

# Bridging the Gap

Finding Your Ancestors in  
the U.S. between 1780 and 1830

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D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS

# Understanding the Gap

- “English” Record Keeping
  - Church Records
  - No Civil Registration
  - Land Records
  - Probate Records
- Revolutionary War
  - Rebellion
  - “State” Mindset

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# Understanding the Gap

- Development of America
  - Territorial Expansion
  - Economic Growth
  - Social Development

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# Understanding the Gap

- Religion
  - Stronghold for Records
    - Marriage
    - Birth
    - Death
  - 1 in 4 Americans (25%)
- Newly Established Government

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# Strategies

- Analyze Existing Records and Research
- Recognize Limitations and Truths
- Expand the Search

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# Bridging the Gap...

- *Genealogical Proof Standard*
  - Building a Case
  - Eliminating Possibilities
  - Developing Theories
  - Drawing Conclusions

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# Existing Research

- Transcriptions
- Original Records
- References
- Compiled Records
- Middle Names
- Clues of Origin
- Migration Patterns

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# Existing Records

- What is there...
- What is missing...
- Surname Studies
- Locality Studies

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# Limitations and Truths

- “Missing” Records
  - Why?
  - Substitutes?
- Unrecorded Events
- Unique Situations

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# Expand the Search

- Beyond Standard Genealogical Sources
  - Manuscript Collections
  - Historical Sources
  - Scholarly Articles/Publications

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# Expand the Search

- Repositories
  - Archives and Libraries
    - Federal
    - State
    - Local
    - University

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# JSTOR

- Scholarly Publications
- Fully Indexed
- Public and University Libraries

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# ArchiveFinder

- Formerly ArchivesUSA
- Directory of 5,596 Repositories
- Subscription Database
- Includes *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* (NUCMUC)

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# ArchiveGrid

- Catalog
- 1,000+ Repositories
- Searches Finding Aids

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# Records to Bridge the Gap

- Church Records
- Early American Imprints
- Tax Records
- Land Records
- Compiled Genealogies
- Newspapers

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# Records to Bridge the Gap

- Local Histories
- Probate Files
- Revolutionary War Pension Files
- DAR GRC Records
- Political Affiliations

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# Church Records

- “Second Great Awakening”
  - 1820s
- New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio

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# Early American Imprints

- Flyers
- Newspapers
- Laws and Regulations
- Other Information

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# Finding Early American Imprints

- Archive of America:
  - *Early American Imprints, Series I Evans, 1639-1800.*
  - *Early American Imprints, Series II – Shaw-Shoemaker, 1801-1819.*
- Public and University Libraries

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# Tax Records

- “Collective” Resource
- Age
- Relationships
- Residence

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# Land Records

- Age
- Relationships
- Residence
- Identity:
  - Education (read/write)
  - Economic Status
- Land Mapping/Tracking

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# Compiled Genealogies

- Original Sources
- Unable to Access Records
- Family Legends

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# Newspapers

- Online Databases
  - *Early American Newspapers*
  - *19<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. Newspapers*
- Legal Notices
- Local History

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# Local Histories

- Family Sketches
- Early Settlers
- Migration Patterns
- Cemeteries
- Other Information

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# Probate Files

- Complete Probate Packet
- Estate Inventories
- Receipts

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# Revolutionary War Pension Files

- Proof of Service
- Widow
- Heirs
- Proof of Birth, Marriage, and/or Death
- Affidavits
- Other Records: Final Payment Vouchers

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# DAR Resources

- Lineage Applications
  - Proven
  - Unsuccessful
- Genealogical Records Committee
  - Land
  - Tax
  - Bible
  - Other
- Onsite (DAR Library, Washington, DC)

# Treasures in Political Records

- Individuals
- Relationships
  - Family
  - Friends
  - Associates
  - Others
- Economic Information

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# Treasures in Political Records

- Age
- Evidence of Voting Rights
- Occupation

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# More Information

- Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr., ed. *History of U.S. Political Parties*. 5 vols. New York: Chelsea House, 2002.

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## HISTORY OF U.S. POLITICAL PARTIES

★

VOLUME I  
1789-1860  
From Factions to Parties

General Editor  
**Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.**  
*Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities  
City University of New York*

★

New York  
CHELSEA HOUSE PUBLISHERS  
*in association with*  
R. R. BOWKER COMPANY  
New York and London  
1973

# Types of Records

- Convention Records
  - Attendee Lists
  - Voting Records/Minutes
  - Souvenir Books
  - Memorabilia

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# Types of Records

- Internal Records
  - Voting Records
  - Minutes
  - Membership Lists
  - Fundraising Records
  - Mailing Lists
  - Correspondence

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# To Reflect...

- Analyze Existing Research and Records
- Recognize Limitations and Truths
- Expand the Search

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# Bridging the Gap

Tracing Families in the U.S.  
between 1780 and 1830

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# New Tools and Ideas in Research

D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS

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# An Overview

- Time Management
- Collaboration
- “Working” Research Logs
- Expanding Online Sources

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# Time Management - Why?

- Research
- Analysis
- Writing/Compilation
- Avoid Piles...
- Leave Work Behind?

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# Organizing

- Pick a System
- Customize Recommendations
- The 5 Minute Rule...
  - Paper Files
  - Digital Files

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# Your Legacy?

- Scattered Papers
- Misc. Research Notes
- Unlabeled Pictures
- Unsorted Computer Files

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# A Golden Rule

- For every hour in a library
  - 1-2 hours preparation
  - 1-2 hours analysis/follow-through
- 5 hours in FHL
  - 6-8 hours preparation
  - 6-8 hours follow-through

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# Key Concepts...

- Developing Goals
- Prioritizing
- Collaborating
- Delegating
- Plan Ahead

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# Time Management

1. Identify an Individual/Family
2. Search Records
3. Ask Advice?
4. Search Records
5. Record Results (perhaps)

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# Adjust Your Pattern

1. Identify Goal
2. Discover Records
3. Search Records
4. Analyze Records
5. Search Additional Records
6. Record Results

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# Manageable Goals

- Find a Focus:
  - Individual
  - Family
  - Brick-wall
  - Transcription Project
- Commit Yourself:
  - Thorough Research
  - Final Product

# How Many Goals?

- 1-3 Projects
- 3-5 Extended Projects
- Limit Yourself
- Be Realistic
- Remember:
  - Final Product
  - Your Legacy

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# Finished Products...

- Family Narrative
- Individual Sketch
- Online Blog
- Scholarly Article

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# On Compiling and Writing

- Start from the Beginning
- Genealogical Writing is NOT:
  - Pushing a button on a computer
  - Printing a series of generated reports
  - Copying materials from other published works into one product

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# On Compiling and Writing

- Genealogical Writing:
  - Starts with a blank document
  - Develops within a manageable project
  - Is an end goal for some

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# Focus Your Online Research

- Specific Goal:
  - Record Type
  - Resource
- Specific Avenues:
  - Websites
  - Collections
- Avoid Distractions

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# Create an Action Plan

- Summarize Goal
- Identify Key Steps
- Identify Resources
- Recognize Limitations
- Be Flexible

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# Action – Task

- Specific Steps
- Repositories
- Estimated Time
- Deadlines

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# Time Yourself

- Microfilm
  - Land Records
  - Probate Records
- Online Research
  - Census Records
  - FamilySearch.org Records
- Analysis
  - Transcribe Documents
  - Note Keeping

# Allow Time For...

- Developing Context
  - Geographical
  - Historical
- Education
  - Seminars
  - Online Articles
  - Publications
- Digestion

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# Prioritize

- Onsite Research
- Create Your Own System
- Incorporate:
  - Research Logs
  - Research Notes
  - Task Lists
- Logical Steps
- Context *before* Research?

# One Example...

- **A: Must Complete**
  - Deadline Sensitive
  - Unique to Repository
  - Top Lead
- **B: Try to Complete**
  - Standard Record Types
  - Available Other Locations

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# One Example...

- C: Possibly Complete
  - Widely Available Records
  - Unlikely Success
- D: Just for Fun

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# **COLLABORATION**

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# Collaboration

- Different...
  - Approaches
  - Researchers
  - Records
  - Theories
- Cloud Computing
- Share **AND** Preserve

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# What is the Cloud?

- Central Location
  - Data
  - Software
  - Processing
  - Backup
- Commonly Known
  - GoogleDocs
  - DropBox
  - Mozy

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# Some Hesitations

- Security
- Privacy
- Access
- Durability

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# Data Trends

- Central Storage System
- Universal Access
- Digital Images
  - GB (gigabyte)
  - TB (terabyte)
  - PB (petabyte)
- Cost Effective
- Permanent Storage

# Reliability

- Constant Backup
- Significant Storage
- Customer Support
- Ensure Stability
  - Access is Paramount

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# Low Cost

- DropBox – 2GB free
  - 50 GB (\$9.99 p/m or \$99.00 p/y)
  - 100GB (\$19.99 p/m or \$199.00 p/y)
- SugarSync – 5GB free
  - 30GB (\$4.99 p/m or \$49.99 p/y)
  - 60GB (\$9.99 p/m or \$99.99 p/y)
  - 100GB (\$14.99 p/m or \$149.99 p/y)
  - 250GB (\$24.99 p/m or \$249.99 p/y)

# Low Cost

- Box.net – 5GB free
  - 10GB (9.99 p/m)
  - 50GB (19.99 p/m)
- Memopal – 3GB free
  - 200GB (\$49 p/y)
  - 300GB (\$69 p/y)

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# Compare to...

- Personal Expenses:
  - External Hard Drive
  - Software Updates
- Syncing Difficulties
  - Multiple Computers
  - Multiple Mobile Devices

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# Future-Proof

- Flexible and Adaptable
- You don't need to:
  - Invest
  - Unravel
  - Worry
- Digital Preservation
  - Conversion
  - Stability

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**MAKE A “WORKING”  
RESEARCH LOG**

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# Your Research Log

- Prepare Before
  - Prioritize
  - Include Call Numbers
  - Include Record Locations
- Complete During Research
  - Research Results
  - Note Copies
- Analyze After

# Other Research Tools

- Research Notes
- Indexed Lists
- Mobile Apps
- Word Lists, etc.

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# Evernote

- Cloud-Based System
- Synch Between:
  - Desktops/Laptops
  - Mobile Devices
- OCR Capability

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# Evernote

- E-mail Upload
- Benefits:
  - Central Location
  - Automated Synchronization
  - Tags
- Cost:
  - 60MB (free)
  - Paid Upgrades

# Evernote

- Possible Uses:
  - Research Notes
  - Research Logs
  - Documents

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# **EXPANDED ONLINE SOURCES**

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# Internet Archive

- [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)
- Free Service
- 1,000s of Materials
- Multiple Views:
  - Text
  - Online
  - Download PDF
  - Others

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# 1000Memories

- Free Service
- Ancestral “Facebook Profiles”
- Family Tree
- Multiple Shoeboxes

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# WeRelate

- Wiki-Based Technology
- User-Contributed
- Individual pages:
  - Links to Websites
  - Revision Histories
  - Visitor Tracking
  - Discussions (archived)
  - Notifications

# YouTube

- Present Research
- Encourage Feedback
- Learning Resource
- Younger Generations
- Search Keyword:
  - Genealogy AND/OR Family History
  - Other Topics

# Final Words...

- Always Something New
- Prepare for Changes
  - Technology
  - Practices
  - Research Methods
  - Resources
- Have Fun

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# New Tools and Ideas in Research

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# Online Resources for Colonial American Research

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D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS



# Colonial American Research Online

- Compiled Resources
  - Genealogies
  - Other Records (deed, probate, court, vital)
- Primary Source Material
  - Transcribed Records
  - Actual Records

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# Google Books

- Free – [books.google.com](http://books.google.com)
- Public Domain:
  - Printed Vital Records
  - Compiled Genealogies
  - Local History Publications
- Search Books
- Download as “eBooks”

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# The Internet Archive

- Free Resource <archive.org>
- Public Domain Books
  - Compiled Genealogies
  - Local Histories
  - Other Materials
- Major Libraries:
  - Harvard University
  - New York Public Library
  - Allen County Public Library (ACPL)

# Internet Archive

- Browse and Search:
  - OCR Conversion
  - Search (titles, authors, text, subjects)
- Download:
  - PDF
  - Text
  - HTML
  - Image File
  - Other Formats

# JSTOR

- Scholarly Articles
  - Peer-Reviewed Articles
  - Book Reviews
  - Images
  - Other Materials
- Undiscovered Records
  - Bibliographies
  - References
- Fully Searchable

# Early American Newspapers

- Actual Images
- 1690-1876
- Major Universities and Libraries
- Context

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# What to Look For

- Names
- Localities
- Advertisements
- Notices
- Daily Activities

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# Search Tips

- Broad Geographical Search
- Limited Geographical Search
- Quotations (Phrases)
- Chronological Search

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# AmericanAncestors.org

- New England Historic Genealogical Society
- 2,000 Database Collections
- Based on Original Records
- Online Tutorials
- Key Collections:
  - Scholarly Journals
  - Vital Records
  - Study Projects
  - Online Tools

# Cemetery Transcriptions

- Over 1,650 cemeteries
  - Rhode Island
  - New Hampshire
  - Maine
  - Massachusetts
  - Vermont
  - Eastern Canada
  - India
  - United Kingdom
  - New York

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# Cemetery Transcriptions

- Updated frequently
- Fully searchable
  - Year
  - Name
  - Location

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# The Great Migration

- *The Great Migration Begins and The Great Migration*
- Identifies European who settled in New England before 1635
- Entries include
  - Genealogical Information
  - Scholarship
  - Historical Information

# *The Register* (1847-present)

- Fully searchable
- Online images

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# Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850

- Digital images of the NEHGS series, *Massachusetts Vital Records*
- Searchable by:
  - Name
  - Date
  - Location

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# Online Articles

- Categories:
  - Localities
  - Special Topics
  - NEHGS Publications

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# Colleges and Universities

- Wide Array
  - Original Materials
  - Research Materials
  - Other Items
- Digital Collections
- Student Workers

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# Yale University

- Rich History
- Key Areas:
  - Connecticut
  - New York
  - General New England
  - Other Areas

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# Family Papers

- Large Collection (1,800+):
  - Frost
  - Winthrop
  - Strong
  - Hinckley
- Access in Finding Aids
- Limited Digitization
- Varied Access Levels

# Connecticut Misc. Manuscripts Collection

- Artificial Collection
- Cities and Towns
- Contents:
  - Printed Material
  - Military Records
  - Legal Records
  - Enrollment Lists
  - Muster Rolls
- Open for Research

# Diaries (Misc.) Collection

- Artificial Collection
- Connecticut
- Other Regions (U.S.)
- Topics:
  - Farming
  - Student Life
  - Military Life
  - Weather
- Varied Access

# Genealogical Manuscripts Collection

- Artificial Collection
- Printed Materials
- Focus:
  - Connecticut
  - New England
- Dates Covered: 1600-1980
- Some Early Compiled Genealogists
  - Author Notes
  - Handwritten Corrections
  - Research Material

# State Archives

- Digital Libraries
- Access to:
  - Funding
  - Technology
  - Personnel

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# Georgia State Archives

- URL: <http://cdm.sos.state.ga.us:2011/cdm/>
- “Georgia’s Virtual Vault”
- Collection Area:
  - Georgia
- Collection Type:
  - Primary Records (Wills, Land, Tax, etc.)
  - Family Collections
  - Other Content

# Maryland State Archives

- URL: <http://www.msa.md.gov/>
- Archive of Maryland (<http://aomol.net/html/index.html>)
- Limited Registration Required
- Collection Area:
  - Maryland
- Collection Type:
  - Colonial Documents
  - Primary Sources (Probate, Military, Court)



# State Archives of North Carolina

- URL: <http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/projects.htm>
- Collection Area:
  - North Carolina
- Collections Type:
  - Family Papers
  - Newspapers
  - Maps

# Online Resources for Colonial American Research

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# Successful Searching Online

## Clustering for Genealogists

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# Infoglut:

“an excess amount of information being provided, making processing and absorbing tasks very difficult for the individual because sometimes we cannot see the validity behind the information”

“Infoglut,” *Wikipedia*, accessed online <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Infoglut>>, December 30, 2011.

# Why Infoglut?

- Document Images
- Document Transcriptions
- Message Boards/Mailing List Postings
- Electronic/Digital Publications

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# Why Infoglut?

- Databases
- Personal Websites
- Organizational Websites
- Commercial Websites

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# But Wait...There's More

- Education and Training
- Web 2.0
  - Social Networking
  - Wikis
  - Blogs
  - Twitter
- Constant Change
- Search Engines

# Metadata

- Name: Loyd [Lloyd] G. Foster
- Name: Frances L. ( ) Foster
- Place: Jackson, Wyoming
- Place Type: Cemetery
- Date: 1912
- Date: 1998
- Date: 1914
- Date: 1967





# Mocavo

- Genealogy Search Engine
- 6+ Billion Names
- Common Genealogy Websites
- Mocavo Plus
  - Fee-Based
  - Personalize Options
  - Expanded Search

# Yippy.com

- Categorizes
  - Titles
  - Abstracts
- Qualifiers
  - Concise
  - Understandable
  - Accurate
  - Distinctive

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# Benefits of Yippy

- Quantity
- Quality
- Additional Searches

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# Basic Search Strategy

- 1. Write it Down**
- 2. Identify Keywords**
- 3. Remove Unnecessary Words**

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# Write it Down

- **“I want to find information about Thomas Allison, born 1798 in Virginia, died 1862 in Gallia County, Ohio.”**
- **“I want to discover how to research my Danish genealogy.”**
- **“How many children did Franklin B. Smith have?”**
- **“When and where did Mary A. Dennett marry Patrick Doughty?”**

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# Identify Keywords

- “I want to find information about Thomas Allison, born 1798 in Virginia, died 1862 in Gallia County, Ohio.”
- “I want to discover how to research my Danish genealogy.”

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# Identify Keywords

- “How many children did Franklin B. Smith have?”
- “When and where did Mary A. Dennett marry Patrick Doughty?”

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## Remove Unnecessary Words

- **information, Thomas Allison, 1798, Virginia, 1862 , Gallia, Ohio**
- **discover, how, research, Danish, genealogy**
- **children, Franklin B. Smith**
- **Mary A. Dennett, marry, Patrick Doughty**

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# Expand Your Search

- **Multiple Search Phrases**
  - Synonyms
  - Alternate Spellings
  - Abbreviations
- **Boolean Tools**
- **Truncation**

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# Synonyms...

“I want to find information about Thomas Allison, born 1798 in Virginia, died 1862 in Gallia County, Ohio.”

- information = data, facts, statistics, research, source, details
- Thomas Allison = Thos. Allison, Tom Allison, Thos. Allyson, Tom Allyson, Thomas Allyson

# Synonyms...

“I want to find information about Thomas Allison, born 1798 in Virginia, died 1862 in Gallia County, Ohio.”

- 1798 = 18th century, eighteenth century, late 1700's, seventeen-hundred and ninety-eight, year
- Virginia = VA
- 1862 = 19th century, nineteenth century, mid 1800's,
- eighteen hundred and sixty-two
- Gallia = county, cty, Gall
- Ohio = OH

# Synonyms...

“I want to discover how to research my Danish genealogy.”

- discover = find out, learn, determine, search
- how = guide, learn, tutorial, explain, process

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# Synonyms...

“I want to discover how to research my Danish genealogy.”

- research = search, study, explore, seek
- Danish = Denmark, Danmark, Danes
- Genealogy = family history, family tree, ancestry, document, data

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# Synonyms

“How many children did Franklin B. Smith have?”

- Children
  - Child
  - Male
  - Female
  - Boy
  - Girl
  - Infant
  - Unknown

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# Synonyms

“How many children did Franklin B. Smith have?”

- Franklin B. Smith
  - Frank B. Smith
  - Franklin Smith
  - F.B. Smith
  - Frank Smith
  - Franklin B. Smyth
  - Frank B. Smyth
  - Franklin Smyth
  - F.B. Smyth
  - Frank Smyth

# Synonyms

“When and where did Mary A. Dennett marry Patrick Doughty?”

- Mary A. Dennett
  - Mary A. Denet
  - Mary Denet
  - Mary Dennet
  - Mary A. Dennet
  - Mary A. Denett
  - Mary Denett



# Synonyms

“When and where did Mary A. Dennett marry Patrick Doughty?”

- Marry
  - Place
  - Location
  - Married
  - Date
  - Spouse
  - Engaged
  - Bann
  - Intention

# Synonyms

“When and where did Mary A. Dennett marry Patrick Doughty?”

- Patrick Doughty
  - Pat Doughty
  - Patrick Dughty
  - Patrick Doghty
  - Patrick Doty

# Finding Synonyms

- Observe and Record
- Ask Others
- Thesaurus
  - <http://www.thesaurus.com>

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# Applying Synonyms

- Boolean Operations
- Phrase Searching
- Truncation

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# Boolean Operations

- AND
- OR
- AND NOT
- NOT
- NEAR

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# Boolean Examples

- (marry OR married OR intention OR spouse OR bann)
- (married AND date AND place)

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# Phrase Searching

- Phrases = “family history” OR (family history)
- Places = “Gallia County, Ohio” OR (Gallia County, Ohio)
- Names = “Thomas Allison” OR (Thomas Allison)

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# Truncation

- Keywords = genealog\* will return genealogy, genealogist, genealogies
- Places = Oh\* will return OH, Ohio
- First Names = Thom\* will return Thom, Thomas
- Surnames = Thorn\* will return Thorn, Throne, Thornapple



# The Re-Approach

- Consider a record...
  - Locality
  - Record Type
  - Historical Significance
  - Repository
- Consider a digitized record...
  - What?
  - Why?
  - Who?
  - Where?

# Localities

- States / Counties / Towns
- Other Jurisdictions
- Broad Subject
- Multi-Level Search
  - Broad
  - Narrow
  - Narrower

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# Reverse

- Databases
- Websites
- Build Search Terms
- Find Similar Resources

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# Remember...

- Search Engines Change
- Your Search Engine Knows **YOU**
- Beyond Google:
  - Mocavo
  - Yippy
  - Others
- Keep a Research Log

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# Successful Searching Online

## Clustering for Genealogists

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