

95th Annual INGALLS'S REUNION

All Members of the Jacob Ingalls Family

Verifying Your Mayflower Lineage

By Robyn L. Hosley, Ed.D.

Inside you will find information on:

**“Distant Cousins” – Laura Ingalls Wilder and
President James Garfield**

**“Great-Grandfather” - Thomas Rogers
*Mayflower Passenger***

How to Join the General Society of Mayflower Descendants
The Great Migration Study Project
Verifying your Mayflower Lineage
Guide to Proving Mayflower Ancestry

Guide to “Getting Started with your Family History”

Saturday, October 19, 2024
Asbury United Methodist Church Hall

Relationship of **Jacob Ingalls** to
Laura Ingalls Wilder (American Pioneer and Author)



Edmund Ingalls (1598-1648)
m. 1618, Ann(a) Telbe

John Ingalls (1624-1721)
m. 1667; Elizabeth Barrett

Edmund Ingalls (1679-1749)
m. 1705; Eunice Ludden

Joseph Ingalls (1718-1777)
m. 1739; Cordellay Ann Bullock

Joseph Ingalls Jr (1744-1813)
m. 1763; Roby Horton

Jacob Ingalls (1764-1841)
m. 1793; Susannah Goff

They had six children:

Enoch (1794-1872)
Henry (1795-1859)
Cordelia (1797-d.y.)
John (1798-1871)
Truman (1801-1871)
Cyrus (1802-1839)

Sgt. Henry Ingalls (1629-1719)
m. 1653; Mary Osgood

Sgt. Samuel Ingalls (1654-1733)
m. 1682; Sarah Hendrick

Samuel Ingalls (1683-1747)
m. 1709; Mary E. Watts

Timothy Ingalls (1720-1757)
m. 1741; Sarah Brown

Jonathan Ingalls (1753-1834)
m. 1769; Martha Jane Locke

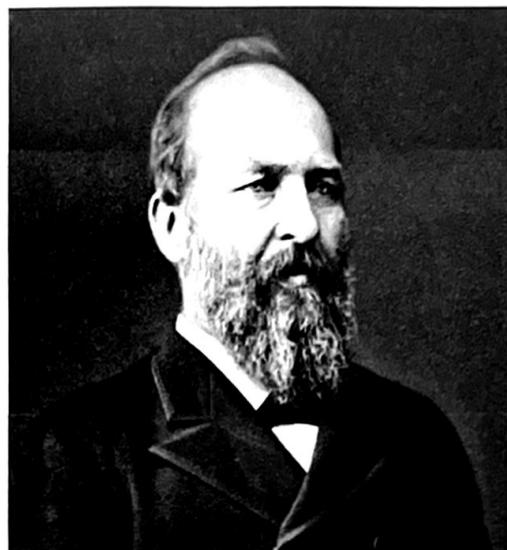
Samuel W. Ingalls (1771-1841)
m. 1793; Margaret Delano

Lansford W. Ingalls (1812-1896)
m. 1832; Laura Louise Colby

Charles Philip Ingalls (1836-1902)
m. 1860; Caroline Lake Quiner

Laura Ingalls Wilder
(1867-1957)

Relationship of **Jacob Ingalls** to
James Abram Garfield (20th President of the U.S.)



Edmund Ingalls (1598-1648)
m. 1618, Ann(a) Telbe

John Ingalls (1624-1721)
m. 1667; Elizabeth Barrett (1647-1718)

Edmund Ingalls (1679-1749)
m. 1705; Eunice Ludden (1689-1748)

Joseph Ingalls (1718-1777)
m. 1739; Cordellay Ann Bullock

Ebenezer Ingalls (1711-1771)
m. 1735; Elizabeth Wheeler

Joseph Ingalls Jr (1744-1813)
m. 1763; Robyn Horton

Henry Ingalls (1738-1811)
m. 1761; Sybil Carpenter

Jacob Ingalls (1764-1841)
m. 1793; Susannah Goff

Mehitable Ingalls (1764-1821)
m. 1786; James Ballou IV

They had six children:

Enoch (1794-1872)
Henry (1795-1859)
Cordelia (1797-d.y.)
John (1798-1871)
Truman (1801-1871)
Cyrus (1802-1839)

Elizabeth Ballou (1801-1888)
m. 1820; Abram Garfield

James Abram Garfield
(1831-1881)

20th President of the U.S., serving
from March 4, 1881 until his death
by assassination (Sept. 19, 1881).

Relationship between **Thomas Rogers (Mayflower Passenger)**
and children of Truman Ingalls and Abigail Cowell



**Mayflower
Descendant**

#1 Thomas Rogers (Mayflower Passenger) (1571-1621)
m. 1597; Alice Cosford (1573-1622)

|
#2 Joseph Rogers (Mayflower Passenger) (1602-1677)
m. 1621; Hannah (_____) (1615-1678)

|
#9 Hannah Rogers (1652-1690)
m. 1679; Jonathan Higgins (1637-1711)

|
#46 Mary Higgins (1682-1750)
m. 1706; James Young (1685-1750)

|
#191 Sarah Young (1709-Aft. 1750)
m. 1730 Joshua Cowell (1708—1756)

|
#946 John Cowell (1733-1820)
m. 1760; Rebecca Hine (1739-1786)

Roger's Silver
Book Vol. 19

|
John Cowell (1763-1858)
m. 1788; Sarah Northrup (1769-1835)

|
Abigail Cowell (1804-1867)
m. Truman Ingalls (1801-1871)
(the son of Jacob Ingalls and Susannah Goff)

Truman Ingalls and Abigail Cowell had seven children:

Leander Ingalls (1823-1880) m. 1846; Mary Chirritree (1823-1893)

Lucinda Ingalls (1826-1896) m. 1846; Lorenzo Hunt (1825-1907)

Eleanor Ingalls (1828-1915) m. 1847; Addison Winegard (1826-1907)

Diantha Ingalls (1832-1914) m. 1853; Zoeth Smith (1823-1879)

Joseph Truman Ingalls (1834-1903) m. 1856; Samantha Rickerson (1836-1906)

Ransom Benjamin Ingalls (1836-1916) m. 1859; Adaline Losee (1839-1924)

William Henry Harrison Ingalls (1814-1918) m. 1863; Loretta Bishop (1841-1914)

Ingalls Mayflower Ancestor in Plymouth: Thomas Rogers

Thomas Rogers was born in Watford, Northampton, England, abt. 1571, the son of William and Eleanor Rogers [TG 10:138-49]. Thomas married at Watford, Alice Cosford on Oct. 24, 1597. Alice was baptized there May 10, 1573. She was the daughter of George and Margaret Cosford. Thomas was a Leiden Separatist, a group of English religious refugees who fled to Leiden, Holland in 1617 to break away from the Anglican Church. Thomas Rogers and his family had left England by 22 Feb 1617 when he bought a house on Barbarasteeg at Leiden for 475 guilders. He became a citizen of Leiden on June 25, 1618. Most of the Separatists found work in the cloth trades, but others were carpenters, tailors or printers. In Leiden, Thomas worked as a "greyntrapier" (greyn weaver) or "camlet" merchant. Camlet was a luxury fabric from Asia that was made of camel's hair or angora wool mixed with silk.

On April 1, 1620, Rogers sold his house in Holland to another English immigrant, Mordecai Cohen, for 300 guilders (*Bangs' Strangers and Pilgrims* 323-34, *Dexter* 632]. The Rogers family made the decision that only Thomas and his eldest son Joseph, who was about 17, would travel on the *Mayflower*; and when they settled, Alice and the remaining children would come over. Thomas was one of the 41 signers of the Mayflower Compact.

Thomas died at Plymouth in the first winter of 1620/21 "in the first sickness," [Bradford's *Hist.* 442, 446] leaving behind his son Joseph. In the 1623 Plymouth Colony land division, **Joseph Rogers** was allotted two acres as a passenger on the *Mayflower*, one for himself and one on behalf of his late father. [PCR 12:4]. In the May 22, 1627 cattle division, Joseph is in the group headed by Gov. William Bradford, making it likely that when his father died that first winter, Bradford took him in.

When Thomas Roger's died, there was no home for the family he left in Leiden to go to in New England. The last mention of his wife Alice is in the 1622 poll tax list at Leiden which shows his wife Alice, two daughters Elizabeth and Margaret, and younger son John in the household of Anthony Clements, one of the English Separatists who did not emigrate to England. [TAG 52:110-13]. It is likely that Alice died in Leiden, as there is no evidence that she emigrated to Plymouth Colony. It is unknown whether Thomas' daughters Elizabeth and Margaret stayed in Leiden or eventually came to New England. Thomas Roger's son, John, probably arrived in Plymouth in 1629/30 when the last of the Separatists arrived from Leiden. He first appears in the colony records when he was taxed 9 shillings on March 25, 1633. [PCR 1:11]. John married Anna Churchman at Plymouth on April 16, 1639.

Joseph Rogers married in 1632, a woman named Hannah (her last name is unknown), whom he named in his will of 1677. She may not have been his only wife and may not have been the mother of his children. Joseph and (probably) Hannah had nine children, including their youngest Hannah, our ancestor. Hannah married Jonathan Higgins in 1679 as his second wife. He had previously married (1) Elizabeth, older sister of Hannah Rogers. Hannah Rogers and Jonathan Higgins had five children: Elizabeth, Mary, Rebecca, James and Sarah.

How to join the Mayflower Society



<https://themayflowersociety.org>

Joining the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is a great way to honor your adventurous ancestor(s)!

You must be able to prove direct lineal descent from a passenger aboard the *Mayflower* who stayed on to establish the colony. You may join in any one of the 54 Member Societies – one in each state as well as DC, Canada, Europe and Australia. You do not have to join in the state where you reside.

To learn if you descend from a *Mayflower* passenger, the best first steps are to explore your family's lineage. Tools such as <http://www.Ancestry.com> and <https://www.FamilySearch.org> can be of great use but use caution! Not every link to another generation has been carefully examined by previous tree builders. It's best to use online resources as *clues, NOT proof*.

Vital records are your golden ticket in beginning your family genealogical journey. Many can be found online or can be ordered from the county or state in which the event occurred. For Mayflower Society purposes, you need not order "certified" copies; certificates marked "informational" or "for genealogical purposes" are acceptable and may cost less.

Build your family tree one generation at a time being careful to confirm the link to parents as you go. This can be especially challenging for women whose maiden names were not recorded on Census records or other documents. If your family helped establish a new county, they may be featured in a historical book or a family genealogy book. Many of these can be found, in full, online, but be forewarned, not all are acceptable, and each must be reviewed carefully.

The Mayflower Society publishes a series of genealogical reference tools referred to as the "Silver books" because of their distinctive silver-colored cover and binding. Generally speaking, these volumes detail the critical data for each generation from the Mayflower passenger and down five or six generations.

Some helpful hints: Government issued "long-form" vital records (means the parents are named) are useful for proving lineage. You do not need "certified" vital records. Those that are often noted as "Informational" or "For Genealogical Purposes Only" are acceptable and may cost less. If the vital record cannot be found, request a letter from the agency stating, "No record Found" and submit that. In this case you may use other types of documents such as census records, church records, probate records, obituaries, etc.

I highly recommend American Ancestors - which is maintained by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) as a genealogical resource. Their website includes "Getting Started in Family History" - a series of FREE downloads, including:

- Choosing a Genealogical Software Program
- Getting Started with Organizing Your Research
- Getting Started Proving Mayflower Ancestry
- Getting Started with 17th Century Great Migration to New England
 - Church Records; Vital Records
 - City Directories; and County Histories
 - Civil War Veteran Records
 - Colonial New England Research
 - Compiled Genealogies
 - Massachusetts Research
 - Newspapers in Family History Research
 - Passenger Arrival Lists
 - Quaker Records
 - Revolutionary War Records
 - U.S. Federal Census Records
 - U.S. Naturalization Records
 - U.S. War of 1812; WWI; and WWII Records

American Ancestors also offers a paid membership to access their on-line library. With an individual membership, you have access to their searchable library of periodicals and books. Genealogy can get expensive with purchasing vital records, books and memberships to Ancestry and American Ancestors!

One of American Ancestors signature projects is the Great Migration Study Project - comprehensive genealogical and biographical accounts of the 20,000 English men, women and children that settled in New England between 1620 and 1640. A great reference for documenting your immigrant ancestors!



Great Migration Study Project

The preeminent resource for learning about this group of immigrants is the Great Migration Study Project. Under the scholarly direction of Robert Charles Anderson, the project will provide sketches of all known immigrants to New England from 1620–1640. Begun in 1988, Anderson not only utilizes the scholarship of the last hundred years, but also looks again at original records to provide a fresh, detailed, documented, and insightful view of the Great Migration figures and their families. This scholarship is being published in four series:

1. *The Great Migration Begins, 1620-1633* (3 volumes)

- a. [Searchable database at American Ancestors](#)
- b. Available for purchase from the [American Ancestors bookstore](#)

2. *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635* (7 volumes)

- a. Seven [searchable databases](#) at American Ancestors
- b. Available for purchase from the [American Ancestors bookstore](#)

3. *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1636-1638* (Volume 2, Bi-By in progress; Volume 1, A-Be now available; the Third Series will likely be 11 or 12 volumes total)

- a. Available for purchase from the [American Ancestors bookstore](#)

4. *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1639–1640* (to come once the Third Series is complete)

What is a Study Project?

A study project is a scholarly endeavor that aims to collect authoritative data within a given scope (i.e., a certain group of people living at a specific place during a specific time).

THOMAS ROGERS

ORIGIN: Leiden, Holland

MIGRATION: 1620 in *Mayflower*

FIRST RESIDENCE: Plymouth

ESTATE: In the 1623 Plymouth land division Joseph Rogers was granted two acres as a passenger on the *Mayflower*, for himself and his deceased father [PCR 12:4]. In the 1627 Plymouth cattle division Joseph Rogers was the fifth person in the eleventh company [PCR 12:12].

Sons Joseph and John were each assessed the minimum 9s. in the 25 March 1633 rate [PCR 1:11].

"Joseph Rogers and John Rogers, his brother," were granted fifty acres of upland each at the North River, 6 April 1640 [PCR 1:144].

BIRTH: By about 1572 (based on date of marriage), son of William and Eleanor _____ Rogers of Watford, Northamptonshire [TG forthcoming].

DEATH: Died Plymouth soon after arrival, probably in January or February 1620/1.

MARRIAGE: Watford, Northamptonshire, 24 October 1597 Alice Cosford, daughter of George Cosford [TG forthcoming].

CHILDREN (baptized Watford, Northamptonshire [TG forthcoming]):

- i THOMAS, bp. 24 March 1598/9; bur. 27 May 1599.
- ii (possibly) RICHARD, bp. 12 March 1599/1600; bur. 4 April 1600.
- iii JOSEPH, bp. 23 January 1602/3; m. by 1633 Hannah _____ (assuming she was his only wife; eldest child of Joseph Rogers b. 6 August 1633 [MD 16:238]); appears in "1638" list of Plymouth freemen in vicinity of others admitted on 1 January 1632/3 [PCR 1:4]; assessed 9s. in the Plymouth tax lists of 25 March 1633 and 27 March 1634 [PCR 1:11, 28].
- iv JOHN, bp. 6 April 1606; assessed 9s. in the Plymouth tax list of 25 March 1633 [PCR 1:11]; m. Plymouth 16 April 1639 Anna Churchman [PCR 1:20].
- v ELIZABETH, bp. 26 December 1609; living at Leiden in 1622, perhaps came later to New England and married there [TAG 52:110-13; Bradford 446].
- vi MARGARET, bp. 30 May 1613; living at Leiden in 1622, perhaps came later to New England and married there [TAG 52:110-13; Bradford 446].



What is a Sketch?

A "sketch" in this instance refers to a brief, sourced profile of each known immigrant that contains biographical and genealogical details.

What is Included in a Great Migration Sketch?

When known, each sketch includes the following information:

- Origin
- First (or Previous) Residence(s)
- Migration
- Removes
- Return Trips
- Occupation
- Church Membership
- Freeman
- Education
- Offices
- Estate
- Birth and or baptism, Death, and Marriage(s)
- Children of the immigrant and their spouse
- Associations
- Comments
- Bibliographic Note

Other Published Resources in the Great Migration Study Project

★ *The Great Migration Directory, Immigrants to New England, 1620–1640* (an index of the names of all known immigrants to have come to New England during the Great Migration period, 1620–1640, along with sources for information on each [see sample at right])

—Available for purchase from the [American Ancestors bookstore](#)

- *The Mayflower Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth, 1620*

—Available for purchase

- *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620–1633*

—Available for purchase

- *The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company Immigrants to New England, 1629–1630*

—Available for purchase

- *The Complete Great Migration Newsletter, Volumes 1–25*

—Searchable database at [AmericanAncestors.org](#)

—Available for purchase from the [American Ancestors bookstore](#)

An entry from <i>The Great Migration Directory</i>				
Name	English origin	Year of arrival in New England	New England residences	
Norris, Edward	Horsley, Gloucestershire	1639; Boston, Salem [BChR 24; WP 4:168; SChR 9; EPR 1:34; MBCR 1:377; WJ 1:197, 2:78; TAG 84:200–11]. (His daughter Mary preceded him to New England by 1635 [GM 2:5:266–67].)	1639	Boston, Salem
Citations: <i>The Records of the First Church in Boston, 1639–1868; Winthrop Papers, 1498–1654; The Records of the First Church in Salem, Massachusetts, 1629–1736; The Probate Records of Essex County, Massachusetts, 1635–1681; Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, 1628–1686; John Winthrop, <i>The History of New England from 1630 to 1649</i>, James Savage, ed.; and <i>The American Genealogist</i></i>			Additional comment with a citation to <i>The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635</i> .	

Great Migration Directory example.



THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST

Verifying Your Mayflower Lineage

By Lindsay Fulton and Christopher C. Child, NEHGS Experts

Introduction

The arrival of the *Mayflower* in 1620 sparked the first waves of major English settlement in New England. Today, an estimated 35 million people worldwide are believed to be descended from the Pilgrims. This Portable Genealogist will help you verify your *Mayflower* lineage whether you are interested in applying to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) or simply finding your connection to the *Mayflower*.

Mayflower Passengers with Descendants

Below is a list of Pilgrims with known living descendants. Bolded names indicate heads of household.

John Alden	Francis Cooke	William Mullins
Isaac Allerton	John Cooke	Priscilla Mullins
Mary (Norris) Allerton	Edward Doty	Degory Priest
Mary Allerton	Francis Eaton	Thomas Rogers
Remember Allerton	Samuel Eaton	Joseph Rogers
John Billington	Sarah Eaton	Henry Samson
Elinor Billington	Moses Fletcher	George Soule
Francis Billington	Edward Fuller	Myles Standish
William Bradford	Mrs. Edward Fuller	John Tilley
William Brewster	Samuel Fuller (son)	Joan (Hurst) Tilley
Love Brewster	Samuel Fuller	Elizabeth Tilley
Mary Brewster	Stephen Hopkins	Richard Warren
Peter Browne	Elizabeth (Fisher) Hopkins	William White
James Chilton	Constance Hopkins	Susanna (Jackson) White
Mrs. James Chilton	Giles Hopkins	Peregrine White
Mary Chilton	John Howland	Resolved White
	Richard More	Edward Winslow

Step 1: Get organized

Use multi-generational charts or genealogical software to record your ancestors. At the very least you should aim to bring each line back to the 1850 U.S. Federal Census, as this was the first national census to provide information about each household member's age and birth location. Pay close attention to this information, since geography will dictate the best candidate for *Mayflower* ancestry.

Step 2: Look for the best candidate

Mayflower passengers and their descendants followed common migration routes as they settled the Northeast, South, Midwest, and beyond. Thus there are "hot" geographic regions in which you are likely to find *Mayflower* descendants, and "cold" regions in which you are less likely to find them. (There are certainly cases of outliers and unique situations that don't fit neatly into these categorizations.) See the chart on the next page.



TOPICS

- *Mayflower* Passengers with Descendants
- Step 1: Get organized
- Step 2: Look for the best candidate
- Step 3: Documentation



NEHGS TIPS

Generation 1 refers to the *Mayflower* passengers. Their children are Generation 2; grandchildren are Generation 3, etc. Depending on the age of the *Mayflower* passenger and generational distance, you may be Generation 11 to 16.

Finding the best candidate for *Mayflower* ancestry

Generation	Years (approx.)	Hot Spots	Cold Spots
1–5	1600s–1740s	Plymouth County, Mass. Barnstable County, Mass. New London, Conn. Rhode Island (Little Compton area) Coastal Maine	Essex County, Mass. Quebec Hartford, New Haven, and Fairfield, Conn. Providence, R.I.
6–10	1750–1880s	Western Massachusetts Midwest States (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin) New York State (not NYC) Vermont and Maine Nova Scotia and New Brunswick	Less dependent on geography
11–16	1890s–Present	Less dependent on geography	Less dependent on geography

Step 3: Documentation

Once you find a likely candidate, start to **verify** that line, i.e. locate at least one source (preferably original) that links each generation to the next, all the way back to the *Mayflower* passenger. This will create the skeleton of your *Mayflower* lineage.

After you have verified your connection, **document** the line by locating records for each vital event (birth, marriage, death) for each generation (both your direct line and any spouses). This evidence will be key to applying to GSMD.

Examples of Records that Provide Proof of Parentage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census (federal and state) • Vital Records (birth, marriage, death) • Church Records • Land Records (federal, state, county) • Local Histories/Compiled Genealogies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholarly Journals • Court Records (probate, civil, criminal) • Newspapers (obituaries, wedding notices) • Naturalization Records or Passenger Lists • City Directories

Generations 11–16: Focus on vital records

While there is no one-stop shop for vital records, the resources below will direct you to record collections by state, county, or town.

- *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed. (Boston: NEHGS, 2012)
- *Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*, 3rd ed. (Provo, Utah: Ancestry Pub., 2004)
- *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Provo, Utah: Ancestry Pub., 2006)
- FamilySearch.org/wiki



Generations 6–10: Geography plays a big role in record availability

Once you arrive at Generation 6, a variety of resources must be used to verify each subsequent generation. Ideally, vital records will connect generations, but they are often incomplete in this period. This lack of record-keeping was primarily due to the massive migration out of southern New England. New lands away from the coast began opening up for settlement: interior Maine, northern and western N.H., Vermont [the N.H.Grants], Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and northeastern N.Y., above Albany. Within another generation, lands in Central N.Y., Penn., and points west into the Old Northwest Territories were available.

Vital Records

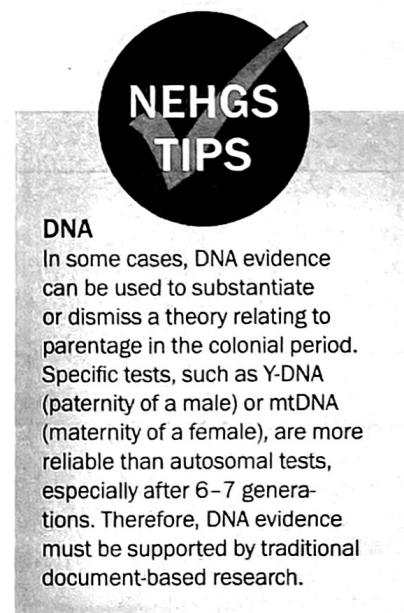
New England	Year Civil Records began	Early Vital Records
Connecticut	1897	Barbour Collection at AmericanAncestors.org, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com
Maine	1892	Town vital records published by Picton Press, FamilySearch.org
Massachusetts	1841	Pre-1850 published volumes available at AmericanAncestors.org; Holbrook Collection at FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com
New Hampshire	1866	Pre-1900 at AmericanAncestors.org, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com
Rhode Island	1853	Arnold Collection at AmericanAncestors.org; pre-1853 at AmericanAncestors.org, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com
Vermont	1857	Pre-1870 at AmericanAncestors.org, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com

New York

- *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2014)
- *Directory to Collections of New York Vital Records, 1726–1989, with Rare Gazetteer* by Fred Q. Bowman and Thomas J. Lynch (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1995)
- Bowman, Fred Q., *7,000 Hudson-Mohawk Valley (N.Y.) Vital Records, 1808–1850* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1997); *8,000 More Vital Records of Eastern New York State, 1804–1850* (Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Kinship, 1991); *10,000 Vital Records of Central New York, 1813–1850* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1999); *10,000 Vital Records of Eastern New York, 1777–1834* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1987); *Index to 10,000 Vital Records of Western New York, 1809–1850* (Pittsfield, Mass.: Berkshire Family History Association, 2006)
- “1,100 Vital Records of Northeastern New York, 1835–1850,” *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 118 (1987): 135–42, 203–09; 119 (1988): 35–43, 91–98, 166–70
- *New York Marriages Previous to 1784* (Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1968)

Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

- Individual town vital records are at American Ancestors Research Center, FamilySearch.org, and provincial archives
- Online access to births, 1864–1877, 1908–1912, 1830–1912 (delayed registrations); marriages, 1864–1937, and marriage bonds, 1763–1864; deaths, 1864–1877, 1908–1962; and City of Halifax deaths, 1890–1908, at NovaScotiaGenealogy.com
- Online access to births, 1810–1924 (index to late registrations), 1869–1901 (index to late registrations, county), 1800–1919 (index to county birth registers), 1870–1924 (index to provincial registrations of births); marriages, 1847–1969 (index); deaths, 1885–1921 (index to county registers), 1815–1919 (provincial death returns), 1918–1969 (index), at Archives.gnb.ca/



DNA

In some cases, DNA evidence can be used to substantiate or dismiss a theory relating to parentage in the colonial period. Specific tests, such as Y-DNA (paternity of a male) or mtDNA (maternity of a female), are more reliable than autosomal tests, especially after 6–7 generations. Therefore, DNA evidence must be supported by traditional document-based research.

Study Projects

Scholarly study projects focus on a particular group of people living in a specific place and time. The information presented is authoritative, cited, and vetted.

- Anderson, Robert Charles, Great Migration Study Project (Boston: NEHGS)*
- Bartley, Scott Andrew, Early Vermont Settlers to 1784 Study Project (Boston: NEHGS)*
- Crowell, Fred E., New Englanders in Nova Scotia (Boston: NEHGS)*
- Doherty, Frank, *Settlers of the Beekman Patent, Dutchess County, New York* (Pleasant Valley, N.Y.: F.J. Doherty)*
- Gravel, Diane Florence and David Watson Kruger, *New Hampshire Families in 1790* (Concord, N.H.: New Hampshire Society of Genealogists)
- Gray, Ruth, *Maine Families in 1790* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1988)
- Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 Study Project (Boston: NEHGS)*
- Williams, Alicia Crane, Early New England Families Study Project (Boston: NEHGS)*
- Wright, Esther Clark, *Loyalists of New Brunswick* (Beaver Bank, N.S.: Justin B. Wentzell, 2008)
- -----, *Planters and Pioneers* (Canada: E.C. Wright, 1982)

*available as databases at AmericanAncestors.org

Scholarly Journals

Scholarly journals offer the most up-to-date research on early families and are well cited and peer reviewed.

- *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Boston: NEHGS)
- *Mayflower Descendant* (Boston: NEHGS)
- *The American Genealogist* (Barrington, R.I.: independently published)
- *The Connecticut Nutmegger* (Glastonbury, Conn.: The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.)
- *Rhode Island Roots* (Hope, R.I.: Rhode Island Genealogical Society)
- *The Maine Genealogist* (Farmington, Maine: Maine Genealogical Society)
- *The National Genealogical Society Quarterly* (Falls Church, Va.: National Genealogical Society)
- *The Genealogist* (Barrington, R.I.: American Society of Genealogists)
- *Tree Talks* (New York: Central New York Genealogical Society)
- *Generations: The Journal of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society* (Fredericton, N.B.: New Brunswick Genealogical Society)
- *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society* (Halifax, N.S.: The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society)
- *The Nova Scotia Genealogist*, formerly *The Genealogical Newsletter* (Dartmouth, N.S.: Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia)

Generations 1–5: Well-Documented Families

The first five generations of Pilgrims are well documented. Be sure to review the following resources:

- *Mayflower Families through Five Generations* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants)
 - Known as the Silver Books; does not include specific volumes for Fletcher, Mullins, and Tilley
 - Generation 5 available as a searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org
- *Mayflower Families in Progress* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants)
 - Known as the Pink Books
- General Society of Mayflower Descendants Membership Applications, 1620–1920, searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org and American Ancestry TREES
 - This wide-reaching source may provide information up to Generation 14



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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A GUIDE TO PROVING

Mayflower Ancestry

In September of 1620, 102 passengers—men, women, and children—and a crew of approximately 30 left England aboard the *Mayflower*.

While nearly half of the passengers who arrived on the shores of Massachusetts died during the first winter, 26 *Mayflower* families are known to have left descendants. An estimated 35 million people can trace their ancestry to the *Mayflower*. Are you among them? Use this guide to search your ancestry for *Mayflower* connections.

Generations 1–5:
Don't reinvent the wheel!

Before he retired, NEHGS Senior Genealogist David Curtis Dearborn often reminded visitors to our library that “seventeenth-century New Englanders were arguably the most studied group on the planet.” With that fact in mind, we recommend that researchers use the work of past genealogists and begin verifying lineages with reliable published sources for early *Mayflower* generations. Specifically, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* (the “silver books”), a multi-volume series published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants that systematically traces most *Mayflower* passengers with known descendants through five generations. This series is the most important *Mayflower* resource, as the research relies on original material and has been vetted by expert genealogists.



Scott Andrew Bartley is former editor of *Mayflower Descendant* and former Librarian/Archivist for the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. **Katrina Fahy** is a Senior Researcher at NEHGS. **Lindsay Fulton** is Director of Research Services at NEHGS.

Because these books provide the most comprehensive study of *Mayflower* families, they can be used when applying for membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants.

The names of fifth generation descendants listed in these volumes are available as a searchable database, "Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700–1880," on AmericanAncestors.org. When completed, the database will contain information from 31 volumes. Currently, the 23 digitized volumes include about 6,600 pages and 356,800 searchable names.

However, if your ancestors were not included in *Mayflower Families through Five Generations* (*MF*), investigate the possibility that they were missed when genealogists compiled later generations. Omissions are most likely in the fifth generation, as many of these individuals took part in migrations to New York or Canada—areas that are sometimes genealogical “black holes.”

One method of identifying fifth-generation descendants is to examine the most recent *Mayflower* scholarship, which may have appeared after the publications of a passenger's *MF* volume. The *Mayflower Descendant*, first published in 1899 by George Ernest Bowman, is a highly regarded scholarly journal on *Mayflower* and related families, their origins in England, and

their lives and places of residence in America, from the earliest settlements to their migrations north and westward. Past volumes of *Mayflower Descendant* can be searched on AmericanAncestors.org, while new issues published by NEHGS are available by subscription. Additionally, articles in *The American Genealogist*, *Mayflower Quarterly*, *The Genealogist*, and the *Register* also feature *Mayflower* families.

Generations 6–10: These can be tricky!

Once you arrive at Generation 6—note that birth information for Generation 6 is often included in *MF*—a variety of resources can be used to verify each subsequent generation. Ideally, vital records should connect the generations, but these records are often incomplete during this time period and additional sources are needed.

The single biggest event causing this lack of record-keeping is the massive migration out of southern New England. Land away from the coast began opening for settlement: interior Maine, northern and western New Hampshire, Vermont [the New Hampshire Grants], and northeastern New York above Albany. Within another generation, lands in central

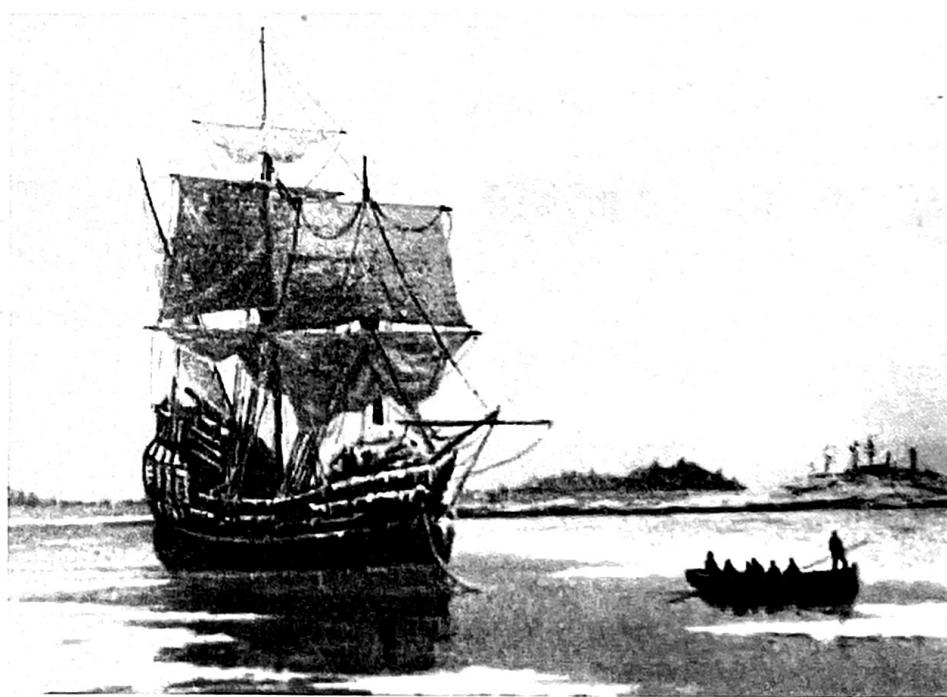
New York and Pennsylvania and points west into the Old Northwest Territories were available.

With large groups of people on the move, locating vital records can be challenging. During this period, you are likely to find births recorded in family groups, sometimes long after the last child was born. These group records can sometimes reveal the family migration route, if birthplaces and birth dates were recorded. In the best case scenario, the parents' marriage and births were recorded as part of the group. The worst case scenario is that births were not recorded at all—a frequent occurrence in this period.

To find documentation on your ancestors in these generations, learn about the history of the places where your ancestors lived. Study local histories to see if you can identify groups who arrived when your ancestors did. Settlers commonly arrived in new locales in groups, and knowing how the group was connected—through family, religion, military service, or place of origin—can be useful. If your ancestor's past has been obscured, look for others in their group who might have left a better paper trail.

Consult Susan E. Roser's *Mayflower Births & Deaths: From the Files of George Ernest Bowman at the*

Previous page: Arlington, Massachusetts, residents dressed as Pilgrims for the dedication of a new town hall, June 1913. Courtesy of Robbins Library, Arlington, Massachusetts. *Right:* "The Mayflower in Plymouth Harbor," postcard ca. 1898–1931.



Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants [MSMD] (1992), and the other books she transcribed from the Bowman files at MSMD. These volumes provide vital record information on many *Mayflower* families into the sixth, seventh, and eighth generations. Entries are organized by family and include source citations. If your family member is not included, the geographic area should guide the next stage of your research. Because many *Mayflower* families scattered to places that kept limited vital records (such as New York and Maritime Canada), you must learn what is available by region.

New England resources

If your family remained in New England after Generation 5, published vital records collections should be consulted first. The best documented state is Massachusetts, which has the *Vital Records to 1850* series, which covers 247 of 351 cities and towns, plus the Holbrook Collection (on microfiche and on Ancestry.com). *Maine Vital Records Prior to 1892* includes 80 of the 488 incorporated municipalities in the state. New England statewide collections are available in print, on microfilm, and online (at AmericanAncestors.org, Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch.org). These include, at a minimum, *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850*, *Maine Vital Records Prior to 1892*,

Connecticut's Barbour Collection, Rhode Island's *Arnold Collection*, *New Hampshire Vital Records Early to 1900*, and *Vermont Vital Records to 2008*.

If you don't find your ancestor in vital records, explore church records. These collections can be challenging to locate, as you must first determine your ancestor's religious denomination and then identify area churches. Some states have more comprehensive collections, such as the *Connecticut Church Records Abstracts* for Congregational Church records, found in print at the NEHGS and Connecticut State libraries and online at Ancestry.com. Massachusetts collections include *An inventory of the records of the particular (Congregational) churches of Massachusetts gathered 1620–1805* (1970) by Harold Worthley and the database *Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789–1900*, available on AmericanAncestors.org. Church records are also part of the *Vital Records to 1850* series.

In areas of New England with fewer vital and church records—such as northern New England and western Massachusetts—consult manuscript collections and study projects compiled by expert genealogists. For example, the Corbin Collection at NEHGS includes transcriptions of a variety of original records compiled by Walter E. and

Lottie S. Corbin, mainly of material from central and western Massachusetts from approximately 1650 to 1850. This collection is scheduled to be available on FamilySearch.org.

The Elmer Irwin Shepard Collection, held at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and available on microfilm at NEHGS, consists of index cards with material pertaining primarily to families in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire Counties in western Massachusetts. Organized by location and surname, the cards feature information from both primary and secondary sources, abbreviated at the bottom of each card.

Western Massachusetts

Families in 1790, a database on AmericanAncestors.org and a book series (3 vols. to date) published by NEHGS, provides genealogical sketches of families listed in the 1790 census for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (an area that now includes Franklin and Hampden Counties). These sketches also provide information on the children of heads of household, which is helpful when tracking that generation to areas further west. The print volumes *Maine Families in 1790* (11 vols. to date), *New Hampshire Families in 1790* (1 vol.), and Scott Andrew Bartley's *Vermont Families in 1791* (2 vols.), are similar to *Western Massachusetts Families in*

1790 in arrangement and scope, and are invaluable for capturing families on the move in New England. *Early Vermont Settlers to 1784* is an ongoing study project managed by Scott Andrew Bartley. Sketches can be found on AmericanAncestors.org and in book form.



Birthplace of Gov. William Bradford, Austerfield, England. Postcard ca. 1898–1931. New York Public Library Digital Collections.



Documenting Your Mayflower Ancestry

Once you have determined descent from a *Mayflower* passenger, how do you properly document the lineage in order to meet the requirements of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants? Although you likely developed this lineage by starting with yourself and moving backward, the documentation process is easier to explain in reverse order, from the passenger to you.

The key element in this process is having a primary document that links one generation to the next. This document should be evaluated for the quality of the data. For example, a contemporary birth record provides a better source for linking parents to a child than a death certificate that lists the deceased's parents.

Generations 1–5: The first five generations are relatively easy to document, since you can provide citations on your application for the relevant volumes and pages from *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*.

Generation 6–present: For these generations you will want to gather as many birth, marriage, and death records as possible for the “line carrier” and any spouses. (The introduction of modern vital records varied from state to state. Massachusetts, the earliest, began statewide vital record registration in 1841. Other start dates are: Connecticut, 1897; Maine, 1892; New Hampshire, 1866; Rhode Island, 1853; Vermont, 1857; and New York, 1881.)

- **Birth records:** A birth record published by a town, city, or county is best, as the record will likely provide accurate information about a child's parents. Provide GSMD with a clear photocopy of the entire original record; do not send original records! If a record was included in a reliable published or microfilm collection, send a photocopy of the relevant page as well as the title page.
- **Marriage records:** Again, a civil record published by a town, city, or county is ideal—and should be documented with a photocopy of the original. This is especially true if a civil marriage records were required by law at the time. Generally speaking, if a record should exist, GSMD wants a photocopy of the original. Additionally, if one or both spouses were married more than once, you must provide proof of the additional marriages, even when no children were born of the union.
- **Death records:** The civil record is best, as it helps to support the chronology you present. However, when a death record is unavailable, you can rely on a gravestone, Bible record, or obituary as an alternative. If you plan to cite a gravestone, provide a clear photograph of the stone, as well as a landscape view that shows the gravestones surrounding your ancestor's marker.

Ideally, you should present a vital record for every event for each person from the sixth generation forward. However, this level of documentation is not always possible so some vital record substitutes are permitted (see page 42 for examples).

Above: The *Mayflower*, John Bach McMaster, *School History of the United States* (1897), from Wikimedia Commons.

Although not every family in western Massachusetts, Vermont, or Maine is included in these series, these sources should be consulted. If you don't locate your ancestors in them, you might discover other sources to check for your research.

New York

In New York State, where the registration of vital records did not begin until 1881, finding documentation of births, marriages, and deaths can be tricky. Censuses from 1850 onwards can provide valuable information—the names of all household members from 1850 and relationships from 1880. (For earlier years connections can be difficult to verify.)

New York study projects and databases can also be useful. Frank Doherty's thirteen-volume series *The Settlers of the Beekman Patent* (available on AmericanAncestors.org), contains genealogies of the early inhabitants of Dutchess County's Beekman Patent, including many families that migrated into that area from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Particularly valuable to *Mayflower* researchers is a section at the end of each surname sketch that lists “Other and Unplaced” individuals who appear throughout the state.

Another AmericanAncestors.org database, *New York: Abstracts of Wills, Admins. and Guardianships, 1787–1835*, is helpful in placing family members in New York. Created from the Eardeley Genealogy Collection at the Brooklyn Historical Society, this database contains abstracts of estates in 52 (of 62) New York counties. Included in these records are family relationships and witnesses.

Nova Scotia/New Brunswick

Some *Mayflower* descendants moved to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. An essential resource is *Planters and Pioneers* (rev. ed. 1982) by Esther Clark Wright, which covers more than 4,000 heads of households who moved to Atlantic Canada between 1749 and 1775. The volume includes births and



The Pilgrim procession—a scene daily enacted during the Plymouth tercentenary. Plymouth, Mass. Postcard ca. 1898–1931. From the New York Public Library Digital Collections.

deaths, as well as spouses, parents, and children, if available.

New Englanders in Nova Scotia, a manuscript collection compiled by Fred E. Crowell, contains genealogical articles and research material on 48,165 names from more than 650 families of New England Planters and Loyalists who settled in Nova Scotia beginning in 1759. The collection is available on microfilm and as a database on AmericanAncestors.org.

Peter Wilson Coldham's *American Loyalist Claims* (1980) is sometimes overlooked by researchers of Canadian *Mayflower* connections. Although the claims primarily focus on property lost by Loyalists during the American Revolution, some entries also name wives, children, extended family members, and places of origin. This information can provide more evidence for generations that follow those covered in the *Mayflower Families* volumes.

Generation 10+:
Prove with modern vital records

Depending on the age and length of the generations in your line,

Generation 10 is approximately the point at which documentation and verification becomes easier. From this generation forward, you will likely be able to use birth, marriage, and death records created by a civil authority.

The location, availability, and accessibility of vital records vary from state to state, so check what you have at home or ask family members for copies of these more modern records. And, if the records are not in your possession, contact a local town, city, or county clerk. For information about New England records, consult *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed. (NEHGS, 2012). For vital records outside New England, consult the Family Search Wiki, at familysearch.org/wiki.

Each state has specific procedures for vital records requests. A state may require a copy of the applicant's photo identification, a return envelope, a written request, or a signed application. Payment methods likewise vary by state. Be sure to learn and adhere to all requirements before submitting an application.

Due to privacy restrictions on sensitive information (including social security number or cause of death), certified copies of some vital records may be unavailable. In this case, a non-certified "informational" or "genealogical" copy may be offered at a lesser charge.

Fully proving a *Mayflower* line can be a daunting endeavor, as you will likely face locating documentation for twelve to fourteen generations in total. But taken one step at a time—beginning with your own generation and working back—the process can be satisfying and rewarding. If you succeed, you can join the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (themayflowersociety.org). You will also have documented your lineage for your family and future generations, and when 2020 arrives you will have conclusively established your *Mayflower* credentials! ♦

A checklist of vital record alternatives for proving *Mayflower* ancestry

Rarely can researchers document their lines of descent using only vital records. Therefore, using alternative records or secondary sources to prove the connection between generations is essential.

Bible records: Although family Bible records don't exist for many families, they can be of great help when available. To locate a Bible record specific to your ancestors, contact the local historical societies, archives, and genealogical societies that might be associated with the family. Large collections of Bible records are also held at NEHGS, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and other repositories. Revolutionary War and War of 1812 pensions can contain original Bible records. You can also search for Bible manuscripts on the free database ArchiveGrid (beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid).

Census records: Before 1850, only heads of household were named in U.S. federal censuses, and other household members were designated by tally marks according to age and gender. From 1850, censuses name each member of a household; from 1880 U.S. federal census records state the relationship of each household member to its head. Family Search, American Ancestors, and Ancestry.com have searchable collections of U.S. federal censuses from 1790 to 1940. Some state census records are also available.

Cemetery records/inscriptions: Gravestone inscriptions can be used not only for births and deaths, but also for evidence of relationships. Look for close relatives in the same plot as your ancestor, and read cemetery markers for biographical information such as a maiden names, spouses, and places of birth. National cemetery databases include Find A Grave, grave-records.mooseroots.com, BillionGraves, and Interment.net. Also look for regional cemetery data on sites such as CapeCodGravestones.com and the Maine Old Cemetery Association (moca-me.org).

Probate Records: Probate files, such as wills and guardianships, often reveal much about the deceased—as well as the names of heirs (usually a spouse, children, grandchildren, or siblings). NEHGS maintains a large collection of New England and Atlantic Canada probate records on microfilm and offers Massachusetts probate file papers (by county) on AmericanAncestors.org. Other U.S. town and county probates are available at town and county offices and on FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com.

Deeds: Land records sometimes identify specific relationships between grantor (seller) and grantee (purchaser). Also, when married men sold property, the records often listed

the first name of the grantor's wife. Most deeds for New England states are available on microfilm at NEHGS, and FamilySearch.org has many U.S. land records, including Massachusetts Land Records, 1620–1986.

DNA: DNA evidence can be used to corroborate lineage, but cannot be used as sole proof for a lineage society application. DNA testing with companies such as 23andme, Ancestry.com, and Family Tree DNA can also lead you to distant cousins who may have more knowledge about your shared lines.

Local histories and well-documented genealogies: Although local histories and genealogies are typically not accepted by lineage societies as the lone source connecting two generations, properly cited sources can provide supplemental proof. If you use a published source for your lineage application, always include a photocopy of the title page. You can use the online NEHGS library catalog to identify published genealogies. Several free sites have digitized out-of-copyright (generally pre-1922) published genealogies and local histories, including Internet Archive, Google Books, Hathi Trust, and Family History Books (books.familysearch.org). You can borrow post-1922 genealogies for free at Internet Archive through Open Library—just remember to digitally return your book when you are finished.

Military pensions: Pension records often provide specific genealogical information about a soldier (as well as other family members), including dates and places of birth, marriage, and death. Fold3, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com have searchable/browseable collections of Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, and the Spanish-American War pension files and indexes.

Obituaries: In addition to providing facts about the deceased, obituaries regularly identify names of immediate (and sometimes extended) family members. Occasionally death notices will state that the deceased was a native of a particular place. Large collections of digitized historic newspapers are available at subscription sites, such as GenealogyBank.com, NewspaperArchive.com, or Newspapers.com, and free sites, like Google News Archive, Elephind.com, and Chronicling America (chroniclingamerica.loc.gov).

Above: "The Gurnet Light from Burial Hill," Plymouth. Mayflower Memories of Old Plymouth by Louis K. Harlow (L. Prang & Co., 1889). New York Public Library Digital Collections.



Getting Started with Your Family History

Maybe you want to find out about your family history. Maybe you want to learn the identity of your ancestors and find out where they lived and what they did for a living. Or maybe your family lore includes stories of a *Mayflower* passenger or an ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War or the Civil War. Perhaps your ancestor immigrated through Ellis Island. Curiosity, lineage, and medical history are all common reasons to take up genealogy.

Five Steps to Researching Your Family History

STEP 1 – Identify What You Know

Begin your family history by writing down what you know onto a standard form. There's a multi-generational **Family Chart** printed for you to use in this packet. If the *first rule of genealogy* is to work from the known to the unknown. The *second rule of genealogy* is to **Write Down** the information that you learn and the SOURCES you use, whether you are successful in finding information there or not. Capture key pieces of genealogical information, names, relationships, dates, and places of birth, marriage and death. Talk to relatives: what do they know?

STEP 2 – Decide What You Want to Learn

Review what you have compiled and determine what information is missing. What individuals or families intrigue you the most? Make a list of the missing pieces and choose a few goals or questions to research. Focus on one genealogical question at a time – multi-tasking while doing genealogy leads to confusion and potentially errors.

STEP 3 – Identify and Locate Your Sources

Options for finding genealogical information exist on the web, in libraries, court houses, town halls, churches and at home. Start with your family.

Information Needed	Search These First	Search These Next
Age	Censuses, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation Records
Birth date and place	Vital Records	Cemeteries, Newspapers, Censuses
Country of foreign birth	Naturalization Records, Vital Records, Censuses	Military Records, Newspapers
Death date and place	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Newspapers	Bible Records, Military Records
Foreign birth location	Vital Records, Genealogies, Biographies, Naturalization, Immigration, Censuses	Newspapers, History, Emigration and Immigration Records
Immigration date	Censuses, Immigration, Naturalization	Newspapers, Biographies
Maiden name	Vital Records, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records
Marriage date and place	Vital Records, Censuses, Newspapers	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization, Land Records
Parents' names	Vital Records, Censuses, Probate Records, Newspapers, Published Genealogies	Emigration Records
Places family has lived	Censuses, Land Records, Local Histories, Directories	Military Records, Taxation Records, Obituaries

STEP 4 – Research

Systematically go through your list of research questions, finding and recording your information. Keep in mind the second rule of genealogy – **Write it Down** – which includes writing down where you found the information. A date or name without a source is merely hearsay rather than information. Consult multiple sources while collecting as many records about a family or individual as you can.

STEP 5 – Analyze

Don't just read; **evaluate**. Who provided the information for the record? Was the informant a participant in the event (e.g. bride and groom for a marriage record) or someone else (e.g. spouse or undertaker for a death record)? How long after the event was the information provided? What new questions arise? Take this information into account to keep your family history data accurate and concise.

Introduction

Family history research is one of the most popular hobbies in the world. The expert staff at American Ancestors has compiled the following list of tips to help you advance your research and avoid some common pitfalls you may encounter. These tips offer a road map for beginners and a valuable reminder for more experienced researchers.

1. Start from the Known and Work from the Unknown

It can be easy to get ahead of yourself and make assumptions. You may find that a “unique” family name is not so unique after all and that many people shared the same name in the same place at the same time. To avoid accidentally attaching the wrong person to your family tree, start with what you know and work backwards generation by generation.

Suggestions

- Interview your closest family members and write down what is known about the family.
- Start searching for the family in vital records and census records on websites like American Ancestors, FamilySearch, Ancestry, etc.

2. Seek Out the Original Vital Record (Where Available)

Don't rely solely on transcripts, abstracts, or write-ups in published genealogies. The original record may provide more information! Also, indexes to vital records (including those you search on genealogy websites like FamilySearch, Ancestry, and others) may not include all fields on the original vital record. Indexes may also include transcription errors.

Suggestion

- Consult the Center for Disease Control (CDC) webpage that provides contact information and guidelines for requesting vital records across the United States and territories.

American Ancestors	
A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture	
Search Events Join Give	
Providence, RI: Alphabetical Index of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1931-1940	
Page 25	of 448
Download Print Current View	
FROM 1931 TO 1935 INCLUSIVE	25
Baxter Mary wid of Hugh 77 yrs Oct 25 1934.....	33: 329
Baxter Mary A of Patrick and Ann 78 yrs Mar 13 1933.....	33: 37
Baxter Walter T of Robert and Isabella 48 yrs Feb 1 1932.....	33: 215

The first entry for Mary Baxter in this transcription lists her as the widow of Hugh and that she died on 25 Oct. 1934 with the volume and page # for the corresponding record in the Providence, Rhode Island, vital records. (Source: AmericanAncestors.org)

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION	
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
1. PLACE OF DEATH	City or Town Providence St. No. 138 Hope St. Health Sanit. Annex
Length of residence in city or town	10 years
2. FULL NAME	Mary N. Baxter
(a) Residence	Providence
City or Town	State and No. 417 Waybosset St.
(b) Place of birth	(Name of city and State)
3. SEX	Female
4. COLOR OR RACE	white
5. MARRIED, MARRIED, WIDOWED, DIVORCED, SEPARATED	WIDOWED
6. If married, widow of (full maiden name)	Hugh Baxter
7. If still living, name of last husband	
8. AGE	77
9. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year)	
10. IF STILL LIVING, name of last born	
11. DATE OF DEATH	October 25, 1934
12. BURIAL PLACE (city or town)	St. Cavan
13. NAME	James McCaffrey
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town)	Co. Cavan, Ireland
15. MAIDEN NAME (full name)	Mary
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town)	Co. Cavan, Ireland
17. INFORMANT	Road Clinician
18. SIGNATURE	TB Hogan St. Prov. R.I.
19. Signature of	Priest
20. FATHER'S SIGNATURE	James McCaffrey & Todd
21. MOTHER'S SIGNATURE	
22. MARRIAGE	
23. DEATH DUE TO (check one)	
24. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
25. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
26. RESIDENCE CITY OR TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE	Providence, R.I.
27. SPECIFY WHETHER DEATH OCCURRED IN INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR IN PRIVATE HOME	
28. MANNER OF DEATH	Home
29. DATE OF DEATH	
30. WHERE BORN	Co. Cavan, Ireland
31. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
32. DEATH DUE TO (check one)	
33. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
34. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
35. RESIDENCE CITY OR TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE	Providence, R.I.
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40. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
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48. WHERE BORN	Co. Cavan, Ireland
49. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
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51. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
52. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
53. RESIDENCE CITY OR TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE	Providence, R.I.
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55. MANNER OF DEATH	Home
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73. MANNER OF DEATH	Home
74. DATE OF DEATH	
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76. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
77. DEATH DUE TO (check one)	
78. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
79. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
80. RESIDENCE CITY OR TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE	Providence, R.I.
81. SPECIFY WHETHER DEATH OCCURRED IN INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR IN PRIVATE HOME	
82. MANNER OF DEATH	Home
83. DATE OF DEATH	
84. WHERE BORN	Co. Cavan, Ireland
85. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
86. DEATH DUE TO (check one)	
87. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
88. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
89. RESIDENCE CITY OR TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE	Providence, R.I.
90. SPECIFY WHETHER DEATH OCCURRED IN INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR IN PRIVATE HOME	
91. MANNER OF DEATH	Home
92. DATE OF DEATH	
93. WHERE BORN	Co. Cavan, Ireland
94. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
95. DEATH DUE TO (check one)	
96. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
97. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
98. RESIDENCE CITY OR TOWN, COUNTY, AND STATE	Providence, R.I.
99. SPECIFY WHETHER DEATH OCCURRED IN INDUSTRY, BUSINESS, OR IN PRIVATE HOME	
100. MANNER OF DEATH	Home
101. DATE OF DEATH	
102. WHERE BORN	Co. Cavan, Ireland
103. WHERE DECEASED	Providence, R.I.
104. DEATH DUE TO (check one)	
105. ACCIDENT, SUICIDE, OR HOMICIDE	
106. WHERE DID DEATH OCCUR?	Home
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3. Seek Out Alternative Records When a Record Does Not Exist

Not all records for all time periods survived, or they may never have existed. Many states, for example, didn't start recording vital records until the late nineteenth century.

Suggestions

- If no civil vital records exist, look for alternatives in church records, military records, or employee records.
- If probate records are not available, look for a notice in the newspaper about the estate, land deeds, or tax records.

4. Record Women in Your Family Tree with Their Maiden Name

Many women in our families went by different names within their lifetime: maiden name, married name, second married name, etc. Be consistent and record your female ancestor in your family tree by her maiden name. Searching by the maiden name of your female ancestor will also return relevant hints on online genealogy sites like American Ancestors, Ancestry, FamilySearch, etc.

Suggestion

- If a maiden name is not yet known, leave the surname blank or add five dashes (ex. -----).

5. Search by How a Name Sounds

Standardized spelling was not common in genealogical records before the 20th century. You may even find that a surname is spelled several different ways in the same document!

Suggestion

- Seek out records using variants of the name based on what the person may have heard.
- When searching online, use wildcards. You can use the asterisk (*) to stand in for multiple characters or a question mark (?) for one character. For example:

Wood* will return results for Wood, Woods, Woodward, Woodbury, and more.

Hans? will return results for Hansen, Hanson, etc.

6. Use the FamilySearch Research Wiki to Learn How to Do Genealogy for a New Location

There are hundreds of thousands of articles on how to do research on various geographical areas, record types, and other genealogical topics. Each page includes a list of topics per location with links to relevant databases available online. For non-digitized content, contact information for key repositories is often included.

Suggestions

- Use the provided charts on each page to learn when major record sets start (vital records, probate, land, etc.).
- Be sure to note any record loss (if known).

This is a sample page from the FamilySearch wiki highlighting resources on genealogy in Spain.

Spain Genealogy

Europe → Spain
Guide to Spain ancestry, family history and genealogy: parish registers, transcripts, census records, birth records, marriage records, and death records.

Country Information [edit | edit source]
Spain is a country in Southwest Europe bordered by Gibraltar, France, Andorra, and Portugal. Spanish is the official language.^[1]

Spain Online Genealogy Records **Online Research Help** **Getting Started**

Spain Map [edit | edit source]



Spain Wiki Topics

- Getting Started
- Online Learning
- Record Finder
- Research Strategies

Record Types

- Cemetery
- Census
- Church Directories
- Church Records
- Civil Registration
- Heraldry
- Jewish Records
- Military Records
- Newspapers
- Nobility
- Notarial Records



7. Use a Research Log to Track Your Progress

Research logs are an important organizational tool that allow you to note what you find (and don't find) with a citation back to the sources you reviewed. Your research log should include an objective of what you're looking for, the names searched (including variants), dates searched, the sources searched, and your findings. Capturing a detailed citation in your research log will help you pick up where you left off, not duplicate your efforts, and stay on track.

Suggestion

- Download [research templates](#) (including research logs) from AmericanAncestors.org.

8. Don't Restrict Your Research to Your Direct Ancestors

It can be tempting to only research your direct ancestors, however, you may run into brick walls and be unable to go back further in time. By researching siblings and other extended family members, you can identify additional records that may identify parentage, origins, and more. Family frequently interacted with each other in formal documents including church records, land deeds, probate, and more.

Suggestion

- Search for the vital records for the siblings of your ancestors. Do they provide more information about their parents or family than your direct ancestor's record?

9. Verify "Family Lore" with Original Documents Where Possible

Family stories are a form of the "telephone game" where the original facts may be lost or enhanced to tell a more intriguing tale. For example, you may have a story about the immigration of your ancestor to the United States and the journey they took. Searching for a passenger list record may help you identify if the story was true.

Suggestion

- Prove—or disprove—details of the story by using original records.

10. Be Wary of Online Trees, Especially Those with Few or No Sources Included

Without the sources to verify the facts, we do not know if the creator of these trees has verified that the information is correct. Many users on popular websites like Ancestry.com copy trees from other users. This is how mistakes can spread online.

Suggestion

- Before accepting a "hint" on a website, verify the information is correct by reviewing the original record that is attached or referenced. Sometimes this involves seeking out the original record on another website or at another repository like a genealogical library or local archives.



11. Remember Not Everything Is Online

Seek out other repositories like historical societies, genealogical libraries, and other archives. Many materials that are not digitized include manuscripts (unpublished materials) that may include family papers, compiled histories and genealogies of a family or town, records for governmental and private agencies, and more.

Suggestions

- Use websites like [Worldcat](#) and [ArchiveGrid](#) to locate books, periodicals, and manuscripts in repositories around the world.
- Your local library may have an inter-library program to receive books from other circulating libraries.

12. Keep Up to Date with Genealogical Journals

Genealogical journals will include the latest scholarship on families and geographic areas that you may be researching.

Suggestion

- [AmericanAncestors.org](#) has digitized and made searchable several journals and periodicals including the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *The American Genealogist*, *The Virginia Genealogist*, and more!

The Staffordshire Origins of Daniel¹ Clark of Windsor, Connecticut, and His Cousin Daniel¹ Clark of Westchester, New York: A Proposed Pedigree

Clifford L. Stott

Rev. Sabbath Clark (ca. 1588–1663), the Puritan vicar of Tarvin, Cheshire, was the father of two American immigrants. Josias Clark (1622–1694) was a preacher who came to Boston, New York, and Jamaica, but returned to England, where he died with no known offspring. His brother Daniel Clark (1623–1710) was a prominent early settler of Windsor, Connecticut, who remained in America and became the forebear of a large posterity.¹⁰ Sabbath Clark's wife was Elizabeth Overton, daughter of Rev. Valentine Overton, rector of Bedworth, Warwickshire.¹¹ Sabbath was not the only Clark to marry a daughter of Valentine Overton. Rev. Samuel Clark, another Puritan minister, married Valentine's daughter Katherine. Besides their common surnames and identical father-in-law, Sabbath and Samuel were both devout Puritans and lecturers in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry at the time of their marriages. It has long been claimed that Sabbath and Samuel were more than brothers-in-law.

—A “solution” to their relationship has been in print for many years and has been widely accepted. As early as 1862, the 4th edition of Burke’s *Landed Gentry* asserted that Rev. Sabbath Clark was a son of Joseph Clark, who was baptized in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, on 31 August 1539, the son of another Joseph. Rev. Samuel Clark was said to be a son of Rev. Hugh Clark, who was a brother of Sabbath, making Sabbath both the brother-in-law and uncle of Samuel.¹² However, this rendering of the earlier Clark pedigree suffers from a misreading of the parish register. A careful reading found that the child born in 1539 was John Clark, son of John, and there is no evidence to support the idea that John (or Joseph) was the father of Sabbath and Hugh. There is in fact evidence to the contrary.

The most likely source of Burke’s pedigree was the work of Yorkshire historian Joseph Hunter (1783–1861), whose *Familiae Minorum Gentium* has

¹ Rev. Sabbath Clark and his family are treated in Clifford L. Stott, “The Higginson Family of Berkswell, Warwickshire, and Its American Descendants,” *Register* 172 (2012):179–182. See also Robert Charles Anderson, *Puritan Pedigree: The Deep Roots of the Great Migration to New England* (Baltimore: Negen, 2011), 16–122.

² The Overton ancestry was explored in Clifford L. Stott, “In Search of ‘Mc’Overton,” *Register* 173 (2013):221–236, 323–331; 173 (2013):92–93.

³ Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland*, 6th ed. (London: Harrison, 1862), 249.

⁴ *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 173 (Summer 2013):208–219 (Part 1).

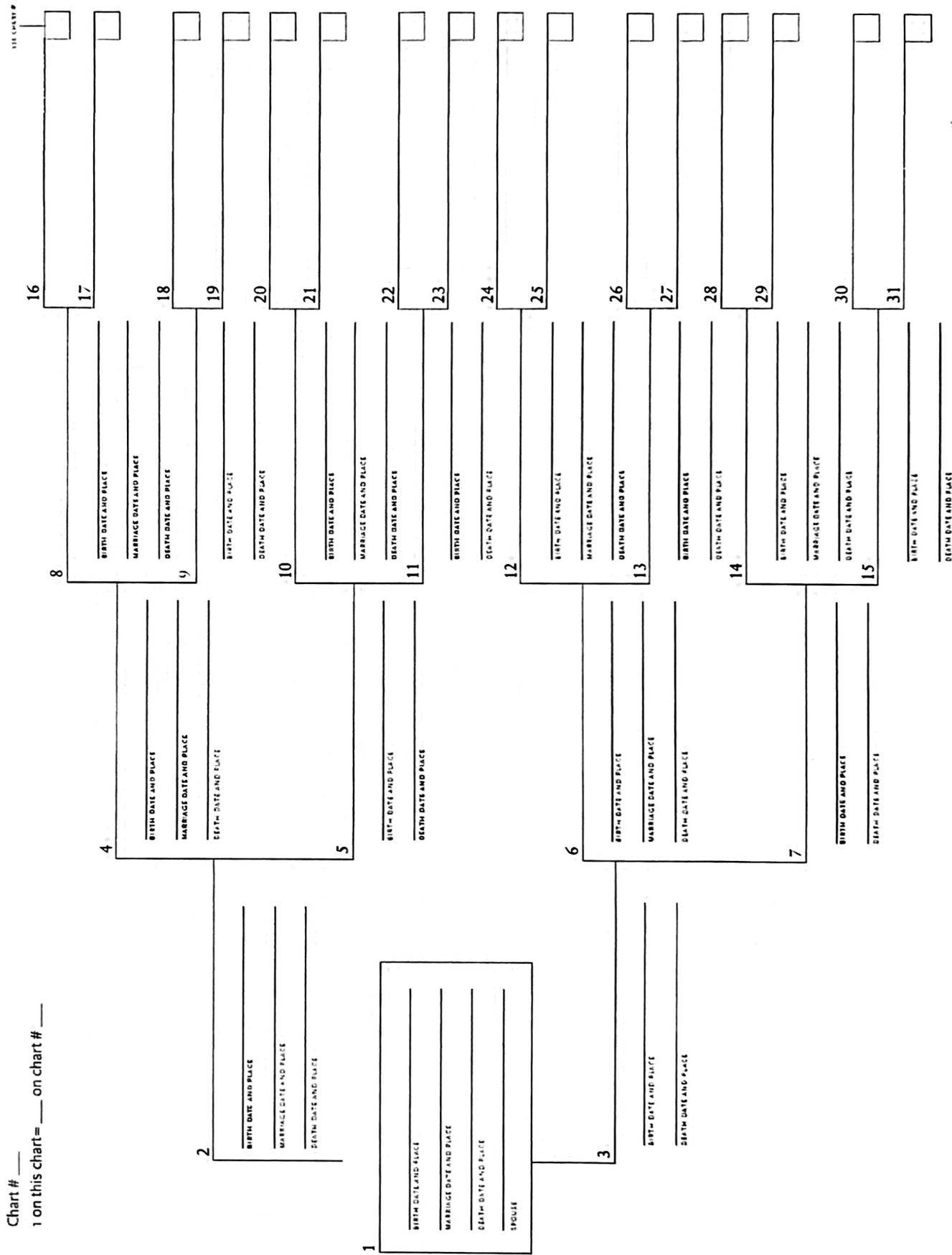
Article from the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*



American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Chart # ____
on this chart = ____ on chart # ____





American Ancestors

by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Research Log

Repository:

Date:

THE PORTABLE GENEALOGIST

Organizing Your Research

By Rhonda R. McClure, Genealogist at NEHGS

Introduction

For many genealogists, “organization” can be a dirty word. The very thought of having to organize all that research—all those paper and computer files—makes them shudder. No matter how monumental the task may seem, a systematic method saves valuable time and creates more accurate work.

This Portable Genealogist will offer practical advice on how to organize your research and files, keep track of families, and create goals to guide future research. Even if you are a seasoned family historian, it’s not too late to incorporate these practices into your work. The result will be a time-saving system that makes sharing information easier.

Organization Basics

Even though specialized computer programs and online family trees help organize your findings and keep your research on track, you still need to understand the basics of research methodology and organization to ensure your research is as thorough, accurate, and efficient as possible. There is no one way to organize your research, but there are some governing principles:

- ✓ Use an organization system you can maintain
- ✓ Consistency is key
- ✓ Leave a paper trail

Choosing an organization system

Your organization should be both effective and efficient. An overly complicated procedure with color coding, unique document number assignment, alphabetizing, and topical cataloging may get in the way of your actual research. You want a system that’s easy to implement and maintain and one that someone else can easily decipher.

Maintaining consistency

Be consistent about your organization system and in your method of reporting and note taking.

Some suggestions:

- Always list a woman by her maiden name.
- List place names in order from smallest to largest jurisdiction (town/parish, county/shire, state/province, country).
- Use the date system DD-MMM-YYYY (day, first three letters of the month, and complete year).
- For consistent documentation, keep a running list of sources with your abbreviations.

Leaving a paper trail

Computer filing is great, but who knows whether future family recordkeepers will be able to access your research? Build a contingency plan into your routine organization with paper filing. Your descendants will thank you!

TOPICS

- Organization basics
- Keeping track of families
- Research logs
- Preparing for future research
- Filing

NEHGS TIPS

Genealogical software can do a lot to help you conduct, organize, and share your research. If you’re in the market for a new program, view a list of suggested software and consult a feature comparison chart at our online Learning Center at AmericanAncestors.org.

Tracking Families

There are two common forms used in organizing and tracking families: family group sheets and multi-generational charts. While most genealogy software programs allow you to export your findings in these forms, it is important to understand how each works and how they can be organized to best support future research.

Family Group Sheet

A family group sheet provides a snapshot of each nuclear family and records pertinent information about each family member. This information may include:

- *For father and mother:* given and last name(s); birth, death, and marriage date and place; parents' names; other marriages
- *For children:* sex, given and last name(s); birth, death, and marriage date and place; spouse's name

How to organize: File or arrange sheets alphabetically by the surname of the head of household.

Multi-Generational Chart

Sometimes called a "Pedigree Chart," this family tracking tool provides a road map of your ancestors and includes basic information about each couple: full name and date and place of birth, death, and marriage. Each person on the chart receives a number. The subject of the chart is number 1; the subject's father is 2, the mother is 3; the father's father is 4, the father's mother is 5; etc. Each chart is assigned a number and cross-referenced to connect charts and generations. Thus, every ancestor receives a unique number that can be used as shorthand or for filing. E.g., 3:6 refers to chart number 3, person number 6.

How to organize: Arrange by chart number.

NEHGS TIPS

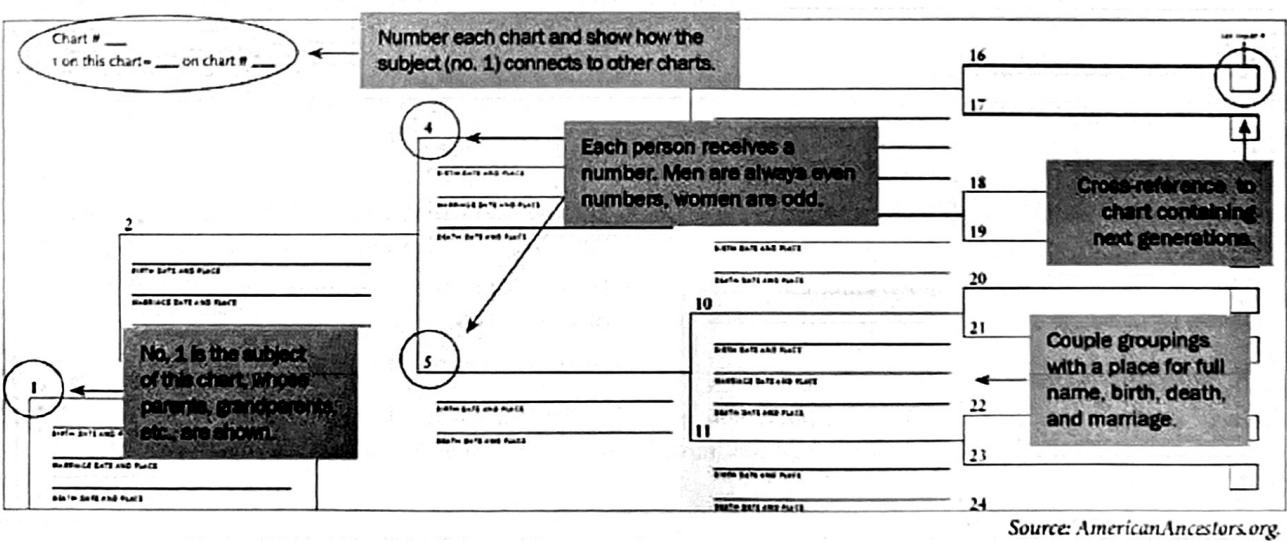
A family group sheet and five-generation chart template is available at AmericanAncestors.org.

Example: Family group sheet

Father		Mother		Child #1	
Given Name(s)		Given Name(s)		Given Name(s)	
Born	Place	Born	Place	Born	Place
Died	Place	Died	Place	Died	Place
Married		Married		Married	
Father's Father first middle last		Mother's Mother first middle maiden		Spouse first middle last	
Father's Mother first middle maiden		Other Marriages first middle last		Other Marriages first middle last	

Source: AmericanAncestors.org.

Example: Multi-generational chart



Source: AmericanAncestors.org.

Research Logs

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



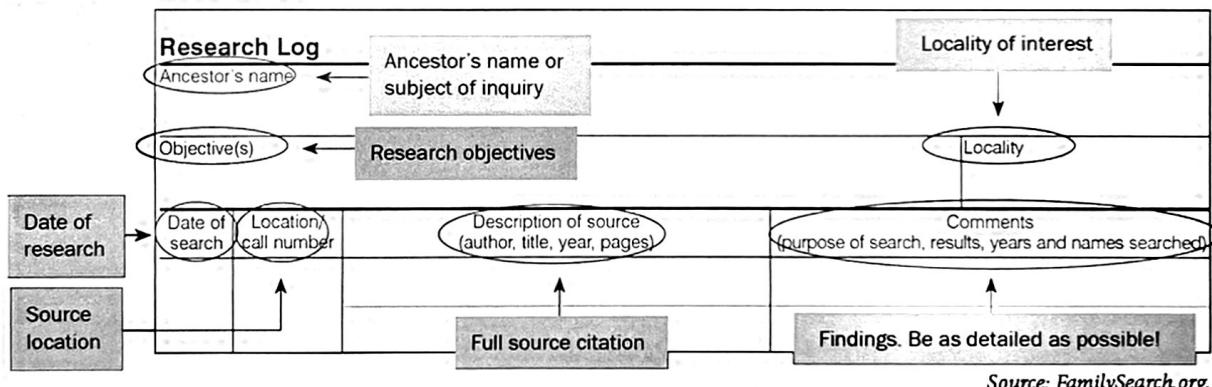
Design your own research log using Microsoft Word or download a template available at FamilySearch.org and AmericanAncestors.org.

Create a log(s) for each ancestor, town, and/or topic you are investigating. Consider including the following:

- *Subject of inquiry:* A specific ancestor, ancestral town, or historical topic.
- *Objective(s):* As general as “find data on this person” or as detailed as “find where he was living in 1865.”
- *Date of research:* The full date you researched this item of source.
- *Repository:* Where you found the data. The repository may be the only place the record exists.
- *Call number:* If applicable, the library call number. This will save you time if you need to revisit the source.
- *Source:* All the information needed to properly cite your source (author/editor, full title, place of publisher, publisher name, copyright, pages, URL, etc.). For microfilmed records, include the year range, volume, and any other identifying information.
- *Comments or results:* All positive and negative evidence (i.e. what you did find, just as important, did *not* find).
- *Document number:* If applicable to your filing system (i.e., if each piece of paper receives a unique number).

How to organize: File or arrange chronologically by your date of research or alphabetically by ancestor.

Example: Research Log



Source: FamilySearch.org.

Planning Future Research

All gaps in your research can be phrased as a question: When was my ancestor born? Where is she buried? Did she have a will? The one constant in genealogical research is that when one question is answered, four more emerge. The trick is to record the questions at the time they come up. You can do this in a number of ways.

- *Spreadsheet:* Using Microsoft Excel or another spreadsheet program, keep a running master list of questions. In addition to the question or task, include columns for the date the questions arose, the relevant surname, ancestor, possible repository where you might find the answer, the result, and when it was answered. A spreadsheet allows you to sort your list by data column, making it easy to arrange your list by answered and unanswered questions, surname, repository, etc. This tool can help you plan research trips and know where gaps are.
- *Genealogical software:* Most family tree software allows you to add free-form text to each entry, sometimes called “task list” or “to-do items.” Add questions that arise about a certain person.
- *Notebook:* Even if you don’t have your computer handy, make sure your notebook is!



Consolidate your research questions. You may be anywhere, doing anything, when a question pops into your head. Record it as you can and add it to a master list.

Filing

Even with a genealogical software program, you most likely still have loose-leaf papers, copies of records, research requests, correspondence, original documents or pictures, and handwritten notes. Whether maintaining computer files, paper files, or both, you'll need to develop an organization system that finds a proper home for all these materials.



The suggested filing systems below are just two options. Many others can be found within the Recommended Resources on this page.

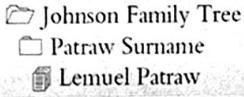
Paper Filing

Adapted from a BYU family history course, the family folder system creates a file folder for each couple on your multi-generation chart. The same filing structure can be applied electronically with scans of each document.

- Step 1** Create a folder for each couple on your multi-generational chart. File alphabetically by the name of the husband or arrange the folders by the husband's unique identifying number. (E.g., if the husband is chart 3, number 6 [3:6], then he would be filed after the man who is chart 3, number 4 [3:4].)
- Step 2** Number each document within the folder. Create a list of each document number within the folder along with its date and a brief summary of its content. Affix this "inventory" to the front of the folder.
- Step 3** Create a research-planning sheet and place at the front of the folder. This sheet should include all information about the individual and where the research gaps lie. Continue to update this form using your research logs.

Computer Filing

When arranging your electronic files, consider the following:

- Step 1** Create a folder tree on your computer with this hierarchy:
Family Tree > Surname > Ancestor.
For example:

 - Johnson Family Tree
 - Patraw Surname
 - Lemuel Patraw
- Step 2** Name all files within the folder using a consistent method that provides detail on the document's content and source.



When naming files, include information about the document's content and source. Example:

Lemuel_patraw_ww1_st_paul_db4.jpg

Lemuel's World War I draft card, registered with St. Paul (Minnesota) Draft Board no. 4.

Recommended Resources

- William Dollarhide, *Managing a Genealogical Project* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988, rpt. 1999)
- Lauren R. Jaussi, *Genealogy Fundamentals* (Orem, Utah: Jaussi Publications, 1995)
- Sharon DeBartolo Carmack *Organizing Your Family History Search* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 1999)
- Katherine Scott Sturdevant, *Organizing & Preserving Your Heirloom Documents* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2002)
- Other Portable Genealogists, especially those on writing: *Building a Genealogical Sketch* and *Genealogical Numbering*, both by Penny Stratton
- NEHGS Online Education Center at AmericanAncestors.org



American Ancestors.
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Family Group Sheet

Write dates as Day, Month, Year
example: 1 Jan 1904

Father

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Married	Place	
Father's Father (first, middle, last)		
Father's Mother (first, middle, maiden)		
Other Marriages (first, middle, last)		

Mother

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Mother's Father (first, middle, last)		
Mother's Mother (first, middle, maiden)		
Other Marriages (first, middle, last)		

Child #1

Sex	Given Name(s)		Last Name
	Born	Place	
	Died	Place	
Spouse (first, middle, last)			
	Married	Place	

Child #2

Sex	Given Name(s)		Last Name
	Born	Place	
	Died	Place	
Spouse (first, middle, last)			
	Married	Place	

Child #3

Sex	Given Name(s)		Last Name
	Born	Place	
	Died	Place	
Spouse (first, middle, last)			
	Married	Place	



Family Group Sheet

Write dates as Day, Month, Year
example: 1 Jan 1904

Father

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Married	Place	
Father's Father (first, middle, last)		
Father's Mother (first, middle, maiden)		
Other Marriages (first, middle, last)		

Mother

Given Name(s)		Last Name
Born	Place	
Died	Place	
Mother's Father (first, middle, last)		
Mother's Mother (first, middle, maiden)		
Other Marriages (first, middle, last)		

Sex	Given Name(s)	Last Name
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Child #1

Born	Place
Died	Place
Spouse (first, middle, last)	
Married	Place

Sex	Given Name(s)	Last Name
-----	---------------	-----------

Child #2

Born	Place
Died	Place
Spouse (first, middle, last)	
Married	Place

Sex	Given Name(s)	Last Name
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Child #3

Born	Place
Died	Place
Spouse (first, middle, last)	
Married	Place