

Contents

Preface		xi
Chapter 1	Genealogy's Standard of Proof	1
	What is genealogy?	1
	Why a genealogical proof standard?	1
	The Genealogical Proof Standard	3
	Modern technologies and genealogical proof	4
	Research and reasoning cycles	5
	Using the GPS	5
	Chapter 1 exercises	6
Chapter 2	Concepts Fundamental to the GPS	7
	Research questions	7
	Sources	8
	<i>Categories of genealogical sources</i>	9
	<i>Importance of source distinctions</i>	10
	Information	10
	<i>Informants</i>	11
	<i>Categories of genealogical information</i>	11
	<i>Importance of information distinctions</i>	12
	Relationship of sources and information	13
	Evidence	13
	<i>Categories of genealogical evidence</i>	14
	<i>Importance of evidence distinctions</i>	15
	Relationship of sources and information to evidence	16
	Chapter 2 exercises	17

Chapter 3	GPS Element 1: Thorough Research	23
	What “reasonably exhaustive” means	23
	Planning thorough research	26
	Executing thorough research	28
	Demonstrating research extent	28
	Chapter 3 exercises	29
Chapter 4	GPS Element 2: Source Citations	33
	Citation components	33
	<i>Five questions that citations answer</i>	33
	<i>Physical sources viewed as images</i>	38
	<i>Sequencing citation elements</i>	38
	Kinds of citations	41
	<i>Reference notes</i>	42
	<i>Source lists</i>	43
	When and how to craft a citation	44
	Resources for citing genealogical sources	44
	Chapter 4 exercises	45
Chapter 5	GPS Element 3: Analysis and Correlation	53
	Tests of analysis	53
	<i>Authored work or original or derivative record?</i>	55
	<i>Primary, secondary, or indeterminable information?</i>	56
	<i>Other tests of analysis</i>	57
	Tests of correlation	59
	<i>Prerequisite to correlation</i>	59
	<i>Ways to correlate</i>	60
	When to analyze and correlate	60
	Outcomes of analysis and correlation	64
	<i>Casting doubt</i>	64
	<i>Resolve conflicts</i>	64
	<i>Yield conclusions</i>	64
	Chapter 5 exercises	67
Chapter 6	GPS Element 4: Resolving Conflicts and Assembling Evidence	73
	How evidence conflicts	74
	Resolving conflicting evidence	74

	<i>Reasoning</i>	74
	<i>Explaining conflict resolutions</i>	75
	Unresolved conflicts	75
	Assembling evidence to establish a conclusion	77
	Chapter 6 exercises	78
Chapter 7	GPS Element 5: The Written Conclusion	83
	Proof statements	84
	Proof summaries	86
	Proof arguments	87
	<i>Differences between proof arguments and proof summaries</i>	87
	<i>Divisions within proof arguments</i>	88
	<i>Developing the argument</i>	88
	Clear writing	90
	Chapter 7 exercises	91
Chapter 8	Using the GPS	95
	Chapter 8 exercises	96
Chapter 9	Conclusion	101
Appendix A	Pritchett Article	103
Appendix B	McLain Article	113
	Glossary	133
	Reading and Source List	141
	Answers to exercises	147
	Chapter 1 exercise answers	147
	Chapter 2 exercise answers	149
	Chapter 3 exercise answers	155
	Chapter 4 exercise answers	159
	Chapter 5 exercise answers	167
	Chapter 6 exercise answers	173
	Chapter 7 exercise answers	177
	Chapter 8 exercise answers	178

List of Tables

Table 1	Suggestions for Identifying Sources to Answer Genealogical Questions	25
Table 2	Selected Guides Describing American Genealogical Sources	34
Table 3	Long-Form and Short-Form Reference-Note Citations to the Same Source	43
Table 4	Selected Documented Examples of Errors in High-Quality Sources	54
Table 5	Correlation in a Narrative and a List	61
Table 6	Timeline Separating the Identities of Men Named John Geddes in the Same Irish Parish	62
Table 7	A Table Correlating Sources, Information, and Evidence	65
Table 8	Seven Related Proof Statements in Context	85

List of Figures

Figure 1	Who-What-When-Where-Where Elements in Four Citations to Published Sources	36
Figure 2	Who-What-When-Where-Where Elements in Four Citations to Unpublished Sources	37
Figure 3	Who-What-When-Where-Where Elements in Citations to Published Sources Viewed in Published and Unpublished Media	39
Figure 4	Who-What-When-Where-Where Elements in Citations to Unpublished Sources Viewed in Published and Unpublished Media	40
Figure 5	Map Correlating Evidence from Ten Deeds, a Chancery Case, and a Land Grant to Help Prove a Relationship	63
Figure 6	Illustration and Analysis of an Explanation of the Resolution of Conflicting Evidence	76