



Creating a House History

Michelle C. Bates

My Genealogy Roots



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What is a “House History”



A house history is a document that provides information about the history of a particular house, including its construction, ownership, renovations, and history of events of both the house and the area. It can be used to determine the value of a house, to research its architectural history, or to **learn about its past occupants.**

Purpose

The purpose of creating a history of a home for genealogy is to preserve the history of the home and the people who lived there. It can be used to learn about:

- The lives of its past occupants
- The history of the area
- The history of the home itself, from architectural style to construction to renovations over time

For genealogists, its focus is to learn about the history of the all the past owners, not following a family or individuals of a family, but rather following the history of the house and the people who lived there.

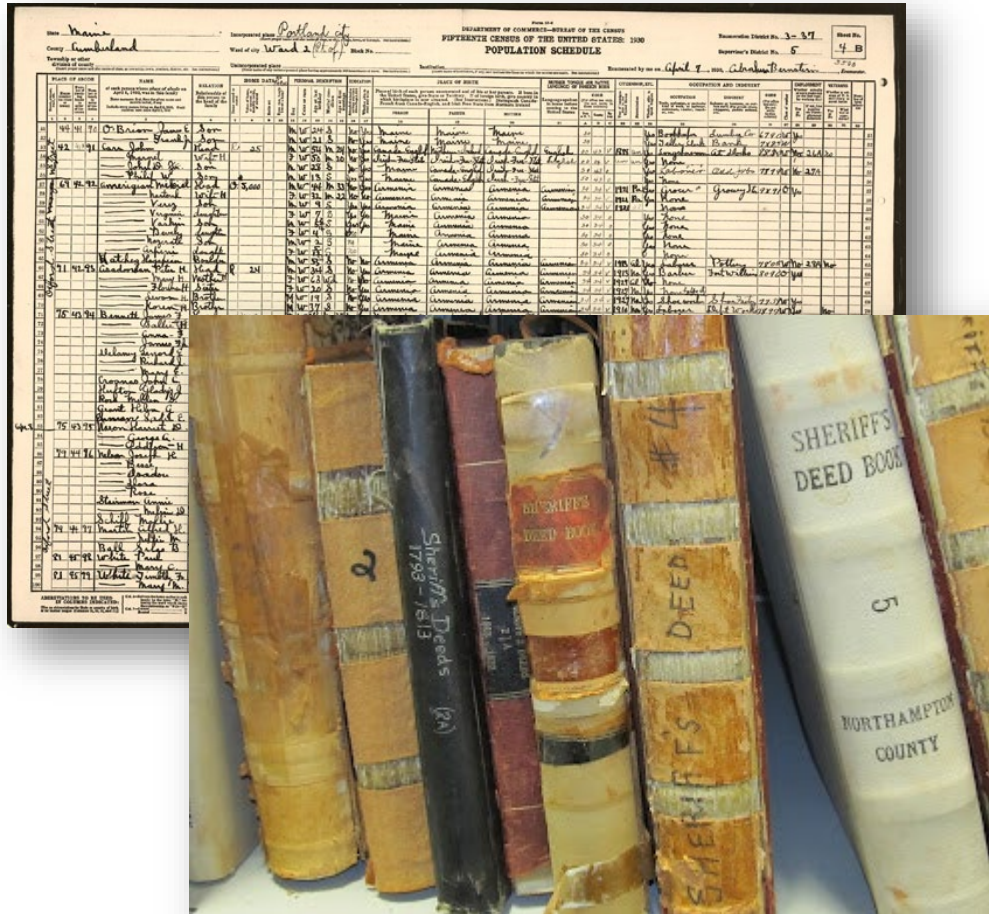


Uncovering the House History

A home history can be a valuable resource for genealogists. During the research, we may discover a connection between owners, historical facts previously unknown, learn that someone “infamous” once lived there, or even that the house didn’t always “live” on that land.



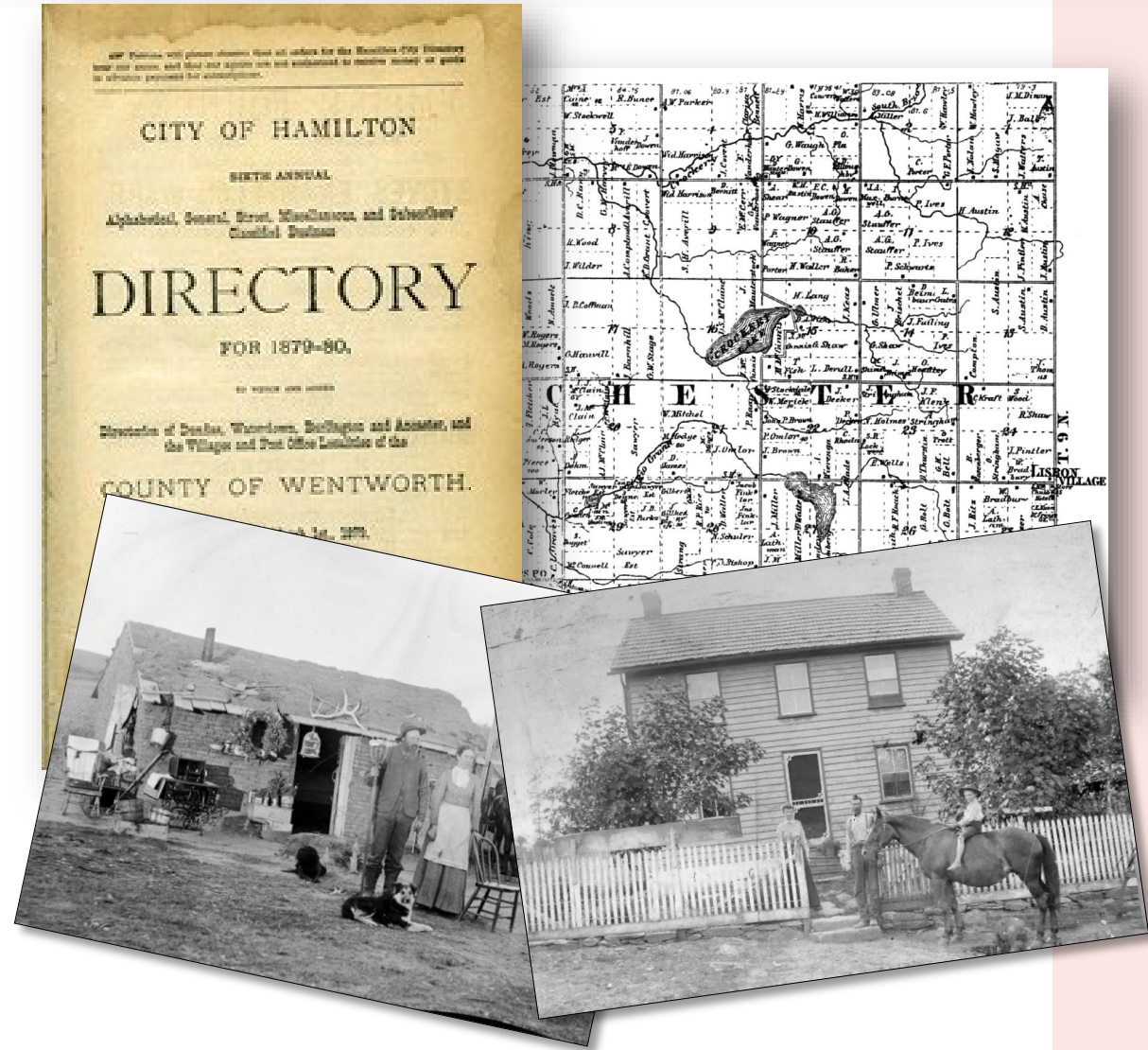
What Records?



- **Historical societies & Local libraries:** Contain historic books, maps, old newspapers, local census records, drawings, and photographs.
- **Census records:** May tell you who lived in your home, where they came from, how many children they had, and the value of the property.
- **Land/Deed records:** Provide information on owners of house, property information and land history.
- **Tax Records:** Provide further information on owners of the property and value of home.
- **Court Records:** Not only provide information on any legal happenings related to the property, but also the owners.

What Records?

- **Newspapers:** Provide one of the best ways to learn the story of your house and its inhabitants.
- **City directories:** Can be found at local libraries and on many online sites.
- **Photos:** Local libraries and societies may have photos of the home, but your own personal collection is a valuable resource. Consider checking with neighbors and previous owners too.
- **Maps:** Can be found at library, court clerk, and online. The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and plat maps are great resources.



Things to ponder...



- **Boundary Changes:** The house could have been in different town or even county than it is today due to boundary changes.
- **Renumber/Rename:** It is not uncommon to find an old address that no longer exists because the city has renumbered or renamed streets.
- **Property Relocated:** Houses move! The house you are in may have been located someplace else at one point; another street, another town, or even another state.

...and all of these mean different jurisdictions, legal descriptions, and record types.

Thank You

Michelle C. Bates

Michelle@mygenealogyroots.com

www.mygenealogyroots.com

