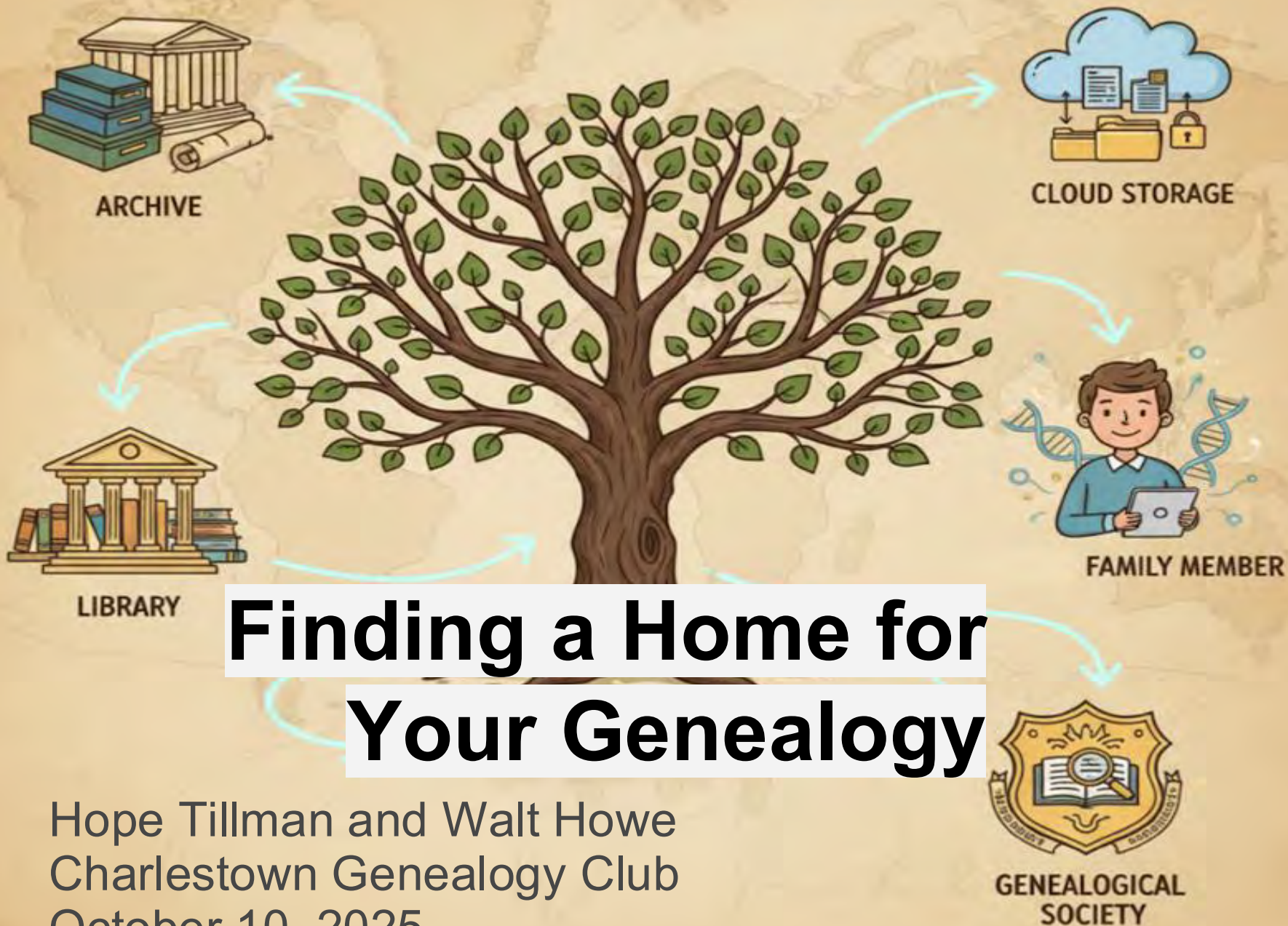




Hope Tillman and Walt Howe
Charlestown Genealogy Club
October 10, 2025

- We want the family history information we have created to survive after us so that it is findable by those who will be interested.

Genealogical Codicil to Your Will

Codicil to your will

Make sure your hard work isn't
thrown away!

Principles to Keep in Mind

- Accessibility
 - Access to the content by yourself and anyone else you want to see it whenever you/they want it.
- Permanence
 - Short and long range
 - For online- is the best company today going to be the best company in 5 years – or even be around in 5 years.
- Correction handling
 - Once something is in print or online, is it easy to make corrections? Who controls the ability to make those corrections? You want the control for your content in most cases.

What do you want to pass on?



158	15	Carrie Erving Taylor	F	S	6	3	28	Diphtheria	
159	23	Francis A. Hamlin	Boy	M	39	-	-	Consumption	
160	26	Sarah Edith Taylor	F	S	-	4	-	Indigestion	
161	30	Harriet Carney	F	S	-	7	-	Cholera Infantum	
162	30	Joseph Peters	M	S	-	7	-	Nothing	
163	35	Jacob Alfred Olson	M	S	15	7	17	Typhoid Fever	
164	5	Mary Ann Graham	F	S	25	-	-	Consumption	
165	6	Mary Gray	F	S	-	3	-	Dysentery	
166	10	John Desmond	M	M	78	-	-	Old Age	
167	14	Mary Kymberlin	F	S	18	8	14	Consumption	
168	16	Wesley Nelson	M	M	54	10	-	Dropsy	
169	18	William O'Brien	M	M	24	9	-	Softening of Brain	
170	19	Gene Gray	F	S	18	2	11	Cold	



Topics we will cover

- Identifying and Organizing Your Materials
 - Digital Preservation Strategies
 - Physical Preservation and Storage
- Choosing a Successor or Recipient
- Legal and Ethical Considerations
- Documenting Your Work for Others
- Sharing and Distributing Information
- Resources and Professional Help

Identifying and Organizing

Ask yourself what you want to save and why?

What would you want to preserve?



1. Data from your genealogy software
2. Original images
3. Scanned Images
4. Original documents (including transcriptions)
5. Scanned documents (including scrapbooks, storytelling)
6. Emails
7. Audio files
8. Videos
9. Research logs
10. Stories
11. What else?

Physical Strategy:

Making what you save "findable"

When should you keep paper copies?

What should you do with old newspapers?

Photo albums? Family keepsakes?

Are you using good physical storage practices?

- Archival-quality folders, sleeves, and boxes
- Avoid exposure to direct sunlight, fluctuating temperatures, and humidity
- Keep in climate-controlled environments, away from attics, basements, or garages.
- Inspect regularly for pests, mold, and environmental changes,
- Label
- Handle gently

Digital Strategy:

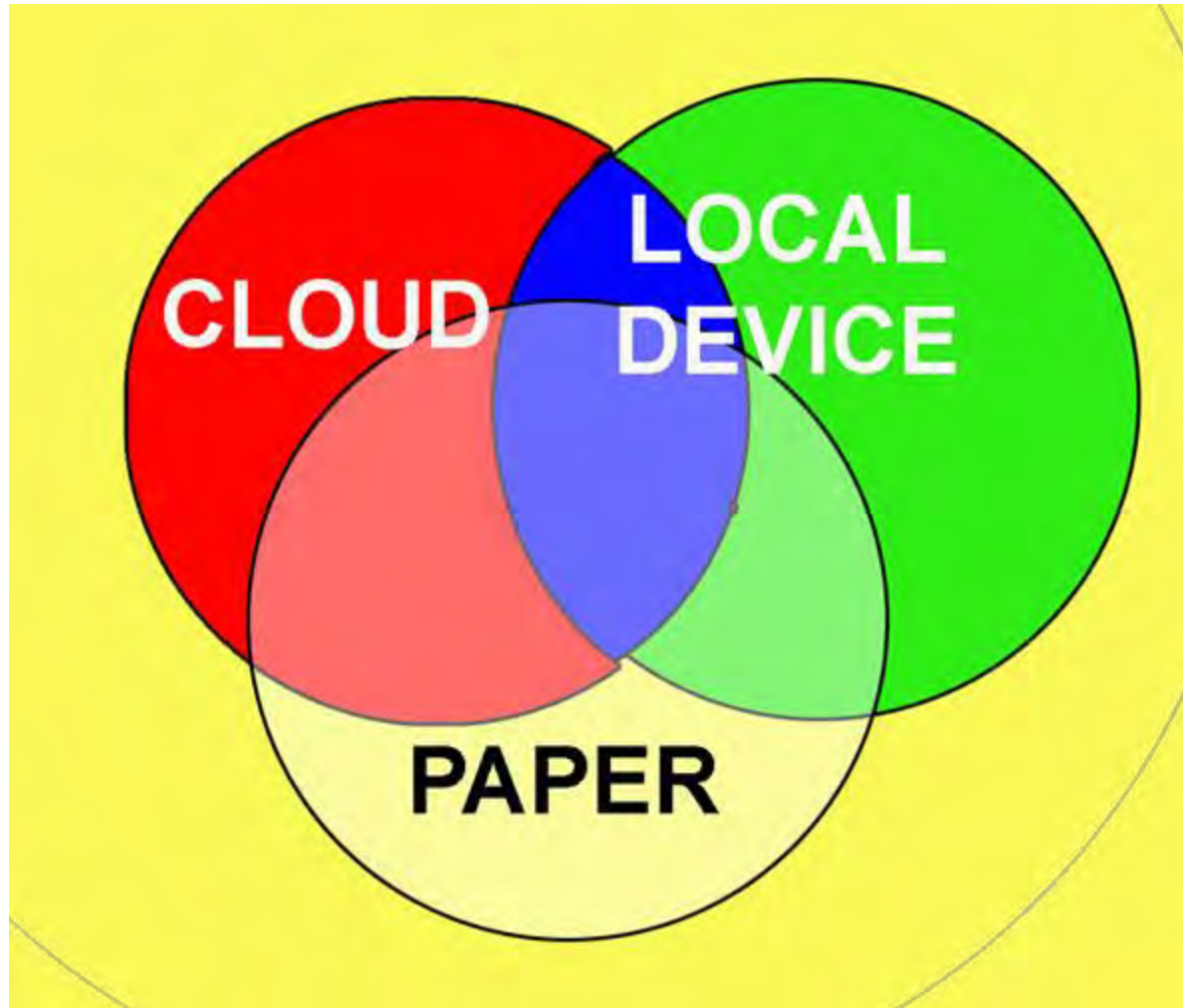
Making what you save "findable"

1. Make a plan.
2. Use multiple approaches and make multiple copies –

Follow the LOCKSS principle

Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe

Best Practices for Preserving your Genealogy



LOCKSS - Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe

For now online:

- Back up to cloud services like OneDrive, Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox
 - Use external hard drives or flash drives

Long term online:

Ancestry, FamilySearch, WikiTree

- Think of these as similar to the long term offline:
Historical Societies, Libraries, Family Members

Do you keep a copy of a document or a pointer to the document, e.g. census page?

Consider whether you want to link to external documents or create copies of external documents or both

Questions to consider

- Privacy and security
- Do you have transcriptions versus handwritten?
- How permanent are your links?
- How current are your copies?
- Has the data been improved since you capture it?
i.e. improved census images

Making what you save "findable"

1. Make a plan.
2. Identify the data you need to preserve

Save regularly. You will never be done.

Plan for the transition of data to new media.

1. Ongoing - Migrate before technology goes away
2. Even paper can decay and need to be copied for preservation

Consider recent additions to save:

- email, web address, DNA
- What will be next?

Photograph and Video Considerations

Ask the same questions as anything else that fits in your personal preservation plan! LOCKSS!

- What do you want to save?
 - Photographs: Family photographs, documents, such as deeds, etc.
 - Videos: Family important events, marriages, weddings, graduations, performances, first steps
- Why scan or photograph?
 - To improve quality of existing photographs as well as preserve/share
 - Extract stills of videos to get images of otherwise uncaptured people
- How will you save them?
 - How many versions of photographs to save?
 - How many formats/versions of video clips to save? Keep up with changing technologies (e.g., Super 8 to Digital)
 - What software will you use to edit? Always edit a copy not the original

Trustworthy repositories

1. Plan for where you want your genealogy to live after your death: pick trustworthy repositories.
 - Role for interested family members
 - Libraries, historical societies, and digital collections

Reaching out to historical societies, libraries

Town libraries can be a good place to donate genealogy resources, especially if the materials pertain to local families, history, or community interests. However, it is important to contact the library beforehand, as most public libraries have limited space and specific collection policies, and may only accept materials that fit their needs or complement their existing local history and genealogy collections. If accepted, these donations can provide valuable resources for other researchers

[National Genealogical Society](#)

[American Library Directory](#)

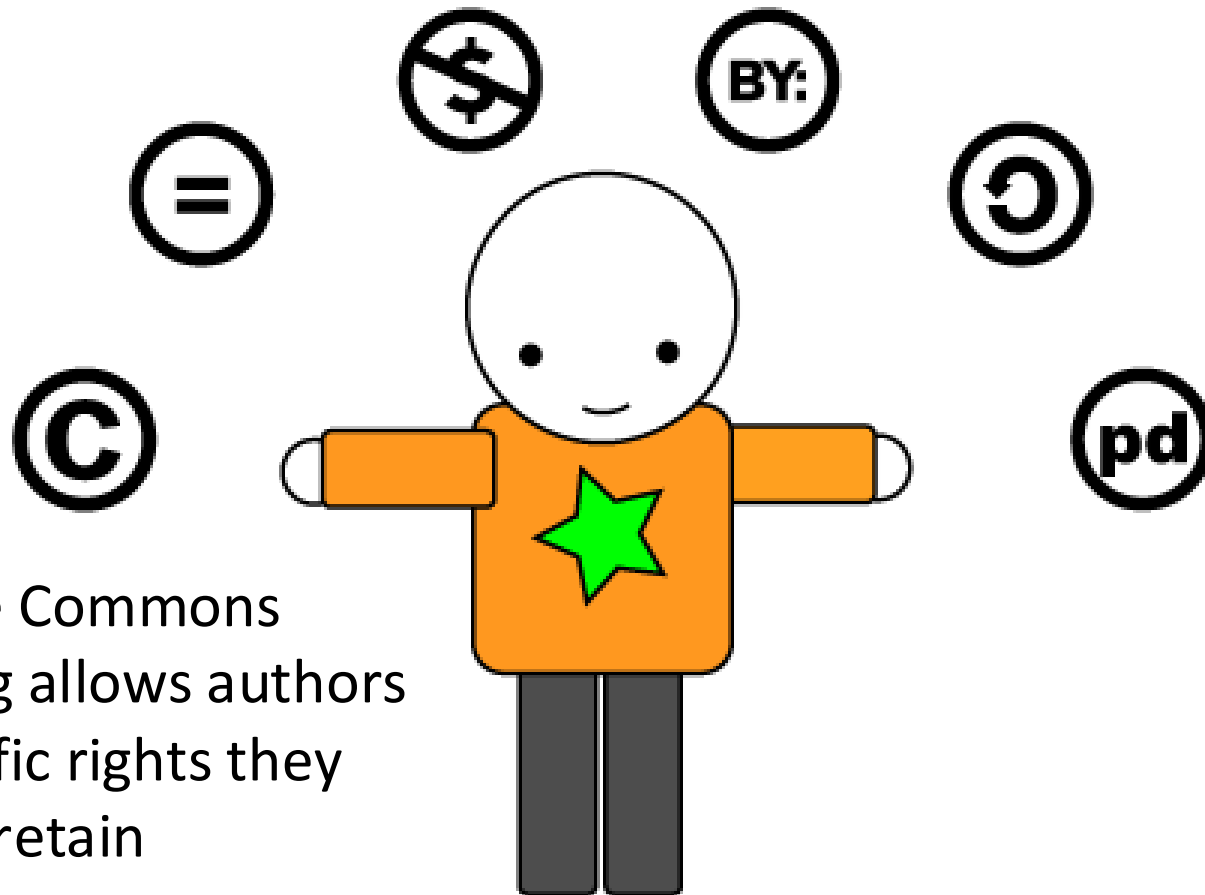
[Preservation Directory](#)

[American Association for State and Local History \(AASLH\)](#)

[Daughters of the American Revolution](#)

[Sons of the American Revolution](#)

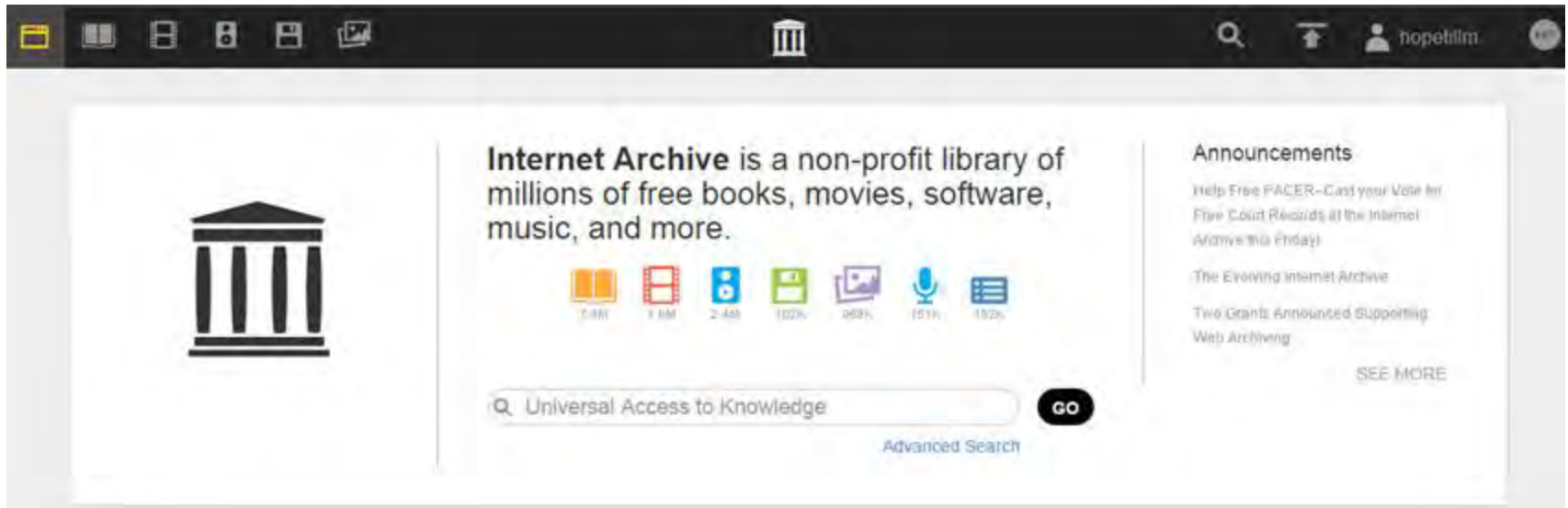
CREATIVE COMMONS WANTS TO HELP DEFINE THE SPECTRUM OF POSSIBILITIES BETWEEN FULL COPYRIGHT -- ALL RIGHTS RESERVED -- AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN -- NO RIGHTS RESERVED. OUR LICENSES HELP YOU RETAIN YOUR COPYRIGHT WHILE ALLOWING CERTAIN USES OF YOUR WORK. THEY HELP YOU OFFER YOUR CREATIVE WORK WITH SOME RIGHTS RESERVED.



Creative Commons
licensing allows authors
to specify rights they
wish to retain

The Internet Archive

<https://archive.org>



- You can put in the Internet Archive any materials you wish to share freely (only those you have the right to share).
- Use a Creative Commons license with what you upload
- Set up an account by getting a “virtual library card.”
- Read the upload FAQ (in the About)

Internet Archive



Share your Files

Please contribute books, audio, and video files that you have the right to share.
The Internet Archive, a non-profit library, will provide free storage and access to them.
(We reserve the right to remove any submitted material.)

[Upload Files](#)

Or choose an alternate upload method:

[Classic Uploader](#)

Internet Explorer users and print disabled (prefer to not use [flash?](#))

[Live Music Archive](#)

For etree items



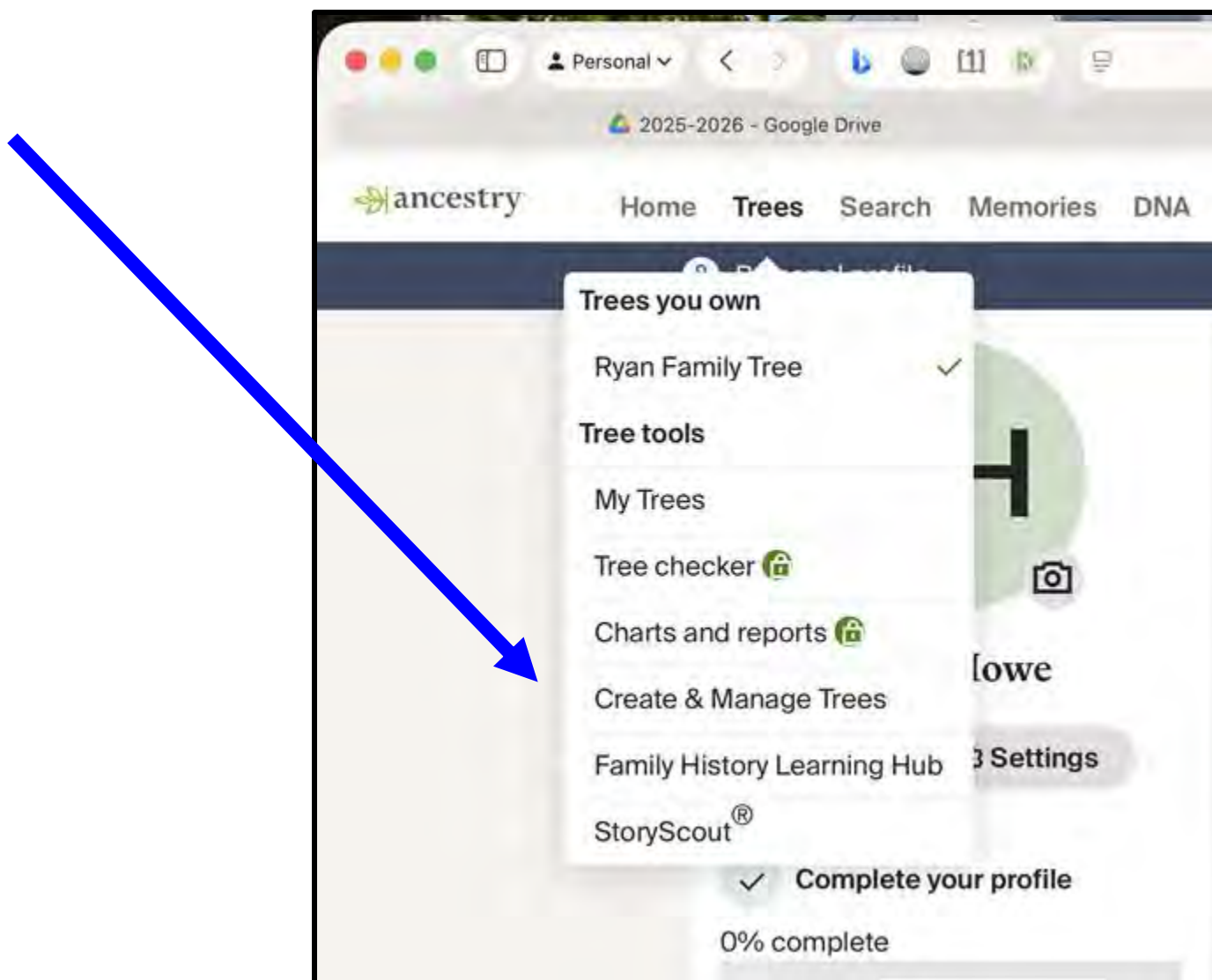
Your Genealogy Software

- If you keep your records on a genealogy software package such as Family Tree Maker, Family Search, Family Tree Builder and regularly update it online, that material will be preserved.
- If you don't, you can save that content using the GEDCOM format to use elsewhere.
- Add relative who agrees to be a “owner” or “manager” of your Ancestry records

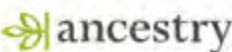
Repositories: Ancestry

- World's largest for-profit company in this marketplace
- Has purchased much of its competition
- Links between its many products and websites: Family Tree Maker, Ancestry.com, Footnote.com, Genealogy.com, MyFamily.com, Rootsweb, etc.

Sharing access to your Ancestry tree(1)



Sharing access to your Ancestry tree (2)

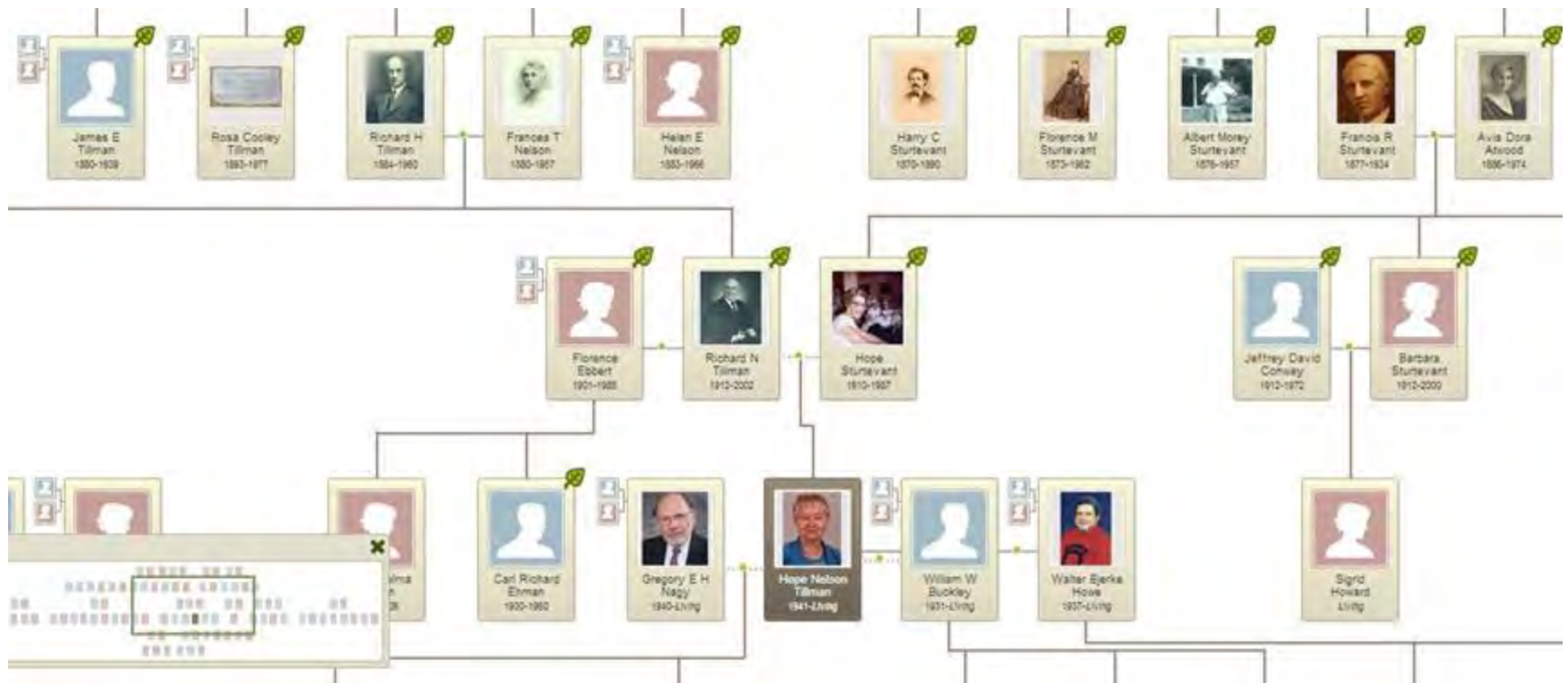
 [Trees](#) [Search](#) [Memories](#) [DNA](#) [Hire an expert](#)     

[My Trees](#) [Trees Shared with Me](#)

Name	Date Modified	Role	Tools
Belliveau View tree overview	11/1/2024	Owner Invite family	Tree settings
DonaldGrove View tree overview	5/8/2025	Owner Invite family	Tree settings
HopeTillman View tree overview	7/17/2025	Owner 4 people invited	Tree settings
Howe_Genealogy View tree overview	7/17/2025	Owner Invite family	Tree settings
Rich Grove View tree overview	2/23/2025	Owner Invite family	Tree settings

 [Create a new tree](#)  [Upload a GEDCOM file](#)

Repositories: Ancestry



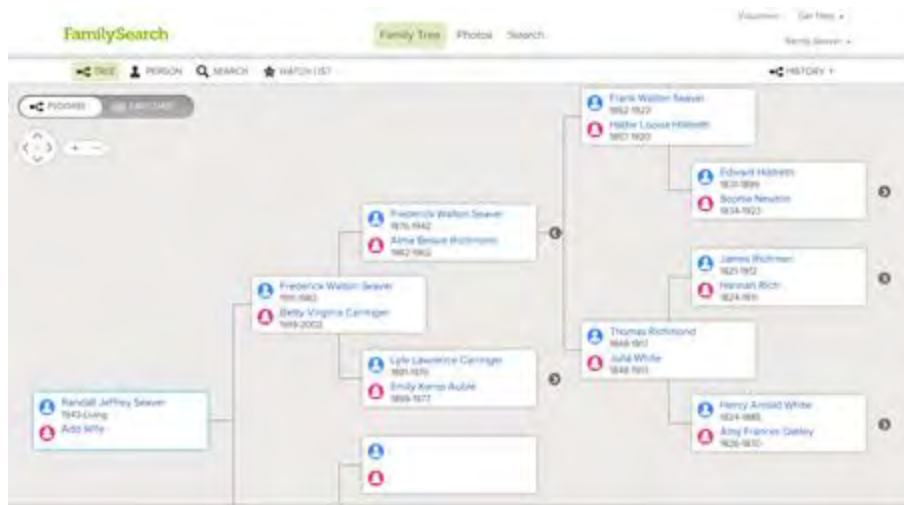
Repositories: MyHeritage.com

- Founded in 2005
- Compares itself to Ancestry
 - Family Tree Builder software is similar to Family Tree Maker



Repositories: FamilySearch.org

- Use to share your family tree
- Resource for content




The screenshot shows the 'Massachusetts Genealogy' page on FamilySearch.org. The page features a welcome message, a list of resources, and a sidebar with navigation links. The main content area includes a 'Welcome to the Massachusetts page, the Bay State' section, a 'Massachusetts Online Records' section, and a 'How to Find Information about Massachusetts Ancestors' section. The sidebar on the right contains links to 'Search Learning & How-To's', 'New to the Researcher's Wiki?', and 'Researcher's Wiki'.

Massachusetts Genealogy

Guides to Massachusetts ancestry, genealogy and family history. Birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, family history, and military records.

Welcome to the Massachusetts page, the Bay State

Massachusetts Online Records

How to Find Information about Massachusetts Ancestors

1. Birth Information
2. Marriage Information
3. Death Information

Wiki Repositories

- WikiTree <http://www.wikitree.com>

Benefits

- Encourage collaboration
- Encourage good genealogy practices
- Balance privacy and collaboration
- Free and user driven

Sources

Revision history



Wikitree.com



First Name: Last Name:  WikiTree My WikiTree  Add  Find  Help

STURTEVANT Genealogy



 Hope, [click here](#) to show more options for Wiki Genealogists.

 [Ask a STURTEVANT genealogy question.](#)

Related surnames: [STURDIVANT](#) (247) [STURDEVANT](#) (77) [STURDIVENT](#) (1) [\[edit\]](#)

Here are the 250 STURTEVANTs on WikiTree. Click a column header to sort by name or date and show more options.

Search for a first name: last name:



 Name	 Birth	Manager	 Last Edit	
Lois (Sturtevant) Peterson	November 18, 1748 Middleborough, Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States	Stanley Wood	3 Apr 2014	
John Sturtevant	September 6, 1658 Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts	Page Hopwood	2 Apr 2014	
John Sturtevant	February 11, 1692 Plymouth, MA	Ann Borgers	31 Mar 2014	
Hannah (Sturtevant) Standish	September 2, 1672 plympton ma	Hannah Standish		
Luther Sturtevant	1775 Massachusetts		24 Mar 2014	
Warner Claflin Sturtevant 	January 23, 1809 Keene, New Hampshire, United States			
Patty Sturtevant	August 23, 1806 Keene, New Hampshire, United States			
John Adams Sturtevant	January 26, 1805 Keene, New Hampshire, United States			

WikiTree mission is to **connect the world on a single family tree** that's free and accessible to everyone. Uses Wikipedia philosophy but has its own software.

Publishing



- Lulu.com
- [Kindle Direct Publishing](#)
- [Scribd](#) or [Smashwords](#)
- [blurb](#) or [blog2print](#) for compiling a blog into a book/ebook



- A moving target – market shakeout is inevitable
- For authors:
 - Keep in mind that with these “publishers,” YOU are the editor.
 - Share your family history with “relatives” and others with kindred interest.
 - Consider privacy and security concerns
- For readers:
 - Check for reliable sources if you are the reader.

Change is constant

- Do not preserve online solely to get rid of paper; all media complement one another. Remember: LOCKSS
- Formats keep changing and no stability is expected in the future. Revisit/refresh media regularly
 - ❑ How will you point future generations to family videos on YouTube today?
- Follow standards as they evolve – in technology as well as genealogy. Change without standards is chaos.
- Players will change
 - ❑ How will social media impact marketplace?
 - ❑ Will Ancestry and FamilySearch continue as the big players?

“Nothing is permanent but change” (Heraclitus, 4th century BC)

- Sharing works both ways – you give and you receive.
- Use multiple approaches and make multiple copies
- Consider privacy and security
 - Protect the living while they are alive
 - How much protection do you want to retain if your goal is to make the info findable by future generations?
- Review your cloud use goals and needs regularly.



How Your Choices of Where You Put Your Data Meet Your Need

	Accessibility	Permanence	Correction Handling
Ancestry	\$	Presumably high	Updating capabilities
FamilySearch	High	Presumably high	Can add but incorrect info may remain
WikiTree	High	Presumably high	Excellent
Social publishing	Questionable	Questionable	Questionable

Pros and con of paper versus digital

- Paper is the most long-lasting/not the most accessible.
- Do not preserve online solely to get rid of paper; all media complement one another. Remember: LOCKSS (lots of copies keep stuff safe)
- Microfilm and microcards were an early part of format evolution, universally hated BUT long lasting as compared to some earlier digital formats.

Pros and cons of paper versus digital - 2

- All media formats need to be reviewed/refreshed periodically or moved to new format when equipment no longer available.
 - Paper deteriorates just like other media (depends upon when paper was created)
 - Start by scan of paper/micro format to put into electronic form
- Need to rescan as media evolves
- Example: rescanned original census records for greater readability and ease of use

Q&A

Feel free to contact us.

Hope N. Tillman

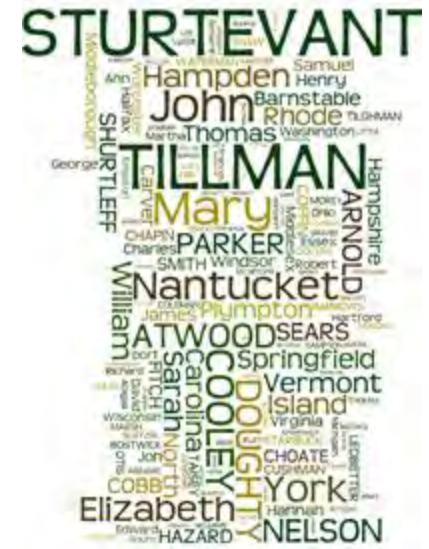
hope@hopetillman.com

<http://www.tillmangenealogy.org>

Walt Howe

walt@walthowe.com

<http://www.howegenealogy.org>



Slides can be found at <https://ccigenclub.com>