Elements of a Good Timeline

1. Year of the event
2. Event name
3. Locality, displayed in reverse order
4. Citation
5. Transcription of the document
6. Age of the individual at the time of the event

Each event in a person’s life should be entered so it can be displayed chronologically.

What can a Chronology Do?

1. Displays migration.
2. Infers records that may not have been searched.
3. Provides a different perspective on a person’s life.
4. Ever tried to sort out a polygamous family?

Word Processor Advantages

1. Information is not linked to the genealogy computer program’s database.
2. Data would have to be entered twice: 1) genealogy computer program; 2) word processor.

Genealogy Computer Program’s Notes – Advantages

1. Very simple to develop.
2. The genealogy computer program can easily search the notes for clues.

Genealogy Computer Program’s Notes – Disadvantages

1. The information is “free-form” text.
2. The localities, dates, event names, citations cannot be displayed in any other format in order to take advantage of other methods of analysis.

Genealogy Computer Program’s Events/Tags/Facts – Advantages

1. The information is “categorized.” This means that the program, and others, can take advantage of their unique features to analyze the data in different formats.

Genealogy Computer Program’s Events/Tags/Facts – Disadvantages

1. Not all genealogy computer programs use the events/tags/facts in the same way. Will information be lost or reorganized when transferring data? It may take more time for data entry, although in the end, there will be more advantages.
Historical Information

1. *The Master Genealogist* can automatically insert historical information into the individual’s timeline. See www.whollygenes.com

2. Genelines produces various types of charts, most of which can insert historical information timeline bars. See www.progenysoftware.com

3. Personal Historian, although intended to assist in writing personal histories, will generate timelines, and even insert historical information. The timelines can include several generations of family members. See www.personalhistorian.com.

4. www.OurTimelines.com produces a personalized timeline. Just enter basic information about your ancestor, and it will generate a historical timeline.

5. Google it!

Example of a chronology in a word processor

**Asa Clark Brown Chronology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Date and Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Transcription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>1810 CENSUS</td>
<td>Massachusetts, Worcester County, Charlton</td>
<td>Nathan Brown household, 1810 U.S. census, Worcester County, Massachusetts, page 312, line 19; National Archives micropublication M2-2, roll 22.</td>
<td>Nathan Brown, male: 10 yrs [Charles], 16-26 yrs: 1 [Asa], over 45 yrs: 1 [Nathan], females under 10 yrs: 1 [Ruth], 26-45 yrs: 1 [Molly]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1813 MILITARY</td>
<td>New York, Otsego County</td>
<td>War of 1812 pension file of Asa Clark Brown, in possession of Mr. Louis Peabody 123 Main Street, Oklahoma, 01 Jan 2004.</td>
<td>He was substituted for a man drafted at Cherry Valley, Otsego, New York by the surname of Thomas. Asa was a private in Captain Ezra (or Levi) Adams’ Company of New York . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example of a Chronology in Genealogy Computer Program’s Notes

Example of a Chronology Report

- New York, Otsego, Cherry Valley: He was substituted for a man drafted at Cherry Valley, Otsego, New York by the surname of Thoma. As a private in Captain Ezra [or Levi] Adams' Company of New York State Detached Artillery, in the regiment commanded by Colonel E. H. McCall. He was drafted at Cherry Valley, Otsego, New York 14 Sep 1813. Marched from Cooperstown, Otsego, New York to Brownsville on Black River, New York. He was honorably discharged at Brownsville, NY 9 Nov 1813. His discharge certificate was burned when his home burned 13, 21, 22.


- Pennsylvania, Venango County: Walter B. Wright of Sugar Grove Warren County Pennsylvania agrees to build the running gears of a single Sawmill together with The Bulkhead for James Wollaston and Asa C. Brown of Venango Allegheny on Little Hickory Creek on the East side of the