



The Genealogical Proof Standard's Essential Concepts: Or How to Analyze Your Records

Genealogical Proof Standard:

1. Reasonably Exhaustive Research
2. Cite Sources
3. Analysis and Correlation
4. Resolve Conflicts
5. Write our Conclusion

“Sources give us information, from which we identify evidence. All undergo the evaluation process to produce proof.”

Elizabeth Shown Mills



Source (container)

1. Original – Record
 - a. Created at time of event/shortly after.
 - b. Not based on prior records
2. Derivative – Record
 - a. Based on prior records
 - b. Hearsay
3. Authored Works
 - a. Interpretations, conclusions, thoughts.
 - b. Many sources

Information (contents of the container)

Identify informant to classify information as:

1. Primary
 - a. Eyewitness
 - b. Usually recorded at/near time of event
2. Secondary
 - a. Came from someone else
 - b. Hearsay
3. Undetermined
 - a. Must identify informant or information is Undetermined





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Evidence (tentative answer to a question)

Evaluate evidence based upon the research question as:

1. Direct - Answers the question directly
2. Indirect - At least 2 pieces of evidence required
3. Negative - Absence of evidence



Resources:

Board for Certification of Genealogists. *Genealogy Standards*, 50th Anniversary Edition. Nashville: Ancestry, 2014.

_____. "The Genealogical Proof Standard." *Board for Certification of Genealogists*. <http://bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html> : August 2015.

_____. "Skillbuilding." *Board for Certification of Genealogists*. <http://bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/index.html> : August 2015. [Collection of articles from the board's newsletter *OnBoard*. There are numerous articles about the GPS and it's individual elements.

BYU Department of History and the Center for Genealogy & Family History. *Script Tutorial: Making Sense of Old Handwriting*. <http://script.byu.edu> : August 2015. Guidance in deciphering old documents printed in old typefaces or written in old handwriting styles. Languages covered include English, German, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Jones, Thomas W. *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Arlington, Virginia: National Genealogical Society, 2013.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*, 2nd edition, revised. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009.

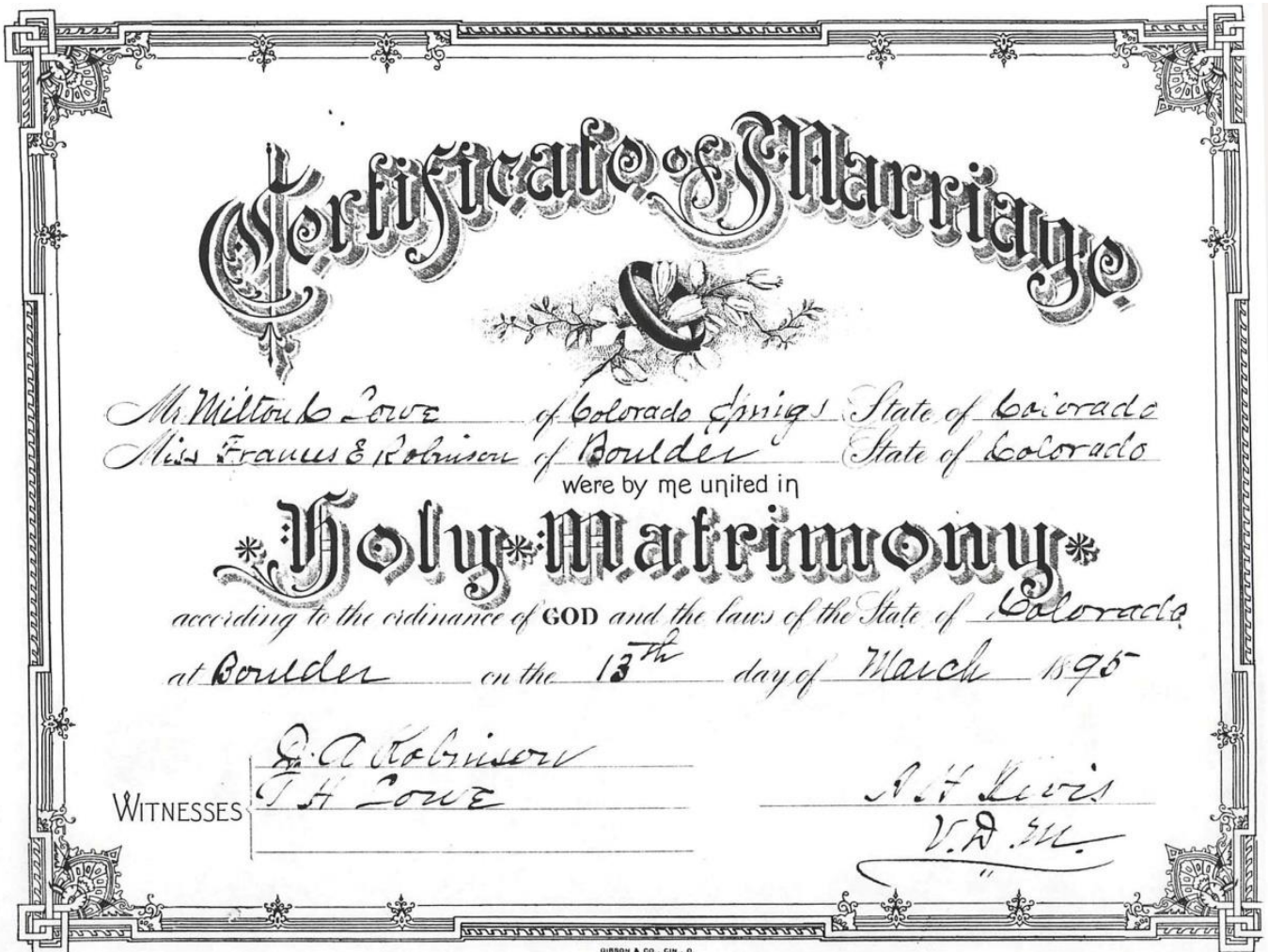
_____. *Evidence Explained: Historical Analysis, Citation, and Source Usage*. <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/> : August 2015. [The QuickLessons on this website explain aspects of the GPS and source citations.] See especially "QuickLesson 1: Analysis & Citation," "QuickLesson 2: Sources vs. Information vs. Evidence vs. Proof," "QuickLesson 8: What Constitutes Proof?" "QuickLesson 10:



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Original Records, Image Copies, and Derivatives,” “QuickLesson 13: Classes of Evidence—Direct, Indirect & Negative,” and “QuickLesson 17: The Evidence Analysis Process Map.”

Exercises



Certificate of Marriage, Milton C. Lowe to Frances E. Robinson 13 March 1895; Goodrum Family Papers, privately held by Michelle Roos Goodrum, Mesa, Arizona. This 9 x 11 ¾” certificate was passed from Milton C. and Frances to their son, Milton A. Lowe (1898-1972) to his daughter Colleen Lowe Roos to her daughter Michelle Roos Goodrum in 2007.



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House open this morning until noon.

MRS. PASSMORE BURIAL THURSDAY

SERVICES AT HOME IN CHERRY
STREET AT 2 O'CLOCK. REV.
LYNCH TO OFFICIATE.

The funeral of Mrs. Eliza J. Passmore, whose death early Tuesday morning, was chronicled in The Star, will be held from the home 719 Cherry street at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, Rev. Frank N. Lynch will officiate.

Mrs. Passmore was born near Harrisburg, Pa., January 8, 1927 and was therefore in her eighty-sixth year. Her marriage to Richard Passmore was an event of December 1846, the wedding taking place in Zanesville, Ohio. The family then moved to Ohio and later to Wisconsin where Mr. Passmore later enlisted in the Thirty-sixth Wisconsin regiment. Mr. Passmore was killed in the battle of Petersburg, Va., in 1864 and his widow and children removed to southern Illinois to be near her brother, who was a physician. The family came to Rockford twenty-six years ago.

Two sons and three daughters mourn the passing of the mother. Misses Mary and Cora at home, Mrs. Edith Gladman of Independence, Kansas, Thomas A. of Thessalon, Ontario and G. H. of Pasadena, Cal.

Mrs. Passmore has been an invalid for years and the care of her devolved on Miss Cora Passmore, who when the weather permitted took her mother for a ride in her wheeled chair. Mrs. Passmore took an interest in the events of the day until her recent illness. She attended Court street church although she never affiliated with it.

Mrs. Gladman and children are coming for the funeral. The sons will be unable to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Warner of Chicago are in the city to spend the day with Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Bement and Mr. and Mrs. Bickford.

Mrs. James Andrews, 622 Rockton avenue, is seriously ill at her home suffering from pneumonia. She is said to be in a critical condition.

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Citation: "Mrs. Passmore Burial Thursday," Morning Star (Rockford, IL), 25 December 1912, p. 12, col. 3; *GenealogyBank.com* (<http://genealogybank.com/> : accessed: 18 February 2014).