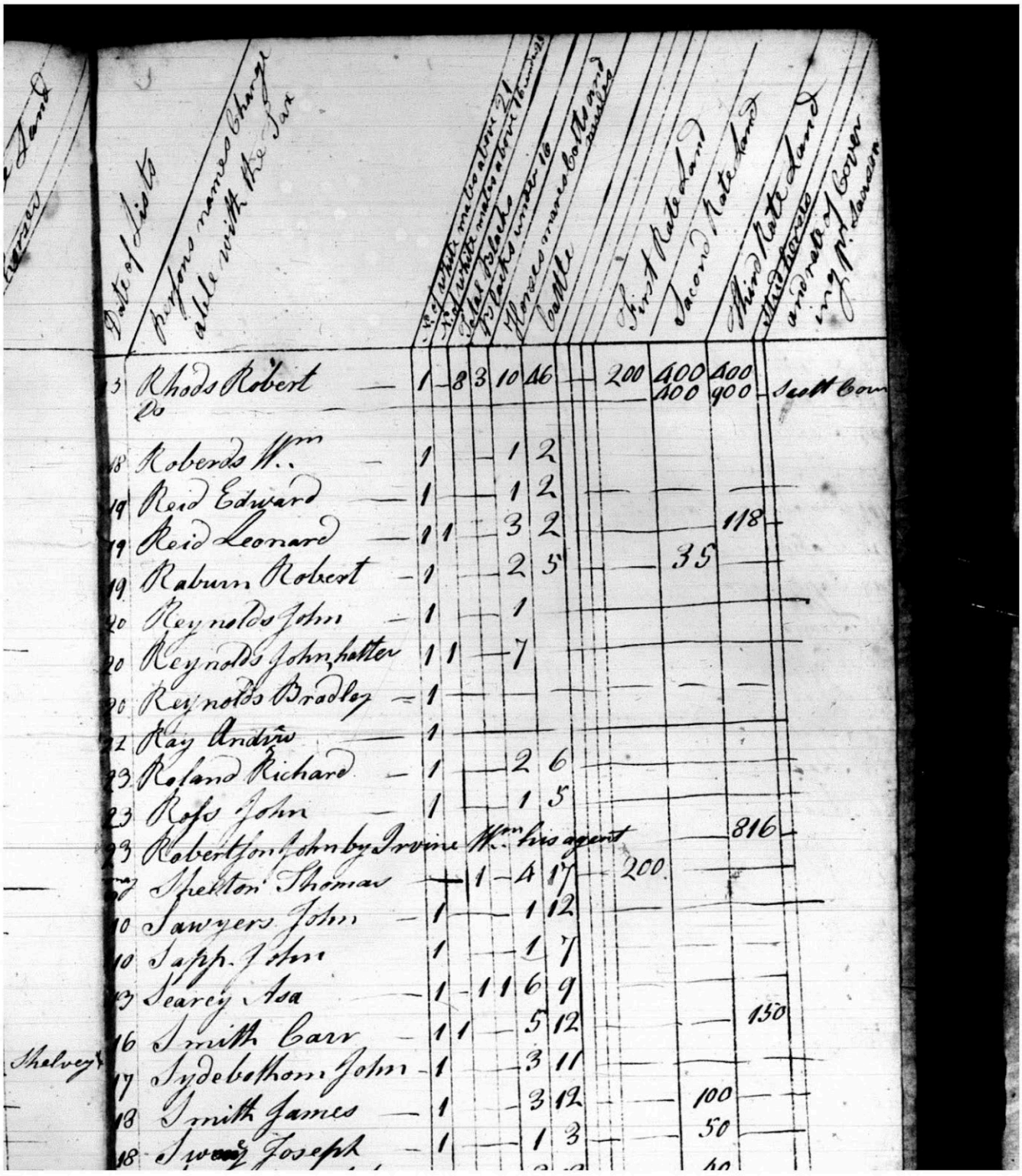
Nellio Hord Com^r R —

Distinguish Between Individuals of the Same Name through Tax Records

Learn how clues in tax records can help you distinguish between persons of the same name who lived in the same area.

Tax assessors needed a way to distinguish between taxpayers who shared the same names. If there were two men in the county named John Smith, they had to keep the people separate to ensure each paid the appropriate weighted tax. They might add a word to describe each individual's differing age such as Jr. or Sr., record a nickname, or state an occupation. **The titles of Sr. and Jr. do not always mean the men were father and son**. Sometimes the titles Sr. and Jr. were just meant to tell the difference between two men who were not related to each other at all. It only indicates that one man was older than the other, and the age difference between them may have been only a year or less.

In Madison County, Kentucky, the tax assessor recorded two men named John Reynolds. The tax assessor described the second John Reynolds as a **hatter**. He made hats. The second John Reynolds owned quite a few more horses than the first John Reynolds. When combined with other sources, clues gleaned from tax records can help genealogists distinguish between individuals of the same name. They also inform you that there were multiple men in the area with the same name.



Newspapers and Local Histories

Newspapers are a source for birth, marriage, and death information that predates vital records in many states. County and town histories may supply critical information to identify an ancestor's place of origin, fill in gaps in family histories, and

provide clues for further research. Local histories describe the communities and environment in which our ancestors lived. Each of these sources help genealogists locate individuals they are researching.

The Value of Newspapers in Genealogical Research

Newspapers offer a wealth of genealogical and historical information about our ancestors that can be found nowhere else. Newspapers are a source for birth, marriage, and death information that predates the keeping of vital records in many states.

Newspapers provide a glimpse of everyday life in a bygone era. From a crime report to the society page, local newspapers provide facts and tell stories about our ancestors and the society they lived in. Our ancestors may be named in articles concerning court actions, ads promoting new businesses, or announcements of local contest winners. Bits of information that fill in gaps in a family history may be found in any section of the newspaper.

Newspaper research offers substantial benefits, such as the following:

1. Acquiring vital statistics (birth, marriage, death).
2. Reading interesting accounts about our ancestors.
3. Tracking the movements of migratory ancestors.
4. Discovering relatives who were living in unexpected locations.
5. Learning about important historical events that affected our ancestors' lives and decisions.
6. Obtaining clues that can lead to other records.

The first regularly published newspaper in America began in 1704 in Boston. Early newspapers focused on international and national events, advertisements, and legal notices.

As the number of publications increased across the country, the large daily newspapers continued to focus on international, national, and state-level affairs. To compete for readership, local newspapers often concentrated on local events, local businesses, and local residents.

Before the mid 1800s, newspapers typically offered few biographical details, even for events such as marriages and deaths. But by the late nineteenth century, local newspapers provided increasingly detailed accounts of local people.

Types of articles, notices, graphics, and ads that might provide genealogical items of interest

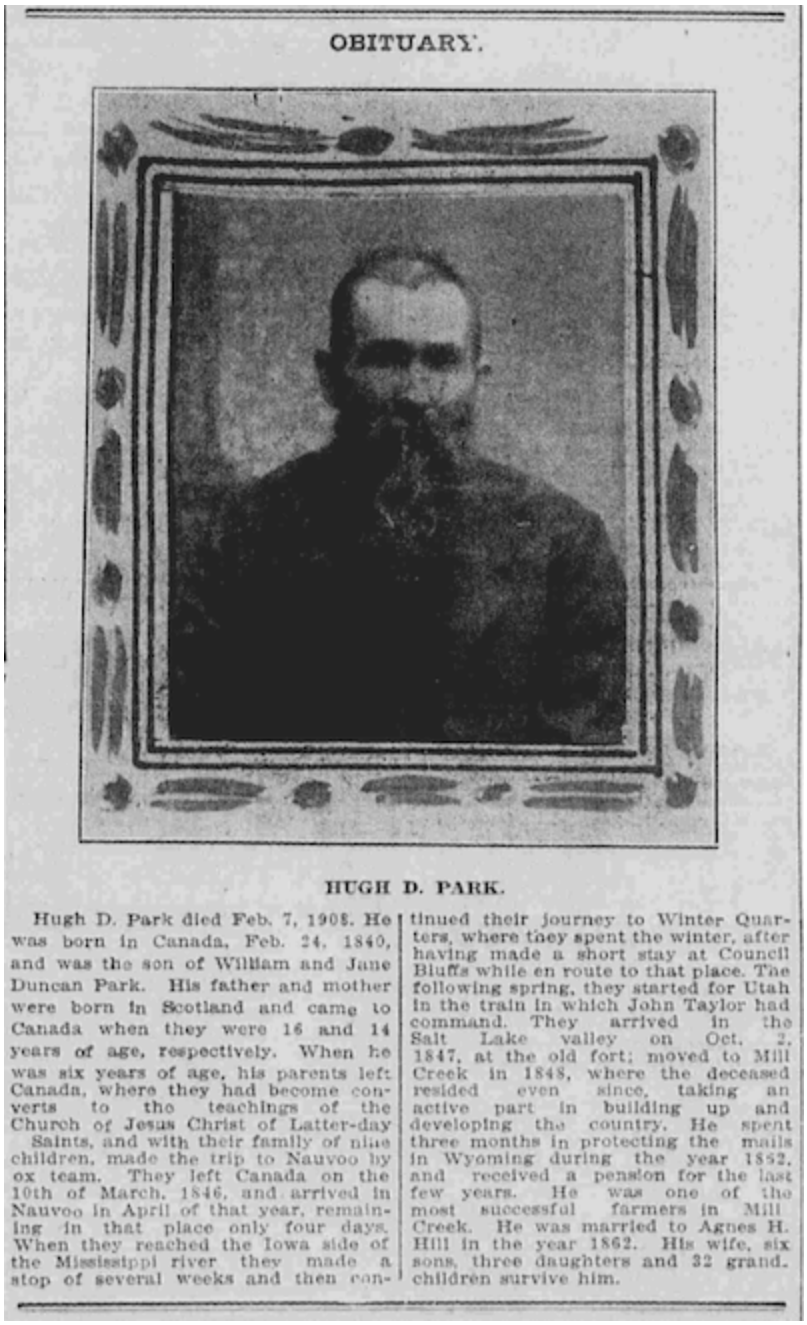
Most people probably equate genealogical research in newspapers with obituaries. But newspaper research offers so much more. Consider the following types of information that newspapers supply in addition to obituaries:

1. Advertisements (some of which include ancestors' names).
2. Announcements (births, marriages, deaths, anniversaries, birthdays, engagements).
3. Accidents resulting in injuries or deaths.
4. Biographical sketches (found in birthday or anniversary announcements, feature articles, etc.).
5. Clubs (including membership lists).
6. Coroner reports.
7. Court cases (trials, cases filed).
8. Crimes (arrests, victims, perpetrators).
9. Estate sales and settlements.
10. Legal notices (including bankruptcies and foreclosures).
11. Lists of people (immigrants, recently naturalized citizens, delinquent taxpayers).

12. Local and personal columns (filled with tidbits about local people and visitors).
13. Military (casualty lists, men drafted for war, stories of heroes).
14. Missing persons or runaway indentured servants or slaves.
15. Photographs.
16. Reunions.
17. Visitors and Minutia of Residents' lives. Often, small local newspapers would publish a small notice if a resident's relatives or friends came into town for a visit.

Obituaries

Obituaries often supply vital information such as dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. Obituaries may also contain the death date, burial information, and an account of the individual's life and relationships. Additionally, you may find the names and residences of many family members.



OBITUARY.

HUGH D. PARK.

Hugh D. Park died Feb. 7, 1908. He was born in Canada, Feb. 24, 1840, and was the son of William and Jane Duncan Park. His father and mother were born in Scotland and came to Canada when they were 16 and 14 years of age, respectively. When he was six years of age, his parents left Canada, where they had become converts to the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and with their family of nine children, made the trip to Nauvoo by ox team. They left Canada on the 10th of March, 1846, and arrived in Nauvoo in April of that year, remaining in that place only four days. When they reached the Iowa side of the Mississippi river they made a stop of several weeks and then continued their journey to Winter Quarters, where they spent the winter, after having made a short stay at Council Bluffs while en route to that place. The following spring, they started for Utah in the train in which John Taylor had command. They arrived in the Salt Lake valley on Oct. 2, 1847, at the old fort; moved to Mill Creek in 1848, where the deceased resided even since, taking an active part in building up and developing the country. He spent three months in protecting the mails in Wyoming during the year 1852, and received a pension for the last few years. He was one of the most successful farmers in Mill Creek. He was married to Agnes H. Hill in the year 1862. His wife, six sons, three daughters and 32 grandchildren survive him.

Death Notices

Death notices were paid announcements and usually very brief. But even a line or two of information can lead you to other records. For instance, if the announcement included the place of burial, it may lead you to cemetery records or church records. The date of death may lead you to probate records, and the name of a spouse may lead you to marriage records.



DIED

ADAMS—At 217 Seventh av, Brooklyn, on the 26th inst., HELEN WATSON ARTHUR, wife of James Adam, in her 55d year.

ASCHNER—Entered into rest, on August 27, 1900, in the 78d year of her age, Mrs. JEANETTE ASCHNER, widow of Abraham Aschner and beloved mother of Mrs. Ernestine A. Jacobson and Herman, Isidor, Amos E., Frederick B. and Nathan Aschner.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend funeral on Wednesday, August 29, 1900, at 1 o'clock P. M., from her late residence, 67 Pineapple st, Brooklyn. 27-2

BERIDAN—At her home, 131 Hancock st, on Monday morning, NELLIE C. BERIDAN, elder daughter of William and Nellie Berdan.

Funeral services private. Kindly omit flowers.

BIGELOW—At Bridgeport, Conn., August 26, 1900, MABEL L., daughter of Derwent and Mary J. Bigelow, aged 12 years, 7 months and 10 days.

Funeral from residence of the grand parents, 1,451 Iranistan av, Bridgeport, Conn., on Tuesday, August 28, at 3 P. M.

COX—On Sunday, August 26, at Brooklyn Home for Aged Men, 765 Classon av, JOHN T. COX, in his 80th year.

Services on Tuesday morning, 10:30 o'clock. Interment Greenwood.

HENDERSON—Suddenly, on August 26, 1900, MARIAN S., only child of Vincent W. and Minnie L. Henderson, aged 22 months and 15 days.

Funeral from residence, 1,232 Fifty-first st, Borough Park, Brooklyn, Tuesday, Agust 28, 2 P. M. Friends and relatives invited.

MAGGS—On August 25, WILLIAM J. MAGGS, beloved husband of Emily Maggs.

Funeral services private.

McCOY—FRANKIE, the beloved and only son of Francis and Mary McCoy, aged 7 years.

Funeral from the residence of his parents, 220 Bergen st, Tuesday afternoon, August 28, 1900.

Death Notices, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Brooklyn, New York, 27 August 1900, page 7, column 1; online Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 1841-1902 Online < eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org > viewed on 8 September 2011.

Marriage Announcements

Marriage announcements supply the names of the couple and possibly the planned wedding date. These announcements might also include the couple's ages, their residences, the names of their parents, the location of the wedding, and more.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Patrick announce the engagement of their daughter Maude to Fred H. Barnes, the marriage to take place Nov. 18.

* * *

Mrs. M. A. Liddle announce the engagement of her daughter, Ethel, to Mr. Ether Parry, wedding to take place in the near future.

* * *

Announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Frances Helen Trent and Harold M. Power of East Auburn, Cal. Miss Trent is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Trent, formerly residents of this city. The wedding will take place Dec. 15.

* * *

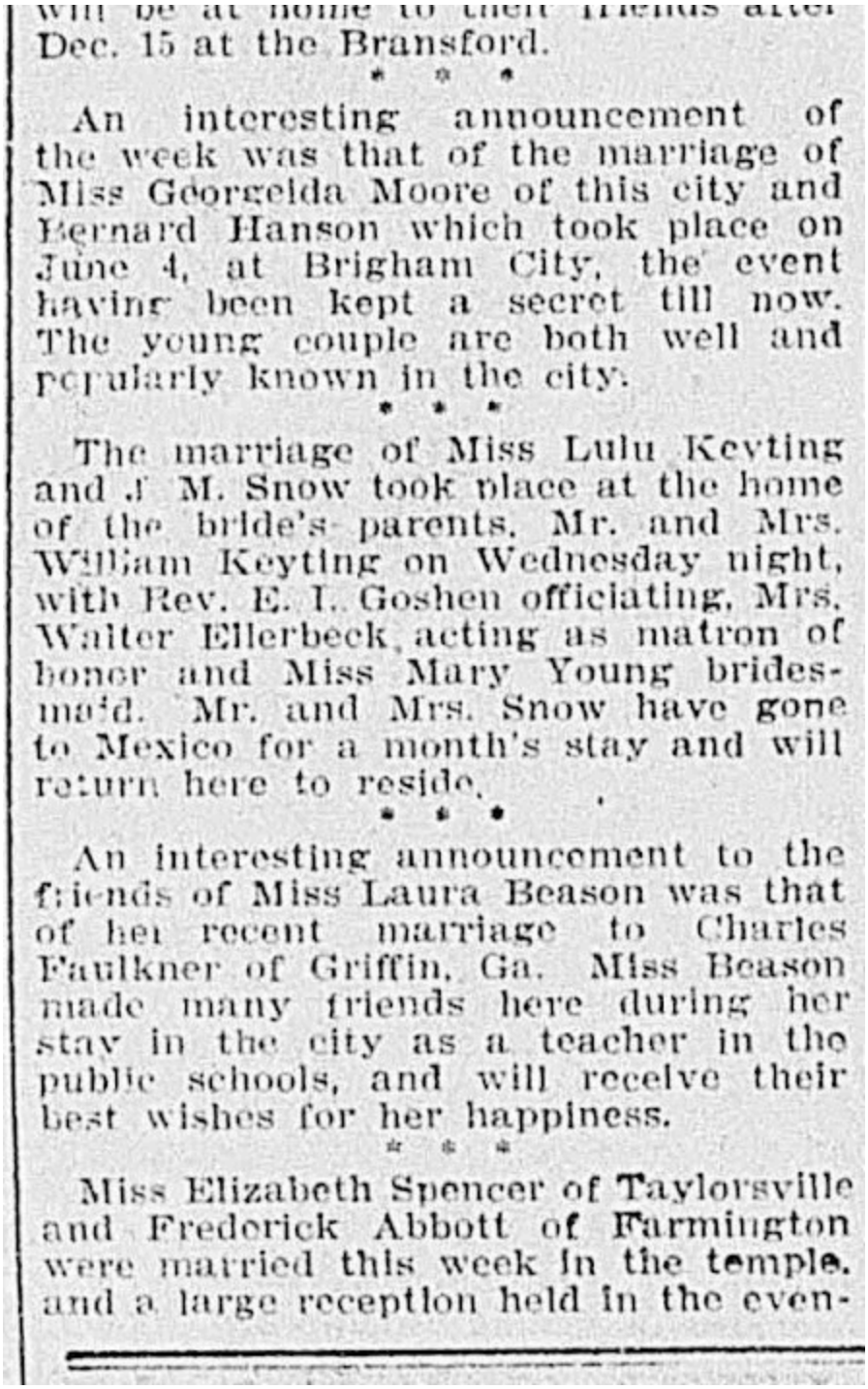
Cards have been received announcing the marriage of Mrs. Florence E. Rober to Edward Lee Cragen in Denver, Oct. 14. Mr. and Mrs. Cragen will be at home to their friends after Nov. 1, at St. Louis.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. W. I. Snyder have announced the marriage of their daughter, Cora Helen Snyder, to Fergus Ferguson at the Presbyterian church, Denver, Colo., Oct. 19.

* * *

Cards have been received here from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shearer, announcing the marriage of their daughter, Mrs. Janet Shearer Peterson, and Marcus Davis, on Wednesday, Oct. 14, in San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Davis



will be at home to their friends after Dec. 15 at the Bransford.

* * *

An interesting announcement of the week was that of the marriage of Miss Georgelda Moore of this city and Bernard Hanson which took place on June 4, at Brigham City, the event having been kept a secret till now. The young couple are both well and popularly known in the city.

* * *

The marriage of Miss Lulu Keyting and J. M. Snow took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Keyting on Wednesday night, with Rev. E. I. Goshen officiating. Mrs. Walter Ellerbeck, acting as matron of honor and Miss Mary Young bridesmaid. Mr. and Mrs. Snow have gone to Mexico for a month's stay and will return here to reside.

* * *

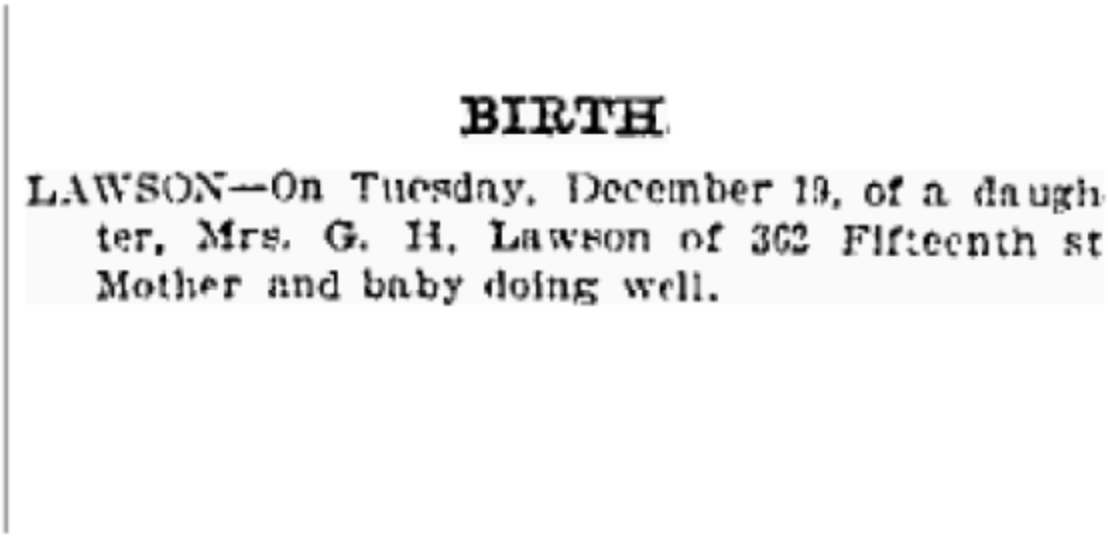
An interesting announcement to the friends of Miss Laura Beason was that of her recent marriage to Charles Faulkner of Griffin, Ga. Miss Beason made many friends here during her stay in the city as a teacher in the public schools, and will receive their best wishes for her happiness.

* * *

Miss Elizabeth Spencer of Taylorsville and Frederick Abbott of Farmington were married this week in the temple, and a large reception held in the even-

Birth Announcements

Birth announcements tend to be brief, particularly before the twentieth century. They may contain the child's name and birth date, the parents' names, and perhaps the family's religion. Birth announcements may appear in a standard column or be spread throughout a newspaper as fillers.



BIRTH.

LAWSON—On Tuesday, December 19, of a daughter, Mrs. G. H. Lawson of 362 Fifteenth st Mother and baby doing well.

Birth Notice, *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, Brooklyn, New York, 24 December 1899, page 32, column 6; online Brooklyn Daily Eagle, 1841-1902 Online < eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org > viewed on 8 September 2011.

Local and Personal Columns

Local and personal columns cover a wide variety of topics and present an intimate look into the everyday life of a society. From lists of attendees at social functions to reports about locals who were hosting visiting relatives, personal columns offer tidbits of information that can fill gaps in family history. Descriptions of events, such as an anniversary party, may include biographies of the couple, the names of guests, and descriptions of gifts and clothing, which provide insight into the culture of that time and place. Columns detailing the minutiae of local residents' lives were common in local newspapers throughout the 1800s.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL.

Born September 10th a son to Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Lowry.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. A. O. Anderson are Salt Lake visitors this week.

* * *

Mrs. James R. Olsen entertained a number of lady friends at a house party yesterday afternoon.

* * *

Miss Geneva Denison left last Wednesday for Bluff, eastern Utah, where she will teach this winter.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Harmon Fisher of Salt Lake were visitors this week at the Geo. Brox home. Mrs. Fisher is a sister of Mr. Brox.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wintch of Silver City were members of a large temple party from the Tintic Stake here attending the temple this week.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Braithwaite announce the engagement of their daughter Reba to Leonard Alder. The marriage will take place in the Manti Temple September 23rd.

* * *

Friends and relatives of Mrs. James Olsen enjoyed a delightful social and luncheon at her home yesterday afternoon.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Jensen and children of Duchesne were guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. Peter Peterson Wednesday evening.

* * *

The Gleaner Girls of the Center ward were entertained Tuesday afternoon at the home of Miss Virginia Lund at a kensington. Refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Thompson of Salt Lake are visiting at the A. P. Anderson home. The former spent the summer in Nevada.

* * *

Mrs. Paul E. Nielson entertained yesterday afternoon for the Misses Beatrice and Evelyn Brown who leave prosently to attend school.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Bracken left this week for Roosevelt to make their home. Mr. Bracken will become the manager of the Bracken Carpenter Store in that place.

* * *

The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers will meet Monday September 14th. A nice program has been prepared. This is our first meeting since summer vacation. Hope to see all members present.

* * *

Mr. and Mrs. George Braithwaite and daughter, Gene, left for Idaho yesterday where Mr. Braithwaite teaches the 9th and 10th grades in the Medicine Lodge School of Clark County.

* * *

A Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their young son from Wisconsin were guests at the J. B. Jacobson and L. R. Anderson home the fore part of this week.

* * *

Word has just been received that Clair Anderson who is laboring in Wisconsin as a missionary has been made conference president over that state.

* * *

Miss Reva Olsen and Miss Violate Christenson entertained thirty five guests at a shower given at the James R. Olsen home Tuesday evening for Miss Abbie Shomaker. The entertaining features were in the form of a burlesque marriage, and created a lot of fun.

* * *

Miss Reba Braithwaite was tendered a shower yesterday afternoon at the Thomas Braithwaite home by Mrs. Thos. Braithwaite, Mrs. Afton Williams and Mrs. Ida Nielson. Thirty five guests were in attendance. A tasty lunch was served.

* * *

Kjarulf Jensen is expected home this week from an extensive business trip to Denver, and Chicago,

and other eastern points in the interests of the Jensen Bros. business in Manti.

* * *

Mr. add Mrs. Owen Smith and family of Logan were visitors at the J. C. Madson home last week, enroute to California where they expect to make their home.

* * *

Mrs. Eliza Konstrup was the guest of honor at a surprise party given last Monday afternoon by eighteen neighbors and friends .The occasion was in compliment to her eighty-first birthday anniversary.

* * *

The German people of Manti made up a jolly surprise party o n Mrs. Hyrum Denison one evening last week on the occasion of her birthday anniversary. She was presented with a fine rug.

* * *

Mrs. Clark Keller and Miss Orpha Munk were the hostesses at a delightful shower given last Saturday afternoon at the L. R. Anderson home in compliment to Mrs. Paul K. Walker. An abundance of fall cut flowers were the room and table decorations. A dainty lunch was served to twenty guests. Many beautiful and appropriate gifts were received.

* * *

The Misses Edna Munk Neomi Jensen and Erma SoSronson entertained at a shower and luncheon last Saturday evening at the home of the latter in honor of Mrs. George A. Nielson, a bride of this week. Out of town guests in attendance were Mrs. A. C. Nielson and daughter Mary and Mrs. Henry Thompson of Ephraim, Mrs. Andrew Nielson of Gunnison and Mrs. Eugene Moore of Salt Lake. Mrs. Nielson was the recipient of many beautiful presents

* * *

Less summer buying this year than usual. First cold snap will cause stampede. Buy your coal now. Bonneville Lumber Company.

LOST—Small red pig. Return to Erastus Westenskow.

For Sale—the Soren Orby Hansen property in Manti City. Inquire of the County Clerk.

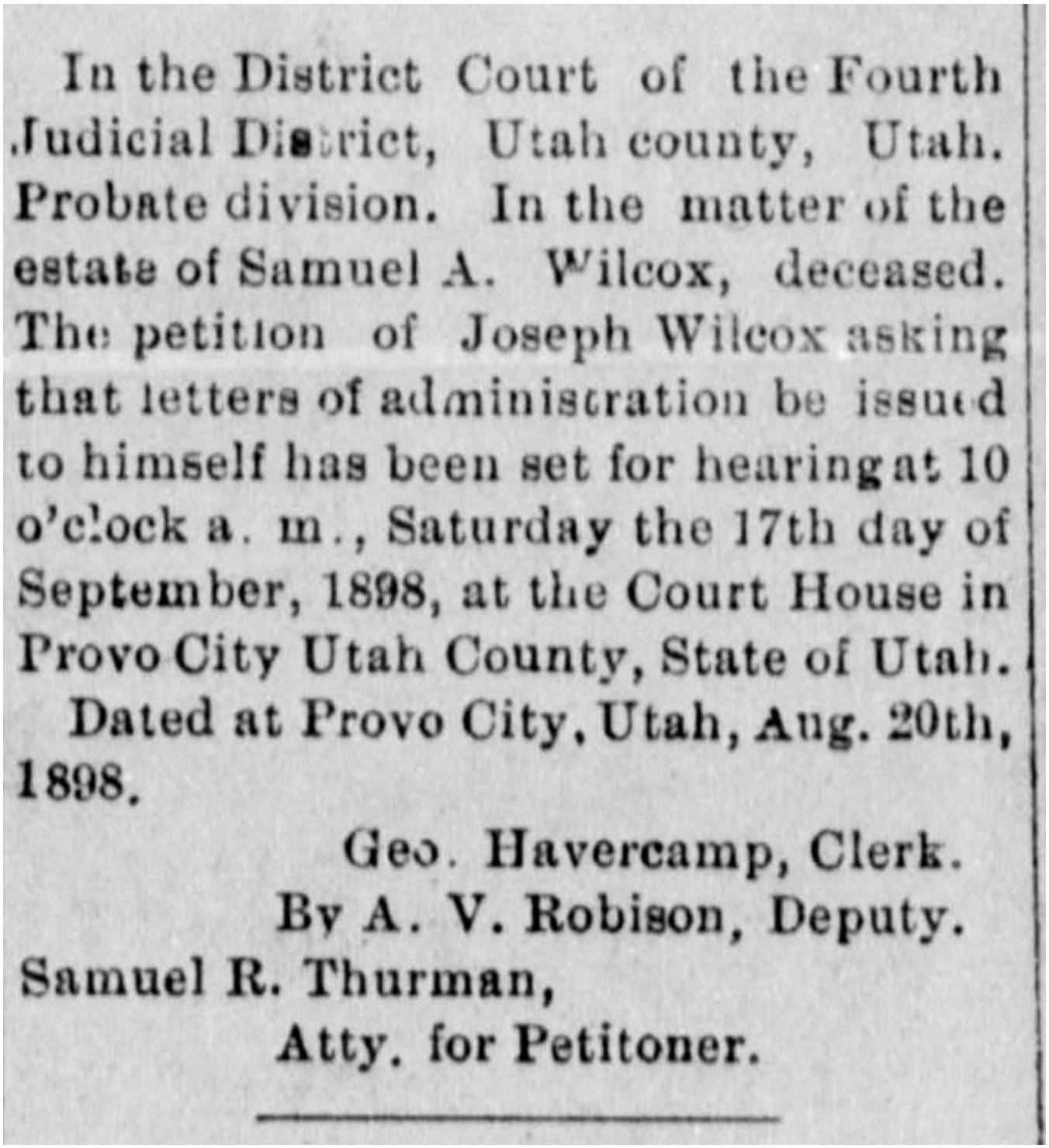
For good warm camp quilts call the Center Ward Relief Society.

Labor conditions in other fields unsettled. Buy now. Bonneville Lumber Company.

FOR SALE—The old Martin Axelson home. Call 109.

Legal Notices

Legal notices might include the settlement of estates, administration of probate, pending divorce proceedings, and land sales for payment of taxes. Such notices suggest other records to search such as property records, probate records, tax records, and divorce records.



In the District Court of the Fourth Judicial District, Utah county, Utah. Probate division. In the matter of the estate of Samuel A. Wilcox, deceased. The petition of Joseph Wilcox asking that letters of administration be issued to himself has been set for hearing at 10 o'clock a. m., Saturday the 17th day of September, 1898, at the Court House in Provo City Utah County, State of Utah.

Dated at Provo City, Utah, Aug. 20th, 1898.

Geo. Havercamp, Clerk.
By A. V. Robison, Deputy.

Samuel R. Thurman,
Atty. for Petitoner.

Military

Military articles were more prominent during times of war. Local newspapers published biographical sketches of local heroes, letters from soldiers serving abroad, and accounts of valiant acts. Lists of drafted men, war casualties, or medal recipients may provide a man's unit number or resolve a question about a man's disappearance.

THE 139th REGIMENT.

LIST OF KILLED AND WOUNDED.

The following is an official list of the casualties in the 139th regiment of Brooklyn. We have heretofore published some of the names, but the annexed contains all:

HEADQUARTERS 139TH REGT., N. Y. VOL.,
IN THE FIELD NEAR PETERSBURG, VA.,
June 17, 1864.

To the Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle:

Herewith I annex a list of casualties in the 139th N. Y. Vols. since the 1st instant.

COMMISSIONED OFFICERS KILLED.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edgar Perry.
Captain S. C. Beecher, Co. C.

ENLISTED MEN KILLED.

Company A—Sergt A E Baylis; Privates E F Baylis, George M Barkelow, Cornelius Hart, John Kenely, Wm Wolf, Stephen A Brower.

Company B—Corporal Wm Wilkinson; Privates Jos Fields, John Bowman, Chas Boyle, Wm Booth.

Company C—Private —— Blake.

Company D—Thomas McGoe, Wm Seibe, J H Thompson.

Company E—Privates Moses Montgomery, Jas E Molloy, Conner Bly, Jas Flynn, Jas Mullen.

Company F—Sergeant J W Hunter, Privates Jno Reynolds, Austin C Bedell.

Company G—Sergeant P W Woolsey, Privates John Sexton, Jas H Kerswell.

Company H—Privates George Higgins, Jr, Geo Steinberg.

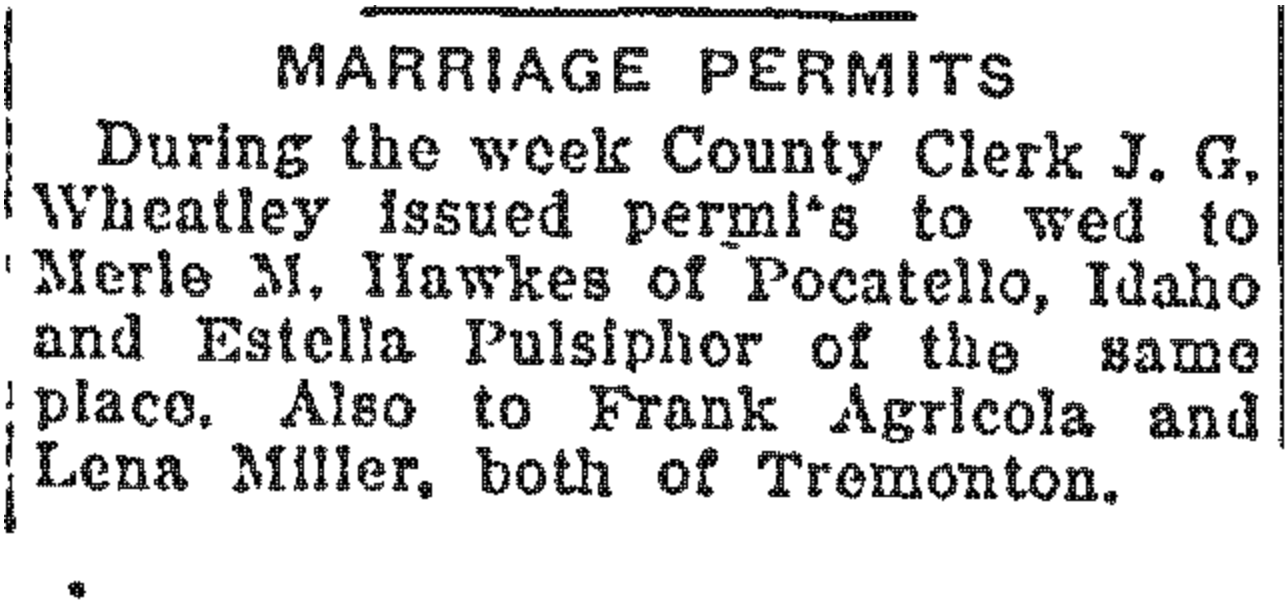
Company K—Corporals E A Parkhurst, Wm F Cragin, Private Thos Bailey.

Other Information

Information from newspapers often suggests other records to search. Here are some examples:

1. An obituary that mentions the church membership of a deceased individual advises where to look for religious records or cemetery records.
2. A death notice indicates when to begin looking for probate records.
3. A legal notice hints to check court records.
4. A delinquent tax notice suggests a search of land records.

The date of this marriage permit (6 April 1917) found in the Box Elder News suggests a starting place to look for the couple's marriage record.



MARRIAGE PERMITS

During the week County Clerk J. G. Wheatley issued permi's to wed to Merle M. Hawkes of Pocatello, Idaho and Estella Pulsiphor of the same place. Also to Frank Agricola and Lena Miller, both of Tremonton.

Availability of Historic Newspapers Today

Newspaper collections may be found at research libraries, state and local libraries, genealogical and historical societies, government agencies, and commercial websites.

To make effective use of newspapers, the genealogist must determine what newspapers exist for a designated area and for which time periods. Some years or specific editions may no longer exist. The genealogist explores where those newspapers are found today (online or in archives).

Locating Newspapers

Local public or college libraries often have great newspaper resources. For example, BYU-Idaho's library provides you with access to Newspaper Archive, NewsBank, Gale (one for British, one for the United States), and about a half-dozen ProQuest

sites. To access newspapers through the BYU-Idaho McKay Library, visit the Library Guide for this course. Select the Genealogical Databases tab and browse the list in the Newspapers column.

Another option is to go visit or contact a public library in the area where your ancestor lived. If the local city library does not possess a complete set of local newspapers, try a county library, which will usually hold a larger collection of newspapers on microfilm. Most public libraries will perform a brief search for you if you provide specific details such as a name, date, and place.

A local genealogy enthusiast might also be willing to perform a quick look-up for a nominal fee. Do a Google search for "Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness" and your state of interest to see if there is a representative for your area of interest with whom you can make your request. For more extensive searches, hire a local professional researcher or make a personal visit.

An increasing number of newspapers have been microfilmed or digitized. Many newspapers that are accessible on the internet are fully searchable. Digitized newspapers that are not yet searchable or indexed may be browsed page by page, and even searchable newspapers may not need to be browsed, because many were indexed using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology, which often makes mistakes.

Commercial companies that offer a significant collection of digitized newspapers include the following:

- Ancestry
- GenealogyBank
- (NewsBank): includes early American newspapers.
- Newspaper Archive
- ProQuest: historical collection comprising 16 newspapers for larger US cities.

The quantity of newspapers, coverage area, range of years, and search capabilities vary by company.

Significant online obituary collections are found at US GenWeb in addition to the commercial websites listed above. Obituary links are also found at Cyndi's List.

Googling newspapers coupled with the name of an individual or a place can also produce a lengthy list of websites.

Other organizations, such as state and university libraries, have joined in making newspapers more accessible through the Internet. Excellent examples include the following:

- Google News Archive : a free and robust online source where newspapers can be browsed.
- Utah Digital Newspapers: a project that is digitizing Utah newspapers statewide and making them fully searchable.
- The Virginia Gazette: a weekly published in Williamsburg with news covering Virginia and some other colonies, 1736–1780, hosted by Colonial Williamsburg.
- The Brooklyn Daily Eagle: covers Brooklyn and other areas of New York City, 1841–1902, produced by the Brooklyn Public Library.

The Library of Congress website, Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, contains current information about America's newspapers from 1690 to the present. This is the first source to check when assembling a complete list of newspapers published in a particular area. Use the US Newspaper Directory, 1690 to Present link to search for newspapers in your area and time period of interest, and to discover where these newspapers can be found today. This website also includes digitized images from many newspapers published between 1836 and 1922.

The following published sources, which are found in most libraries, also assist with finding the titles and locations of newspapers:

- Newspapers in Microfilm: United States, 1948–1983. 2 vols. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1984. Geographically arranged list of newspapers on microfilm and the repositories where the microfilms are available. Most of these can be borrowed through interlibrary loan.
- United States Newspaper Program National Union List, 4th ed. Dublin, Ohio: Online Computer Library Center, 1993. An inventory of newspapers collected by the Library of Congress and 20 states as of 1985. The microfilms are often available at the state archives, state historical society, or major libraries within the state. They can usually be borrowed through interlibrary loan.
- Brigham, Clarence Saunders. History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820. 2 vols. Worcester, Mass.: American Antiquarian Society, 1975. Lists the locations of collections of newspapers published from 1690 to 1820.
- Gregory, Winifred. American Newspapers, 1821–1936. 1957. Reprint, New York: H. W. Wilson, 1967. Lists newspapers published from 1821 to 1936, including those that are no longer published.
- Gale Directory of Publications: An Annual Guide to Newspapers, Magazines, Journals, and Related Publications. Annual. Detroit: Gale Research, 1969–. Lists currently published newspapers.

For newspapers that are not available online but have been microfilmed, use an interlibrary loan to obtain microfilm copies from state libraries, universities, and state or local historical and genealogical societies.

Ethnic and religious newspapers are particularly important sources to locate information about immigrants and members of particular religious denominations. For example, a death notice or article of interest concerning an immigrant ancestor may be more likely to be published in an ethnic newspaper than a major local newspaper. Ethnic publications are found at major libraries, archives, and state historical organizations. For religious publications, check the list of denominational websites found at Hartford Seminary's Institute for religious organizations. Select the denomination of interest and then look for a link to its newspaper publications.

Searching for Ancestors in Newspapers

General

The following are tips that apply to all types of newspaper searches.

1. When searching for a specific event like a death or marriage, search all newspapers with coverage over the area of interest. One newspaper may present a more lengthy description of the event than the others.
2. When searching for an obituary, search newspapers for all areas in which the ancestor lived. An obituary may be printed in more than one location.
3. Include collateral relatives in newspaper searches in order to build knowledge about a family.
4. Remember that any information found in a newspaper could be inaccurate. Just because information is in print does not make it valid.
5. Print, scan, or photocopy any article or item of interest that you find. Record on the front of the image the following items so that it may be found later in the original source:
    - Newspaper title
    - Article title
    - Publication date
    - Page number
    - Location on the page (or column number)
    - Person of interest named in the article
    - Repository where newspaper is located

- If you know enough about the area and its newspapers, it is often beneficial to search regional newspapers, such as the Deseret News, in which events from the entire state of Utah may appear.

Online and Indexed

Use these tips when searching newspapers that have been indexed.

1. Begin your search with the broadest terms possible, such as a surname. Then, if needed, add search terms or additional filter.
2. Search broad geographic areas. Events in one area could be reported in a newspaper hundreds or thousands of miles away. Some newspaper editors copied articles from other papers in order to fill gaps in their pages. As a result, the article you are looking for may appear in a newspaper from an area where your ancestor had no connections.
3. Keep in mind that any keywords you use will need to appear exactly in the newspaper. As a result, you may need to try variations of names or keywords.
4. Use various combinations of keywords.
5. If your search does not return any results, the article you are searching for may still exist. Newspapers are often indexed by computers, which make mistakes, so you may need to browse the relevant papers.

Online and Not Indexed

In this case, you will need to browse the newspaper page by page and issue by issue. This process is similar to searching through a microfilm.

1. Use other records to narrow the search range. For example, when looking for an obituary, first determine when an ancestor most likely died by seeking a death record, a burial record, a probate record, or a tombstone inscription.
2. When looking for obituaries and funeral announcements, browse through the issues for at least three weeks following the death.
3. If you are searching for an obituary from the last 40 years or so, you may want to also browse issues roughly one year after the death in order to find any memorial articles that may be posted.

These are the advanced record types which are covered in FHGEN 242. There are many more record types to consider and explore. Some of those will be covered in future courses. But most of them you will be led to through your own active research. Make sure to note and keep track of your discoveries for future reference.