

# Beginner's Genealogy Workshop

Session 2: Document Your Research

# Session 2: Overview

- Identifying Records and Thinking like a Historian
  - Primary Sources
  - Secondary Sources
  - Verify Sources
- Document Your Research
- Organize Your Research
  - Physical Files
  - Online Research
- Explore Your Family History:
  - Genealogy Questions from You
  - Search Your Family Records
  - Visit the Cambridge Room

# Primary Sources

- Primary Source

Definition: Material that contains firsthand accounts of events and that was created contemporaneous to those events or later recalled by an eyewitness.

- Personal

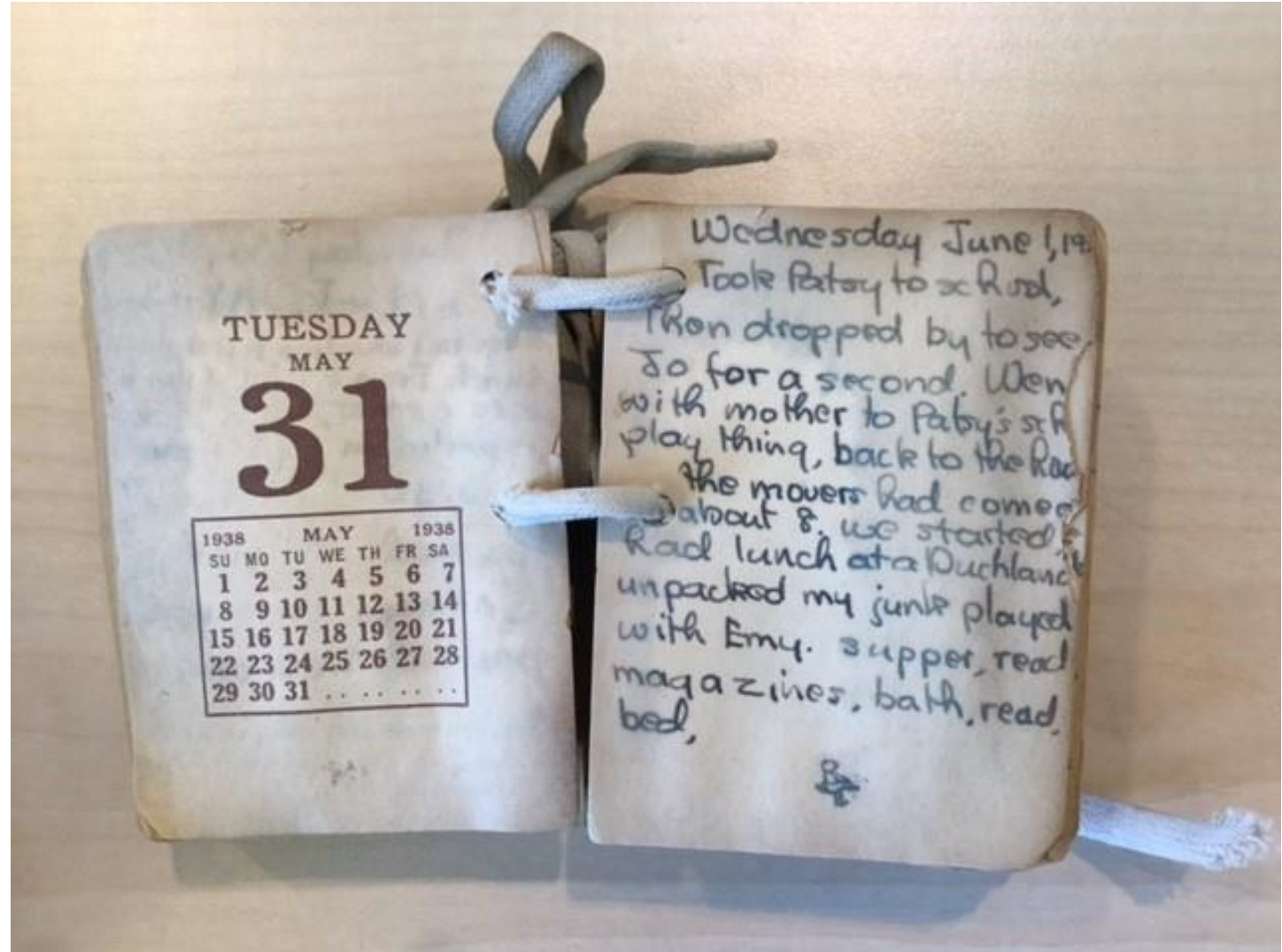
- Family Bible from 1880s
    - Great grandma Jane's diary from 1900-1920
    - Letters sent between Uncle James and Uncle William when serving in World War II.
    - Cousin Anne's Obituary in the Cambridge Chronicle from 1962
    - Grandpa Isaiah's college yearbook photograph from 1925
    - Great Aunt Martha's book of household receipts from 1935-1945

# Primary Sources

- Public Records
  - Birth Certificate
  - Census Record
  - Probate Court Record
  - WWI Draft Card
- Religious Institution Records
  - Birth Register
  - Marriage Register
  - Funeral Register
  - Bar/Mat Mitzvah Register

# Primary Sources

Page from Dorothy Arnold's Diary, 1938, from the [Dorothy Arnold Art Journals, 1938-2010](#), available at the Cambridge Room. Select digital material from the collection is available [here](#).



# Secondary Sources

- Secondary Source  
Definition: A work that is not based on direct observation of or evidence directly associated with the subject, but instead relies on sources of information.
  - Published or Self Published Family Histories
  - Online Family Trees
    - Ex. The Smith Family Tree on Ancestry.com
  - Genealogy Compilations
    - Ex. *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* by James Savage
    - Ex. *Pioneers of Massachusetts* by Charles Henry Pope

# Secondary Sources

*Twenty Families of Color in Massachusetts, 1742-1998*  
by Franklin A. Dorman

FRANKLIN A. DORMAN

*Foreword by James O. Horton*



TWENTY FAMILIES  
of COLOR  
in MASSACHUSETTS  
1742-1998

– *Fourth Generation* –

6. EMELINE/EVELINE<sup>4</sup> BARBADOES was born in Boston, Massachusetts, 17 October 1839,<sup>[74]</sup> daughter of James G. and Rebecca (Brint) Barbadoes.

She appeared in the 1860 federal census and in the 1865 state census as a single woman, living by herself in Boston. In the 1870 federal census, she is listed as “Ellen” Barbadoes, with two children, living in Boston’s Sixth Ward.

Between 1867 and 1877, there were six children named Barbadoes born in Massachusetts to Emeline or Eveline Barbadoes, with three different fathers. Two were born in Boston with “James” as the father, two were born in Charlestown to “Henry”, and the last in Boston to “William”; there were no marriages reported, and the births of the last three children were not recorded. One child appears only in the 1870 census. It is possible that those three men did not bear the name Barbadoes, and that the children were simply given the name of their mother at birth. All but the first child died very young.

Children:

- i. ARDELLA C.<sup>5</sup> BARBADOES, b. in Boston 30 April 1868,<sup>[75]</sup> daughter of Emeline Barbadoes and James \_\_\_\_; m. in Berlin, Mass., 8 November 1901, JOHN ROBERTSON, b. in Texas about 1877, son of Turner and N. (Ashwood) Robertson.<sup>[76]</sup>
- ii. BIRNEY BARBADOES, b. March 1870; found only in 1870 federal census.
- iii. GENEVIEVE BARBADOES, b. in Boston July 1871; d. there 23 August 1871.<sup>[77]</sup>
- iv. MAUDE BARBADOES, b. in Charlestown 17 August 1872; d. there 4 September 1872.<sup>[78]</sup>
- v. ADDIE BARBADOES, b. in Charlestown August 1873; d. there 3 November 1873.<sup>[79]</sup>
- vi. CHRISTINA F. BARBADOES, b. in Boston January 1876; d. there 11 November 1878.<sup>[80]</sup>

7. JEANETTE<sup>4</sup> BARBADOES was born in Boston about 1846, according to her marriage record, daughter of James and Rebecca (Brint) Barbadoes.

74. Boston Births Index, Hollbrook microfiche, 66.

75. Massachusetts VRs, 207:156.

76. Massachusetts VRs, 515:225.

77. Massachusetts VRs, 234:1; 240:142.

78. Birth date calculated from death record, Massachusetts VRs, 248:155.

79. Birth date calculated from death record, Massachusetts VRs, 257:148.

80. Massachusetts VRs, 303:245.

# Verify Your Research

- Levels of Verification
  - Think of verification as a tiered system
    - Tier 1: Original source
    - Tier 2: Transcription of original source
      - Digital (database like Ancestry.com) and Printed
    - Tier 3: City/Town Histories
    - Tier 4: Published and Self Published Family Histories
    - Tier 5: Online self published sources
      - Online Family Trees
      - Question the sources! Are they listed? Are they verifiable.
  - Trust the source closest to the date



# Verify Your Research

- Note about Transcriptions (Online and Printed)
  - Original Document and Transcription Available
    - Download or print/copy both
  - Only Transcription Available
    - If available, try to see the original source to verify the transcription

# Verify Your Research

Transcription of 1890  
Veterans Schedule from  
Ancestry.com.

Veteran's Name:	Thomas W Higginson
Home in 1890 (Township, County, State):	Cambridge, Middlesex, Massachusetts
Year enlisted:	1862
Year discharged:	1862
Rank:	Colonel
Company:	<a href="#">View image</a>
Regiment or vessel:	<a href="#">View image</a>
Length of service:	<a href="#">View image</a>

# Verify Your Research

Original Record of 1890s Veterans Schedules from Ancestry.com.

Special Schedule.—Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows, etc.										Page	
S. D.: 67 ; E. D.: 447 ; Misc: Civil Division: Cambridge											
House No.	Family No.	NAME OF SURVIVING SOLDIER, SAILOR, AND MARINE, AND WIDOW.	Rank.	Company.	Name of Regiment or Vessel.	Date of Enlistment.	Date of Discharge.	Length of Service.			
								Yrs.	Mo.	Days	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9			
287	249	Widow of Frank M. Cook	Sergeant		9th Regt	1862	1865	3			27
241	247	Widow of Will. F. Johnson				186	186				28
262	288	Higginson, Thomas W.	Captain	B.	61st Mass	12 Oct 1862	18 Nov 1862				29
		Do.	Colonel		33rd Col	186	186				30
465	221	Widow of Edward W. Hunter	Sergeant		8th Mass	17 Apr 1861	16 May 1861				29
		Do.	Colonel		8th Mass	16 May 1861	3 Aug 1861	2	20		32
		Do.	Colonel		19th Mass	3 Aug 1861	29 Oct 1861	1	3	26	33
		Do.	Sgt		29th Jan	1862	1862				34
248	244	Widow of John B. Bartlett	Private		Batt	Oct 1862	July 1863	9			35
332	361	Widow of John S. Smith	Private	H.	21st Mass	23 Aug 1861	31 Aug 1864	3	1	7	36
359	549	Widow of Stephen Young	Private	H.	22nd Mass	186	186	3			37
370	411	Widow of Joseph Hazlett	Private	A.	47th Mass	23 Aug 1862	1 Sept 1863	1	0	9	38
372	404	Widow of James Brown	Private	F.	41st Mass	186	186				39
		Do.	Private		3rd Mass	186	186				40
POST-OFFICE ADDRESS.			DISABILITY INCURRED.			REMARKS.					
10			11			12					
27	11 Hubbard St					Widow could not find papers					
28	80 Buckingham St					Wife knew nothing about discharge					
29	25 South Street		Flesh wound, left side								
30	Do.										
31	76 1/2 North St.										
32	Do.										
33	Do.		Wounded in thigh, below right arm								
34	Do.										
35	76 1/2 North St.										
36	29 Oak St.										
37	Bradbury St.		Shotted through right hip			Draws pension now					
38	78 Cambridge Court					Wife could not find papers					
39	7 Garden Court					Husband drew pension just died					
40											

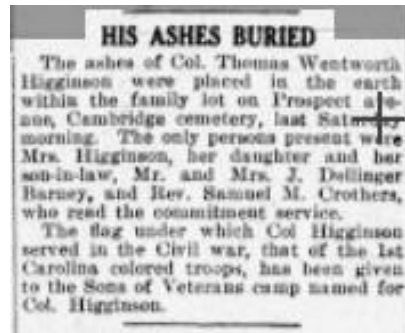
# Verify Your Research

- We're related to Charlemagne, George Washington, and the Kennedys!
  - Beware of genealogies published in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries
  - Revisit, with an analytical eye, family lore
  - Be honest with your family history

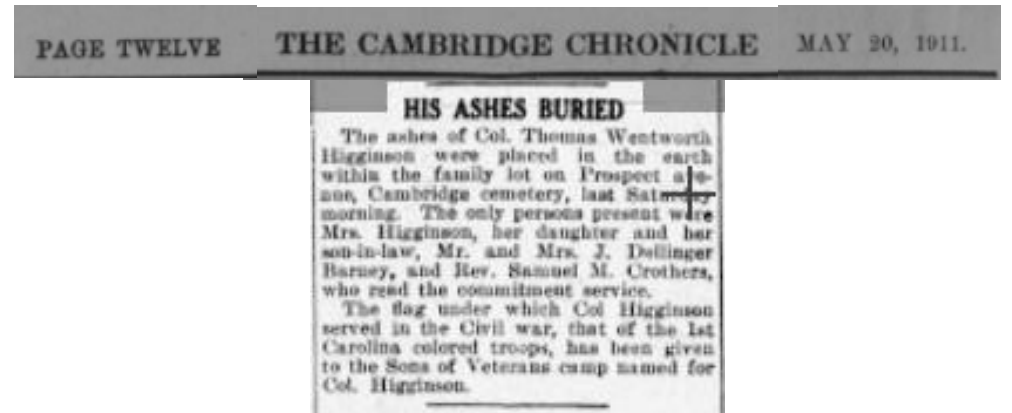
# Document Your Research

- Capture all the information about the source
  - Print or download the full original record
    - Ex. Census record with the date in the header
    - Note the type of record if it isn't printed on the page
  - Masthead showing publication, date, and page number of newspaper
  - Title page showing author, publisher, and date of secondary source
  - Microfilm Call Number

# Document Your Research



Obituary with no information.



Obituary with masthead, date, and page number.

# Document Your Research

- Create a Narrative
  - For each person
    - List facts and source of facts

# Document Your Research

## Griffin Family Records

*Thomas Griffin*:

1. 17 Dec 1748, St Paul's Parish Register:  
Thomas Griffin and Esther baptize a child Nancy.
2. Nov. 1754, Court Proceedings, Baltimore County:  
Joseph Heart, son of Joseph Heart and Elizabeth, bound to Thomas Griffin.
3. 21 Dec 1758, Advertisement in Maryland Gazette:  
Thomas Griffin, living near the Baltimore Iron Works, regarding a runaway convict servant, John Rhodes.
4. 12 Jan 1760, St. Paul's Parish Register:  
Thomas Griffith and Ester baptize a child Rebecca.
5. 17 Jan 1767, Baltimore County Deed Book:  
Thomas Griffin, collier, mortgages to Charles Carroll, £ 126.4, for livestock.
6. 1768, Signers for the removal of the county seat to Baltimore Town:  
Thomas Griffin.
7. 31 Dec. 1772, List of Balances due to the Baltimore Furnace (4218, 5025):  
Thomas Griffin . . . old standing Insolvent . . . £ 74,19,10.
8. There is another reference to Thomas for debt.
9. 1773, List of ~~Taxables~~ for Patapsco Upper Hundred:  
Thomas Griffin; Negro Chloe.
10. 1774, ~~Taxables~~ in St. Paul's Parish in 1774, Patapsco Upper Hundred:  
Thomas Griffith — 2.
11. 23 February 1778, Oath of Fidelity, Baltimore County:  
Thomas Griffin (his mark)



# Organize Your Research

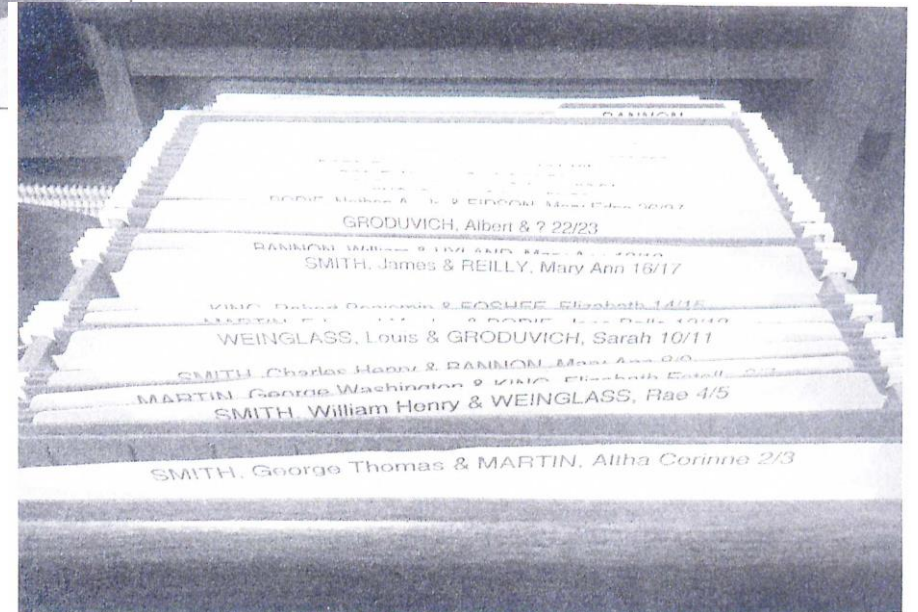
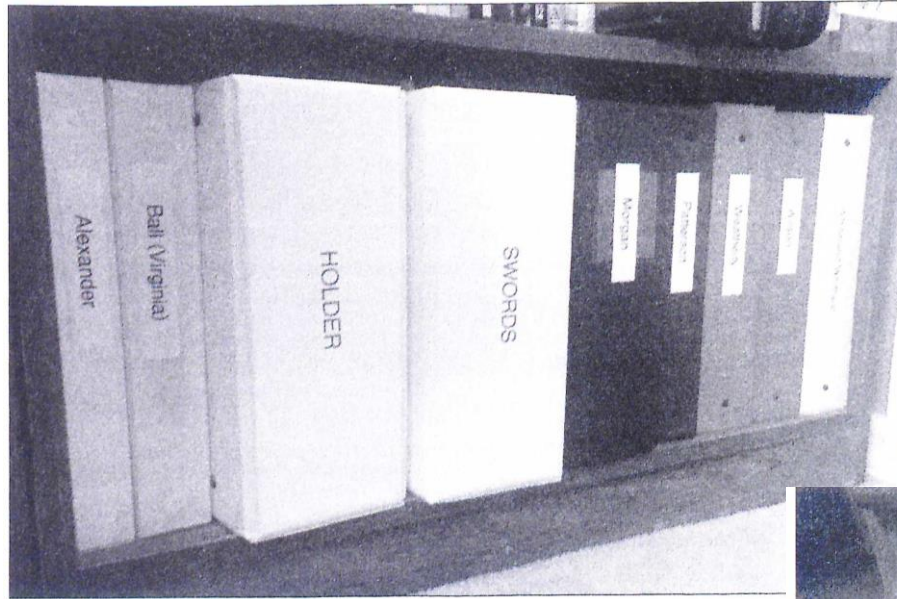
- Paper, Digital, or Both?
  - Comfort level with technology
  - Paper allows you to lay out materials on a work surface
  - Paper will last longer
  - Back up digital files to an external drive or use cloud storage
    - LOCKSS Principle (Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe)
  - Both
    - More work but ensures against damage to physical files, computer failure, and changes in technology

# Organize Your Research

- Physical Files
  - Find a safe place to store research
    - Ex. No basements and not under or near pipes
      - Potential for flooding
  - Create a filing system based on last names
  - Choose between file cabinet or three-ring binders
  - File material in chronological order
  - Consistently print or copy on 8.5 x 11 paper

# Organize Your Research

Images from *Organize your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher* by Drew Smith, pg. 92 and 93.



# Organize Your Research

- Digital Files
  - Create a file naming convention
    - Ex. Last Name\_First Name\_Type of Document\_Date
      - Higginson\_Thomas\_Birth\_1823
      - Higginson\_Thomas\_Census\_1850
      - Higginson\_Thomas\_Census\_1880
      - Higginson\_Thomas\_Census\_1890
      - Higginson\_Thomas\_Enlistment\_1861
      - Higginson\_Thomas\_Obituary\_1911
    - Determine a naming convention if ancestors share names
      - Ex. Distinguish with a middle name or date of birth
    - List name as it actually appears on record
    - Computer will default to alphabetical filing
  - Consistently name your files
  - Create folders based on last names
  - Consistently organize your files
    - Once downloaded, name, and folder immediately

# Explore Your Family History

- Genealogy Questions from You
- Search for Your Family's Records
  - Leave with a copy of one of the types of records covered in today's class.
- Visit the Cambridge Room
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
  - Open tonight from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.