

TIMELINES AND CHRONOLOGIES

by Geoffrey D. Rasmussen
Geoff@MillenniaCorp.com

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

Age	Date and Event	Location	Source	Transcription
0	1792 BIRTH	Connecticut , Windham County, Woodstock	<i>Vital Records of Woodstock 1686-1854</i> (Hartford, CT: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1914), 197; FHL Book 974.645/W2 V2w.	Asa Son of Nathan & Polly Brown Born October ye 11th: 1792
8	1800 CENSUS	Massachusetts , Worcester County, Charlton	Nathan Brown household, 1800 U.S. census, Worcester County, Massachusetts, page 325, line 16; National Archives micropublication M32, roll 16.	Nathan Brown; males: 4 under 10 yrs [Asa, Samuel, Alanson, Frank]; 25-45 yrs: 1 [Nathan]; females 25-45: 1 [Molly]
18	1810 CENSUS	Massachusetts , Worcester County, Charlton	Nathan Brown household, 1810 U.S. census, Worcester County, Massachusetts, page 511, line 19; National Archives micropublication M252, roll 22.	Nathan Brown; males: under 10 yrs: 1 [Charles]; 10-16 yrs: 3 [Samuel, Alanson, Frank]; 16-26 yrs: 1 [Asa]; over 45 yrs: 1 [Nathan]; females: under 10 yrs: 1 [Ruth]; 26-45 yrs: 1 [Molly]
20	1813 MILITARY	New York , Otsego County	War of 1812 pension file of Asa Clark Brown, in possession of Mr. Louis Peabody 123 Main Street, Oklahoma, OK Jan 2004.	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 . . .
23	abt 1815 BIRTH OF CHILD		Asa Brown household, 1820 U.S. census, Venango County, Pennsylvania, page 10, line 32; National Archives micropublication M33, roll 114.	Asa Brown; males: under 10 yrs: 3 [?, Nathan, ?]; 26-45 yrs: 1 [Asa]; females: 16-26: 1 [Elizabeth]
25	abt 1817 BIRTH OF CHILD	Pennsylvania	Nathan R. Brown household, 1850 U.S. census, Warren County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, town of Limestone, page 397, dwelling 2495, family 2498; National Archives micropublication M432.	BROWN, Nathan R, 33, m, farmer, \$180 real estate, born in Pennsylvania.

Example of a chronology in a genealogy computer program's notes

Edit Notes
?
X

Edit

Notes for David William McCall

1830 CENSUS: Tennessee, Washington County, page 246, line 8; FHL Film 24533:

William McCall; males: under 5 yrs: 2 [Samuel, David]; 5-9 yrs: 1 [James]; 10-14 yrs: 1 [Zachariah]; 15-19 yrs: 2 [William, Robert]; 20-29 yrs: 2 [Joseph, ?]; 40-49 yrs: 1 [William]; females: under 5 yrs: 1 [?]; 10-14 yrs: 1 [?]; 20-29 yrs: 2 [Sarah, ?]; 40-49 yrs: 1 [Parthency].

1840 CENSUS: Tennessee, Washington, 5th Regiment; page 215; FHL Film 24549.

William McCALL, 2 males 10-14 [Samuel Doak, David William]; 1 male 15-19 [James T.]; 1 male 50-59 [William]; 1 female 10-14 [Elizabeth V.]; 1 female 15-19 [Anna F.]; 1 female 40-49 [Parthency].

1847 MARRIAGE: Tennessee, Washington County; Marriage Licenses and Bonds, 1787-1950, David McCall and Martha Ann McCall Marriage; FHL Film 2118444:

Know all Men by these presents, that we, David W McCall Moses Moore and Thos E D— of Washington County, and State of Tennessee, our heirs, &c., and held and firmly bound unto N Brown Governor of said State for the time being, and his successors, in the sum of Twelve Hundred and Fifty

Save

Cancel

Delete

*Sources

Example of a Chronology Report

20	1813 sep 15 To 1813 dec	Military:	<p>New York. 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 State Detached Artillery, in the regiment commanded by Colonel E. H. Metcalf. 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, 23</p>
20	1813 Sep 15	Residence:	New York, Otsego, Cherry Valley. ¹³
23	abt 1815	Child born (1-#1):	_____ Brown (Abt 1815- _____).
24	abt 1816	Travel:	_____ Left Otsego County, New York ²⁴
25	abt 1817	Child born (1-#2):	Pennsylvania. Reverend Nathan R. Brown (Abt 1817-1897). Born in Pennsylvania. Died on 5 May 1897 in Fairfield, Clay, Nebraska. ^{36, 37, 38}
27	abt 1819	Child born (1-#3):	_____ Brown (Abt 1819- _____).
28	1820	Census:	Pennsylvania, Venango, Allegheny. Asa Brown; males: 3 under 10 yrs [?, Nathan, ?]; 26-45yrs: 1 [Asa]; females: 16-26: 1 [Elizabeth] ²⁵
29	1822 Jul 9	Child born (1-#4):	Pennsylvania, Venango, Tionesta. Reverend Lorenzo D. Brown (1822-1918). Born in Tionesta, Venango, Pennsylvania. Died on 14 Jan 1918 in Minneapolis, Hennepin, Minnesota.
33	1826 Sep 2	Deed:	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 Bulk head for James Wollaston and Asa C. Brown of Venango Allegheny on Little Hickory creek on The East side of the