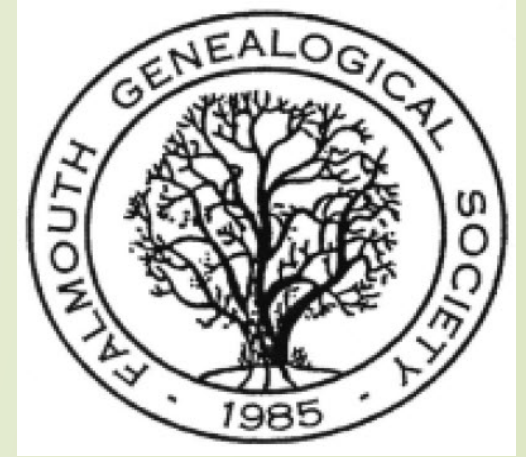


Let's Do Genealogy!

Class #2:

“Researching Sources”



Presented by

Tim Martin and Ralph Wadleigh

of the Falmouth Genealogical Society (FGS)

Prepared for the Falmouth Public Library

Joy of Learning - October 13, 2022 7PM

Our FGS links page is here: <https://falgen.org/>



Access to physical (off-web) sources

Study the local history of an area to gain critical context.

It is often useful to call a Town or County Clerk to inquire about access to Birth, Marriage, Death (BMD) records. In many instances they may however create a derivative document.

Request the originals when possible, or ask where the originals are kept. It often helps to call or speak to people, gaining their interest.

Contact or visit local libraries and relevant genealogical and historical societies. They are often pleased to help, involving their local expertise.

Example comprehensive online resources

- FamilySearch.org – large and free LDS affiliated website
- Ancestry.com – Subscription \$229-\$389/yr
- MyHeritage.com – Subscription \$129-\$229/yr
- Free lists: Cyndislist.com and TheAncestorHunt.com ...
- NARA – U.S. National Archives free
- Archives.com – Subscription \$120/yr
- Fold3.com – U.S. military : \$60-\$80/yr or via Ancestry

Example search case : an ambrotype case



Transcription of text from back of case:

Jared A Lamphere

- died 7 Apr 1889 aged 41 (born c.1848)

Wife Blanche West

- born Apr 1848, died Apr 1889

Sister Anna (West) Kendall



[Ancestry.com U.S. 1880 Census hit](#)
[FamilySearch U.S. 1880 Census hit](#)



FamilySearch.org – primary free site

- Rooted in the extensive work of the LDS church
- Large Indexing effort accomplished : [MA](#)
- Large collection of non-indexed records : [MA](#)
- [Barnstable County Deeds](#)
- Build your family tree - connected to a “[WorldTree](#)”
 - [Find famous relatives](#) and [Where am I From?](#)
 - or standalone under [FamilySearch Genealogies](#).
- Comprehensive genealogy/records [Wiki](#)
- FamilySearch [Mobile app](#) available.
- Locked records available at [Family Search Affiliate Libraries](#) – such as [Falmouth Public Library](#).

Ancestry.com – primary subscription site

- Birthed by BYU students marketing LDS records.
- Apparently - the largest record set.
- Three membership levels:
 - U.S. Discovery \$229/year
 - World Explorer \$319/year
 - All Access \$389/year – adds Fold3, Newspapers.com
- Largest DNA database – connected tree matches
- All family trees are separate & not mergeable.
- Ancestry.com Mobile app available
- Recovering records involving mangled indexing
 - Jared Lamphere in 1880 Census:
 - Wildcards | Soundex | Correcting a Record
- Ancestry Library Edition, American Ancestors and more:
 - available via Falmouth Public Library website

MyHeritage.com – subscription options

- Free - 250 people Family Tree
- “Premium” - 2,500 people Family Tree \$89/year
- “PremiumPlus”- Unlimited Family Tree \$209/year
- “Data”- access to all records \$129 then \$189/year
- “Complete”- Unlimited trees, Data and all DNA tools : \$299/year
- Records, family trees, top-tier DNA testing and analysis
- More European records and DNA testers
- But cannot tie DNA matches to individuals in your tree!
- [Mobile app](#) available
- [Getting Started with MyHeritage](#) PDF
- [Intro to Genealogy](#) course and [Genealogy Resources](#)

U.S. Newspaper resources:

- [NewsPapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com) – operated by Ancestry.com
 - Add Publisher's Extra to Ancestry "All Access" for \$30 per 6-months
 - "Basic" w/o Ancestry.com \$30 per 6-months
 - "Basic + Publisher Extra" w/o Ancestry \$60 per 6-months
- [TheAncestorHunt.com](https://www.theancestorhunt.com) – comprehensive U.S. newspaper list
- [GenealogyBank.com](https://www.genealogybank.com) – \$100/yr, 7-day freetrial, FamilySearch partner
- [NewsPaperArchive.com](https://www.newspaperarchive.com) - \$75 per 6-months
- [NewsLibrary.com](https://www.newslibrary.com) – (more recent papers) \$2.95/article or \$200/year
- [Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov) – free - U.S. Newspapers (1777-1963)
- [Google Newspapers](https://www.google.com/news)

U.S. Newspaper resources state & local

- [New York Fulton](#) – (the power of an individual)
- [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) – Indiana
- [Sturgis Library digitized newspapers](#)
 - Barnstable Patriot (1830-1930)
 - Yarmouth Register (1959-2017)
- [Falmouth Enterprise](#) (1896-1962)
- Boston Public Library
 - [eCards](#) for all MA residents – (renew yearly)
- Browse [city directories](#) when available.

Freebies : [Barnstable County Deeds](#)
[Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps](#) @ LOC

Varied free websites:

- [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) – operated by Ancestry.com
 - Create a free account and contribute!
 - Use the mobile app to find cemeteries and burials
 - Geo-tag gravesites so others can find them!
- [CyndisList.com](https://www.cyndislist.com) & [TheAncestorHunt.com](https://www.theancestorhunt.com)
- Videos: [Family History Fanatics](https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com) & [Genealogy TV](https://www.genealogytv.com) & [Aimee Cross](https://www.aimeecross.com)
- [IPUMS](https://www.ipums.org) - U.S. Census data bulk analysis – free
- Other “world” trees : [WikiTree.com](https://www.wikitree.com) and [Geni.com](https://www.geni.com)

Additional free websites

- Example Google resources:
 - Recent street-front images : [Google Street View](#)
 - Identify or source images : [Google Lens](#)
 - Books out of copyright (historical!) : [Google Books](#)
 - Word frequency : [Google Ngram](#) e.g. spinster, Moby Dick
- The Internet Archive : [Archive.org](#)
 - Scanned Books at the [Open Library](#)
 - Past websites at [The WayBack Machine](#)



Join relevant FaceBook Groups

- Website assistance : [Ancestry Website Users](#)
- Hometown Groups : [Stinesville IN](#)
- Surname Groups : [VanBuskirk Family...](#)
- Specific area expertise : [Sao Miguel Is.](#) – Azores
- County Historical Societies : [Wayne County TN](#)
- Countries : [Irish Genealogy and Family History](#)
- Topical : [Old Photographs Group](#)

Examining and assessing a record

- “Evidence Explained” by Eliz. Shown Mills
- A key publication on citations, reasonably exhaustive search, resolving conflicts, the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)
- Distinguish a “Source” from “Information”
- Source : What you can hold in your hand (a book, photo)
- Information : Content from the source:
 - A date, name, place, cause of death...
 - Usually provided by an informant who had knowledge of the info.

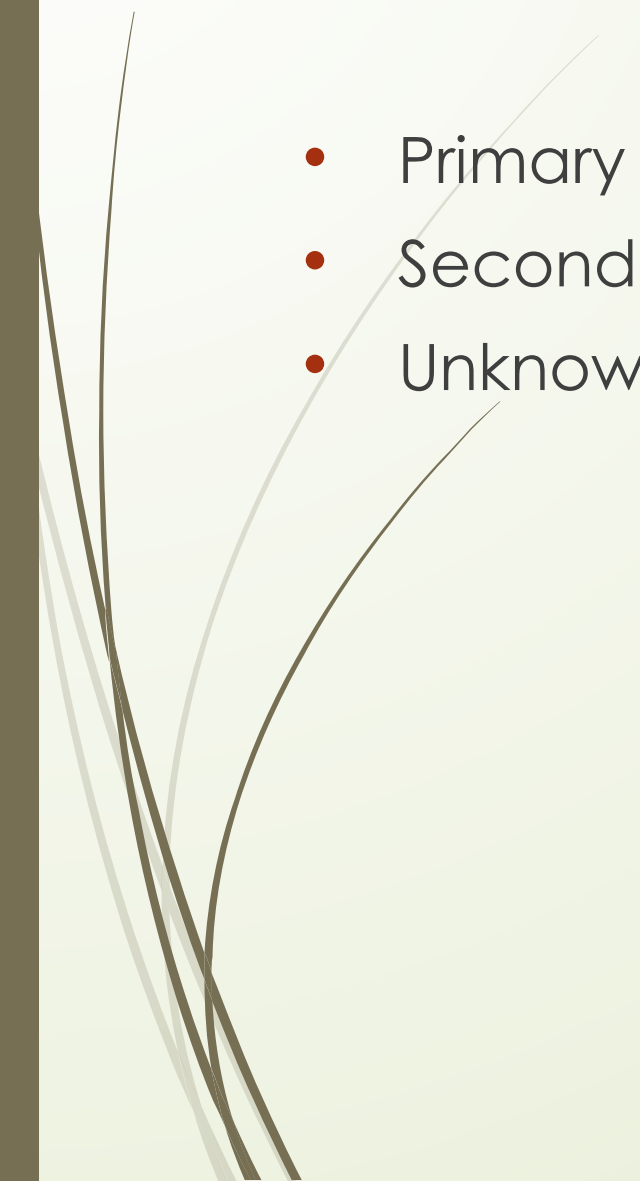


Three types of Sources – a hierarchy

- Original : original document of an event
 - Better if created at or near the time of the event
- Derivative : Compiled from original or other records
 - Transcripts, indexes, abstracts
- Authored Works : new creations compiled from sources
 - Family histories, Pedigree tree, journal articles



Three types of Information – a hierarchy

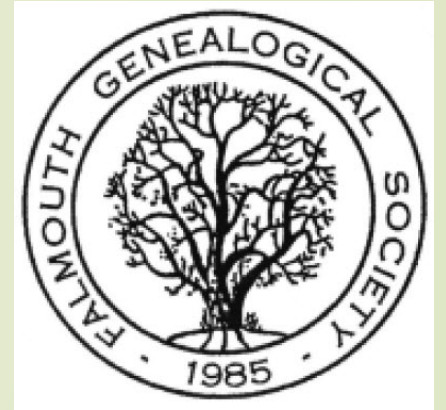
- Primary (first-hand) : First-hand knowledge by an eyewitness.
 - Secondary : Second-hand knowledge or hearsay.
 - Unknown : not certain whether primary or secondary
- 



Three types of Evidence

- Direct Evidence : Information that explicitly answers the research question without needing another source or tool to determine the answer.
- Indirect Evidence : Incomplete information, implied and needing other documents, knowledge or tools to find the answer.
- Negative Evidence : Evidence showing that an alleged fact did not occur. This is different than negative search results.

Conclusion



- Next week our topic is **“Building a Family Tree and Applying for Lineage Societies”**
- Get HELP any Tuesday 2-4pm at the Falmouth Public Library.
- FGS monthly talks are FREE! (2nd Saturday of month)
- This Saturday Oct. 15th at 10:30 AM via ZOOM only:
 - **“Thinking Outside the Search Box – Ancestry.com Search Strategies”**
- NERGC – Springfield Mass – May 3-6, 2023 <https://nergc.org/>

<https://falgen.org> Resources -> Links