

# **Ancestry Tips**

## **Finding Your Revolutionary War Ancestors**

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# Why do we Trace our RW Soldiers?

- SAR is Patriotic Organization and a nice organization to belong to
- SAR is a repository of Ancestral Information
- Helps You to Document your Ancestors for future generations down the line.
- Helps Others to Document their Ancestors

# Footwork

- Talk to Elders – clues
- Other clues - Found obits of Ggrandparents Wright tucked in Bible and so was introduced to them for the first time
- Visit Burial Location - Take photos of marker and surrounding markers
- Internet searches – combine new information into your search terms in quotations

# The Search is Digital-Websites -1

- Google.com
- Ancestry.com
- RW Pensions  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1995>
- *The Great Migration* & GM Directory to 1640  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=2496> (except for T-W & GM Directory)
- *MA Sols & Sail in RW*  
<http://search.ancestry.com/search/DB.aspx?dbid=7726>

# Websites - 2

- NEHGS - AmericanAncestors.org
- NYGBS - <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org>
- For many NY Newspapers go to <http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>
- Fold3.com for Military Records
- RW Bounty Land Grants on Ancestry.com
- SeekingMichigan.org for Death Certs.

# Websites -3 -History Books

- Search on “Vital Records of (Town)” for town vital records
- County History Books Example :

*History of Kent County, Michigan Together With Sketches of its Cities, Villages and Townships ... Biographies of Representative Citizens History of Michigan, Charles C. Chapman & Co. 1881.*

*Biographical Memoirs of Gratiot County, Compendium of Biography of Celebrated Americans, J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago IL.,1906.*

# Websites - 4

- Sampubco.com - For NY wills - indexed by book/page number (use grantor/ grantee index for deeds) – lookup on familysearch.org
- FamilySearch.org
- Also use FamilySearch.org for Land Records - (use Grantor/ Grantee index for deeds) – lookup on Familysearch.org

# Websites - 5

- Family Genealogy books – Search on “History and Genealogy of (family name) family”
- Mapquest.com to see location distances, say to investigate plausible marriages...
- CyndisList.com
- Wikipedia.org to lookup county/city for name changes over time
- County Clerks – search on “clerk of court” of your county of interest



# DAR / SAR

- DAR has database of names – Purchase record for \$10 for use as evidence
- SAR has database of names – not as good

# DNA

- DNA tests – 23AndMe.com
- FamilytreeDna.com - has posted trees
- Y-dna for male line only
- Autosomal for all ancestors
- Mt-dna gives female line only
- Ancestry.com has DNA test but has weak privacy policy

# DNA – Start at the Beginning

- DNA Test – 23andme.com, – Provided Y-DNA
- Familytreedna.com – Y & Autosomal and has family trees
- Located and Joined Wright DNA Project
- Wright DNA Project - Provided two possible Immigrants for Y-DNA Haplotype rare in England
- That directed me to Wright Genealogy book

# Town Genealogy History Books

- Find these in Internet - Search by “History Genealogy of the town of .....”
- Internet search for surname and town turned up town Genealogy/History -*Ancient Wethersfield*- gave names for potential family members in the family trees one of the two settlers

# Census

- Use the Census – be creative
- Think NOW and apply to THEN
- Census takers move residence to residence
- Who lived next door? Mom/Apple Pie
- Names can be spelled wrong
- Names can be transcribed wrong
- Census takes you part way

# Ancestry.com

- Use their Hints – other trees may have clues
- Hint docs may be good or not good
- Contact other tree owners
- Bible record shared – provided the needed link required for Lt. Isaac Church

# Nicknames

- Mary = Polly
- Sally = Sarah,.... etc.
- Found an ancestry.com family tree that listed Ggrandmother as Sophronia Fronie Frances
- I knew her as Francis

# Deeds and Wills - 1

- For Wills in NY try [Sampubco.com](http://Sampubco.com) – they have indexed many NY County Wills.
- Use online maps ([Mapquest.com](http://Mapquest.com)) and [Wikipedia.org](http://Wikipedia.org) to determine if the person's county may have changed name.
- [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) and [NEHGS.org](http://NEHGS.org) also have wills and deeds.



# Deeds and Wills 2

- Go to [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org) – it has searchable Probate records and Land records
- Use Grantor/Grantee index for Deeds – gives Volume and page number of document
- Wills and Deeds Organized by County – Book – and Page
- For very old wills/deeds - may find in first volumes unindexed

# County History Books

- Internet Search for surname and names in RW file turned up Bio in MI County History book
- Bio had history of family move from MA to NY to MI and named RW soldier patriarch as father to Frederick W.
- Bios created so family history would not be lost –Good source of Information –
- County Book Titles repeat

# Contacting County Clerks

- May have to contact Clerk of Court in multiple counties
- Charge fee but usually return it if record not located
- Some Cook County records online
- Cook County records online showed a Sophronia Vilt and Art Shaw married
- Combine County record search with census – Sophronia Shaw and Art Shaw together on one census then not together. Why??

# County Clerks – *Complete Search*

- Ask clerk to search for entire range of relevant dates
- If search negative make sure they searched the entire range of dates
- Entire date range was not searched for Shaw
- *Nicely Insisted* that entire date range be searched and divorce document was found
- Same with State Archives search

# Get Help From Others

- Contact tree owner if they have a well researched tree – Bible record
- Contact Findagrave.com owner – Directed me to FultonHistory.com website for obits of sisters
- Contact County Historical Society – got initial clues from Gratiot Co. Historical Society
- Wits end??? Hire a Pro

# NEHGS

- Enlisted Pros at NEHGS
- Pros evaluated evidence and suggested additional emphasis be placed on Repeated name of deceased child Deodatus and burial next to his Grandparents.
- Our ancestors did not give up – early /tragic death = name carried on
- NEHGS Pros also gave positive evidence evaluation as sufficient to prove descent

Questions??