TRACK YOUR FAMILY WITH A TIMELINE

Diana Elder AG®
Diana@FamilyLocket.com
The Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast
• Please silence all electronic devices
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• Presentation slides
• Timeline analysis template
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“Research is not a matter of looking up the answer, but of tracking down the answer.”

• Why use a timeline?
• Generating a timeline
• Creating a timeline
• What to include in a research timeline
• Analyzing records with a timeline
• Timeline case study
THE GENEALOGY RESEARCH PROCESS

1. Objective
2. Timeline Analysis
3. Location
4. Research plan
5. Source Citations
6. Research Logs
7. Write conclusions
WHY USE A TIMELINE ANALYSIS IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH?
SEPARATE MEN OF THE SAME NAME
TRACK MIGRATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES
DISCOVER HOLES OR DISCREPANCIES IN THE RESEARCH
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EVALUATE AN ONLINE TREE OR PUBLISHED GENEALOGY
COMPARE ANCESTOR LIFE EVENTS TO HISTORICAL CONTEXT
PREPARE TO WRITE AN ANCESTOR’S HISTORY
GENERATING A TIMELINE
Online trees and genealogy programs can generate a beginning timeline.

The FamilySearch Family Tree timeline uses events based on the time and place of the sources and vital facts.
LIFE STORY ON ANCESTRY.COM

- Maps locations
- Includes family events
- General historical events

Birth

Charles Leslie Shults was born on May 11, 1904, in Ada, Oklahoma, to Dora Algie Royston, age 22, and William Huston Shults, age 26.

11 MAY 1904 • Ada, Pontotoc, Oklahoma, United States

Death of Brother

His brother William Linard died on March 10, 1905, in Ada, Oklahoma, when Charles Leslie was less than a year old.

10 MAR 1905 • Ada, Pontotoc, Oklahoma, United States

Death of Brother

His brother Robert Cisney died on March 10, 1905, in Ada, Oklahoma, when Charles Leslie was less than a year old.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>13 Dec 1877</td>
<td>Brownwood, Brown, Texas, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1 Jun 1900</td>
<td>Elmore, Garvin, Oklahoma, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>11 May 1904</td>
<td>Ada, Pontotoc, Oklahoma, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp: Ettie Belle HARRIS-17</td>
<td>11 Jan 1925</td>
<td>Lubbock, Lubbock, Texas, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>14 Aug 1945</td>
<td>Sanger, Fresno, California, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>21 Nov 1948</td>
<td>Sanger, Fresno, California, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>6 Jun 1949</td>
<td>Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sp: Myrtle Marie DODSON-491</td>
<td>22 May 1954</td>
<td>Sanger, Fresno, California, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>21 Mar 1956</td>
<td>Las Vegas, Clark, Nevada, United States</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CREATING A TIMELINE
• 1904 Birth of Charles Leslie Shults, Ada, Pontotoc, Indian Territory
• 1910 Census Jefferson County, Oklahoma
• 1920 Census Okfuskee County, Oklahoma
• 1924 Marriage to Ettie Belle Harris, Lubbock, Lubbock, Texas
• 1930 Census Merced County, California
• 1940 Census Fresno County, California
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 May 1904</td>
<td>Ada, Pontotoc, Indian Territory</td>
<td>Birth of Charles Leslie Shults</td>
<td>Delayed birth certificate, 1910-1940 census records, WWII draft registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 April 1924</td>
<td>Lubbock, Lubbock, Texas</td>
<td>Marriage of Charles Leslie Shults and Ettie Belle Harris</td>
<td>Lubbock County, Texas, marriage record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Sanger, Fresno, California</td>
<td>Residence of Charles Leslie Shults</td>
<td>Voter registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Place</td>
<td>Source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth of Dora Algie Royston</td>
<td>25 or 27 January 1862</td>
<td>Lubbock, Texas</td>
<td>Death Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriage to William Huston Shults</td>
<td>12/11/1898</td>
<td>Pauls Valley, Chickasaw Nation Indian Territory, Southern District, of Elmore City, Indian Territory, now Garvin County Oklahoma</td>
<td>Marriage license and certificate lists just Chickasaw nation and “of Elmore,” daughter Loraine in personal history gives Pauls Valley as location of marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Elmore, IT</td>
<td>Bassett history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Township 1S. Ranges 5-6 W Ind Terr. (about 20 miles southwest of Elmore)</td>
<td>1900 Census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Maxwell, IT (Pontotoc Co. OK)</td>
<td>Loraine Bassett history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth of Robert Cisnie Shults</td>
<td>7/12/1900</td>
<td>? (Ada) according to CL Shults history, Maxwell according to Loraine’s history</td>
<td>Headstone gives birth date and parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth of William Linard Shults</td>
<td>12/8/1901</td>
<td>? (Ada) according to CL Shults history, Maxwell according to Loraine’s history</td>
<td>Headstone gives birth date and parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth of Charles Leslie Shults</td>
<td>5/11/1904</td>
<td>? (Ada) according to CL Shults history, Maxwell according to Loraine’s history</td>
<td>Delayed birth certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of Robert and William from pneumonia</td>
<td>3/10/1905</td>
<td>? (Ada) according to CL Shults history, Maxwell according to Loraine’s history, burial at McGee Cemetery one mile north of Stratford</td>
<td>Headstone gives death date and parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Move to another farm, Ada?</td>
<td>1905/1906</td>
<td>Ada, Dr. Sam Therekill’s place?</td>
<td>Bassett history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth of Della Shults</td>
<td>23 Sept 1907</td>
<td>Ada, on Dr. Sam Therekill’s place</td>
<td>Death certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Birth of Charles Leslie Shults, Ada, Pontotoc, Indiana Territory

1904

Census Okfuskee County, Oklahoma

1920

Census Merced County, California

1930

Marriage to Ettie Belle Harris, Lubbock, Texas

1924

Census Fresno County, California

1940
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RESEARCH TIMELINE
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A TIMELINE

- The research question or objective
- Dates and localities
- Event description
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A TIMELINE

- Names of individuals
- Source citations
- Links to records
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A TIMELINE

- FAN club members
- Color coding for various events
WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A TIMELINE

- Comments and questions
- Ideas for future research
- Evidence analysis
ANALYZING RECORDS WITH A TIMELINE
ANALYZE THE EVIDENCE

SOURCES

ANY MATERIAL OR PERSON THAT CONTAINS GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION
SOURCES

Original

Authored

Derivative
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
  - Book listing all the gravesites in a cemetery
  - Abstract of a will

Carter County, Oklahoma, certificate of true copy of marriage license and certificate, Shults-Rayston, 11 Dec 1898, Indian Territory Southern District, recorded 1943, County Court Clerk, Ardmore, Oklahoma.
A mix of original and derivative sources, compiled by an author who has come to a conclusion about the family:

- Online family tree
- Family story
- Biographical sketch
- Research report

INFORMATION

THE FACTS FOUND IN THE SOURCE

Primary
Secondary
Undetermined or unknown
WHO IS THE INFORMANT?

- **Primary information:**
  - Given by a person who witnessed the event first hand.
WHO IS THE INFORMANT?

- Secondary information:
  - Given by a person who first obtained the information somewhere else, then reported it.
WHO IS THE INFORMANT?

- Undetermined or unknown information:
- Sometimes it’s unclear who is the informant, such as in a census record.
EVIDENCE: WHAT YOU PULL FROM THE SOURCE INFORMATION TO ANSWER YOUR RESEARCH QUESTION

Direct evidence → Indirect evidence → Negative evidence
DIRECT EVIDENCE

- The information clearly states the answer to a research question.
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.
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
NEGATIVE EVIDENCE OCCURS IN THE ABSENCE OF AN EXPECTED SITUATION

John Burnham present in tax lists of 1791 and 1792

Absent in 1794, 1795, and 1796

### Table 1. Madison County, Kentucky Taxpayers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF TAXPAYER</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>WHITE TITHABLES</th>
<th>HORSES, MARES, COLTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnem</td>
<td>1789</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Burnem</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnem Sr</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnem Jr</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnum</td>
<td>1792</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>2 mares 1 black under 21, 1 mare, 1 cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Burnum</td>
<td>1792</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>2 mares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnham</td>
<td>1794</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>2 mares 4 cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnham Sr</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>2 mares 5 cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnham</td>
<td>1795</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>1 mare 6 cattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnum Sr</td>
<td>1796</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>2 mares 4 cattle 100 acres, Kentucky water course, entered and surveyed for Green Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry Burnum</td>
<td>1796</td>
<td>1 male above 21, 0 males 16-21</td>
<td>1 mare 6 cattle 100 acres, Kentucky water course, entered and surveyed for Green Clay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TIMELINE CASE STUDY
• Research the ancestor, Birger Gustaf Sohlberg, born 31 May 1895 in Sweden, the son of Jan Fredrick Sohlberg and Anna Pettersdotter. Last residence Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1930.
Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
Born 1895

1920 Arrival in New York

1921 Boarder at 22 Lincoln, Worcester

1924 Border crossing - Canada to U.S.

1926 Arrival in Canada

1927 & 1931 Machinist residing in Worcester

1930 Census Worcester, Massachusetts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What to Include in the Timeline</th>
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<tr>
<td>The research question or objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dates and localities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Names of individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source citations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links to records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments and questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ideas for future research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evidence analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fan club members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATES AND LOCALITIES

- 3 March 1920 departure, Sweden
- 16 March 1920 arrival, New York
- Final Destination: Worcester, Massachusetts
Arrival of Birger Sohlberg in New York City
INCLUDE A SOURCE CITATION

LINK TO THE RECORD

https://ancestry.me/2tjPrx1

https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7488/NYT715_2740-0644?
Last residence Forshaga, Sweden

Father Jan Sohlberg of Forshaga

Birger Sohlberg, age 24, male, single, iron-worker, can read Swedish, can write

Does not have a ticket to final destination, passage paid by self, in possession of $100
• Not been in U.S. before, going to stay with a relative Uncle Carl Hult, 5 Carlstad Street, Worchester, Massachusetts

• Intends to return to Sweden in 2 years

• Does not intend to become a U.S. citizen, 5'7'' fair, blond, blue eyes
IDEAS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH & FAN CLUB

• Additional ship passenger lists – going back to Sweden in 2 years
• “Uncle Carl Hult, 5 Carlstads St.”
EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

• Original source – image copy of the ship manifest

• Primary information – name, occupation, last permanent residence, father’s name, final destination, etc.

• Direct evidence – all facts clearly stated the answer to the form’s questions
Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
Born 1895

1920 Arrival in New York

1921 Boarder at 22 Lincoln, Worcester

1924 Border crossing - Canada to U.S.

1926 Arrival in Canada

1930 Census
Worcester, Massachusetts

1927 & 1931
Machinist residing in Worcester
• Birger Sohlberg, laborer bds [boards] 22 Lincoln

Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
Born 1895

1920 Arrival in New York

1921 Boarder at 22 Lincoln, Worcester

1924 Border crossing – Canada to U.S.

1926 Arrival in Canada

1930 Census Worcester, Massachusetts

1927 & 1931 Machinist residing in Worcester
3rd Record: 1924 Arrival in Canada – Border Crossing

- Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
- Age 29 years, machinist
- Last permanent residence Detroit
- Mother, Anna Sohlberg, Forshaga, Sweden
- In U.S. from 3/1920 to 3/1924 at Detroit
- Friends, Carl Johansson 14033 Woodward Ave. Detroit Michigan
Why does Birger Gustaf Sohlberg report residence in Detroit from March 1920-March 1924?
Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
Born 1895

1920 Arrival in New York
1921 Boarder at 22 Lincoln, Worcester
1924 Border crossing - Canada to U.S.
1926 Arrival in Canada
1927 & 1931 Machinist residing in Worcester
1930 Census Worcester, Massachusetts
4th Record: 1926 Canadian Passenger List for Birger G. Sohlberg

- Birger G. Sohlberg, age 31, born Sweden, N. Ullerud, Swedish, not in Canada before
- Intends to reside in Canada permanently, can read Swedish, paid his own passage, general laborer in Sweden
- Plans to farm in Canada, going to C.N.R. Montreal, Quebec
- Mother: Anna Sohlberg, Forshaga, Sweden, nearest relative
- In possession of $98, traveling inland on C.N.R.
5TH RECORD: 1927 AND 1931 CITY DIRECTORIES FOR WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

• 1927 Birger E Sohlberg, auto mechanic res 11 Elizabeth
• 1931 Berger Sohlberg, machinist, 125 Belmont

Is the man named Birger E. Sohlberg in the 1927 city directory of Worcester, Massachusetts, the ancestor, Birger Gustaf Sohlberg?
Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
Born 1895

1920 Arrival in New York
1921 Boarder at 22 Lincoln, Worcester
1924 Border crossing- Canada to U.S.
1926 Arrival in Canada
1927 & 1931 Machinist residing in Worcester
1930 Census Worcester, Massachusetts
6TH RECORD: 1930 CENSUS

• Berger Sohlberg, age 30, male, single,
• Born in Sweden, alien, immigration 1923
• Roomer, machinist in a machine shop

Why does the 1930 census listing of Berger Solberg in Worcester, Massachusetts indicate an immigration date of 1923 when the ancestor first arrived in 1920? Also, why is the estimated date of birth off by 5 years?
Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
Born 1895

1920 Arrival in New York
1921 Boarder at 22 Lincoln, Worcester
1924 Border crossing – Canada to U.S.
1926 Arrival in Canada
1927 & 1931 Machinist residing in Worcester
1930 Census Worcester, Massachusetts
If the ancestor Birger Solberg intended to stay in Canada permanently, as stated on the 1926 Canadian passenger list, why does he show up in Worcester, Massachusetts, under the name Birger E. Solberg?
ANALYZING THE RECORDS:

CONFLICTING INFORMATION

- Birth dates
- Immigration information
- Reporting of the name Birger Soelberg
RESEARCH PLAN

- All city directories
- All ship manifests
- Swedish church records in Worcester
- History of Worcester, Massachusetts
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS
CITY DIRECTORY ENTRIES

• 1921 Birger Sohlberg, laborer boards 22 Lincoln
• 1922 Birger Sohlberg, laborer boards 22 Lincoln
• 1924 Birger Sohlberg, assembler res 10 Kendall
• 1925 E Birger Sohlberg, machinist res 47 Harvard
• 1927 Birger E, auto mechanic res 11 Elizabeth
• 1931 Berger Sohlberg, machinist res 125 Belmont
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
<td>City Directory</td>
<td>Sohlberg, Birger laborer boards 22 Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Worcester, Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
<td>City Directory</td>
<td>Sohlberg, Birger laborer boards 22 Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar 1923</td>
<td>Värmland, Sweden</td>
<td>Emigrant Church Record</td>
<td>Erik Birger Sohlberg, male, born 28 Apr 1899, Born Köla, Värmland, Departure Date: 31 Mar 1923, Departure Place: Arvika Sfs, Värmland, Arrival Place: USA, ironworker, Single, travels alone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Apr 1923</td>
<td>Gothenburg, Sweden</td>
<td>Passenger list</td>
<td>Erick B Sohlberg, passenger on the ship &quot;Stockholm&quot; bound for New York on April 7, 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Apr 1923</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Ship Passenger list</td>
<td>Erick Birger Sohlberg, passenger on the ship &quot;Stockholm&quot; arrived in New York on April 18, 1923, will stay for only 7 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLOR CODING FOR VARIOUS EVENTS OR PEOPLE**

- **1923 Arrival of Erik Birger Sohlberg**
- **Born 28 April 1899**
- **Staying for 7 years in U.S.**
NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE LOCATED RECORDS

Birger Sohlberg
Erik Birger Sohlberg
Erik B Sohlberg
Berger Solberg
Birger Gustaf Sohlberg
E Birger Sohlberg
Birger G. Sohlberg
Berger Sohlberg
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1st Arrival in New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>1st Arrival in New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>Border crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>1st Arrival in New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>2nd Arrival in New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Voyage to Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>City Directory, Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Departed from Sweden for Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>City Directory, Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>City Directory, Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Voyage to Kristiansand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Arrival in Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>City Directory, Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Census, machinist Worcester, Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Marriage Sweden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Search Canadian records from 1926 on for Birger Gustaf Solberg.
  • Research should begin in the stated destination of Montreal, Quebec.
• Census records are only available until 1921, so other records will need to be searched.
  • Naturalization & Citizenship records
  • Newspapers
  • Obituaries
  • Death records
  • Directories
  • Church records
  • Cemeteries
  • Land Records
THE GENEALOGY RESEARCH PROCESS
“Research is not a matter of looking up the answer, but of tracking down the answer.”

FEEDBACK

- Go to session RT5710 in the RootsTech Mobile App
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QUESTIONS???

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