

Errata for *Mastering Genealogical Proof*

This PDF's following pages show ten corrected pages from *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. Those pages reflect the corrections described below.

Page 36

Some of the last example's arrows point to the wrong citation elements.

Page 46

Point *e* refers to the wrong note. It should say: Appendix B, note 28.

Page 48

Point *e* refers to the wrong note. It should say: Appendix B, note 6 (ignoring the microfilm)

Point *f* refers to the wrong note. It should say: Appendix B, notes 11–12 (ignoring the microfilm)

Page 79

Item 3 contains one too many items. Delete item *d*. Then change the letter for item *e* to *d*, and the letter for item *f* to *e*.

Page 85

In table 8, footnote 37, the last line contains a stray quotation mark.

Page 91

Item 2 refers to the wrong appendix. It should say: Locate two proof summaries in the article in appendix A. State the conclusion that each summary proves.

Page 162

The cell in the table's *When?* column, row *d*, contains a typo in the first year. It should say: 1776–1827.

Page 175

The italicized explanation, second line from the bottom, incorrectly contains a word instead of a number. The phrase within quotation marks should say: "1844–45."

Page 176

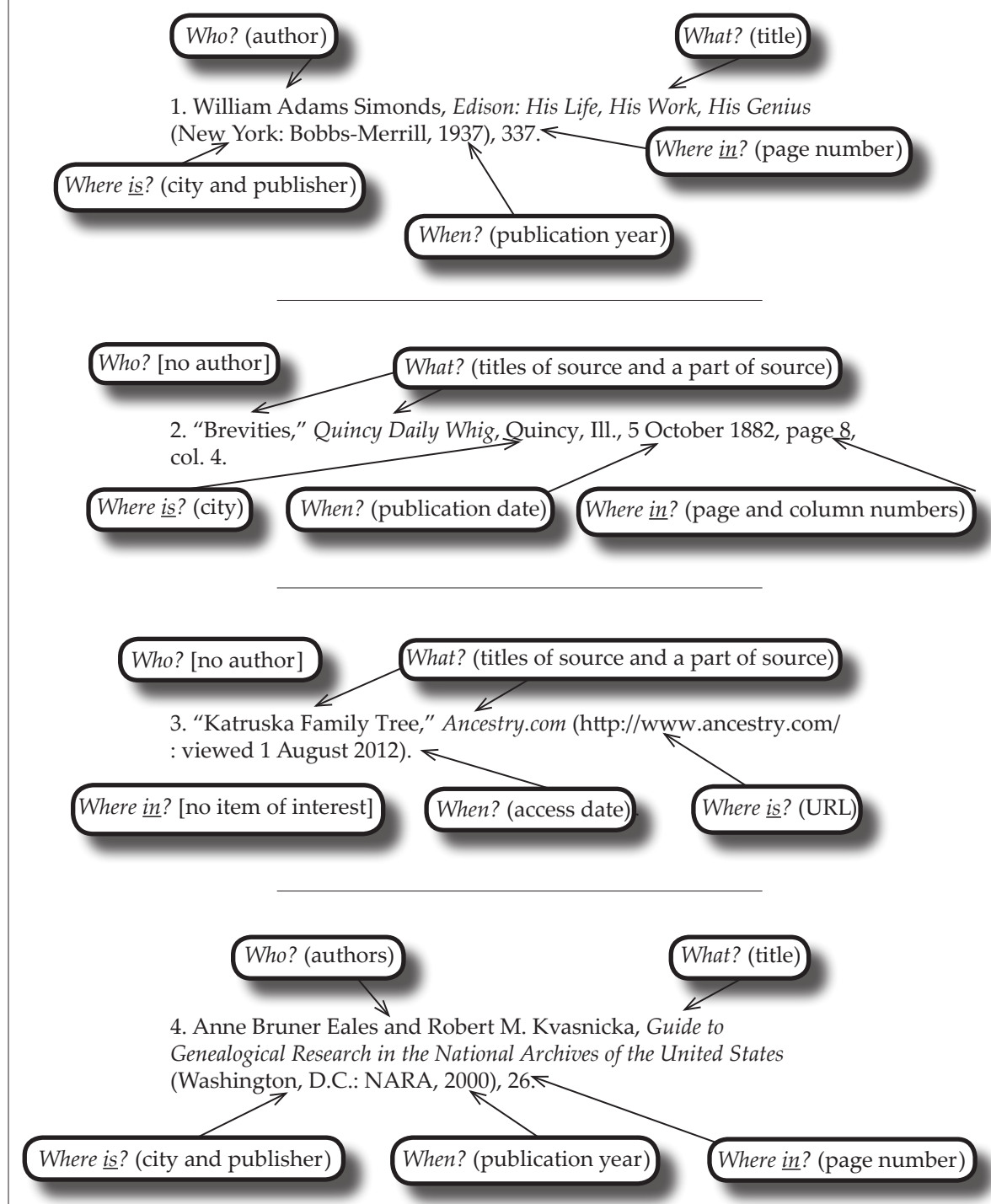
The answer for question 7, first paragraph, second instance of *indirect*, contains a typo. It should say: Resolved conflicting indirect evidence and an absence of direct evidence.

Page 177

Item 2 refers to the wrong appendix. It should say: Locate two proof summaries in the article in appendix A. State the conclusion that each summary proves.

Figure 1

Who-What-When-Where-Where Elements in Four Citations to Published Sources



2. Following the model, place in the table the elements of five additional reference-note citations to published sources from the articles in appendixes A and B:

- a. Appendix A, note 7, the last citation
- b. Appendix A, note 8, the last citation
- c. Appendix A, note 36, the last citation
- d. Appendix B, note 24, the last citation
- e. Appendix B, note 28
- f. Appendix B, note 70, the last citation

WHO?	WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE <u>IS</u> ?	WHERE <u>IN</u> ?
a. Willis M. Kemper	<i>Genealogy of the Kemper Family . . .</i>	1899	Chicago: Geo. K. Hazlitt	page 79
b.				
c.				
d.				
e.				
f.				

5. Following the model, place in the table the elements of five additional reference-note citations to unpublished sources:

- a. Appendix A, note 4, first citation
- b. Appendix A, note 6
- c. Appendix A, note 16
- d. Appendix A, note 25 (ignoring the microfilm)
- e. Appendix B, note 6 (ignoring the microfilm)
- f. Appendix B, notes 11–12 (ignoring the microfilm)

WHO?	WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE <u>IN</u> ?	WHERE <u>IS</u> ?
<i>a.</i> Kentucky Tax Assessor	Tax Books, Clark Co.	1793–1797, 1799–1809	1795, 6:25; and 1796, 2:21	Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort
<i>b.</i>				
<i>c.</i>				
<i>d.</i>				
<i>e.</i>				
<i>f.</i>				

2. Why does genealogical proof require us to resolve conflicts with a conclusion?
3. Following the model, place in the table below the elements of the following conflict-resolution discussions from the articles in appendixes A and B and circle the likely-correct answer that the conflict resolution supports:
- The article in appendix B, paragraph at the top of its page 106 (2 conflicts)
 - The article in appendix A, the discussion under “Supporting Conclusion 4,” on its pages 35–36
 - The article in appendix A, the discussion under “Supporting Conclusion 6,” on its page 37
 - The article in appendix B, the figure and discussion at the top of its page 112
 - The article in appendix B, its page 108, the point concerning Charles’s mother’s name; including the supporting timeline on the article’s pages 109–14 and some of the bullet points on its pages 114–16

ONE SIDE OF CONFLICT	OPPOSING SIDE OF CONFLICT	KINDS OF EVIDENCE IN CONFLICT	WAY(S) CONFLICT IS RESOLVED
a1. Charles was born in January 1854 [for the resolution, see page 119]	Charles was born in 1848–49	Direct versus direct	No corroboration for 1848–49; explanation
a2. Emma’s husband was not previously married	Emma married Ida’s ex-husband	Direct versus indirect	No corroboration; quality of evidence; explanation
b.			
c.			
d.			
e.			

When citations with these characteristics accompany proof statements in a larger documented context, the proof statement may meet four GPS elements:

- Citations in the single footnote and the proof statement's context will reflect GPS elements 2 (clear and accurate source citations) and 3 (analysis and correlation of evidence).
- Citations within the work containing the proof statement will show the research scope, demonstrating GPS element 1 (reasonably exhaustive research). They also are likely to add support to the proof statement.
- The proof statement itself will demonstrate GPS element 5 (clearly written conclusion).

Proof statements cannot handle GPS element 4—resolution of conflicting evidence. Resolution of conflicting evidence requires explanation—more than a single documented data item or statement. Consequently, if evidence conflicts with our proposed conclusion, our written explanation must be in the form of a proof summary or proof argument, not a proof statement.

Table 8 shows seven related proof statements meeting the GPS. Although some of the five footnotes do not contain two citations, their context

Table 8

Seven Related Proof Statements in Context

Three days later, in Kansas City, Missouri, “Miss Clara D. Kinaman” of Sedgwick County, Kansas—just north of Sumner—married Richard Y. Ford.³³ In 1887–88 and 1892 the Fords lived in Wichita, in Sedgwick County.³⁴ Ford’s “habitual drunkenness” caused Clara to leave him in November 1892 and return to Conway Springs. On 30 November 1894 she filed for divorce, granted on 23 January 1896.³⁵ In 1898 Clara Ford, “wid. [of] Richard,” resided in Kansas City, Missouri.³⁶ Quite alive, Richard was treated for the “liquor habit” in Wichita in 1901. He died, apparently childless, in Pittsburg, Kansas, on 9 March 1909.³⁷

33. Jackson Co., Mo., Marriage Record 7:463, Ford-Kinnaman; Recorder of Deeds, Kansas City, Mo.; FHL microfilm 1,016,666. For Ford’s first name, see *Annual Directory of the City of Wichita* (Wichita: F. A. North, 1888), 170.

34. *Annual Directory of the City of Wichita* (1887), 139; (1888), 170; and (1892), 132.

35. Clara D. Ford, Petition, 30 November 1894; Sumner Co., case file no. 8124, Ford v. Ford.

36. *Hoye’s City Directory of Kansas City, Mo.* (Kansas City: Hoye, 1898), 271, for “Ford Clara D wid Richard r 1424 Grand av.” Also, “Death of a Pioneer,” *Quincy Daily Herald*, 4 November 1898, page 1, col. 2. Adam was “survived by his wife and two daughters, one in Colorado and the other in Kansas City.”

37. “He Was Rescued,” *Wichita City Eagle*, 15 May 1901, page 2, col. 6. Also, “Dick Ford Dead,” *Pittsburg Headlight*, evening edition, Pittsburg, Kans., 8 March 1909, sixth unnumbered page, col. 3. The author thanks Evie Bresette, CG, for research on Richard Ford.

Note: Excerpted from Thomas W. Jones, “Misleading Records Debunked: The Surprising Case of George Wellington Edison Jr.,” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 100 (June 2012): 133–56 at p. 138.

especially when an identity or relationship is not self-evident. Segments that establish proof will be more precise and persuasive than segments describing people, activities, and events.

Chapter 7 exercises

1. Locate three proof statements in the article in appendix A. State the conclusion that each statement proves.

2. Locate two proof summaries in the article in appendix A. State the conclusion that each summary proves.

3. Describe the “beginning” of the proof-argument article in appendix A.

5. Following the model, place in the table the elements of five additional reference-note citations to unpublished sources:

- a. Appendix A, note 4, first citation
- b. Appendix A, note 6
- c. Appendix A, note 16
- d. Appendix A, note 25 (ignoring the microfilm)
- e. Appendix B, note 6 (ignoring the microfilm)
- f. Appendix B, notes 11–12 (ignoring the microfilm)

WHO?	WHAT?	WHEN?	WHERE <u>IN</u> ?	WHERE <u>IS</u> ?
a. Kentucky Tax Assessor	Tax Books, Clark Co.	1793–1797, 1799–1809	1795, 6:25; and 1796, 2:21	Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort
b. Fauquier Co.	Minute Book	1781–84	page 192	County Court, Warrenton, Va.
c. Fairfax Co.	Record of Surveys	1790 (noted in the text)	page 154	Circuit Court Archives, Fairfax, Va.
d. [not provided]	Legislative Petitions, Virginia General Assembly, Stafford Co.	1776–1827	petition of 15 October 1776	record group 78, box 238, folder 1, accession 36121, Library of Virginia, Richmond
e. Muskegon Co., Mich.	Record of Marriages 2	19 August 1871	page 36, no. 531, McLain-Tucker	County Clerk, Muskegon, Mich.
f. Allegan Co., Mich.	Circuit Court File 1355, Ida M. McLain v. Charles D. McLain, 1879	22 August 1879	Mrs. Calista J. Tucker testimony	Circuit Court, Allegan, Mich.

4. Propose and explain a resolution to the following conflicting evidence of Charles Jones's birth date. Mention in your explanation the kind(s) of evidence in conflict and the kind(s) of resolutions you used:

BIRTH-DATE EVIDENCE	SOURCES
1839–40	Federal censuses of 1900, 1910, and 1920
22 September 1841	Charles's wife's family Bible and his pension application, death certificate, and two gravestones
1841–42	Federal census of 1880
After March 1842	March 1856 court case in which Charles was disqualified from testifying because he was under age fourteen; his older sister and two uncles gave evidence in the case
1843–44	Federal censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1870
1843–47	Charles's mother's 1853 letter saying he had started school and could "read and writt [<i>sic</i>] very well"
1844–45	1861 enlistment date and family lore that he enlisted at age sixteen

Resolution and explanation:

Charles was born in 1843–44. The court case, an original record with primary information created in an open court with an impartial judge and the presence of three people likely knowledgeable of Charles's birth or age, is difficult to dispute. It therefore rules out the 1839–41 birth dates, which come from secondary information or unknown informants. The court case and mother's letter—another eyewitness account in an original record—agree on a date within 1843–47. The 1850, 1860, and 1870 federal censuses, the earliest in Charles's life when his age would be less vulnerable to error, agree with each other that he was born in 1843–44, a range compatible with both the court information and the mother's letter.

This is a conflict between direct evidence and indirect evidence. (Information in all but three sources provide direct evidence. The mother's letter and the sources for "1844–45" provide indirect evidence.) The resolution is based on the qualities of the evidence.

5. Which of the five methods of assembling evidence listed on this book's pages 77–78 was used to support the conclusion *the widow of Lewis "Pritchard" was Frances*? See the article in appendix A, its page 35, bullet 2, and footnotes 27–29. Explain your answer.

Number 1: Direct evidence and no conflict.

The order to sell slaves provides direct evidence of Lewis's widow's name. Lewis's absence from the 1802 tax list (negative evidence) coinciding with Frances's appearance in that list (indirect evidence) agrees with the direct evidence. No known evidence conflicts with this conclusion.

6. Which of the five methods of assembling evidence was used to support the conclusion *the parents of Philip Pritchett who died in Kentucky in 1811–12 were Lewis and Mary (Lattimore) Pritchett of Stafford and Fauquier counties, Virginia*. See appendix A, the entire article. Explain your answer.

Number 5: Resolved conflicting indirect evidence and an absence of direct evidence.

No source concerning Philip identifies his parents directly, and no source concerning Lewis and Mary specifies directly that they had a son Philip. The case is made primarily from indirect evidence from land and tax records. Conflicts arise from indirect evidence as well: his association with Lewis Pritchett in Fairfax County suggests that Lewis was his father; Philip's signing a petition in 1781 suggests he was too old to be a minor in the 1783 court case. Evidence showing the Fairfax County Lewis had no son Philip and explanation resolve the first conflict. Explanation resolves the second conflict.

7. Which of the five methods of assembling evidence was used to support the conclusion *the parents of Ida Tucker's first husband, Charles D. McLain, were James and Phebe McLain*. See appendix B, the entire article. Explain your answer.

Number 5: Resolved conflicting indirect evidence and an absence of direct evidence.

No source naming Ida and her first husband, Charles D., also names his parents. No source naming James and Phebe says they had a son Charles. The case is made from indirect evidence from censuses, pension application files, and other sources. Conflicts arise in the name of James and Phebe's son, David R., and discrepancies in his and Ida's husband's ages. Those conflicts are resolved with explanation and many indirect evidence items showing that Charles D. and David R. McLain were the same person.

Chapter 7 exercise answers

1. Locate three proof statements in the article in appendix A. State the conclusion that each statement proves.

“Philip ‘Pritchatt’ died in Montgomery County, Kentucky, between 10 November 1811 and 10 March 1812” (the article’s page 29, under “A Virginian in Kentucky”)

Philip was born “between September 1762 and 6 August 1765” (the article’s page 30, bullet 3).

“In 1782 and 1783 two Lewis Pritchetts owned land in Stafford County” (the article’s page 33, under “Supporting Conclusion 2”).

[Many other examples in this article also would be correct choices.]

2. Locate two proof summaries in the article in appendix A. State the conclusion that each summary proves.

Philip lived in Fairfax County (the article’s pages 31–33, under “Supporting Conclusion 1”).

Philip was not the son of Lewis Pritchett of Fairfax County (“Young Lewis”) (pages 35–36, under “Supporting Conclusion 4).

[Conclusions under each of the article’s five other “Supporting Conclusion” subheads also would be correct choices.]

3. Describe the “beginning” of the proof-argument article in appendix A.

The article’s “beginning” covers its pages 29–30 and the first paragraph on its page 31. This section identifies the primary research subject, puts him in geographic and chronological contexts, describes the research problem and context, and answers the research question.