



Follow the Trail of Records and DNA from Ireland to Illinois to Oregon (1810–1860)

Board for Certification of Genealogists Methodology and Skills Track

Legacy Family Tree Webinars • September 2023

Karen S. Stanbary, AM, CG® ◊ <https://karenstanbarygenealogy.com> ◊ info@karenstanbarygenealogy.com

Takeaways



- ❖ Reasonably exhaustive research uncovers conflicts and provides the means to resolve them.
- ❖ Correlation is the key to success.
- ❖ Logic and reasoning tie together evidence from documentary and genetic sources.
- ❖ Learn as much as you can about Irish immigrant families in the United States before jumping the pond.

Analyze the Starting Point



Genealogists conduct a starting point analysis. This case study begins with the proven identity of my adopted great-grandmother's biological father Charles W. Mapes, the biological son of Elsworth Anthony Mapes and his wife, Hannah Goodlow. Newlyweds “Anna” and Anthony Mapes lived with David Goodlow's presumed family in 1860 in Rock Island County, Illinois.

Craft the Research Question



Who were the parents of David Goodlow who married Nancy Farlow on 22 November 1841 in Rock Island County?

A carefully crafted research question helps to create an efficient research plan. Research questions uniquely identify the subject by time, place, and in relationship to another person.

Plan for Research in Documentary Sources



The flexible research plan identifies sources likely to provide information relevant to the time and place specified in the research question—1840 to 1870 in Rock Island County, Illinois. Conduct a literature survey. Study historical context. Conduct reasonably exhaustive research of the family, friends, associates, and neighbors. Create a timeline. The Illinois research included:

- county histories
- federal and state censuses
- federal land records
- county mortgage, deed, and probate records
- marriage records
- church records
- cemetery records
- newspapers

Plan for Research in Genetic Sources



Begin with selecting base test takers who descend from the child of the research target. Consider the best combination of test takers who will provide genome coverage for that child.

Select descendants:

- who descend from different children of the subject
- who are the closest generation to the research subject
- whose pedigrees are accurate and complete

Mine Information from Independent Records to Expand the Research Plan



Extend the research to include the children of the research subject. Reconstruct the family downstream of the target research couple. Mine children's records for details about their parents' births. Note all conflicting evidentiary items. The Illinois research led to a new research plan about crossing the plains migration to Oregon in the 1864.

Identify the Matches (Focal Study Group)



Mine the match lists for a genetic network of matches who descend from the research subjects' children. Correlate the amount of shared DNA with the known traced relationships among the focal study group members. Conduct pedigree evaluation and mitigate any problems.

Reconstruct the Research Subject's Kin This Side of the Ocean



Reasonably exhaustive research provides meager and conflicting information about David Goodlow's siblings and parents.

Conduct Surname Survey in Ireland



Atypically, a quick surname check for Goodlow and variants suggests few people with the surname in the mid-nineteenth century. They are all located in County Louth.

Research Broadly in Irish Parish Registers



Given the paucity of individuals with the Goodlow surname, the research in parish records includes all of Ireland for the time period. The research reveals meaningful results, but the three hypothesized siblings were each baptized in different counties across the island. Careful mining reveals that the hypothesized father was a member of the County Louth militia.

Study Historical Context of Irish Militia Services from 1800–1830



The study of Irish militia histories aids the interpretation of information mined from parish records. Many soldiers who served in the Irish militia from 1793–1803 remained continuously in service. The family of militiamen often accompanies the regiment. Thus, baptisms of their children often occurred in distant counties.

Correlate Information from Baptismal Records with Specific Militia Movement



County militia movement is documented using newspaper articles and militia histories. While the differing birthplaces are troubling, correlation of the baptismal places with the Louth County militia movement addresses the concern.

Documentary Research Reconstructs the Family and Adds Details to the Family History



Many Irish military records were housed at the National Archives at Kew and not destroyed in the 1922 explosion and fire at the Public Record Office. Research in military records can provide critical information, such as ages and birthplaces, helpful in family reconstruction.

Landlord estate papers add details to narrate the family history.

Analyze the Evidence and Test the Hypothesis



Detailing the evidence and reasoning in written form helps the researcher identify and fill gaps in the logic. Any competing hypotheses must be ruled out. Try as hard to disprove your hypothesis as you try to prove it. Make sure to rule out, instead of ruling in.

Prove the Conclusion



A written documented conclusion meets the Genealogical Proof Standard when the evidence assemblage points to one answer and any conflicts are resolved. Reasoning is the glue that ties the documentary and genetic evidence together.

Good luck on your genealogical journey!
Follow the trail to see where the
evidence leads.



Illinois Resources

Illinois. 1855 state census. Images. *FamilySearch*. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/271754> : 2022.

“United States Bureau of Land Management Tract Books, 1800–1955.” Images. *FamilySearch*. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2074276> : 2022.

“U.S. Surveyor General’s Records for Illinois—Federal Township Plats.” *Illinois Digital Archives*. <http://idaillinois.org/digital/collection/IllinoisPlats/search/> : 2022.

Walsh, Diane Renner. *NGS Research in the States Series: Illinois*. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2007.

Oregon Trail Resources

Haskin, Leslie, Nina L. Williamson. *Pioneer Stories of Linn County, Oregon: W.P.A. Interviews*. 5 volumes. Albany, Oregon: Linn-Benton Genealogical Services, 1984.

Lenzen, Connie Miller. *NGS Research in the States Series: Oregon*, 2nd ed. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2007.

Oregon-California Trails Association. Database. *Paper Trail: A Guide to Overland Pioneer Names & Documents*. <https://www.paper-trail.org/> : 2022.

Ireland Resources

“Baptismal/Birth Records for Ireland.” Database and images. *RootsIreland.ie*. <http://ijbf.rootsireland.ie/index.php> : 2022.

Irish Newspaper Archives. <https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/> : 2022.

“British Army Service Records.” Images. WO 22 and WO 23. Images. *Find My Past*. <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=GBM/WO23/25/014/0963271> : 2022.

County Louth Ireland Genealogical Sources. <http://www.jbhall.clahs.ie> : 2022.

Griffith, Rochard. *General Valuation of Rateable Property of Ireland...Union...Ardee...County of Louth*. Dublin: Her Majesty’s Stationary Office, 1854.

“Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620–1881.” Database. *FamilySearch*. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1584963> : 2021.

Journal of County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society.

McAnally, Henry. *The Irish Militia 1793–1816, A Social and Military Study*. Dublin: Clonmore and Reynolds, 1949.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. E-catalog. https://apps.proni.gov.uk/eCatNI_IE/SearchPage.aspx : 2022.

“Royal Hospital Kilmainham Pensioner Discharge Documents.” *Fold3*. <https://www.fold3.com/title/968/ireland-royal-hospital-kilmainham-pensioner-discharge-documents> : 2022.

“UK Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Soldier Service Records.” Images. *Fold3*. <https://www.fold3.com/title/972/uk-royal-hospital-chelsea-pensioner-soldier-service-records> : 2022.

“Will Calendars, Armagh.” Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-will-calendars> : 2021.

Ffolliot, Rosemary. “Irish Parish Register Baptisms and Confirmations, Ffolliot Collection.” Database and images. *Find My Past*. <https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/irish-parish-register-baptisms-and-confirmations-ffolliot-collection> : 2021.

----- . “Some Irish Militia Movements During the Napoleonic Wars.” Article. *The Irish Ancestor* 1, no. 22 (1969) : 109–114.

DNA Resources

Bettinger, Blaine T. “Version 4.0! March 2020 Update to the Shared cM Project!” *The Genetic Genealogist*. 27 March 2020. <https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2020/03/27/version-4-0-march-2020-update-to-the-shared-cm-project/> : 2021.

Stanbary, Karen. “A Charming Scoundrel and a Tragic Victim—Charles Mapes and Maggie McBurney of Rock Island County, Illinois: Biological Parents of Myrtle Eva (Porter) Dewein.” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 111 (June 2023). Pages 85–110.

———. “Drowning in DNA? The Genealogical Proof Standard Tosses a Lifeline.” In *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Preparations, Practice & Standards*, edited by Debbie Parker Wayne. Cushing, Tex.: Wayne Research, 2019.

Wayne, Debbie Parker. “DNA Standards. Parts 1–8. Blog posts in eight parts. *Deb's Delvings*, 4 March 2019 – 10 March 2019. (<http://debsdelvings.blogspot.com/>).

Methodology Resources

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards*, 2nd edition revised. Nashville, Tenn.: Ancestry, 2021.

Jones, Thomas W. *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 2013. Also available as a Kindle e-book.

———. “Reasoning from Evidence” and “Proof Arguments and Case Studies.” In *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2018.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, 3rd ed. rev. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017.