

consistent with one person or multiple people. Include anything in the timeline with associated dates, such as vital events, children’s births, census records, military draft registrations, or naturalizations. Capture information such as location, name variations, and other people mentioned in the record.

Arrange the events chronologically, and consider the person’s age at the time. For example, is a fifty-seven-year-old woman giving birth or a thirteen-year-old boy getting married? Review locations and determine if they are consistent with one person or two. Is a man buying land in South Carolina at the same time he is serving in the Civil War from New York? Recognize patterns of associates, such as John Fitzgerald’s neighbor Patrick O’Grady identified in a deed and then appointed by John as his executor two years later. These are all situations where a timeline can highlight potential identity consistencies or conflicts. Consistency of identity characteristics indicates that the events pertain to one person; conflicts suggest

CENSUS COMPARISON WITH CONFLICTS

	1810	1820	1830	1840
	Barnwell, SC	Barnwell, SC	Barnwell, SC	Barnwell, SC
Head of household	John Easterling male 26-44	John Easterling male 26-44	Jonathan Easterling male 50-59	Jonathan Easterling male 60-69
Oldest female	female 16-25	female 26-44	female 40-49	female 60-69
Other males	2 males under 10	1 male 16-25	1 male 15-19	1 male 20-29
		3 males under 10	3 males 10-14	1 male 5-9
Other females	2 females under 10	1 female 10-15		2 females 15-19
		1 female under 10		
Enslaved			9 enslaved	16 enslaved

Table 3. Census comparison that raises questions: John/Jonathan Easterling

they relate to multiple people. Table 4, a timeline for Alta Jane, suggests that the records pertain to the same person. Despite the various locations, her husband’s name and the names of some of her children are consistent between records. Although she died in Iowa, she was buried in Minnesota, consistent with the location in her son’s military record. Including her children’s birth and marriage records would make the timeline more extensive. These additional details may be helpful if trying to determine which children were associated with multiple spouses, for example.

TIMELINE

Year	Name	Record Type	Location	Information
1857	Alta Jane Darst	Birth Record	Mason Co., VA	Born 29 Jun 1857, female, daughter of David Darst, farmer, and Celesta E.
1883	Alta Durst	Marriage Record	Mason Co., WV	Frank Wilcoxon and Alta Durst of Mason Co., WV, married 18 Nov 1883 at home of Mr. David Durst
1895	Alta Jane Wilcoxon	Church Record	Baden, Mason Co., WV	Benj. Franklin and Alta Jane Wilcoxon baptized on 10 Oct 1895 with their children: Clyde Welby, James Raymond, Sheridan Parker, Hoyt Edgar, Harry Blackburn, Cynthia Elizabeth, and John Royal.
1913	Alta Durst	Marriage Record	Cherokee Co., IA	Daughter Cynthia Wilcoxson married Cecil Wedge. Bride born Mason Co., WV, parents B. F. Wilcoxson and Alta Durst.
1918	Alta Wilcoxon	Military Record	Slayton, Murray Co., MN	Military record database entry for Harry Blackburn Wilcoxon, born 9 Dec 1891 in Baden, WV, child of BF and Alta Wilcoxon. Resided in Slayton, MN.
1927	Alta Jane Wilcoxson	Death Record	Cedar, Cherokee Co., IA	Died 27 Feb 1927, age 69, father David Durst, mother Blackburn, spouse BF Wilcoxson, buried in Slayton, MN.
1927	Alta Jane Durst Wilcoxson	Cemetery	Slayton, Murray Co., MN	Born 29 Jun 1857, died 27 Feb 1927, husband Benjamin Franklin Wilcoxon, parents David Durst and Elizabeth Celeste Blackburn; children Harry Blackburn Wilcoxon, Anna Mabel Wilcoxon Dayton.

Table 4. Timeline for a single identity: Alta Jane