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Doing History with Online Mapping Tools: An Introduction

Joanne M. Riley University of Massachusetts Boston, joanne.riley@umb.edu

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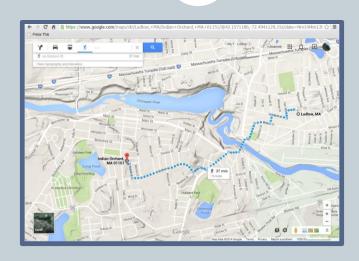
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Doing History with Online Mapping Tools



JOANNE RILEY
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVIST
UMASS BOSTON
JOANNE.RILEY@UMB.EDU

"Let us look at the map, for maps, like faces, are the signature of history."

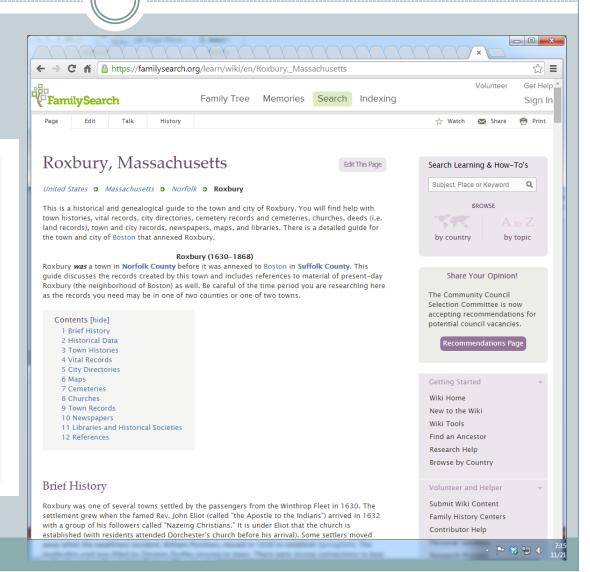


Quote: Will Duran

FamilySearch Research Wiki

Contents [hide]

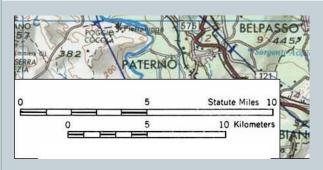
- 1 Brief History
- 2 Historical Data
- 3 Town Histories
- 4 Vital Records
- 5 City Directories
- 6 Maps
- 7 Cemeteries
- 8 Churches
- 9 Town Records
- 10 Newspapers
- 11 Libraries and Historical Societies
- 12 References

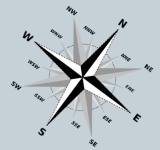


Types of Maps

- Birds-eye
- Aerial Photography
- Topographical Maps
- Real estate Maps
- City Atlases
- Fire Insurance Maps
- <u>Learning Historical Research</u> superb site!
 - o http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/maps.htm

Reality Check







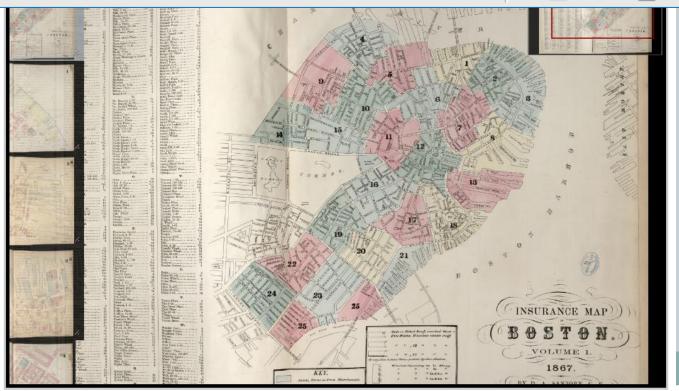
- Scale relationship (or ratio) between distance on a map and the corresponding distance on the ground.
- Orientation relationship between the directions on the map and the corresponding compass directions in reality.
- **Legend** an explanatory list of symbols on a map or chart

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Index Map 1867 Boston - Interface

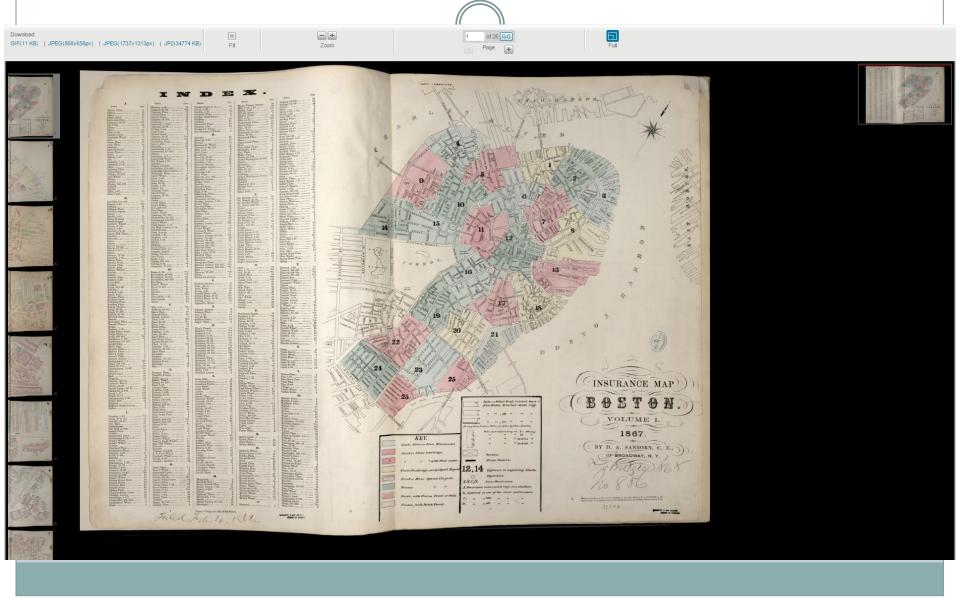


« Bibliographic Information

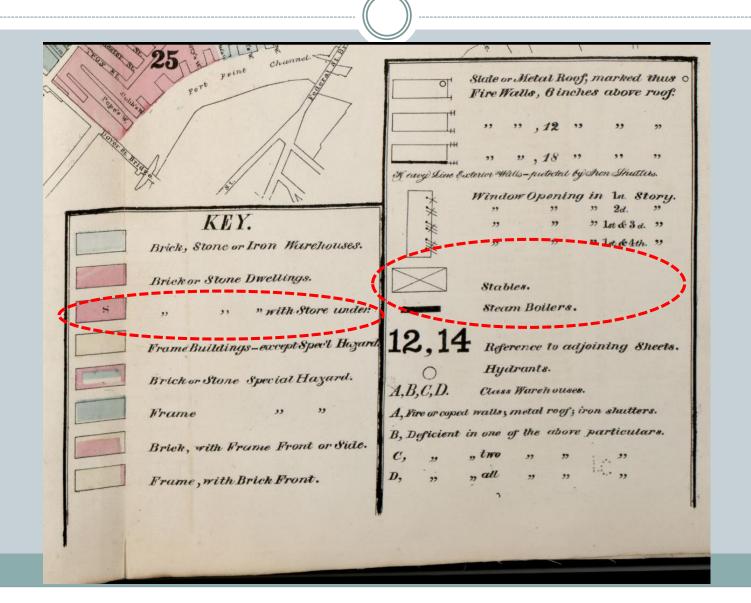




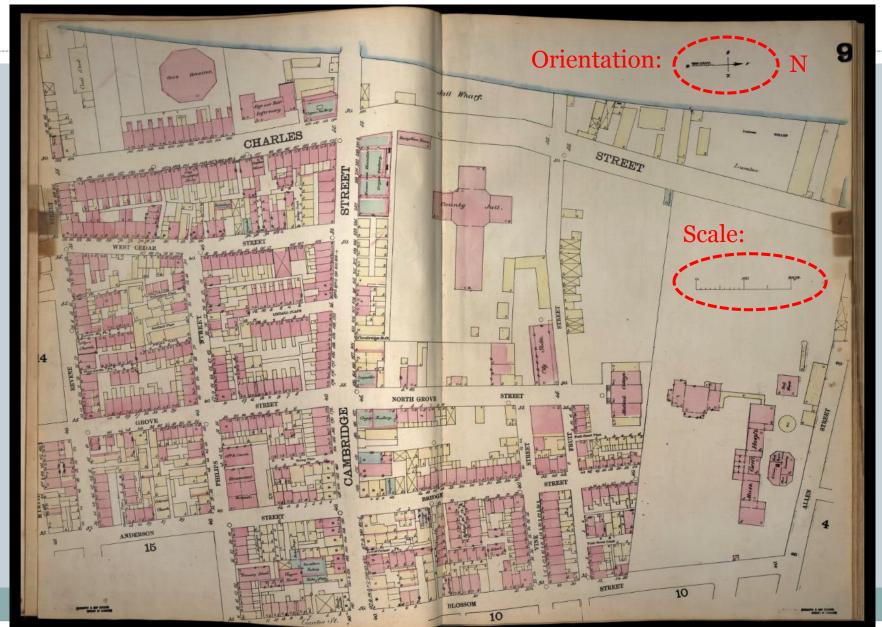
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Index Map 1867 Boston – Legend, Orientation, Scale



Legend: Sanborn Map: 1867 Boston



West End, Boston 1867 (loc.gov)





Extra help from good old Google

- Geo-coded maps allow for calculating
 - Directions
 - Walking directions informative for historical conjecture
 - Distances
 - "Atlantic" to Milton? Indian Orchard to "Jenksville"?
- Street views
 - o including far-flung places
 - o "Walk" the roads of unfamiliar locations

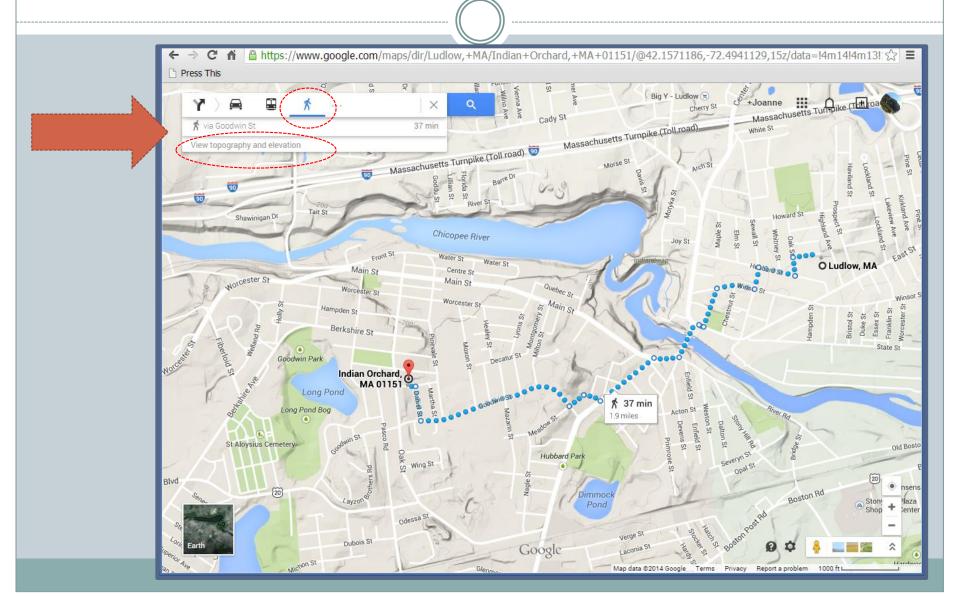
TIP: be sure you're exploring the right place! Check out archaic or duplicate names at TGN, USGS, FS Wiki or MA Archives list

Lucilla Beebe Diary (1876)

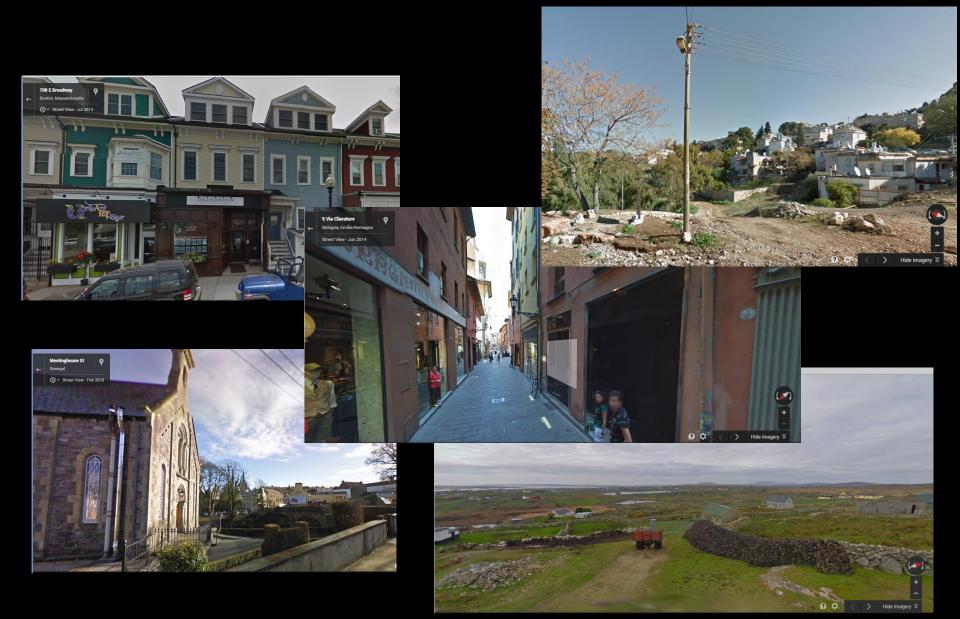
Ma got out and strolled FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1876. TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1876. Heas rained a good deal al Jenksrille. lo day & and I went Hore rain to day down to the Office with father & Etris afternoon. SATURDAY 13 WEDNESDAY 10 Mr. M. Driffee called We went up to annit Ins afternoon. a's this afternoon. Comma Ealled Etis evening commenced lot rain THURSDAY II orhile she SUNDAY 14 I and R. went out Colder to day and dring this evening. the and blows quite hard. Nent-down to the Orchard again onth Sylvia

Went down to the Orchard again with Sylvia. We got out and strolled around near the river at Jenksville.

Ludlow, MA to Indian Orchard



Google Street View – "walk" down the street!



An oft-told family story:

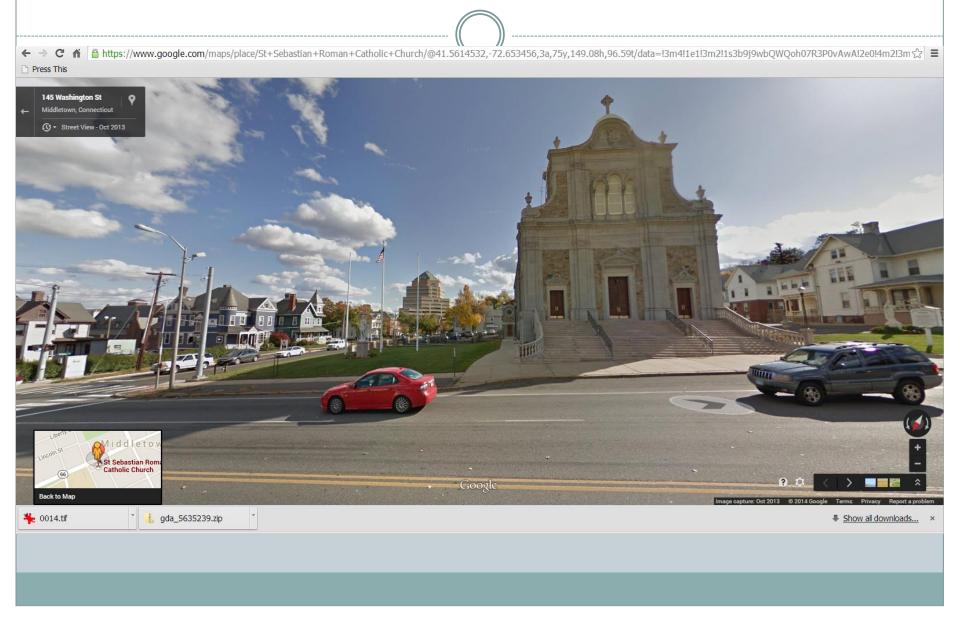
• "Your great-grandfather emigrated to Middletown, CT from Melilli, Sicily. His compatriots built an exact replica of their hometown church in Middletown."

Through Google Street View:

Basilica San Sebastiano, Melilli Sicily



St. Sebastian Church, Middletown CT



Map Collections

- <u>Leventhal Map Collection, Boston Public</u> <u>Library</u>
- <u>Library of Congress American Memory Map</u> <u>Collections</u>
- Historic Map Works
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection
- Portal: Old Maps Online links to all of the above and more

Historic MapWorks



Beers Atlas Map of Ludlow - HistoricMapWorks



1874 Diary of Zenas Brett, Brookline, MA

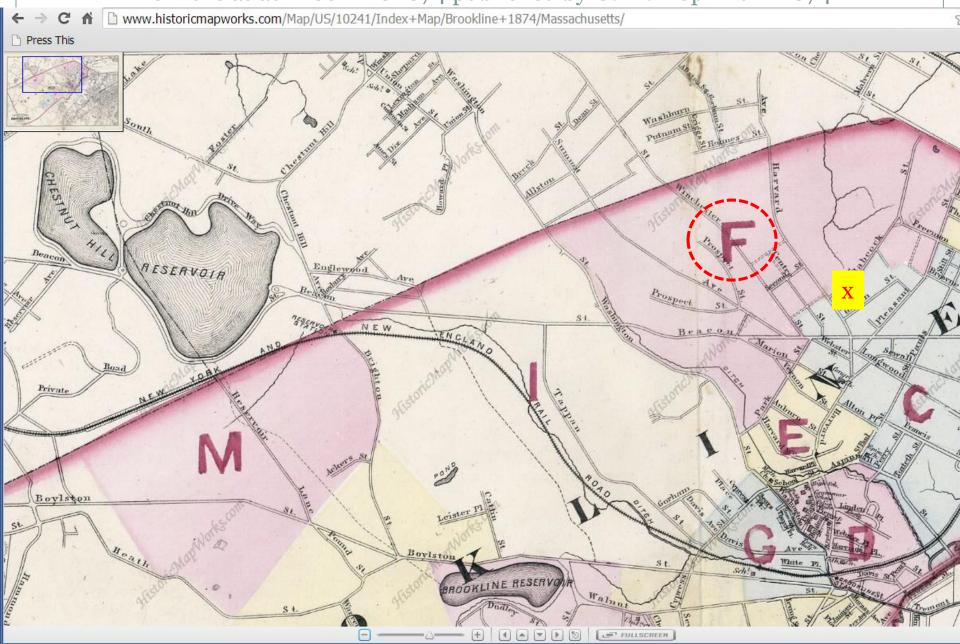
FRIDAY 7 Ren N. Reasant. Wanner, Come home Text-Par Dr Emsti from store before o and took Shower Clara and her company Mis Pleasa Was Kell + Mma, son William the se to note around "Theetreat Hill Reservir", In the sen west Cool and pleasant, from Store before 5 and took Rec. history of Brooklen whier Clara and her company Miss every sub. and panil for som Was Kell + Hmd, son William 6 neo. ago, Red. letter fran Carrie and Frank to note around "Cheetreut Hill Reservir", In the sur west Sent illajore Daw" + Other People. to our ch. Mayer meeting and Silt. Werster & Haufen to

Pro. Ward took Cherry.

Wife who is at Velucanter Mit

Index Map

From the atlas Brookline 1874 published by G. M. Hopkins in 1874



Brookline Atlas, 1874 published by G. M. Hopkins in 1874: Zenas Brett property

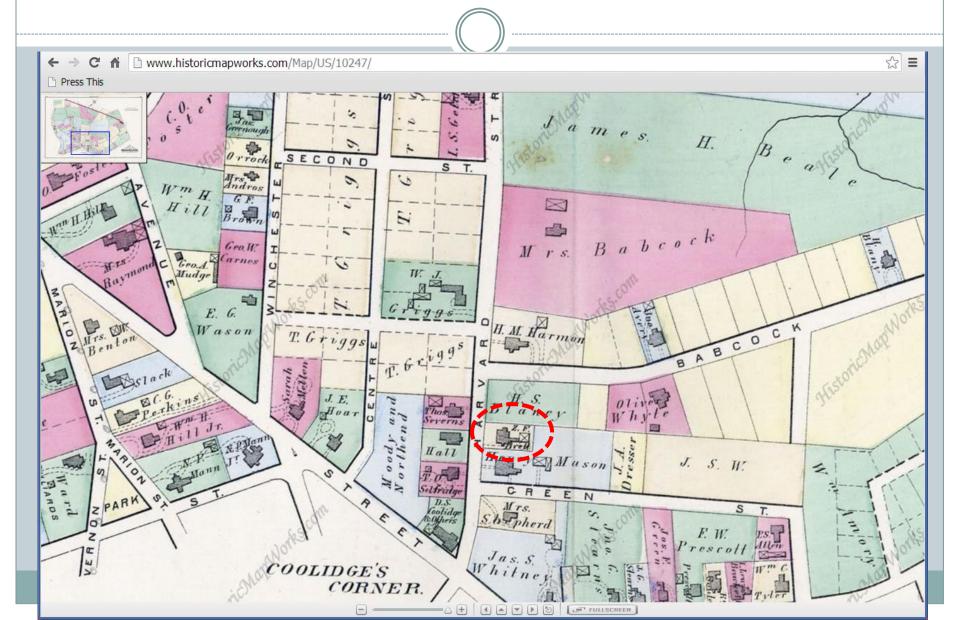
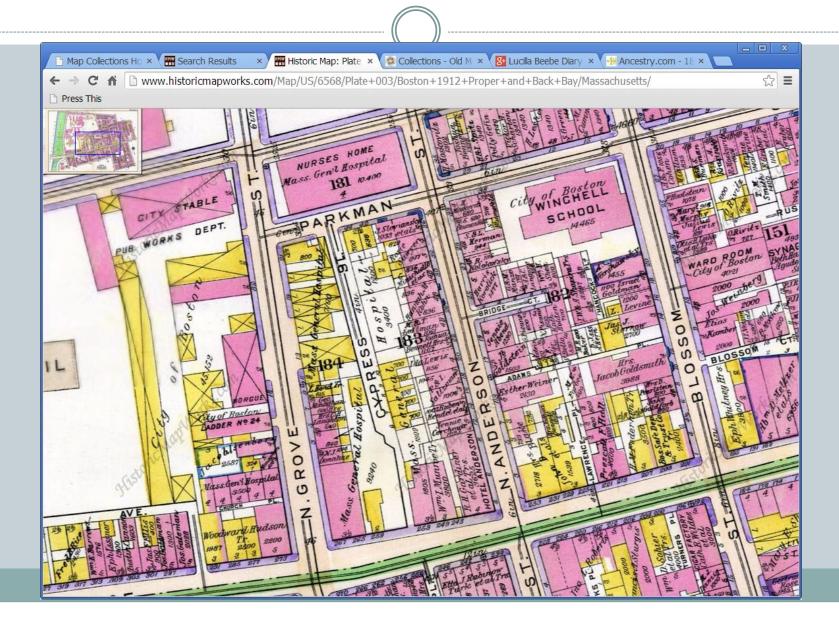


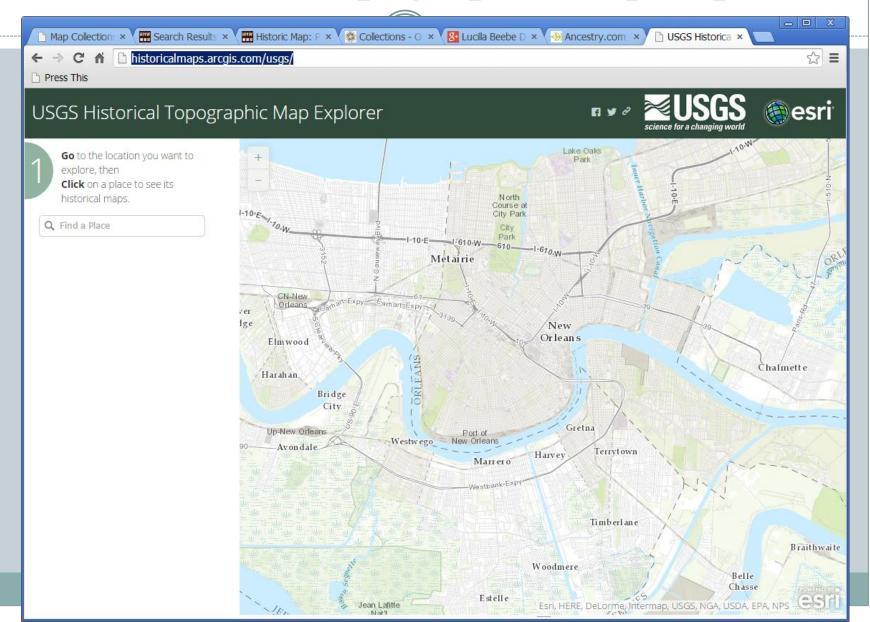
Plate 003: From the Atlas Boston 1912, G. W. Bromley & Co. in 1912

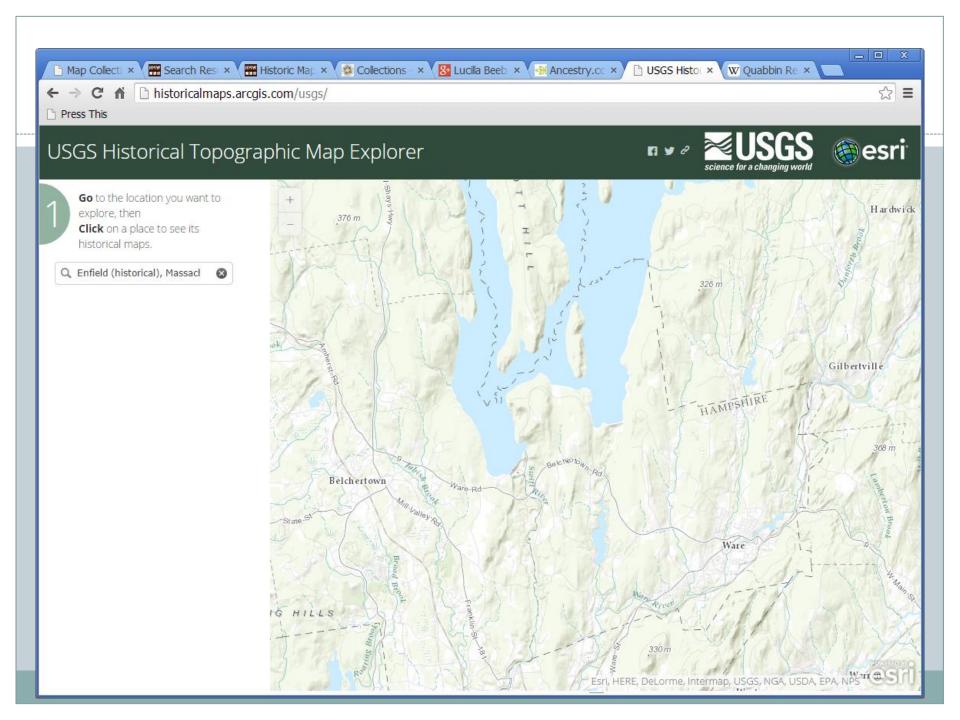


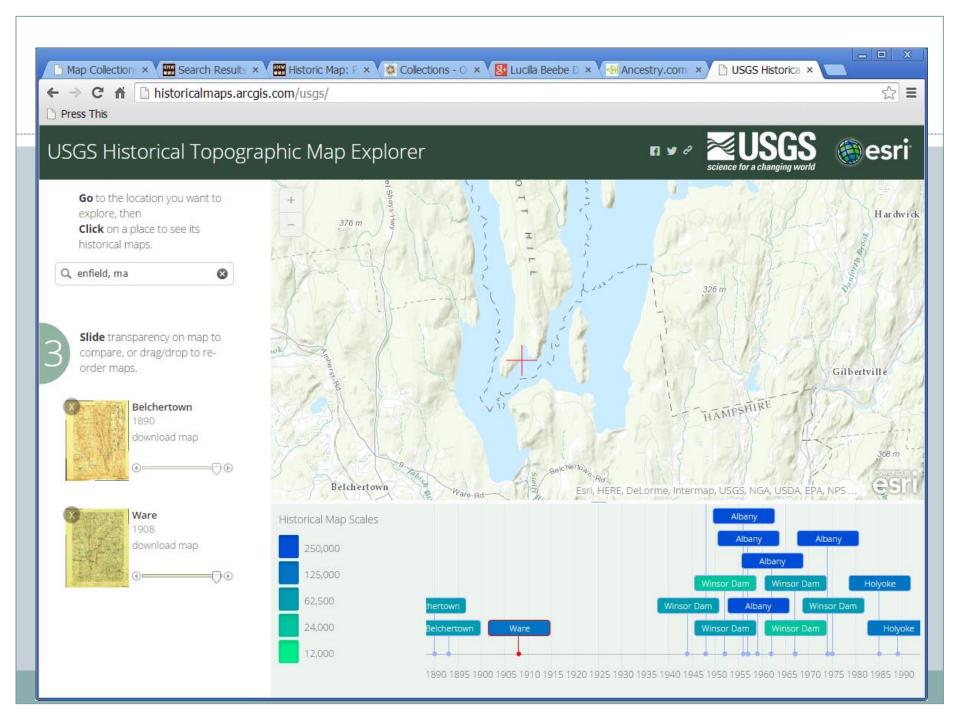
Best of Both Worlds

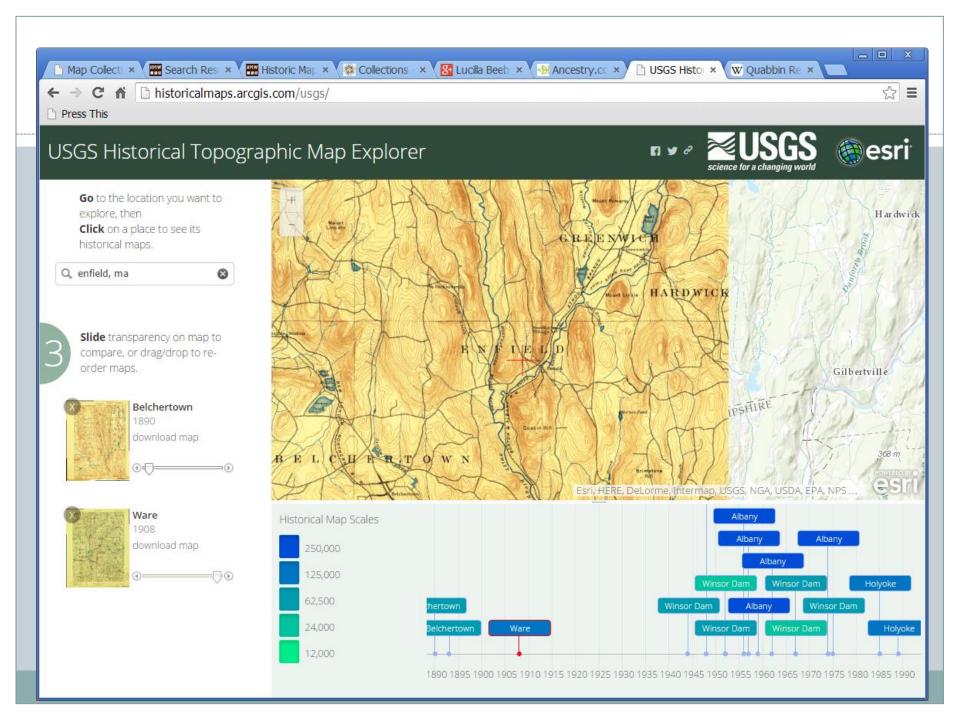
- What would we need to combine features of a Beers map a Bromley map a Sanborn map a street map and a satellite image?
 - Match up and align the images
 - Resize as necessary
 - Identify common features
 - Create a magic see-through layer
 - I.e. skew, enlarge, geo-reference, create transparent layers

USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer



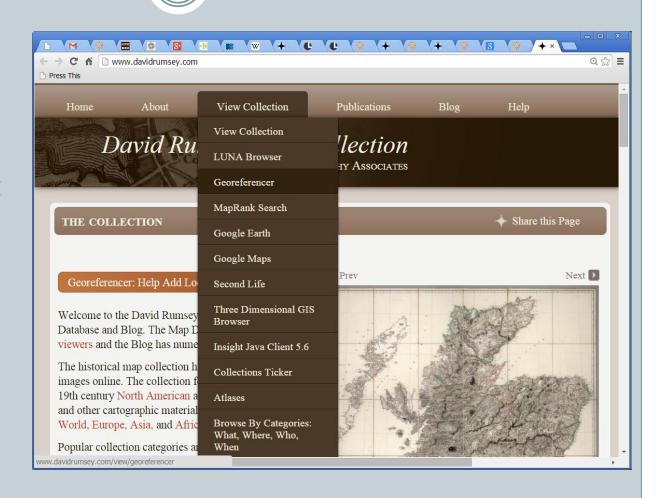






David Rumsey Collection

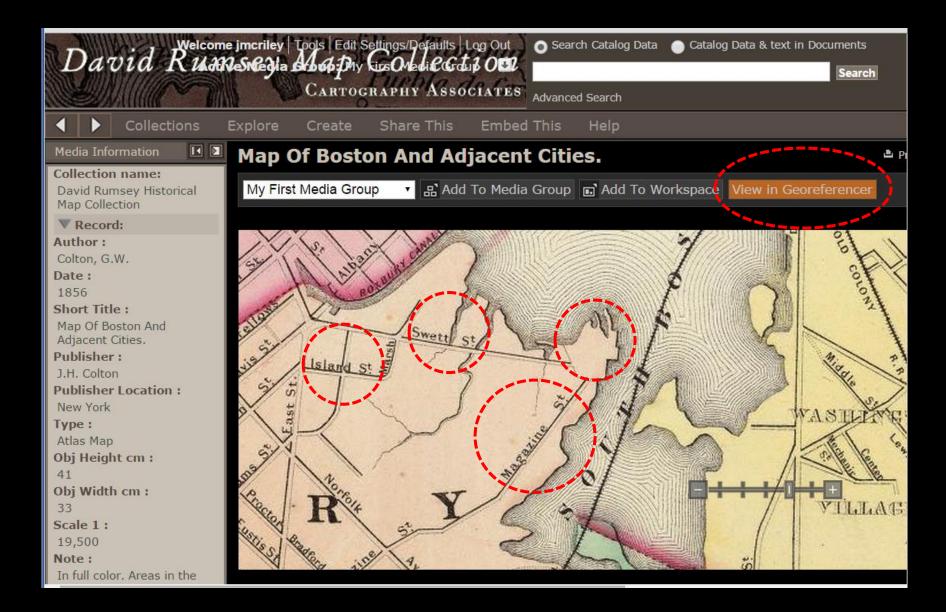
- Complex site!
- Many, many options!
- Best paths are:
 - Luna Viewer
 - o Geo-Referencer



John McNally and family lived on "Pine Island" in Boston City in 1870s and 1880s

- No Boston "Pine Island" in TGN or USGS
- 1880 Boston Directory street definitions:
 - o "Pine Island" from Roxbury Point
 - "Roxbury Point" from **Swett**
 - "Swett" Northampton to Roxbury Point
- 1905: Glimpses of Early Roxbury say:
 - Magazine Street, leading from Dudley Street near St. Patrick's Church, was laid out in 1662, and was called Powder House Lane because it led to the powder magazine. This magazine was owned by the State, and was on Pine Island, now a part of the mainland.
- 1912: A Record of the Streets, Alleys, Places, Etc. in the City of Boston
 - "Swett Street (now Southhampton)"

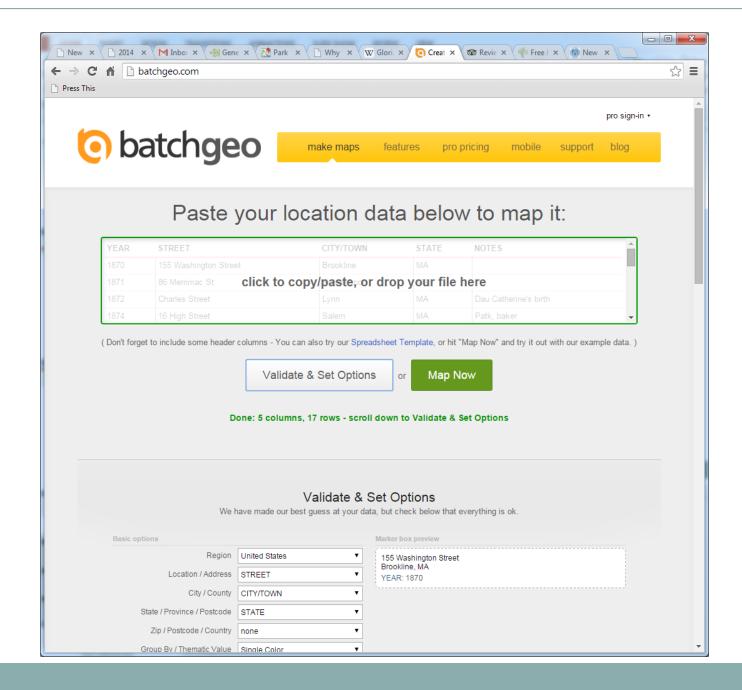
Swett, Magazine, Roxbury Point...

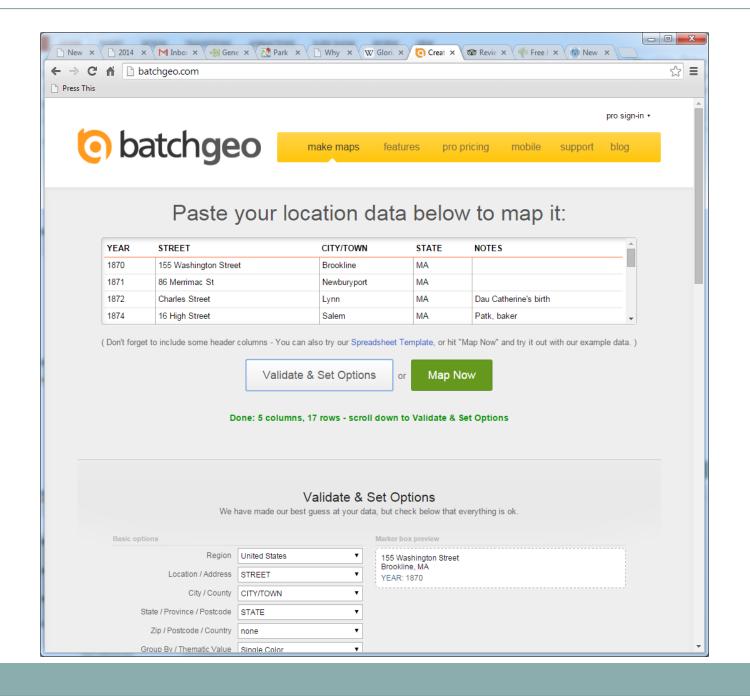


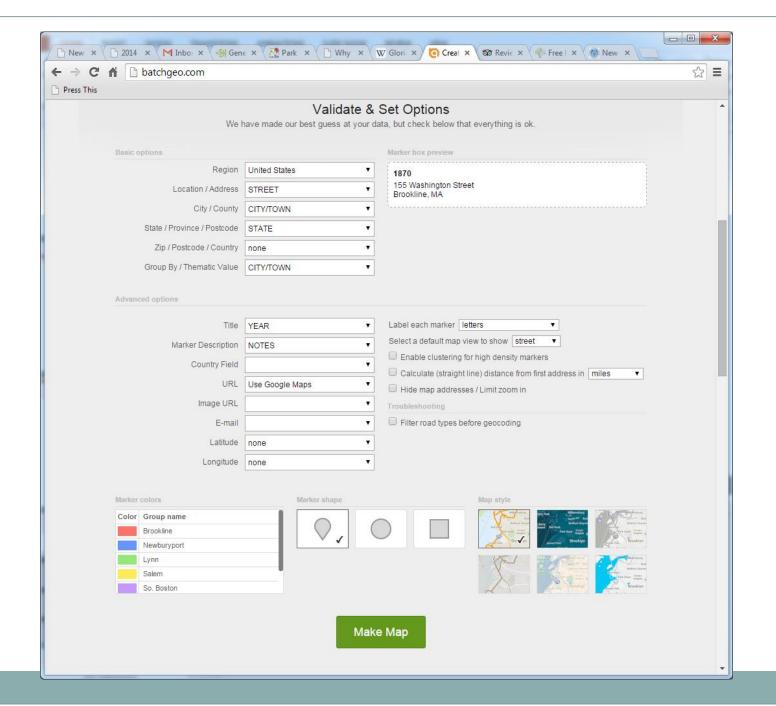
A plan of Boston in New England with its environs, including Milton, Dorchester, Roxbury, Brooklin, Cambridge, Medford, Charlestown, parts of Malden and Chelsea with the military works constructed in those places in the years 1775 and 1776.



YEAR	STREET	CITY/TOWN	STATE	NOTES
1870	155 Washington Street	Brookline	MA	
1871	86 Merrimac St	Newburyport	MA	
1872	Charles Street	Lynn	MA	Dau Catherine's birth
1874	16 High Street	Salem	MA	Patk, baker
1876	19 Union St	Salem	MA	2 children born there
1878	125 Division St	Chelsea	MA	Baker
1880	268 Havre St	East Boston	MA	son Wm baptism
1880	36 Middle St	So. Boston	MA	
1882	248 East Ninth St	So. Boston	MA	Dir - baker
1885	71 Emerson St	Boston	MA	Birth record
1890	104 H Street	Boston	MA	directory
1892	908 E. Broadway	Boston	MA	
1897	78 Bower St	Boston	MA	
1900	36 Northfield St	Boston	MA	Census
1904	709 E. Broadway	So. Boston	MA	Bus Dir
1905	737 East Broadway	So. Boston	MA	
1910	12 Mitchell Street	So. Boston	MA	

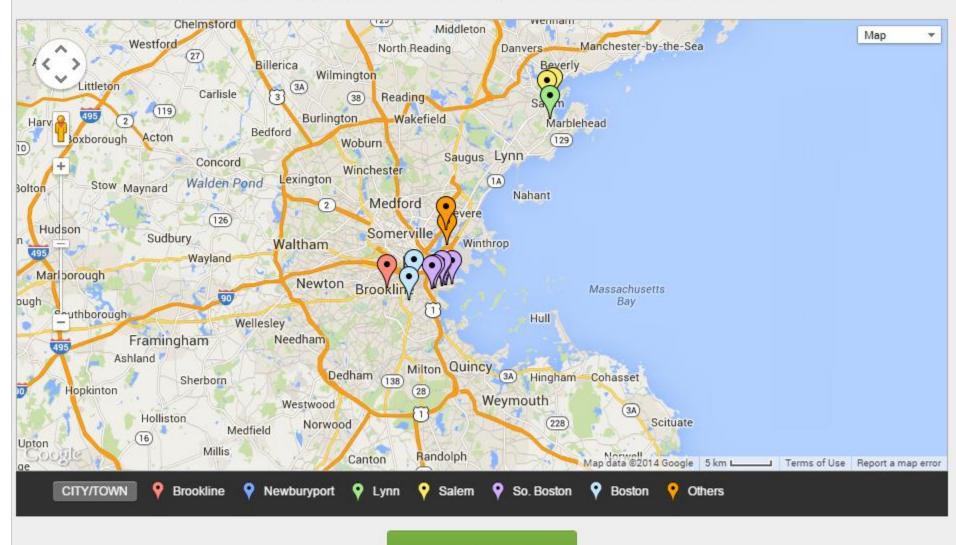






Geocoded 10 records.

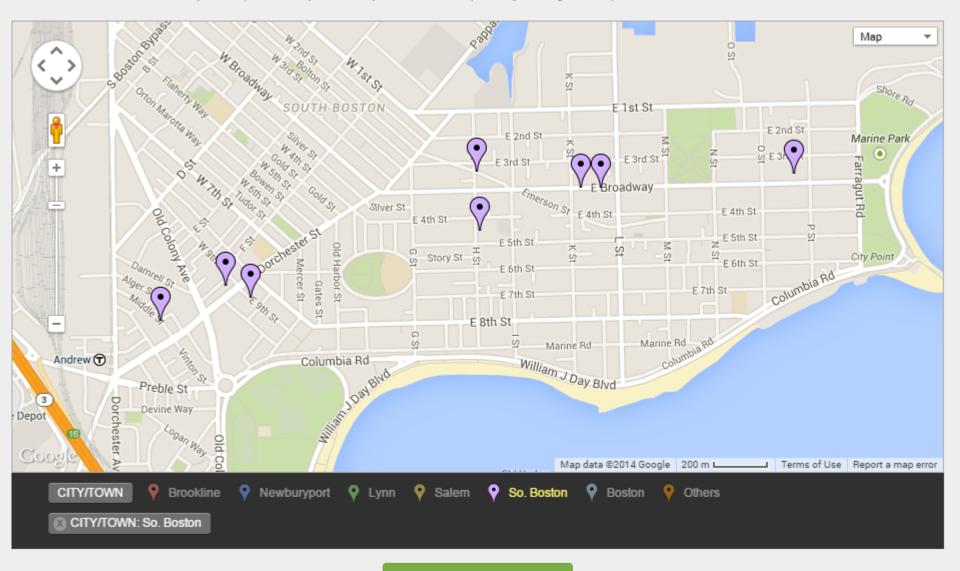
See your map below. If you find any markers out of place - just drag and drop them to the correct location.



Save & Continue

Geocoded 10 records.

See your map below. If you find any markers out of place - just drag and drop them to the correct location.



Save & Continue

Doing History with Online Mapping Tools: Links and Resources

- **1. Family History Research Wiki (FamilySearch.org):** search by city, town, county, region, country for detailed rundown of resources including maps, associated names, border changes and area history. Also provides specific and important tips about how to use listed resources. familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/
- 2. Introduction to Map Scales: excellent explanation of scales, map projections, grid systems, degrees, minutes, quadrangles... geology.isu.edu/geostac/Field Exercise/topomaps/map scale.htm
- 3. Archaic Community, District, Neighborhood Section and Village, Names in Massachusetts www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cisuno/unoidx.htm
- **4. Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN):** 2 million placenames including historic and alternate names www.getty.edu/research/tools/vocabularies/tgn/
- 5. USGS Nameserver can be slow give it a few minutes! You can download full database if you like. geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html
- **6.** Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps introduction, descriptions, notes on symbols, keys, colors www.loc.gov/collection/sanborn-maps/about-this-collection/
- **7. Real Estate Atlases of Massachusetts** at the Massachusetts State Library: free! PDF files may be downloaded, but can be hard to navigate. www.mass.gov/anf/research-and-tech/oversight-agencies/lib/massachusetts-real-estate-atlases.html
- 8. Topographical Maps of the United States, searchable, filterable by year: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS): ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/TopoView/
- 9. Interactive topographical maps from USGS: excellent interface, searching, filtering by date, transparent overlays. historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/index.html
- 10. BatchGeo: Custom location mapping paste spreadsheet data and create map pins and popup information boxes batchgeo.com/
- 11. Map Collections Online:
 - 1. Historic Map Works <u>HistoricMapWorks.com</u>
 - 2. David Rumsey Historical Map Collection DavidRumsey.com
 - 3. Leventhal Map Collection, Boston Public Library - maps.bpl.org/view collection
 - 4. Library of Congress American Memory Map Collections memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/
 - 5. Old Maps Online searchable portal with links to most of the above and more. http://www.oldmapsonline.org/

Ancestral Atlas – sharing data

• Ancestral Atlas is a family history web map that everyone can share. It shows family history events added by users. Take a look and if you want to add your own family history information, simply register for free.

With Ancestral Atlas you can:

- Attach your own family history to the map on the location where the event took place, and share it with everyone else, or keep it private.
- Find out who else has family events in the same area by browsing the map and collaborate with them in a secure environment.
- o Build your own "Ancestral Atlas" and visualize your family history.
- Browsing the map is simple, just click on the map pins to find out about the events located there. Refine your search by date, name and event type.

If you want to start adding your data to the map simply <u>register for free</u> (no credit cards details required).

For more help and tips, please use the "HELP & FAQ" menu button on the top menu bar.

We're continually improving the site, so if you have any comments, we would be more than happy to hear from you.

