

The Researcher is the official newsletter of the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085.

It is published six times per year in August, October, December, February, April and June.

The Research Center is the local history archive for Sheboygan County and surrounding areas. It is a repository for documents and images.

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History on the Move Returns!

Crime & Criminals in Sheboygan Co., Part 2, will be held January 20 at Noon at Generations



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Welcome New Members

Jim & Carrie Olsen — Sheboygan Falls
George Sjursen — Mountlake Terrace, WA
Jerry & Dorothy Kolar — Plymouth

Program Schedule

See schrc.org or Facebook for more details.

Second Saturdays: Journeys into Local History

at the Plymouth Arts Center, 520 E. Mill St., Plymouth — 9:30 am

February 14 — Travis Gross presents “*Sheboygan’s Memorial Hospital Neighborhood*” — Travis Gross is back and will speak about the Memorial Hospital neighborhood on Sheboygan’s north side. This area is bordered from the lakeshore to North 8th Street and Geele Avenue to North Avenue.

March 14 — Joe Verdegan presents “*The Monfils 6 Case–30 Years Later*” — Joe Verdegan is back to talk about his highly anticipated new book, “The Monfils 6 Case–30 Years Later.” The book details one of the highest–profile cases in Brown County history in which six Green Bay paper mill workers were convicted in the 1992 death of Tom Monfils.

April 11 — Marie Blunt presents “*Does It Count As A Lighthouse?*” — Lighthouse enthusiast Marie Blunt is back to test your knowledge. Participants “vote” if a lighthouse “should count” as a lighthouse while learning how experts define lights, harbor lights, lighthouses, light stations, beacons, active aids to navigation, and private aids to navigation.

May 9 — Caitlin Armstrong presents “*Settled in Stone: Luxembourgish Stone Houses and Settler Farm Life.*” This presentation will uncover the mystery of Luxembourg stone house architecture, investigate a few local stone houses, and learn what life was like for these early settlers.

Genealogy Classes

at the Research Center, 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls – 1 to 3 pm

\$15 for members, \$20 for non–members

Please pre–register by calling (920) 467–4667.

January 12 — How to Use FamilySearch.org. Jump in and discover how to explore billions of free records, build your family tree, and connect with relatives across the globe.

February 9 — How to Use Historical Newspapers. Unlock fascinating stories hidden in old newspapers — from obituaries to everyday happenings — and bring your ancestors’ lives vividly to light.

March 9 — How to Properly Cite Your Sources. Keep your research strong and trustworthy! Learn simple, practical ways to cite sources so others can follow your discoveries with ease.

April 13 — Hidden Treasures at the SCHRC. Explore the unique collections and resources at the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center that can enrich your family history research.

May 11 — How to Use Military Records. Trace your ancestors’ service through military records and discover the personal details that connect their stories to larger moments in history.

Book Club

at 518 Water Street, Sheboygan Falls — 1 to 2:30 pm

January 21 — *The Cause* (2021) by Joseph J. Ellis



Recipes from **PRANGE'S**

Recipes reprinted from "It's Not Yours 'Til You Like It" available in the SCHRC bookstore or at schrc.org/shop.

These recipes from H.C. Prange's brings back the warmth and nostalgia of holidays past. Each dish carries the comforting flavors of tradition, reminding us that the heart of every celebration is food shared with loved ones. Holidays at home feel complete when the table is filled with familiar favorites, laughter, and the joy of gathering together.

Prange's Macaroni Salad

Contributed by Robert Vogt, Sheboygan.

Salad

- 2-1/2 pounds elbow macaroni
- 10 ounce package frozen peas
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- pinch of salt
- 3 cups sliced celery
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 tablespoon dry onion
- 2 teaspoons pimienta
- 7 hard cooked eggs
- 1 quart mayonnaise

Boil the elbow macaroni until tender. Rinse in cold water. Mix together the peas, sugar and pinch of salt. Combine all the salad ingredients together.

Dressing

- 1-3/4 cups simple syrup
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 cup sugar

Boil the dressing ingredients together. Combine with the salad ingredients.

Prange's Sour Cream Muffins

Contributed by Marilyn Wassink Hanson, Kohler.

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

- 1/4 teaspoon mace
- 1 cup sour cream
- cinnamon and sugar mixture

Cream butter and sugar until fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time. Mix in vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and mace. Add alternately, with sour cream, beginning and ending with dry ingredients. Spoon batter into prepared muffin tins. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



The H.C. Prange's bakery, circa 1942.

continued from page 1

many owners, including A.T. Dean, A.B. Dixon and Peter and Albert Altmeyer but remained a hotel until it was purchased in 1941 by Paul Sopetto. Sopetto added a bowling alley. The building last housed Richard's. It's now in the process of another renovation.

The Knowles Tavern, built in 1846, was located on the southwest corner of Giddings and Elm Street. It was built for Dr. Elisha Knowles, one of the village's first physicians, and a strict temperance man. Dr. Knowles died shortly after the tavern was built and his wife continued to operate the business until their children were settled. In later years the building was used for the public care of local dependent citizens. The tavern was either razed or burned and the site, 413 Elm, is now a private home.

Probably the best-known hotel, the Guyette House, was built in 1848 by John Christian on the northwest corner of Broadway and Monroe. A plethora of owners ran the place

until 1868; one of whom, George Frohne, kept a couple of bears in the backyard for entertainment purposes.

In 1868, Guyette purchased Frohne's business. The Guyette House was considered pretentious, having two chunk-stoves to heat the upper floor and another wood stove to heat the downstairs. Chunk stoves were made to use chunks of wood and were generally used to heat small spaces. A heated bedroom was unheard of at the time.

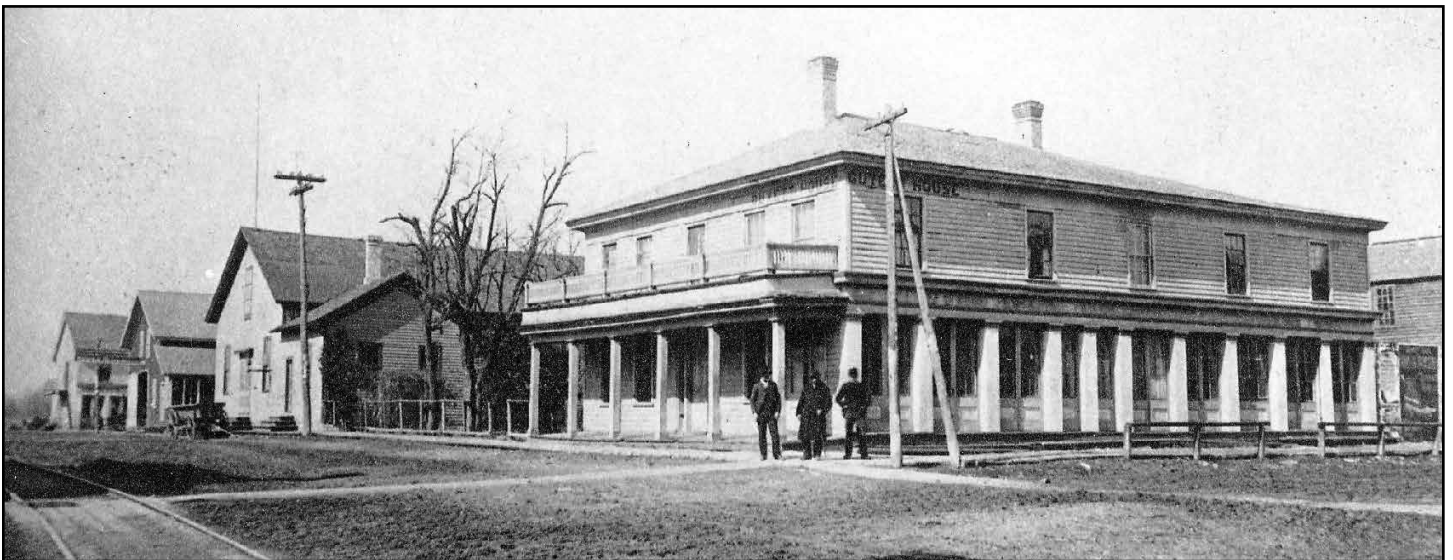
The Guyettes and their daughters did all of the work and the House was run on a strictly temperance basis. In addition, they served wedding banquets, special occasion dinners and their parlor served as an undertaking room for funerals.

In connection with his hotel business, Guyette established a stagecoach line between the Guyette House and Weeden Station south of Sheboygan near A and

Weeden Creek Road, making two trips daily to meet the Lakeshore train. In September 1891, while on the way to meet a train, the stagecoach overturned and he was killed. His wife and daughters continued the hotel for a few years and then rented it out. The fine old building became too dilapidated for use and was razed in 1925.

The Wisconsin House, located in the 100 block of Pine Street, was built in the late 1850s shortly before the Civil War by James Ostrim. He sold it to a Mrs. Brown who operated it until 1864 and then sold it to Louis Walther. Otto Hertzberg was the next owner, adding an *auspannung* (German for stable and place of rest) and bowling alley. The hotel building changed ownership many times and housed many businesses.

The Franklin House was also built prior to the Civil War, a one-and-one-half story plaster building with an attached wing. Louis Walther is thought to be the first owner. He



Mose (not Moses) Guyette rented rooms to travelers and others. They included Charles and Louis Trowbridge who were jewelers; Lindner and Bahr who sold shoes and the McKinley Club, a social club for men only, all located on the second floor. The post office also rented rooms on the main floor from 1860 to 1865.



City Hotel, once located on the northwest corner of Maple and Broadway Streets, was famous for its bargain priced chili and beer. The employees of the tannery would cross the street at noon to get a pail of beer and chili for a nickel.

sold it to Frank Minkner who gave the building its name and turned it into a hotel. The hotel became very popular after WWI when his son, Billie, returned from his cavalry unit. Billie and his mother ran the hotel after his father's death and his mother sold the business to Charles Sampse whom she later married. The Franklin House is still located at its original site on Pine Street at Detroit.

A building which once stood on the southeast corner of Fond du Lac Avenue and Main Street housed the Mount Breeze Tavern. A popular stopping place for teamsters traveling between Sheboygan and Fond du Lac, it was best known to

residents as "the McDougal house at the top of McDougal Hill."

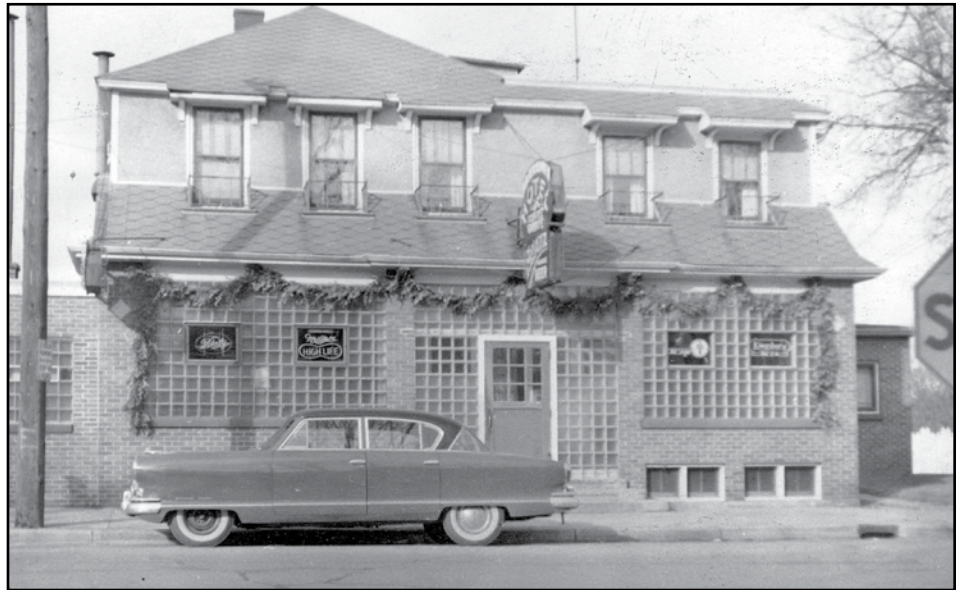
The Clifton House built by William Wolf stood at the northeast corner of Pine and Buffalo Streets. Wolf operated the hotel and later moved the building to the south side of Cedar Street between Chicago and Buffalo. Wolf sold the hotel, and it became a laundry. The building was again moved to the northeast corner of Cedar and Buffalo where it became a part of the Kerskamp Brothers foundry. The foundry was razed, and a residence built on the site at 735 Buffalo.

The City Hotel once stood where the Sheboygan Falls Post Office

is now located. It was built by Charles Arnold who sold the property to Louis Ballschmider. Ballschmider rebuilt the small hotel into a modern three-story hotel with 35 rooms, a bar and a large ballroom on the top floor. In 1900, he sold the hotel to Otto Bartisch. During the flood of 1905, Bartisch overworked while helping a neighbor salvage tobacco stored in a cellar. He suffered a heart attack and died. His widow sold the hotel to Frank Schreiner in 1906 and over the years the hotel changed hands many times.

The hotel was something of a fire trap. In 1908, the roof of the hotel caught fire. The fire department

used such a heavy pressure hose that it knocked firefighter, Herman Boldt, from the peak of the building. He slid down the length of the roof, and luckily his clothing caught on the eaves, saving him. Another fire broke out at about 3 am, December 19, 1937. When it was all over the City Hotel was a charred ruin. Water was poured on the blaze at a rate of 1300 gallons per minute by 10 hose lines. Water froze on all surrounding wires and formed a solid sheet of ice on the ground. Two men were fined \$4.51 each due to their driving their cars across the fire hoses on Broadway during the fire emergency.



Franklin House was typical of such early rest stops. It had a bar, free lunches and rooms to rent. In the rear was a stable – a parking place for the horses of people who stopped briefly or for longer periods. Still in business Franklin House is found on the curve on Pine Street.

Today Sheboygan Falls tends to its visitors with guesthouses like the Rochester Inn, The Cole House,

and a couple of small motels. All are much more comfortable, but

perhaps a bit less interesting than those old boarding houses. 🍀



From the December 12, 1934, issue of The Sheboygan Press: “The Plymouth Electric and Water Utility Co. has suspended a huge Christmas greeting motto over Mill Street near Stafford Street, with the sentiment ‘Merry Christmas’ extending over it. At night the coloring and lighting effects are beautiful.”

Plymouth Industrial Products Building

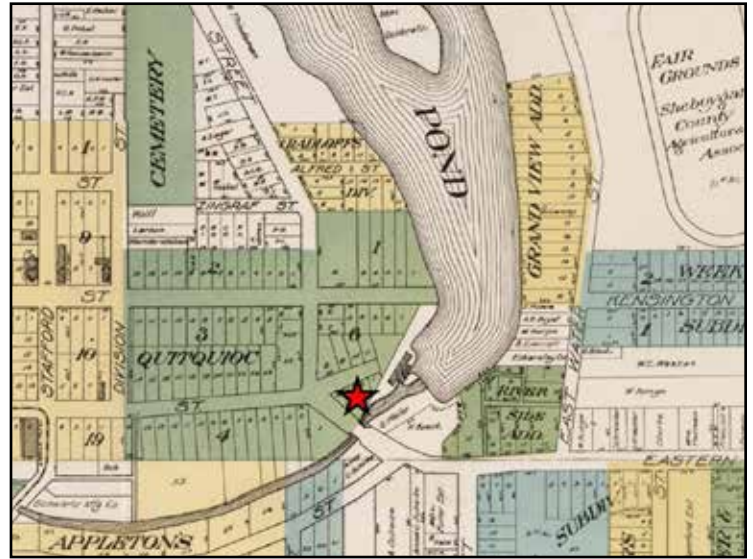
The *Plymouth Post* reported December 6, 1911, that “the Torke Brothers who have sold machinery and automobiles here for several years now have incorporated with A.J. Feldmann and will start a business at the property on East Mill and Eastern Avenue.” They plan on building a modern “garage” which will have the most modern machinery for repairing farm machinery and automobiles. The work on the building had begun by April of 1912. “The building is to be 102 feet by 100 feet and will stand three stories in height besides a full basement, built out of cement blocks and faced with brick on the front side of Eastern Avenue.” The Torke Brothers were Herman, Emil and Ernst – all sons of Civil War Veteran Gottlieb Torke of Town of Scott.

Torke Bros. were agents in Overland and Willys–Knight automobiles, dealers in farm implements, auto accessories, radios and radio equipment. A spacious garage on one end was

their service station. Prior to their 1911 venture, they ran their business where the Riverwalk Center stands today . . . or old, old Sentry grocery store.

The business ran until 1931 and after that the building was filled with a number of other businesses, i.e. Plymouth Cream and Cheese, Radloff Auto Service, Torke Towing, etc.

In 1949, Plymouth Industrial Products (PIP), which was previously the plastics division of Cleveland Container Company, purchased the building and began production of a various molds – injection and compression – primarily containers and supports under military contract.

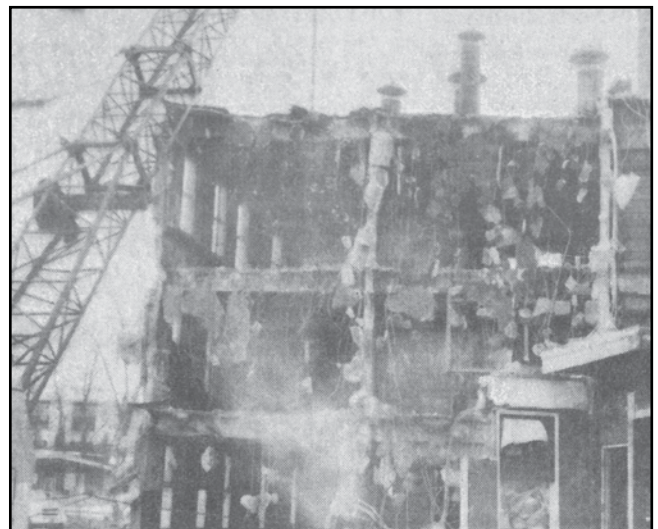


The red star marks the location of the Plymouth Industrial Products building in Plymouth

In May of 1967, PIP was purchased by Ametek, Inc. Due to a decrease in available government work the plant shut its doors in 1970 and the property, fallen into disrepair, was donated to the City of Plymouth four years later. The city used a three ton wrecking ball and began demolition of the building on March 6, 1975. The city used the space to widen the street and create a riverside park. 🍀



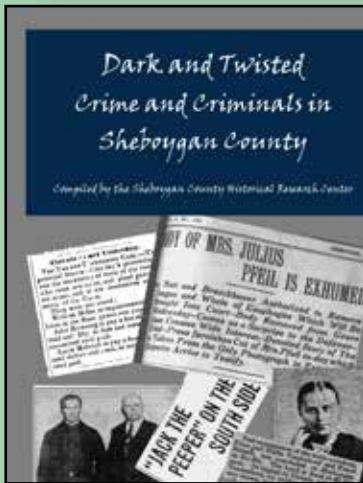
Plymouth Industrial Products, bought by Ametek, Inc. of New York, April 3, 1967. (Plymouth Review Photo)



Picture from *The Sheboygan Press*, Friday, March 7, 1975.



Books make Great Gifts!

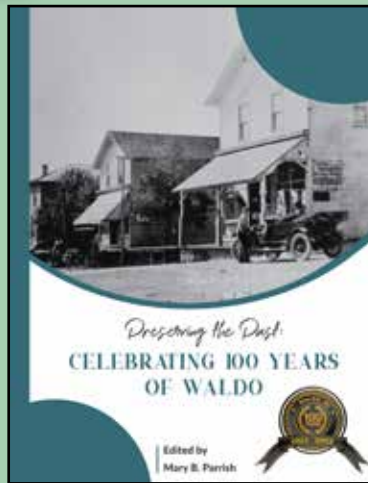


Dark and Twisted, Crime and Criminals in Sheboygan County is a quick look at serious crime in Sheboygan County.

The main focus of the book is murder, a topic that either fascinates or repulses people. This may not be a book for everyone. The gentle of spirit or the squeamish might want to make a different reading choice.

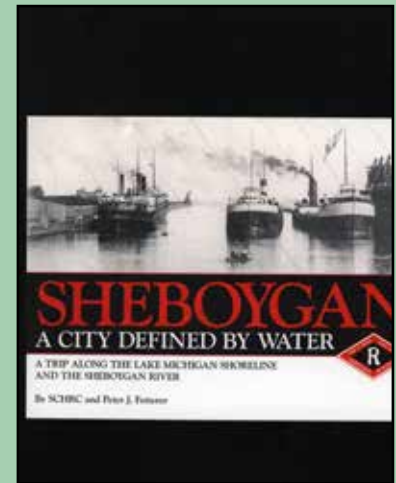
The project grew out of multiple newspaper reports touting Sheboygan County's safety and lack of murder, particularly first degree. For the most part that is true. But, once you dig deeper, there is a plethora of murders of all kinds, and other crimes, ranging from silly to horrific to unbelievable. True crime buffs will love the detective work.

Dark and Twisted it may be. Fascinating, it surely is.



The Village of Waldo was originally established as Lyndon Station in the Onion River Settlement when the Milwaukee and Northern Railway Company laid their railroad tracks through in 1871. The village was platted in 1873 by N.C. Harmon on 80 acres of land that he and his son-in-law had purchased from Abraham Lawson. When it was discovered that there already was an existing Lyndon Station in Juneau County, Wisconsin, it was decided to rename the village after Otis Harvey Waldo, Sr., a prominent Milwaukee attorney and president of the railroad. In 1923, Waldo, Wisconsin, became an incorporated village and the Onion River Settlement ceased to exist.

Over the past 100 years, Waldo has seen many changes. Follow along on this journey as we explore Waldo's past.



Sheboygan, Wisconsin, is a city whose history and economy was built on water and water related businesses. Situated on the western shore of Lake Michigan at the mouth of the Sheboygan River, Sheboygan's early history takes place on or along either the lake or the river.

Topics covered in this book include the businesses along the Sheboygan River including the shipyards and fish shanties, the parade of bridges over the Sheboygan River, the port and growth of the harbor including use of the region's first steam shovel, the construction of the piers and breakwater, the variety of lighthouses, the jetties, the development of Broughton Drive, the Yacht Club, the Naval Reserve, and the Life Saving Station. There is a fantastic section on the C. Reiss Coal Company!

**Shop online at schrc.org/shop or visit our bookstore
Tuesday through Friday — 9 am to 4 pm**

Thank you

**for your generous support
throughout the year.**

We appreciate you!

The Sheboygan County Historical Research Center safeguards the documents, photographs, and memories that tell the rich story of our community. By preserving these treasures, the Research Center ensures that the history of Sheboygan County can be shared and celebrated for generations to come. Every gift — large or small — helps protect this legacy, keeping our past alive and accessible for the future.

As the year comes to a close, please consider making a tax-deductible gift to the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center. Together, we can contribute to honor the past and inspire the future.





Genealogy Without Sources Is Just Mythology

Here are some tips and tricks for properly citing sources in your genealogical research.

Why Sourcing Matters

Citing your genealogy sources is more than a formality — it's the foundation of reliable research. Proper sourcing provides credibility, allowing others to verify your findings and ensuring your family history stands up to scrutiny. It also acts as a memory aid, helping you remember exactly where each piece of information came from so you don't lose track of your discoveries over time. Accurate citations contribute to the preservation of historical truth, protecting your work from becoming distorted or mistaken as it's shared with future generations. Finally, sourcing reflects a professional standard, building trust in your research and showing that your family tree is rooted in evidence, not just stories. Sources are not all equal — quality matters.

Types of Sources

Original Records First generation records (birth record, marriage license, original land deed).	Derivative Records Copied, transcribed, or abstracted records (typed transcript, index, transcribed church records).	Compiled Records Analysis and conclusions by an author (family histories, compiled genealogies, online family trees).	Reference Tools Materials that help locate or interpret records (maps, research guides).
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Good Documentation Habits

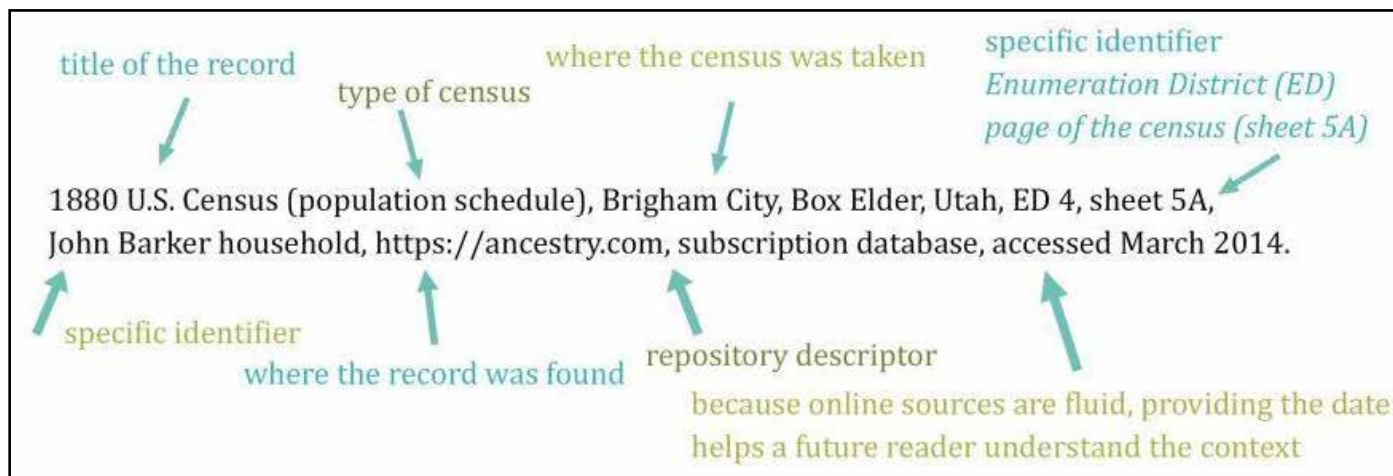
Citations are your “research breadcrumbs” that show your work is based on evidence, not guesswork. “Research breadcrumbs” are the trail of evidence and notes that make genealogy reliable, repeatable, and sharable. The basic elements of a citation is who, what, when, where (in), and where (at). Always capture the source the moment you find it. Save the image/document and citation together either in the metadata of the file, a label, or within the file name. Use consistent formatting across your work.

Keep a research log, even if you didn't find anything. This will prevent you from repeating the same search later. In the research log, keep track of dates, repositories, websites, and records you have explored. Be sure to highlight clues that might lead to other family members.

Citation Generators

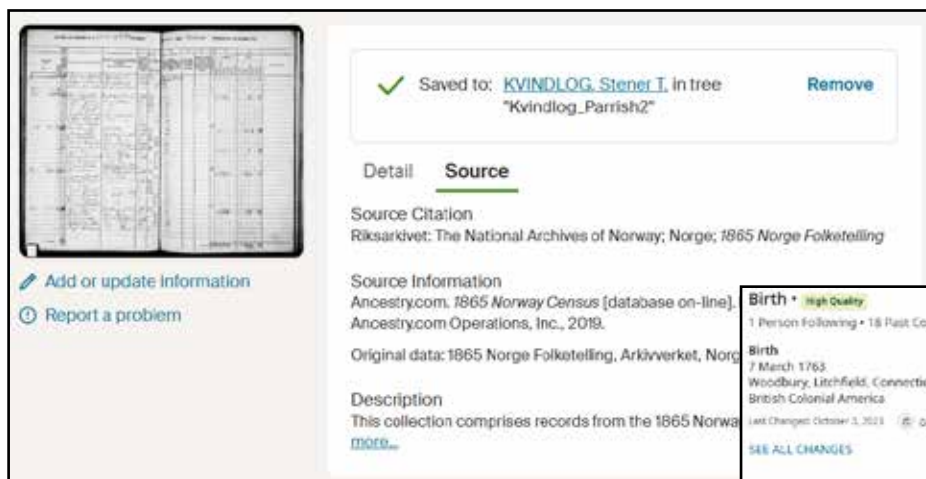
- [Cite-Builder.com](https://www.cite-builder.com/)
- [RecordSeek.com](https://www.recordseek.com/)
- [Goldiemay.com](https://www.goldiemay.com/)
- Online Repository Assistant (ORA) (web browser extension)
- [Evidentiasoftware.com](https://www.evidentiasoftware.com/) (professional genealogy software)
- Family tree software programs (Rootsmagic, Legacy, Family Tree Maker)

The Anatomy of a Citation

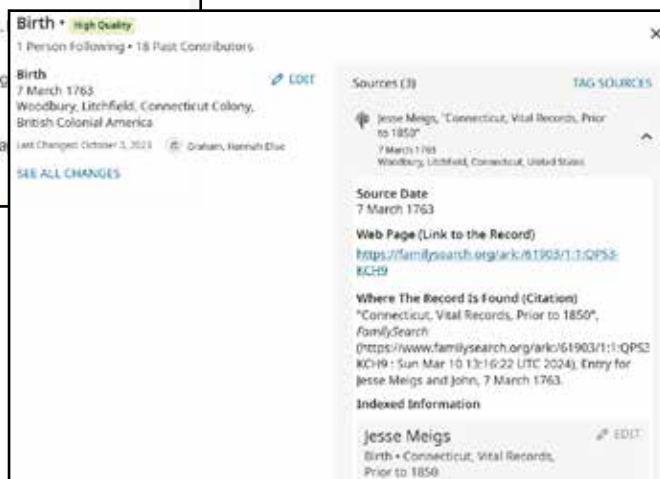


Source: <https://www.legacytree.com/blog/proper-citations-genealogy>

Most major genealogical websites and databases have pre-done citations that you can copy and paste.



The image on the left shows a source citation from Ancestry.com. The image below is a source citation from FamilySearch.org.



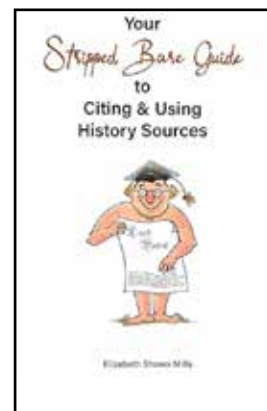
Citation Resources

Elizabeth Shown Mills has authored two great books detailing the proper methods of citing historical sources.

Evidence Explained (4th Edition) guides users through a maze of historical resources not covered by other citation manuals—all kinds of primary-source materials accessed through all kinds of media. This is a very comprehensive guide.

Your Stripped Bare Guide to Citing & Using History Sources is an abbreviated version of *Evidence Explained*. This guide is stripped down to the bare essentials you need to know to do reliable history research: thirteen guidelines for evidence analysis, thirteen guidelines for documentation, and fourteen templates for citing any kind of history source.

Both books are available on Amazon.com or wherever books are sold.





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