

Doing A Genealogy Research Project

From Start to Finish

Nicole Dyer

FamilyLocket.com

Family Locket



Finding ancestors and keeping them close to the heart

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Tucson Family History Fair

Thank you for coming to our classes! Handouts are available at the [Tucson Family History Center website](#). To view the slides, scroll down to the class materials section.

About Us



Diana Elder, AG and Nicole Dyer are a mother daughter team of professional genealogists who love helping others with genealogy through their free podcast, blog, books, and teaching. They are the authors of *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*, a best seller in the genealogy category on Amazon, and hosts of the free *Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast*.

Diana is an accredited genealogist professional specializing in the gulf-south United States region and is the presentation specialist with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Accredited Genealogists (ICAPGen). Nicole is the publicity chair for the Pima

County Genealogy Society.

Free Weekly Podcast

Diana Elder, AG and Nicole Dyer discuss the *Research Like a Pro* method and how to take your genealogy research to the next level in their weekly podcast, *Research Like a Pro*. Learn about research objectives, analysis, locality research, research planning, source citations, report writing, case studies, and more. To view a list of recent episodes, click here: [Research Like a Pro Podcast recent episodes](#). To receive the weekly episodes, subscribe on iTunes, Stitcher, Google Play, or your favorite podcast app. You can also sign up for our [newsletter](#) to receive notifications of new episodes.

"This is a great podcast for both beginning and experienced genealogists. Beginners can learn the how to do genealogy the right way from the start. I wish this process was around when I started genealogy - I would have saved a lot of time and effort! Experience genealogists will learn something new from the discussion of the various tools and tech that Nicole and Diana use. The other thing I love about this podcast is the quality of the audio. The discussion of the topics is very clear and easy to listen to in the car, and there is no annoying bumper music or other useless content. Highly recommended!" - Bill

Class Materials

We appreciate your attendance and participation. Thank you for coming! Here are our classes:

SEARCH

Enter keywords



Diana Elder, AG®, and Nicole Dyer

We are mother & daughter professional genealogists sharing ideas for finding ancestors and keeping them close to the heart. Check out our ["how to" articles](#) on the blog, then check out our [services page](#) for professional research assistance. We are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. [Read more about us here.](#)

Thanks for visiting!



FamilyLocket.com/Tucson

- Scroll to class materials section to download my slides
- Free podcast and newsletter
- Free cheat sheets

RESEARCH PROJECT TEMPLATE

OBJECTIVE

[Complete name and key identifiers: birth dates, places, or residence]

[Does this question ask for: relationship, identity or activity]

SUMMARY OF KNOWN FACTS

[chronological table of known facts and analysis of sources]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[Create a quick reference guide for the locality or check the FamilySearch Wiki for information on available records, maps, gazetteer, historical facts, etc.]

WORKING HYPOTHESIS

[methodology, clues from the known facts]

IDENTIFIED SOURCES

[use locality guide to identify available sources to search]

Research Project Document

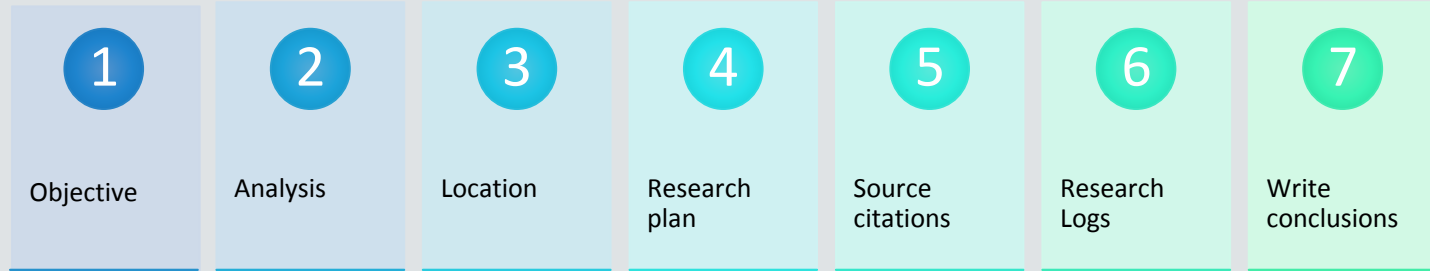
Link in syllabus

<https://familylocket.com/doing-a-genealogy-research-project-from-start-to-finish/>

Form an Objective

Step 1

The Genealogy Research Process



Why do I need a research question or objective?



Focus

Focus your research and identify which records match



Discipline

Discipline yourself to stay on track as you research



Save time

Save yourself time and be productive

Your genealogical questions will generally fit one of the following categories:

Identity	Identify an individual
Relationship	Prove a family relationship
Actions	Discover ancestor actions



Identify an individual

- Who is this ancestor?
- Identity factors: names, vital facts, relationships, residence, military service, occupations

Example of an Identity objective

The objective of this research project is to identify the marriage date and children of Mariah Keaton.

Mariah was the daughter of William Keaton and Katie Gresham, born 27 August 1801 in South Carolina, died 7 July 1886 in Savannah Township, Anderson, South Carolina. Mariah married William Sadler. She is buried in Ruhamah Methodist Church Cemetery, Anderson County.

Prove a Family Relationship



- Discover the parents of a brick wall ancestor
- Find the spouse of an individual
- Locate all of the children of a family

Example of Relationship Objective

Was William Keaton the father of Lucinda Keaton?

Determine if Willam Keaton, born about 1756-1765 and married Katy Gresham in Pendleton, South Carolina, was the father of Lucinda (Keaton) Welch. Lucinda was born about 1805 in South Carolina and married George Welch.



Discover ancestor Actions


- Military service
- Religion
- Community / Government service



Example: Discover Ancestor Actions

Was Moses Isenhour a soldier in the Civil War?

Discover the actions of Moses W. Isenhour prior to and during the Civil War. He was born in 1823 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and died 16 February 1862 in Fort Thompson, Missouri, United States. Moses was the son of John D. Isenhour and Sarah Bailey and married Amanda McKinney 1 October 1846 in Montgomery, Arkansas.



Create an objective with key identifiers

- Complete names: parents, spouse, children; don't need to include all relationships
- Vital information: birth, marriage, death dates and places; can be estimated
- Other information like military service, occupation, and residence need only be used if vital information unknown.



Example without Key Identifiers

John D. Isenhour and Sarah Bailey had three sons who would have been of age to serve in the Civil War. Did any of them serve? For what side? For how long? Where did they serve?



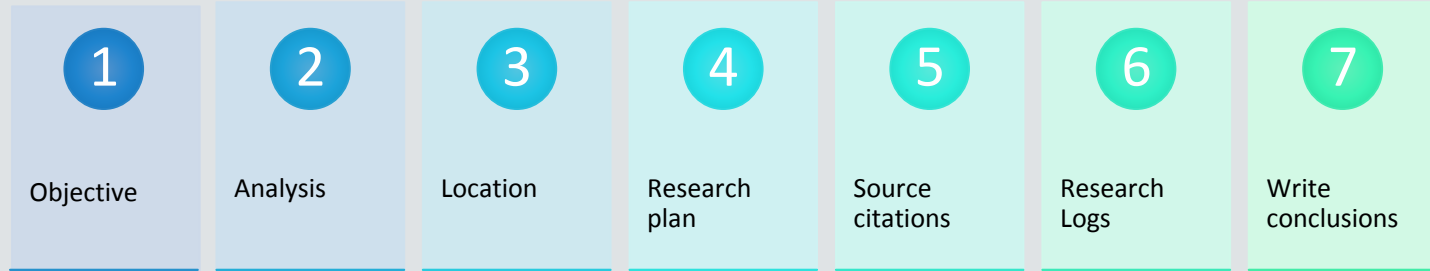
Example with Key Identifiers

The objective for this research project is to discover the Civil War service of Josiah Edmond Isenhour, born 1825 in Missouri and died 13 December 1868 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Josiah was the son of John D. Isenhour and Sarah Bailey.

Analyze What You Already Know

Step 2

The Genealogy Research Process



What do you already know?

Gather your Sources



Create a
Timeline



Check the
Dates



Analyze the
Evidence

Create a Timeline

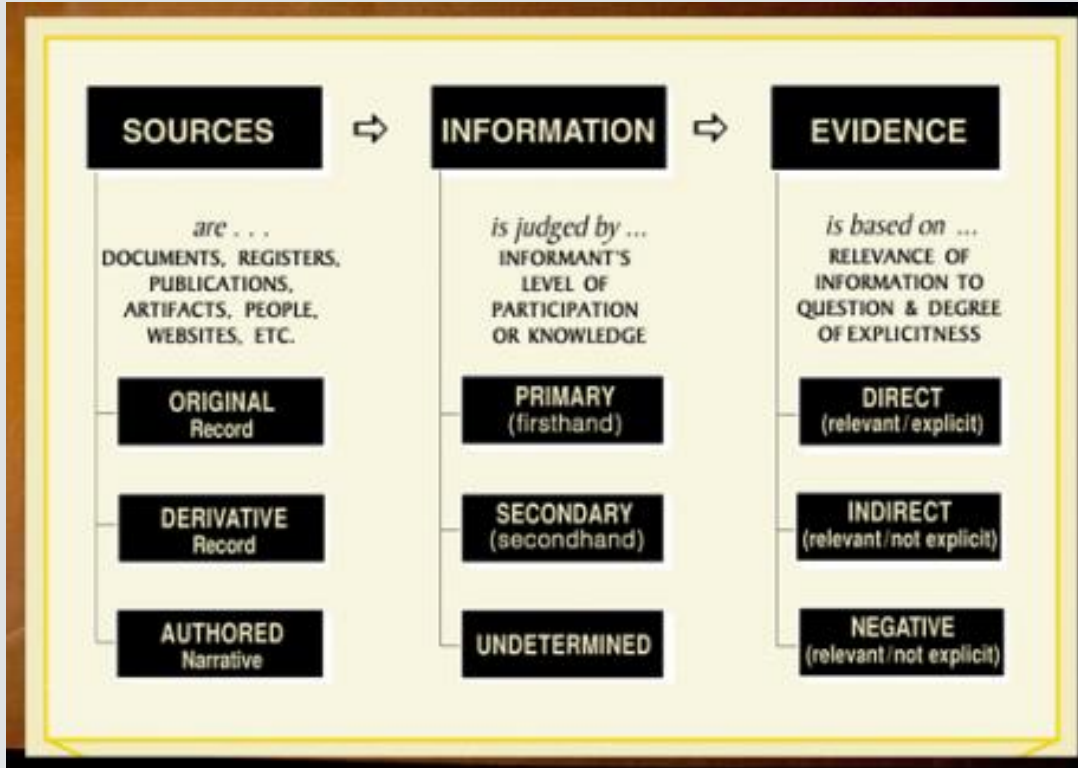
- Create a Google Doc or spreadsheet in Google sheets using appropriate headings
- Assemble your sources: histories, records, personal knowledge, etc.
- Enter information and color code events
- Analyze events looking for new research opportunities
- Make a list of future research suggestions

Event	Date	Place	Source	Authored / Original / Derivative	Primary / Secondary Information	Direct / Indirect Evidence
Birth of Dora Algie Royston	25 or 27 January 1882	Lubbock, Texas	Death Certificate	original	secondary, given by spouse, WH Shults	Direct
Marriage to William Huston Shults	12/11/1898	Pauls Valley, Chickasaw Nation Indian Territory, Southern District, of Elmore City, Indian Territory, now Garvin County Oklahoma	marriage license and certificate lists just Chickasaw nation and "of Elmore," daughter Loraine in personal history gives Pauls Valley as location of marriage	original	primary	direct
Residence	1898	Elmore, IT	Bassett history	authored	secondary	direct
Residence	1900	Township 1S. Ranges 5-6 W Ind Terr. (about 20 miles southwest of Elmore)	1900 Census	original	primary	direct
Move	1900	Maxwell, IT (Pontotoc Co. OK	Loraine Bassett history	authored	secondary	direct
Birth of Robert Cisnie Shults	7/12/1900	? (Ada) according to CLShults history, Maxwell according to Loraine's history	Headstone gives birth date and parents	original	likely primary if parents gave the information	direct
Birth of William Linard Shults	12/8/1901	? (Ada) according to CLShults history, Maxwell according to Loraine's history	Headstone gives birth date and parents	original	likely primary if parents gave the information	direct
Birth of Charles Leslie Shults	5/11/1904	? (Ada) according to CLShults history, Maxwell according to Loraine's history	Delayed birth certificate	original	secondary	direct
Death of Robert and William from pneumonia	3/10/1905	? (Ada) according to CLShults history, Maxwell according to Loraine's history, burial at McGee Cemetery one mile north of Stratford	Headstone gives death date and parents	original	primary	direct
Move to another farm, Ada?	1905/1906	Ada, Dr. Sam Therekill's place?	Bassett history	authored	secondary	direct
Birth of Della Shults	23 Sept 1907	Ada, on Dr. Sam Therekill's place	Death certificate	original	primary, informant her father who would likely have been present at her	direct

Sample Timeline

- Google Sheets
- Excel
- Table in a Document
- Timeline generated by your family tree software

Analyze the Evidence



Elizabeth Shown Mills,
“QuickLesson 17: The Evidence
Analysis Process Map,” *Evidence
Explained.com*
([https://www.evidenceexplained.c
om](https://www.evidenceexplained.com) : accessed 10 September
2017).

Sources: Any material or person that contains genealogical information.



Original Source

The actual document or image of it: censuses, certificates, ships passenger list, etc.



Derivative Source

Indexed or abstracted information created from an original record: indexed marriage collection on FamilySearch, a book listing all the gravesites in a cemetery, an abstract of a will on an online family tree.



Authored Source

An online family tree, a family story, a biographical sketch, a research report, etc.

William Johnston
Of Isle Of Wight County, Virginia
And His Descendants
1648-1964

A Genealogical Study of One Branch
of the Family in the South

By
COY K. JOHNSTON
and
HUGH B. JOHNSTON

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Part I
Johnstons in the Colonial Period

Chapter	Page
1. William Johnston (1648-1719), and branches (not later treated) settling in Southampton and Nansemond Counties (Va.) and in Halifax, Edgecombe, Northampton, Warren, Wake, Johnston, Bladen, Columbus, Bertie, Duplin and Wayne Counties (N. C.)	3
2. Benjamin Johnston, Sr. (1693-1767), and branches (not later treated) settling in Southampton and Isle of Wight Counties (Va.), Nash, Wake and Johnston Counties (N. C.) and in Wilkes and Oglethorpe Counties (Ga.)	29
3. Jacob Johnston, Sr. (1714-1781), of Edgecombe County	45
4. Capt. Nathan Johnston (1738-1807), Revolutionary Patriot and Soldier, of Beaufort District (S. C.)	49
5. Col. Jonas Johnston (1740-1779), Legislator, Patriot and Soldier in the Revolution, of Edgecombe County	56
6. Celia Johnston (1742-1764), of Edgecombe County — wife of Owen Cravey, and their descendants in Sumter and Dallas Counties (Ala.)	77
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8. Col. Amos Johnston (1746-1816), Merchant, Planter and Mill-owner, of Edgecombe County	90

Part II
Descendants of Capt. Nathan Johnston

9. Jordan Johnston (1762-1833), and his descendants (of Alabama, Utah, Idaho and California)	101
10. Capt. Jonas Johnston (1766-1843)	106

Original,
derivative,
or authored
source?

Coy K. Johnston and Hugh B. Johnston, William Johnston of Isle of Wight County, Virginia and his Descendants 1648-1964 (West Hartford, Connecticut : Coy K. Johnston, 1965) p. 12; digital book online, 929.273 J641, FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 19 November 2018).

Original, derivative, or authored source?

“We are well acquainted with Thomas B. Royston. . . Said Royston settled on said quarter prior to January 1837 – that he erected a dwelling house unfinished [sic] in which he has lived and made his home from that time to the year 1840 . . . and was the head of a family having a wife and children”

Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb County) cash entry file, 1842, witness statement, state volume patent no.5969, Lebanon, Alabama, Land Office; Land Entry Papers 1800-1908, Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

State of Alabama, Me and each of us, do
DeKalb County. } solemnly swear that, and
we will be united with Thomas B. Royston, and
also with the last last quarter of section twenty in
township nine of range seven East in the Choctaw Land
District – & that said Royston settled on said
quarter prior to 1 January 1837 – that he erected
a dwelling house unfinished in which he has lived
and made his home from that time to the year
1840, being that time fully to the year 1838 and
that he contracted during that period about sixty
acres of it, & was the head of a family having a
wife and children – We further swear that
no other person was residing on said quarter
during that period except Stephen Shays, who
sold his claim to William C. Smith and received
full pay for it, and undertook to convey title after
he made the entry under the pre. law – and that said
William C. Smith to whom he sold is one of the Affiants.
Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 28th day 1842
J. C. Newman
Notary Public
Wm C. Smith
Jesse Wall

Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb County), witness statement, cash entry file, state volume patent no.5969, Lebanon, Alabama, Land Office; Land Entry Papers 1800-1908, Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Information : The facts found in the source



PRIMARY



SECONDARY



UNDETERMINED
OR UNKNOWN

Information



- Primary information – first hand knowledge
- Secondary information – second hand knowledge
- Undetermined or unknown information – informant unknown

Who is the informant?



- **Undetermined or unknown information:**
- Sometimes it's unclear who is the informant, such as in a census record.
- Not until the 1940 census is the census informant identified.

Evidence: what you pull from the source information to answer your research question.



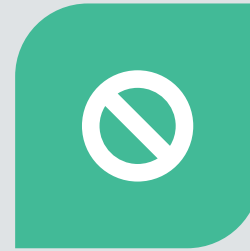
DIRECT EVIDENCE

CLEARLY STATES THE
ANSWER TO A RESEARCH
QUESTION



INDIRECT EVIDENCE

ANSWERS THE RESEARCH
QUESTION WHEN
COMBINED WITH OTHER
EVIDENCE



NEGATIVE EVIDENCE

OCCURS IN THE ABSENCE
OF AN EXPECTED
SITUATION

Indirect Evidence

- The answer to your research question has to be deduced by combining two or more facts.
- A woman listed as the mother-in-law of the head of household in a census record could be deduced to be his wife's mother.

1835 Barrens Parish Census

Comm.	Confir.	Family Members	Age
		# 5. continued	
x	x	Mary RINEY, wife, daughter of Thomas, years	
x	x	LAYTON, John, son, 25 years	
x	x	Appollinaris, son, 18 years	
x	x	Christina, daughter, 17 years	
x	x	Felix Joseph, son 14 years	
x	x	Andrew, son 21 years	
x	x	Marcellus, son, 10 years	
		# 6.	
x	x	John LAYTON, Sr., son of John, 56 years	
x	x	Monica FRENCH, wife, daughter of James, 50 years	
x	x	LAYTON, Louis, son, 24 years	
x	x	Augustine, son, 20 years	
x	x	Mary, daughter, 18 years	
x	x	Amatus Alexander, 13 years	
x	x	Mary Ann FRENCH, sister of Monica, 52 years	
		# 7.	
x	x	Ignatius LAYTON, son of John, 61 years	
x	x	Elizabeth MILES, wife, daughter of Joseph, 53 years, deceased	
x	x	LAYTON, Bede, son, 24 years	
x	x	Rosa Ann, daughter, 23 years	
x	x	Felix Augustine, son, 16 years	
x	x	Vincent, son, 14 years	
x	x	Matilda Amelia, daughter, 12 years	
x	x	Ann Elizabeth, daughter, 8 years	
x		_____, Peter, servant, with the family of Simon DUVALL, 34 years	
		# 8.	
x	x	John BREWER, son of Charles, 32 years	
x	x	Ann HAGAN, wife, daughter of Aquilla, 28 years	
x	x	BREWER, Mathew, son, 14 years	
x	x	Mary, daughter, 13 years	
		Elisabeth, daughter, 10 years	
		Timothy, son, 8 years	
		Charles, son, 6 years	
		Mary, daughter, 5 years	

What indirect evidence is in this census?

- John LAYTON, Sr. son of John, 56 years
- Monica FRENCH, wife, daughter of James, 50 years
- Mary Ann FRENCH, sister of Monica, 52 years

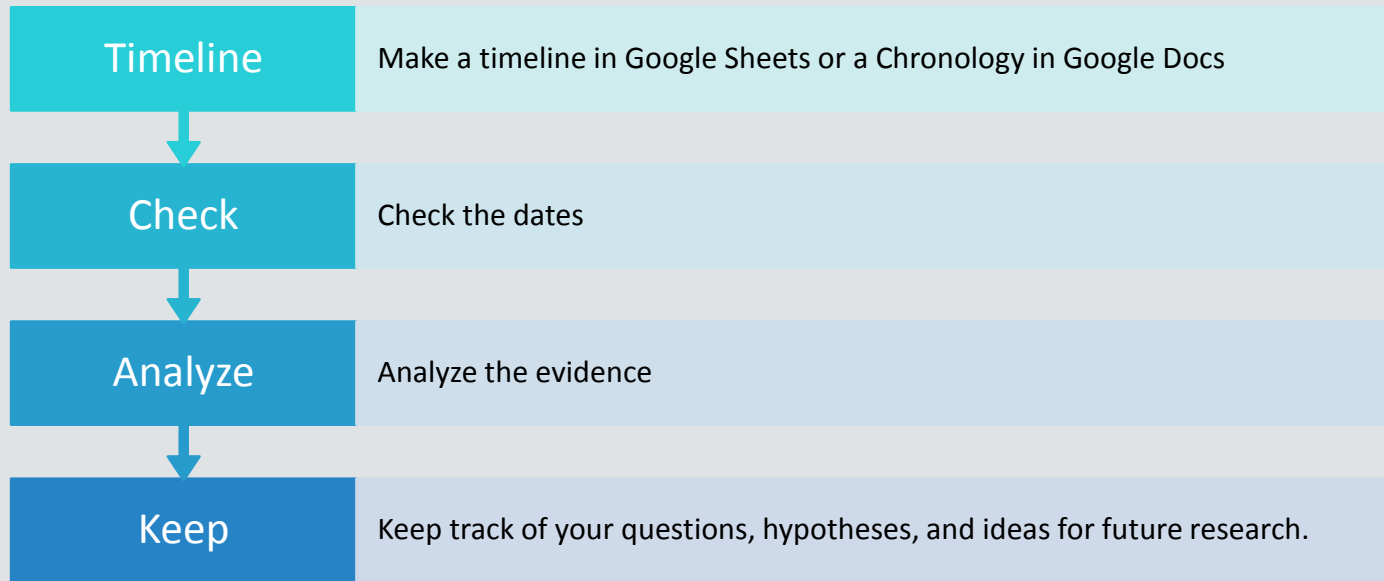
Table 1. Madison County, Kentucky Taxpayers

NAME OF TAXPAYER	YEAR	WHITE TITHABLES	HORSES, MARES, COLTS
Henry Burnem	1789 ¹⁷	1	2
John Burnem	1791 ¹⁸	1	3
Henry Burnem Sr		1	3
Henry Burnem Jr		1	2
Henry Burnum	1792 ¹⁹	1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21	2 mares
John Burnum		1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21	1 black under 21, 1 mare, 1 cattle
Henery Burnham	1794 ²⁰	1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21	2 mares 4 cattle
Henry Burnham	1795 ²¹	1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21	2 mares 5 cattle
Henry Burnham Sr		1 male above 21, 0 16-21	1 mare 6 cattle
Henry Burnum Sr	1796 ²²	1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21	2 mares 4 cattle 100 acres, Kentucky water course, entered and surveyed for Green Clay
Henry Burnum		1 male above 21, 0 16-21	1 mare 6 cattle 100 acres, Kentucky water course, entered and surveyed for Green Clay

Negative Evidence

- occurs in the absence of an expected situation
- what happened to John Burnum?

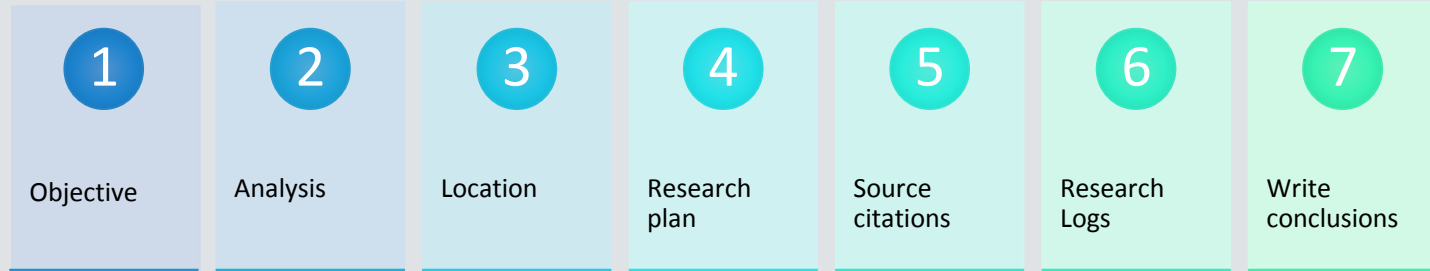
Task



Locality Research

Step 3

The Genealogy Research Process





Benefits of Learning About the Location

- Make connections in your ancestor's community and discover new relatives.
- Break down brick walls in your research by knowing where to look for records.
- Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for your ancestors.

3 Questions to Ask

What is Happening?

Where is it Happening?

Why is it Happening?



1. Ask “What is Happening?”

Review your timeline and what you already know about your ancestor to get a sense of what is going on in the family.

- When and where did his marriage take place?
- What children were born and where?
- Where was he living in each possible census record of his life?
- Where and when did he die?
- Are there church, land, court, military, or probate records?

2. Ask “Where is it Happening?”

- Choose a location from your timeline or table.
- Learn more about the location with maps.



Search Place Name



Advanced

FamilySearch Research Places

<https://familysearch.org/research/places/>

Allows you to search anywhere in the world for a place name.

Oklahoma Wiki Topics



Beginning Research

- Research Strategies
- Record Finder

Record Types

- Bible Records
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Church Records
- Court Records
- Directories
- Emigration & Immigration
- Genealogies
- Land & Property
- Military Records
- Naturalization & Citizenship
- Newspapers
- Online Records
- Periodicals
- Probate Records
- School Records
- Vital Records

Oklahoma Background

- Biography
- **Gazetteers**
- History
- For Further Reading

Gazetteers

- The *FamilySearch* Wiki lists gazetteers for **countries** and **U.S. states**.
- Find the Gazetteers section in right side panel of *Wiki*
- Many have been **digitized**



Major Rivers and Lakes Used for Migration in the United States

Discover the migration routes leading to the area.

- FamilySearch Wiki contains excellent links and information on migration routes worldwide.
- Enter “migration” and your location into the search box to see what you can discover.
- How did the settlement grow?
- Where did the settlers originate?
- Why did your ancestor leave his previous home?

FamilySearch Wiki: Oklahoma Emigration and Immigration



“Only a few thousand non-Indians lived in the Territory before 1889. After the Civil War, a few people from the South moved into the Indian Territory. Anyone wishing to live in this area needed permission from the Indians, but some white settlers tried to move into the Territory without permission.”



Jurisdictions

- A jurisdiction is the government or religious body that kept the records for the area.
- Learn the jurisdictions of the location so you will know where records are kept

Generally the records were kept at the following levels



NATIONAL RECORDS

FEDERAL CENSUS,
FEDERAL LAND,
MILITARY,
PENSIONS



STATE RECORDS

STATE CENSUS,
TAX LISTS, LAND
RECORD,
PENSIONS, VITAL,
MILITARY



COUNTY RECORDS

COURT, LAND,
PROBATE, VITAL



CITY / TOWNSHIP RECORDS

DIRECTORIES,
VITAL



CHURCH RECORDS

VITAL,
MEMBERSHIP

Boundary Changes

- European countries changed boundaries repeatedly.
- U.S. territory and state boundaries changed as the country grew.
- United States counties typically divided as the population grew.
- Know the parent county as the records could be kept at that courthouse.



3. Ask “Why is it Happening?”

Learn about the history of the area in the
time your ancestor was living there

3. Ask “Why is it Happening?”



County histories



Google Books
search



FamilySearch
Catalog

Refine your search

Search by:

[Place](#)
[Surnames](#)
[Titles](#)
[Author](#)
[Subjects](#)
[Keywords](#)

Search for:

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog


[PRINT](#)

[Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

1-20 of 45 results

[Pioneers of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory](#)

Author: Lemons, Nova A. (Nova Ann), 1960-

[1878 annuity rolls and 1890 census of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory](#)

Author: Rex, Joyce A.

[1890 census of Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory : and other records](#)

Author: Rex, Joyce A.

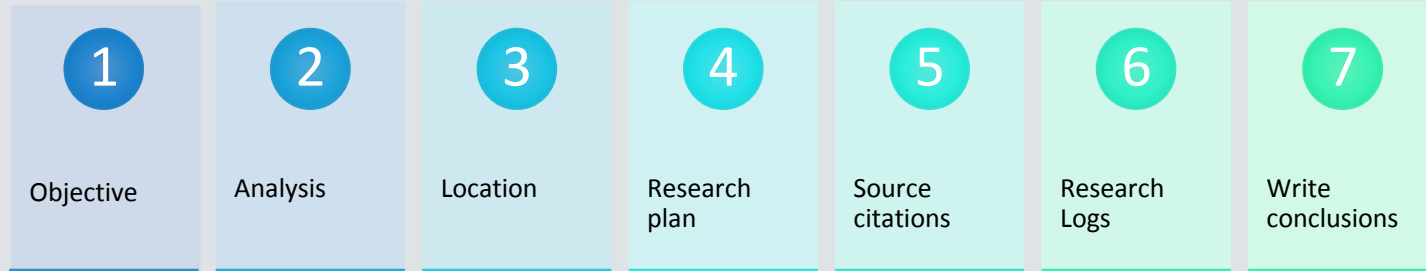
[Chickasaw Nation connections to the Indian-Pioneer history collection : an index of Chickasaw](#)

FamilySearch Catalog entries for keywords:
“chickasaw nation indian territory”

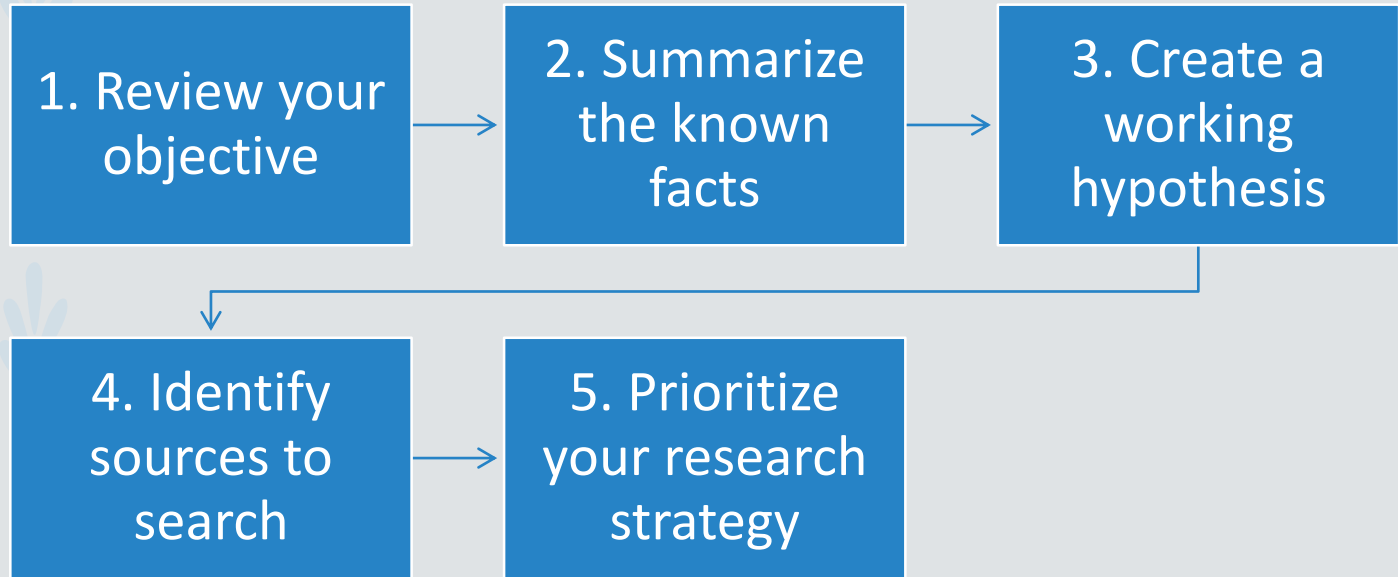
Research Planning

Step 4

The Genealogy Research Process



5 Steps to Creating a Research Plan



Step 1: Review Your Objective

You have created a timeline analysis. Review that.

Can you revise your objective to be more specific?

- **Original Objective:** Who is the father of Lucinda?
- **Revised Objective:** Is William Keaton the father of Lucinda?

Step 2: Summarize the Known Facts

What do the records show?

Was there a possibility for military service?

Do the census records point to land ownership?

Are there any clues about religion?

Are there court or probate records?

Gather every clue from every document

Step 3: Create a Working Hypothesis

Form an educated guess.



```
graph TD; A[Form an educated guess.] --> B[What methodology could you use to test your hypothesis?]; B --> C[What records could help?];
```

What methodology could you use to test your hypothesis?

What records could help?

United States Record Finder

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date	Vital Records, Church Records, Bible Records	Cemeteries, Obituaries, Census
Birthplace	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Newspapers, Obituaries
City or parish of foreign birth	Church Records, Genealogy, Biography, Naturalization and Citizenship, Societies	Vital Records, Obituaries, History, Emigration and Immigration
Country of foreign birth	Emigration and Immigration, Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Church Records	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers, Obituaries
County origins and boundaries	History, Maps, Historical Geography	Gazetteers
Death	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Church Records, Obituaries, Societies	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records, Town Records
Ethnicity	Minorities, American Indians, Societies	Church Records, Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Periodicals
Historical background	History, Periodicals	Minorities
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Genealogy, Societies	Census, Newspapers, Biography

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Record_Finder

Tips for forming a hypothesis

Specific

- Use specific dates and places in the hypothesis

Likely

- Choose the most likely scenario to test first

Intuition

- Use your intuition

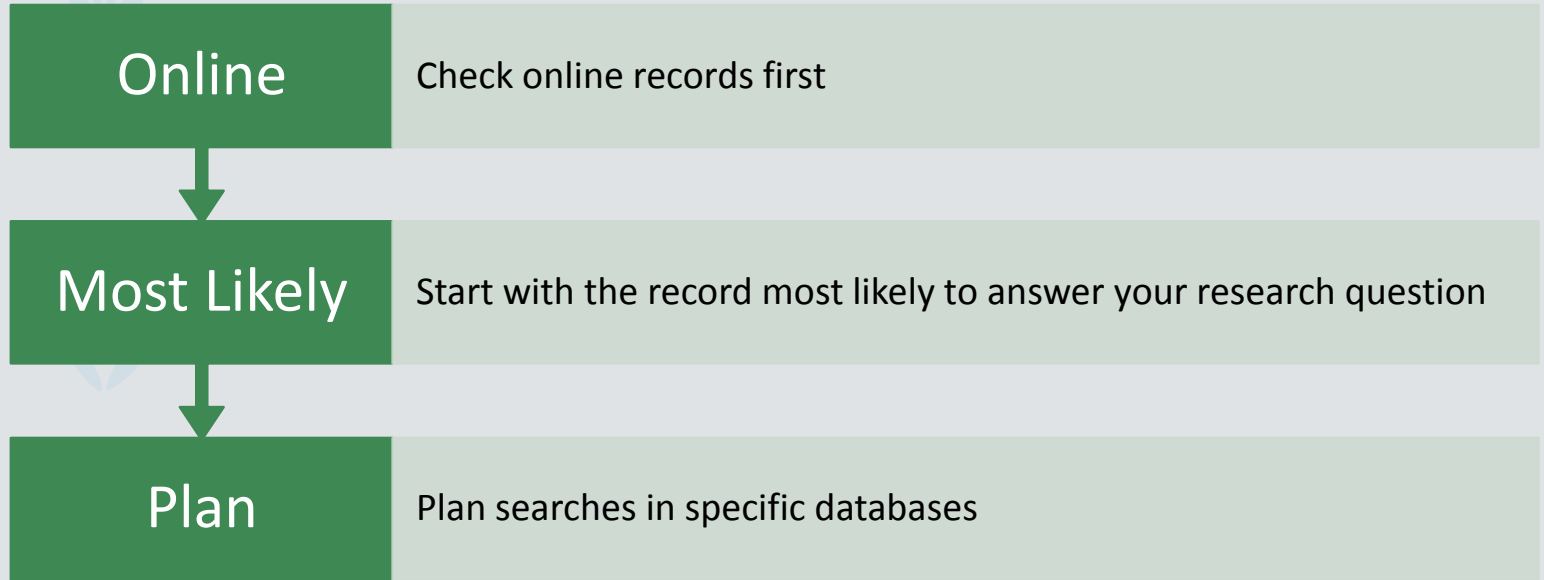
Step 4: Identify Sources to Search

Identify sources to prove or disprove your hypothesis.



Use the FamilySearch Wiki, Catalogs, etc.

Step 5: Prioritize your Research Strategy



Tips for Creating your Research Plan

Start

Start with what
you know

Adjust

Adjust as you
discover new
information

Links

Include links to
specific record
collections

Source Citations

Step 5

The Genealogy Research Process



Creating Source Citations

"England and Wales Census, 1861," William H Kelsey household, Camberwell, London, Surrey, England; database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 10 December 2017); citing RG 9, piece 382, folio123, page 20, The National Archives, Kew, Surrey.

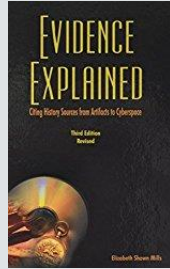


Why should you cite your sources?

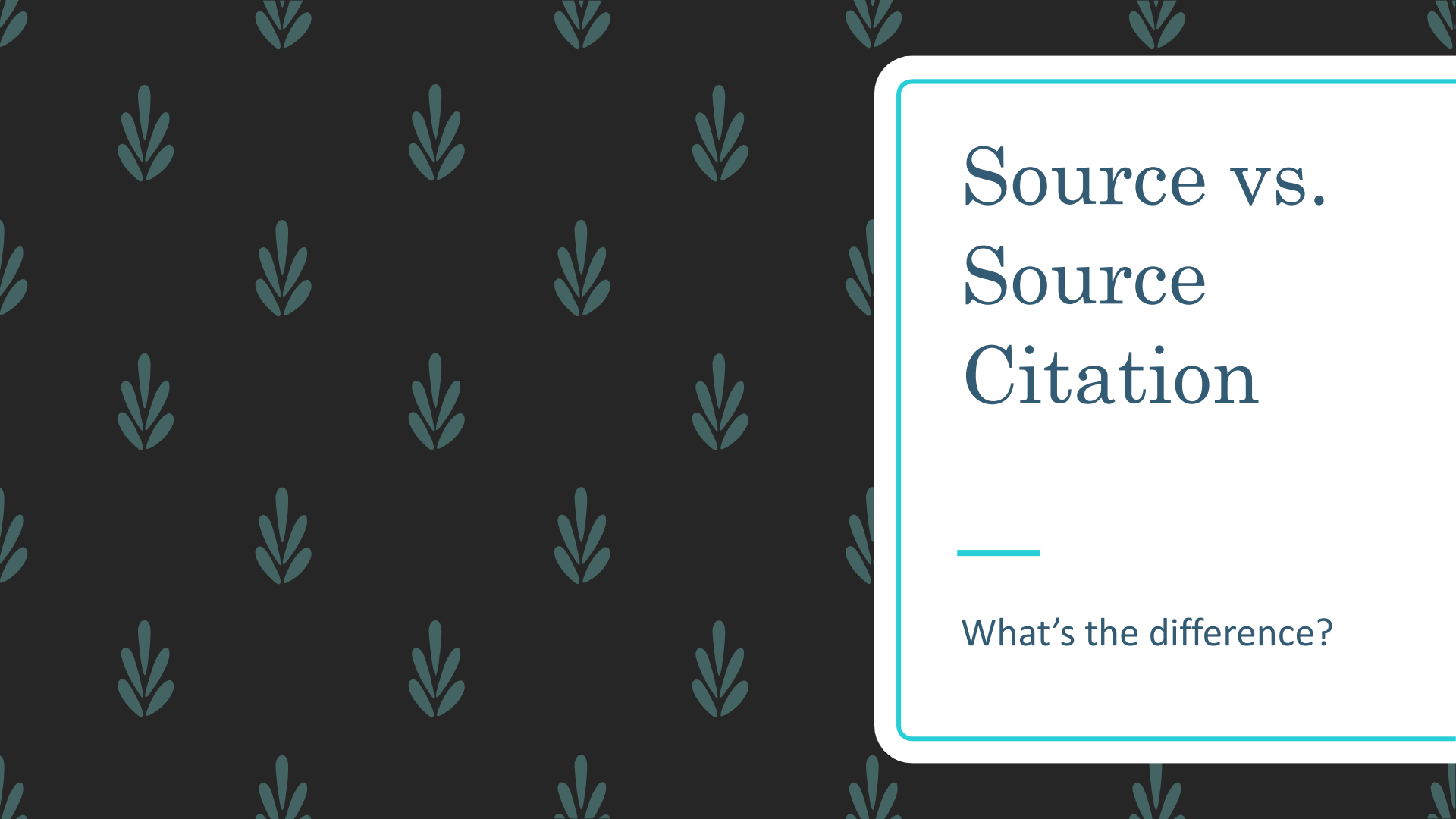
- To evaluate and analyze each source located
- Prove your research findings and analysis
- Find the source again
- Enable others to find the source
- Show reasonably exhaustive research



“Citation is an art, not a science.”



Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Fundamentals of Citation,” *Evidence Explained*, 3rd ed. (Baltimore : Genealogical Publishing Company, 2015), 41.

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of stylized teal leaves on a dark grey or black background. The leaves are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with each leaf pointing upwards.

Source vs. Source Citation

What's the difference?

are well acquainted with Thomas B. Royston, and
also with the South-east quarter of section twenty in
Township Nine of range seven East in the Coosa Land
District - & that said Royston settled on said
quarter prior to January 1837 - that he erected
a dwelling house in which he has lived
and made his home from that time to May 1840,
being then from a full to 22 - from 1838 - and
that he cultivated during that period about sixty
acres of it, & was the head of a family having a
wife and children - We further swear that
no other person was residing on said quarter
during that period except Stephen Mayo, who
sold his claim to William C. Smith and received
full pay for it, and undertook to convey title after
he made the entry under the pre. law - and that said
William C. Smith to whom he sold is one of the applicants
before us and subscribed
before me this 23rd May 1842
S. C. Newman
Notary Public

W^m C. Smith
Isaac D. Wall

What is a Source?

A document, book, article, microfilm, photograph, website, etc. that gives you information, which becomes evidence in proving a conclusion.

What is a Source Citation?

A statement identifying the specific location of a source and details about that source.

Example

Thomas B. Royston (DeKalb County, Alabama), cash entry file, witness statement, state volume patent no. 5909, Lebanon, Alabama Land Office, Land Entry Papers, 1800-1908. Record Group 49. Records of the Bureau of Land Management, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Petiver Baptism

Next, baptism records were searched for Elizabeth Petiver, to see if she was born in Oxfordshire, as the 1880 census for Elizabeth (Biddle) Rhodes reported.

A baptism was found for Elizabeth Petiver, daughter of William Petiver and Mary Petiver, on 4 June 1769 in Fritwell Parish, Oxfordshire.⁴⁰ This is in the same parish as Elizabeth Petiver and Thomas Biddle's marriage in 1793. Elizabeth Petiver would have been about 24 years old at the time of marriage, making this baptism a likely match.

Thomas Biddle Baptism

Next, parish baptisms were searched for Thomas Biddle in Oxfordshire about 1750-1770. A baptism was found for Thomas Biddle, son of John Biddle and his wife, on 11 August 1755 in Fritwell Parish, Oxfordshire.⁴¹ He would have been about age 38 at the time of the marriage of Thomas Biddle and Elizabeth Petiver.

Conclusion

All evidence points to Candidate 1, Elizabeth Biddle, baptized 24 March 1799, in Souldern, Oxfordshire, England, daughter of Thomas Biddle and Elizabeth, as a match to Elizabeth (Biddle) Rhodes. Research shows that Thomas Biddle and Elizabeth Petiver were married in Fritwell, Oxfordshire, and were also born in that same parish. Candidates 2 and 3 are not likely matches because they are not in the expected birth year range.

Suggestions For Future Research

To add further evidence to the conclusion that the parents of Elizabeth (Biddle) Rhodes are Thomas Biddle and Elizabeth Petiver, the following searches are suggested:

- Order the death certificate for Elizabeth (Biddle) Rhodes using the New York Death Index, certificate number 41547.
 - To order, go to https://www.health.ny.gov/vital_records/genealogy.htm
 - The delivery of the death certificate may take 8 months
 - The death certificates of this time period in New York may not contain any information about birth place or parents.

⁴⁰ Fritwell Parish (Oxfordshire England), Parish Registers, baptism of Elizabeth Petiver, 4 Jun 1769, line 14, page 51, image, Ancestry (<https://search.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 May 2018); citing Anglican Parish Registers, Oxfordshire Family History Society and Oxfordshire History Centre, Reference Number: PAR110/1/R.1/2. [Document 6]

⁴¹ Fritwell Parish (Oxfordshire England), Parish Registers, baptism of Thomas Biddle, 11 Aug 1755, line 8, page 43, image, Ancestry (<https://search.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 May 2018); citing Anglican Parish Registers, Oxfordshire Family History Society and Oxfordshire History Centre, Reference Number: PAR110/1/R.1/2. [Document 7]

Sample Research Report

These
footnotes/reference
notes are the source
citations.

Source List in FamilySearch

- You can put this in order
- Make it into a timeline
- Click on the source to view the citation

▼ Sources

[Open Details](#) | [+ Add Source](#) | [✉ Attach from Source Box](#)

-  [C L Shults in entry for Bobbie Shults, "Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936"](#)
-  [C L Shults in entry for Bobbie Gene Shults, "Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936"](#)
-  [Charles L Shults in household of Dora A Shults, "United States Census, 1910"](#)
-  [Leslie Shults in household of W H Shults, "United States Census, 1920"](#)
-  [Marriage of Leslie Shults and Ettie Harris \(1924\) in Lubbock County Texas, Marriage records v. 1-2 1891-1924,](#)
-  [Leslie Shults and Ettie Harris, 23 Apr 1924, "Texas, County Marriage Index, 1837-1977"](#)
-  [Leslie C Shults, "United States Census, 1930"](#)
-  [Charles L Shults, "United States Census, 1940"](#)
-  [C L Shults, "Nevada, Marriage Index, 1956-2005"](#)
-  [Charles L Shults, "United States Public Records, 1970-2009"](#)
-  [C L Shults, "United States Social Security Death Index"](#)
-  [Charles Leslie Shults, "Find A Grave Index"](#)
-  [Charles Leslie Shults in entry for Bobby Gene Shults, "Idaho, Southern Counties Obituaries, 1943-2013"](#)
-  [Charles Leslie Shults in entry for Bobby Gene Shults, "Idaho, Southeast Counties Obituaries, 1864-2007"](#)

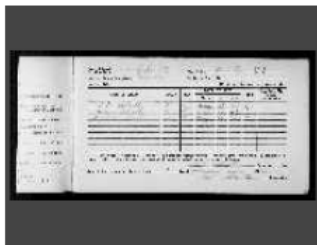
[View](#) | [Edit](#) | [Review Attachments](#) | [Detach](#) | [Report Abuse](#) | [Tag](#) **1**

url

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2T5-Z1WT>

Indexed Information

[Hide](#)



[View the original document.](#) The original may contain more information than was indexed.

Name	C L Shults
Sex	Unknown
Son	Bobbie Shults

Other information in the record of Bobbie Shults
from Oklahoma, School Records

Name	Bobbie Shults
Event Type	School enrollment
Event Date	1937
Event Place	Proctor, Adair, Oklahoma, United States
Event Place (Original)	Proctor,
Gender	Male
Age	9
Race	White
Birth Date	16 Mar 1927
Parent Name	C L Shults

Citation

"Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2T5-Z1WT> : 10 April 2018), C L Shults in entry for Bobbie Shults, 1937; citing School enrollment, Proctor, Adair, Oklahoma, United States, various Count...

[More](#)

View the Citation

FamilySearch and Ancestry generate citations for you.

This statement is the source citation.



Close-Up of the Citation

Citation

"Oklahoma, School Records, 1895-1936," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2T5-Z1WT> : 10 April 2018), C L Shults in entry for Bobbie Shults, 1937; citing School enrollment, Proctor, Adair, Oklahoma, United States, various County Clerk offices, Oklahoma school district offices, Oklahoma; FHL microfilm 2,440,368.

Create Your Citation by answering 5 questions



Who?



What?



When?



Where in?



Where is?

Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogical Standards*, (Nashville and New York: Turner Publishing, 2014), 7. and Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*, (Arlington: National Genealogical Society, 2017), 33-5. Used with permission.

Who Created the Source



- **The author**
- **The creator** - often a religious or government entity
- **The informant**

Who create the source?

Carter County, Oklahoma, copy of original marriage license and certificate, unpaginated, Shults-Rayston, 11 December 1898, Indian Territory Southern District, recorded 1943, County Court Clerk, Ardmore, Oklahoma.

What is the source?



Published works: books, articles, journals, websites – italicize



Unpublished work: a personal history, interview, collection of loose papers, birth registration book - use quotes around the title or if not titled describe the record


What is the source?

Carter County, Oklahoma, **copy of original marriage license and certificate**, unpaginated, **Shults-Rayston**, 11 December 1898, Indian Territory Southern District, recorded 1943, County Court Clerk, Ardmore, Oklahoma.



When was the source created or when did the event happen?

- **Published source** - cite the year of publication; for a journal or magazine, add the month or season.
- **Website** - add the access date. Because URL's change, the date could help
- **Unpublished source** - use the date of creation, the date of the event it reports, or both.




When was the source created
or when did the event happen?

Carter County, Oklahoma, copy of
original marriage license and
certificate, unpaginated, Shults-
Rayston, **11 December 1898**, Indian
Territory Southern District, **recorded**
1943, County Court Clerk, Ardmore,
Oklahoma.



Where in the book, film, magazine, database, etc is the source located?

- **Published source** - a volume or page number
- **Online database** - cite the image number or waypoints
- **Government certificate** - document number.
- **Unpublished source** - identify an order and describe it: “folio 3, page 25.”




Where in the book, film,
magazine, database, etc is the
source located?

Carter County, Oklahoma, copy of
original marriage license and
certificate, **unpaginated**, Shults-
Rayston, 11 December 1898, Indian
Territory Southern District, recorded
1943, County Court Clerk, Ardmore,
Oklahoma.



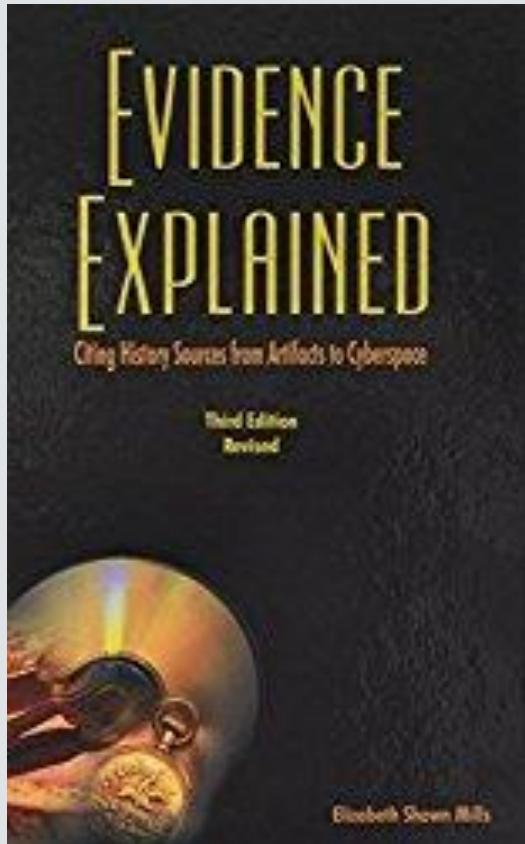
Where is the source located?

- **Published source**- place of publication
- **Website** - URL
- **Unpublished source** – where the source can be viewed



Where is the source located?

Carter County, Oklahoma, copy of original marriage license and certificate, unpaginated, Shults-Rayston, 11 December 1898, **Indian Territory Southern District**, recorded 1943, County Court Clerk, **Ardmore, Oklahoma.**



Layered Citations

The term coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills to describe digital sources that contain digital images of original records.

Elizabeth Shown Mills, “Fundamentals of Citation,” *Evidence Explained*, 3rd ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2015), 58.

Layered Citations

- Include both the physical source citation, then all of the digital source citation information, separating the two sections with a semicolon.
- A third section might be necessary if referencing the original microfilm reproduction of the source

Layered Citation Example

Mason County, Kentucky, “Marriage Bonds, Book 4, 1855-1857,” Scott–Frank bond (2 September 1857);
database and digital images, “Kentucky Marriages, 1797-1954,” image 305, *FamilySearch*
(<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 24 Jun 2012);
citing **FHL microfilm 281,846.**

Research Log

Step 6

The Genealogy Research Process



Research Logs

A research log is a record of what you are looking for, where you looked, and what you found.

Research Log

Ancestor's name

Objective(s)

Locality

Date of search	Location/ call number	Description of source (author, title, year, pages)	Comments (purpose of search, results, years and names searched)	Doc. number



Why Use a Research Log

Track

- Track positive and negative searches

Note

- Note the date a database was searched.

Create

- Create source citations to be used other places.

Show

- Show at a glance what has been found.

Why Use a Research Log?

Evaluation	Evaluate information and evidence.
Efficiency	Be more productive and efficient in research.
Focus	Avoid duplication of effort.
Organization	Break through brick walls with better record keeping.

What are different types of research logs?



THE RESEARCH
NOTEBOOK

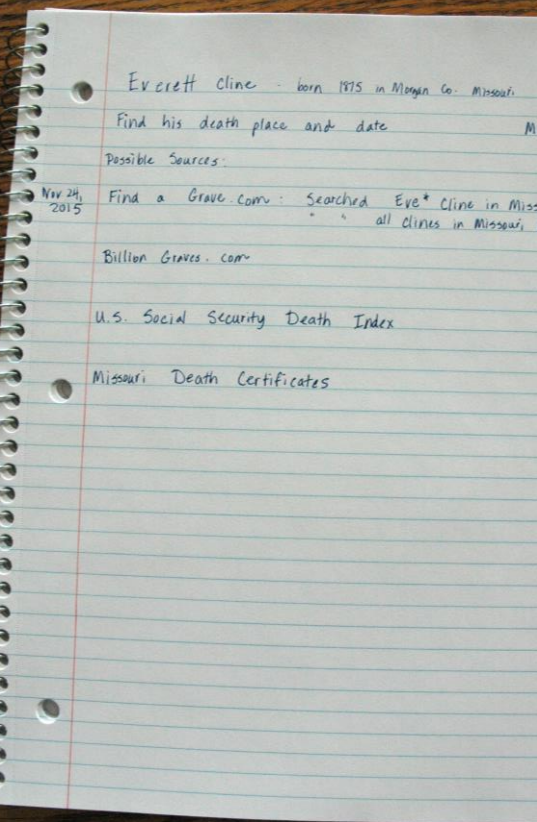


THE ELECTRONIC
RESEARCH LOG



PRINTED
RESEARCH LOG

The Research Notebook



Use for working on the collaborative *FamilySearch* FamilyTree or your *Ancestry* tree.



Note ID numbers and names of individuals to explore in the future.



Source citations are automatically created when attaching hints or records from these websites.



Track research done for the day and what to do next.

The Electronic Research Log

File

- Keep in your computer files with each ancestor or family



Cut and paste

- Cut and paste information from websites



Add

- Add links to online records

The Electronic Research Log

Create in	Create in a table format or a spreadsheet
Have	Have multiple pages in a single spreadsheet
Sort	Sort columns in a spreadsheet to view specific searches

Research Log: Table in a Word Document or Google Doc

DATE	REPOSITORY URL, Call # Film #	SEARCHING FOR	LOCALITY	SOURCE CITATION	RESULTS
7 Jun 2017	<i>Ancestry</i> http://ancstry.me/2rV5NGJ	1820 Census George W. Dillard	Georgia, Greene County	1820 U.S. Census, Greene County, Georgia, <u>Capt E</u> Woodhams District, population schedule, p. 202, line 2, George W. Dillard household; digital image, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 June 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 8.	Free White Persons Males 0/10 2 Males 10/15 1 Males 16/25 1 Males 26/44 1 Females 0/10 1 Females 0/15 1 Females 26/44 1
11 Feb 2018	<i>General Land Office Records</i> http://bit.ly/2HhYWSR	Land Patents for George W. Dillard	Alabama, Chambers County	George W Dillard,(Chambers County, Alabama), 1837, cash entry patents no. 3733, 3768, 3770, 3771, "Land Patent Search," images, General Land Office Records (www.glorerecords.blm.gov : accessed 17 March 2018).	<u>State Volume</u> <u>Patents</u> , dated 10 April 1837, St Stephens Meridian, Section 29, Chambers County, Alabama: # 3733, 3768, 3770, 3771.

- Customize your column headers
- Copy and paste info easily

Multi-page Research Log - Spreadsheet

156	28 Nov 2016	FamilySearch.org	http://bit.ly/2j9xBFO	Tax Assessment for Richard Royston in Ellis County, Texas	Ellis County, Texas	Ellis County, Texas, Tax Roll, 1893, "Texas, County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910," entry for R. Royston, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org : accessed 28 November 2016), image 429-430.	1 carriage, buggie or wagon valued \$5; miscellaneous tools \$5; 3 horses and mules \$100; 2 cattle \$15; total value \$125; state taxes ad valorem \$.19, school \$.16; poll \$1.50; county taxes ad valorem \$.44 poll \$.50 total \$2.79
157	12 Nov 2016	USGenWeb	http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/morgan/taxlists/1831.txt	Tax Record for Thomas B Royston in Morgan Co. Georgia	Morgan County, Georgia	Marshall W. Williams, Morgan County Archives, "Morgan County, GA 1831 Tax Digest Index," entry for Thomas B. Royston, <i>USGenWeb</i> , (http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/morgan/taxlists/1831.txt : accessed 12 Nov 2016), .	Thomas B Royston p. 2; only Royston listing for Morgan County
158	12 Nov 2016	Morgan County Archives	PO Box 589 Madison, GA30650	Tax Record for Thomas B Royston in Morgan Co. Georgia	Morgan County, Georgia	Morgan County, Georgia, Superior Court, 1831 Tax Digest, page 2, entry for Thomas B. Royston, Morgan County, Archives, Madison, Georgia.	Royston, Thomas B. District 10, Newton County, land no. 122, 202 1/2 acres, on the waters of Yellow River, joins Jackson, originally granted to M. Cessna, 1 poll tax, 2 negroes, \$1.15.5
159							

Add

1000

more rows at bottom.



Dora Algje ▾

Robert Cisnie ▾

Thomas Beverly ▾

John Cary ▾

Sum: 15 May 2016 ▾

Add a page for each generation or family member



Date



Repository



URL/Call#/Microfilm#



Searching for



Locality



Source citation



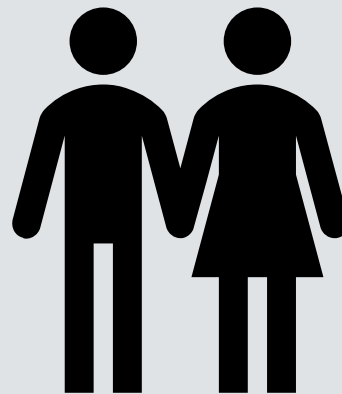
Results/comments

Columns in a Research Log

Negative Results / Comments

Use NIL for not
in location

Detail all
information



Example

Research Objective:	Objective: The objective of this research project is to identify Georgia Ann (Lewis) Dawson, died 1856 Russell County, Alabama. Georgia married John W. Dawson 6 February 1850 in Russell County.						
Localities:Russell County, Alabama, Muscogee County, Georgia							
Date	Repository	URL, Call #, Film #	Searching For	Date	Locality	Source	Results/Comments
25 May 2018	Ancestry	https://ancestry.me/2LyC1EW	1840 Census-Nolen Lewis	1840	Russell County, Alabama	1840 U.S. Census, Russell County, Nowlen Lewis household	Home in 1840 (City, County, State): Russell, Alabama Free White Persons - Males - 15 thru 19: 1 Free White Persons - Males - 20 thru 29: 3 Free White Persons - Males - 50 thru 59: 1 Free White Persons - Females - Under 5: 1 Free White Persons - Females - 5 thru 9: 1 Free White Persons - Females - 10 thru 14: 2 Free White Persons - Females - 15 thru 19: 1 Free White Persons - Females - 20 thru 29: 1 Free White Persons - Females - 40 thru 49: 1
26 May 2018	FamilySearch	http://bit.ly/2IRPQwy	Marriage record for Dawson	1849	Russell County, Alabama	County Probate Courts, Alabama, Russell County, Marriage record book (white) 1847-1855, p. 77; "Alabama County Marriages, 1809-1950," database with images, image 251 of 846, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org : accessed 26 May 2018).	19 April 1849 Russell County, Marriage G.D. Royster - Mildred Lewis;
6 Mar 2016	Ancestry	http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8054	Georgia A Dawson in the 1850 census	1850	Russell County, Alabama	1850 U.S. Census, Russell County, Alabama, population schedule, digital images, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 79.	NIL for Georgia, Dawson, D*son
6 Mar 2016	Ancestry	http://bit.ly/2mf42af	Georgia A Dawson in the 1850 census	1850	Muscogee County, Georgia	1850 U.S. Census, Muscogee County, Georgia, population schedule, Columbus, p. 333 B(stamped), dwelling 624/44, family 704/3, John E Dawson household; digital image, Ancestry (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 7 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 79.	John E Dawson 45 Mary Dawson 33 John W Dawson 23 Georgia Dawson 20 Alexander Dawson 17

Report Writing

Step 7

The Genealogy Research Process



Why write your conclusions?



Make connections in your research and prove conclusions.



Demonstrate the breadth and excellence of your research.



Preserve and share your research.



Write Conclusions in: **A Research Report**

- Word document
- Google Doc
- Email to relatives
- Share on multiple sites (Ancestry, FamilySearch, etc.)



Elements of a Research Report

- **Research Objective**
- **Background Information**
- **Body of the Report**
- **Conclusion**
- **Future Research Suggestions**

John Johnson Report

Researcher: Nicole Dyer, Nicole@familylocket.com

19 November 2018

Objective

Identify John Johnson, whose will was recorded 5 February 1808 in Will Book G of Rowan County, North Carolina, p. 101-102, in which Harris Johnson is listed as the son of John Johnson, and Abraham Johnson is listed as the father of John Johnson. Further information will then be sought to identify Abraham Johnson, if possible.

Background Information

The ancestry of Harris Johnson, (1777-1866) of Dallas County, Texas, was researched prior to this project by his great-great grandson, Sam Houston Johnson Jr., and his wife, Nellie. In the 1850 census, Harris Johnson's birthplace was reported as North Carolina, and at the reported age of 73, would have been born about 1777.¹ In the 1860 census, his birthplace was reported as Virginia, age 72, born about 1788.²

The Johnsons began searching for wills in North Carolina mentioning Harris Johnson. A distant cousin sent them the will of John Johnson, recorded 5 February 1808 in Rowan County, North Carolina, in which Harris Johnson is listed as a son.³ They also discovered a deed in Davidson County, North Carolina, which was created from Rowan County in 1822, from Randle and Abraham Johnson, executors of John Johnson, deceased, to James Johnson. The deed was for land on "the waters of Cabbins Creek," which was conveyed to John Johnson by "Ogle."⁴

¹ 1850 U.S. Census, Cass County, Texas, Precinct 1, p. 732 (penned), dwelling 119, family 125, Harris Johnson; image online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 17 November 2018); citing National Archives Publication M432 roll 909.

² 1860 U.S. Census, Marion County, Beat 2, p. 12 (stamped), dwelling 78, family 84, Harris Johnson; image online, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com>) : accessed 17 November 2018); citing National Archives Publication M653 roll 1300.

³ Sam Houston Johnson, *Harris Johnson: A Texas Pioneer, Related Families, Ewalt, Fields, Hopper, Ingram, Jackson, Mosby, Tatam* (Longview, TX: Author, 1997), p. 1.

⁴ Sam Houston Johnson, *Harris Johnson: A Texas Pioneer, Related Families, Ewalt, Fields, Hopper, Ingram, Jackson, Mosby, Tatam* (Longview, TX: Author, 1997), p. 2.

Sample Report

John Johnson report

Allen. This is additional evidence that both Harris and John had either left Rowan County by November 1807, when John wrote his will, had already received their inheritance, or both.

The will was witnessed by William Ward and William Lanier. Witnesses to legal documents were often friends, associates, and neighbors and can be helpful in identifying which John is which among the several John Johnsons who lived in Rowan County from 1785-1807.

These were the facts used to begin this research project to identify John Johnson and his father, Abraham Johnson, in North Carolina, and possibly Virginia.

Research Findings

Probate File for John Johnson

Probate court records can reveal the names of a person's heirs and their spouses as well as their residences after the will was written. Tracing the residence and land transactions of the heirs of John Johnston could reveal more about the legacy left by John's father, Abraham Johnson.

A probate file was located in Davidson County, in 1825, with papers about the settlement of John Johnson's estate.⁹ Most of the papers in the file pertain to a petition from Benjamin Davis and his wife Mary/Polly, asking that Abraham Johnson and Randal Johnson, executors of John Johnson's estate, be summoned to the courthouse to give them their share of John Johnston's estate. The petition stated that Benjamin Davis "intermarried with your petitioner Polly...the daughter and one of the legatees of John Johnson, decd."¹⁰

The court found that in 1821, certain conditions of John Johnson's will had been met, and as a result, the estate was divided. The conditions were that John Johnson's youngest son William Johnson reach 16 years old and that his wife continue as a widow, or she would receive but a child's part of his estate. The probate records indicate that Sarah remained living, so the other condition, that William reach 16 years old, must have occurred.¹¹ This information was used to estimate that William was born in about 1805 in Rowan County, North Carolina.

Another helpful paper in the probate file of John Johnston is a notice to the sheriff of Burke County asking him to summon Abraham Johnson, executor of John Johnson, deceased. The

clue that Abraham moved to Burke County, North Carolina, was useful in identifying Abraham and his life after his father's death.¹²

The probate file also listed many friends, associates, and neighbors (FANs) of John Johnson. These FANs can be extremely helpful in identifying people with common names.

On 26 December 1807, Widow Johnson, Benjamin Davis, and several witnesses signed a statement that the property of John Johnson, deceased, may be sold. This gives us a more narrow range for John's death date - between the writing of his will on 7 November 1807 and the sale of his property on 26 December 1807. The names of the friends, associates, and neighbors who are listed as witnesses include Wm Ward, Jas Morgan, David Cox, Ross Davis, David Goss, Benjamin Davis, and Widow Johnson.¹³

On the bill of sale for 26 December 1807, several additional friends, associates, and neighbors were listed, as shown in the tables below.¹⁴

John Johnson Probate Account of Sales, 26 Dec 1807		
Name	Item	Amount
Benjamin Kinney	one horse	\$80.00
John Thompson	one mare	\$55.00
Harrison Newson	one mare	\$52.50
Abraham Johnson	half of the value of a horse	\$28.50
Randal Johnson	one still	\$28.50
Thomas Davis	1000 lb tobacco	\$15.50
Clamant Lanier	500 lb tobacco	\$7.75
Abraham Johnson	275 acres of land	\$40.00
Total		\$288.00

John Johnson Probate Account of Sales, June 1821		
Name	Item	Amount
James Badjet	100 acres of Land	\$213.00
James Johnson	120 acres of Land	\$200.00

⁹ Davidson County, North Carolina, Estate File for John Johnson, 1825; images online, North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979; > Davidson County > J > Johnson, John (1825), 70 images, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 14 Nov 2018); Citing FHL microfilm 1888955.

¹⁰ Davidson County, North Carolina, Estate File for John Johnson, 1825, petition of Benjamin and Polly Davis; image online, North Carolina Estate Files, 1663-1979; > Davidson County > J > Johnson, John (1825), image 7, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 14 Nov 2018); Citing FHL microfilm 1888955. Document 3

¹¹ Ibid., Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions, Sept 1826, court record; image 8. Document 4

¹² Ibid., Notice to the Sheriff of Burk [sic] County, image 65. Document 5

¹³ Ibid., Witness statement for property sale, image 69. Document 6

¹⁴ Ibid., Bill of Sale, image 11. Document 7

Present evidence that supports your conclusion

1

Explain the reasoning behind searching a certain record type.

2

Include negative as well as positive searches.

3

Use consistent, quality source citations for each genealogical statement.

4

Use bullet points, tables, abstracts, or transcriptions to clearly show the information from the source.



Explain difficult or conflicting evidence

Use qualifiers such as “possible,” “probable,” “almost certain,” “current hypothesis.” In genealogy writing you often can’t prove a conclusion 100%.



Future Research Suggestions

- A research report should always include ideas for the next research session.
- Include these at the end of the report in a bullet point format for ease of use.
- Suggest further research on extended family members found during the project.



Future Research Suggestions

TIP: Keep a running list as you research.

Example:

Continue to search for cemetery records for the Dawson and Lewis family members. Expand the search to neighboring counties if necessary.

Future Research Suggestions

- Research Benjamin Davis, husband of Mary Davis, to determine if he was the brother to Jefferson Davis, President of the C.S.A.
- Research the children of John Johnson named in his will: especially Nancy, Lewis, Allen, and Willis, to determine when they were married and their children's names. This may help determine any further naming pattern connections.
- Abraham Johnson, candidate #1: Search DNA results for any matches with the descendants of Sterling Johnson or other descendants of Abraham Johnson of Halifax County, North Carolina.
 - Study FANs surname connections with John Johnson of Cabin Creek
 - Search for deeds and wills of Laniers in Duplin County, North Carolina to seek a connection between the Laniers in Rowan County, North Carolina
- Abram Johnson, candidate #2: Search Beaufort County, North Carolina Tax records for John Johnson, son of Abram Johnson, to show if he was a different man from John Johnson of Cabin Creek.
- Abraham Johnson, candidate #3: Search probate records in Hampshire County, Virginia, to determine if Abraham Johnson of Hampshire (candidate #3) had a son named John.

Doing a Research Project from Start to Finish

Strategies and Helps for Finishing

Tailor the Method to Your Level of Experience

Your first time through the process:

- Don't start with a brick wall or difficult case
- Research in a time period with plentiful records (1850-1900)
- Learn from your experiences to improve

Your next time:

- Apply the lessons learned from your first project
- Don't give up

Research Project Document Sections

1. Objective
2. Summary of Known Facts
3. Locality and background information
4. Research Plan
 - Hypothesis
 - List of identified sources to search
 - Prioritized strategy (top 5 sources to search)
5. Written Conclusions
6. Future Research Ideas

Family Locket



Finding ancestors and keeping them close to the heart

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Tucson Family History Fair

Thank you for coming to our classes! Handouts are available at the [Tucson Family History Center website](#). To view the slides, scroll down to the class materials section.

About Us



Diana Elder, AG and Nicole Dyer are a mother daughter team of professional genealogists who love helping others with genealogy through their free podcast, blog, books, and teaching. They are the authors of *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide*, a best seller in the genealogy category on Amazon, and hosts of the free *Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast*.

Diana is an accredited genealogist professional specializing in the gulf-south United States region and is the presentation specialist with the International Commission for the Accreditation of Accredited Genealogists (ICAPGen). Nicole is the publicity chair for the Pima

County Genealogy Society.

Free Weekly Podcast

Diana Elder, AG and Nicole Dyer discuss the Research Like a Pro method and how to take your genealogy research to the next level in their weekly podcast, *Research Like a Pro*. Learn about research objectives, analysis, locality research, research planning, source citations, report writing, case studies, and more. To view a list of recent episodes, click here: [Research Like a Pro Podcast recent episodes](#). To receive the weekly episodes, subscribe on iTunes, Stitcher, Google Play, or your favorite podcast app. You can also sign up for our [newsletter](#) to receive notifications of new episodes.

"This is a great podcast for both beginning and experienced genealogists. Beginners can learn the how to do genealogy the right way from the start. I wish this process was around when I started genealogy - I would have saved a lot of time and effort! Experience genealogists will learn something new from the discussion of the various tools and tech that Nicole and Diana use. The other thing I love about this podcast is the quality of the audio. The discussion of the topics is very clear and easy to listen to in the car, and there is no annoying bumper music or other useless content. Highly recommended!" - Bill

Class Materials

We appreciate your attendance and participation. Thank you for coming! Here are our classes:

SEARCH

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Diana Elder, AG®, and Nicole Dyer

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