

JANUARY 2014 ASSIGNMENT – AN EXAMPLE

This example – the ideas, thoughts, decisions, etc. – is presented as just an example, *not* as an illustration of what should be done. One of our main goals this year is to turn our own TMG programs into personal tools to help each one of us achieve our unique research goals. If one person’s idea helps you, great! Just don’t feel constrained to use someone else’s idea, if it doesn’t help you solve a problem.

JANE M. “JENNIE” (SMITH) ABBOTT

Jennie Smith was the second wife of George W. Abbott, youngest child of John Dutton and Dorcas (Beckley) Abbott. What is currently known about her is taken from the Beckley family genealogy¹ and her tombstone in Elmwood Cemetery in Barre, Vermont.² The two sources provide conflicting information on her date of birth, and corroboration of her parentage and the couple’s marriage is required. The date of death is missing from her tombstone, suggesting the possibility that it was erected at the time her husband died in 1924, so her date and place of death must be found. Her place of burial should be corroborated. Assuming she died in Vermont, the Vermont vital records collection on *FamilySearch* should include her death record.

Type	Name	12DPM	Type	Value
Name	Jane M. SMITH (1:856) (1850-)	3....	Tag count	7
Father		Children	0
Mother		Reference	

Type	Date	Name/Place	Age	S	12DPM
Name-Marr		ABBOTT		
Name-Var		Jennie M. SMITH		✓	0....
Birth-Alt	1847	Moretown, Vermont	~3	✓	0.00.
Birth	11 Jan 1850		0	✓	3.3..
Marriage	23 Dec 1874	George W. ABBOTT (1:845); Barre, Washington Co.,	24	✓	330..
Burial		Elmwood Cemetery, Barre, Washington Co., Vermont,		✓	3...3
Note		Da/William & Jerusha Smith		✓	0...0

Figure 1. Jane M. Smith detail window. Note that surety values are applied that differentiate information from the two sources currently known: the Beckley genealogy (0) and Jane's tombstone (3). The 0 surety does not indicate incorrect information, nor does the 3 surety denote correct information.

¹ Caroleen Beckley Clark Sheppard, *The Descendants of Richard Beckley of Wethersfield, Connecticut* (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1948), 147.

² Elmwood Cemetery (Barre, Washington County, Vermont), Jane M. Smith tombstone; photographed by Susan Goss Johnston, 16 June 2012; inscription reads, ""Jane M. Smith// his wife [George W. Abbott]// born// Jan. 11, 1850// died// [blank]."

DEATH FEMALE

Place of death ... Northfield, Vt. Usual residence of deceased ... Northfield, Vt.

Name of Hospital or Institution Mayo Memorial City or Town

Length of stay in Hospital or Institution Street Address Mayo Memorial Hosp.

In this community If foreign born, how long in U. S. A.? Yrs.

Full name of deceased Jane E. Abbott

If veteran, name war Social Security No.

Color... white... Single... Widowed... yes Married... Divorced.....

Name of Husband or Wife George Abbott Age of Husband or Wife, if living

Date of Birth Jan. 11.. Day 1850 Year Age... 91. Years... 5 Months... 21 Days.....

Birthplace (city or town) Moretown..... State or Country Vt.

Occupation of deceased ... Housewife..... Industry or business

Father's name ... William Smith.....

Father's birthplace (city or town) (State or Country) Vermont

Mother's name ... Jerusha Hedges.....

Mother's birthplace (city or town) (State or Country) Vermont

Informant Roy Hedges.....

Date of Death ... July... Month 2... Day 1941... Year.....

Immediate cause of death ... cerebral hemorrhage..... Duration

Due to ... arteriosclerosis with hypertension.....

Due to ... chronic nephritis.....

Other conditions

Major findings: of operations 1316

of autopsy

Figure 2. Jane (Smith) Abbott death record.

Records in this collection, although official records, are actually derivative. In this instance, the original death record is a Northfield, Vermont, town record. This copy was attested by Gardner Bush, Northfield Town Clerk, 12 July 1941. Jane's name, date and place of death, and cause of death should be considered primary information. The latter was attested by R. I. Leonard, M.D., presumably her physician. Her parentage and date and place of birth probably come from the informant, Roy Hedges. His surname suggests that he is related to her mother, Jerusha Hedges, and his identity must be ascertained to determine how much weight should be given to this information. Her age at death corresponds to that calculated from the two dates, but since this is probably not an independent assertion, only the lack of conflict should be noted. The date of birth corresponds to that found on her tombstone. This form does not provide a place for burial information.

MASTER SOURCE LIST ENTRY

Source Definition

General | Supplemental | Attachments | Output form

Ibid :

- On - Requires same source
- On - Requires same source and [CD]
- Off

Full footnote : <[COMPILER], ><"[TITLE]," >database and images, <[PUBLISHER], ><[ITAL:][WEBSITE][:ITAL], ><[ITAL:][REPOSITORY][:ITAL] ><[URL]><[REPOSITORY ADDRESS]>< : accessed [CD3]><, [CM]><, [CD1]><, [CD2]><; citing [COMMENTS]><; specifically citing [CD5]>.

Preview

Short footnote : <[COMPILER], ><"[SHORT TITLE]"><, [CD1]>.

Preview

Bibliography : <[COMPILER]. ><"[TITLE]," >Database and images. <[PUBLISHER]. ><[ITAL:][WEBSITE][:ITAL]. ><[ITAL:][REPOSITORY][:ITAL]. ><[URL] ><[REPOSITORY ADDRESS] ><: [DATE]>.

Preview

Full Footnote (Read only)

"Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954," database and images, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/< : accessed [CD3]><, [CM]><, [CD1]><, [CD2]>> citing Vital Records, Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Middlesex, Vermont.<; specifically citing [CD5]>.

Figure 3. Master Source List - Output Screen and Full Footnote preview.

This is a large records collection and I revisit it frequently. I “lump” individual records under one entry in the Master Source List. That entry uses a source type closely corresponding to the “TVTMG Online DATABASE/Images” source type.³ Emphasis is placed on the database, and an individual image is cited in the relevant event citation’s Citation Detail screen (see Figure 4).

³ Tri-Valley TMG Users Group, *Source Templates for The Master Genealogist* (Livermore, Calif.: Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, 2012), 128.

DEATH TAG ENTRY AND CITATION – DISCUSSION POINTS

Tag Entry

Tag type: Death

Principal: 1:856 Jane M. SMITH, (1850-1941) Jane M. ABBOTT

Date: 02 Jul 1941 Place style: U.S. Standard Place

Sort date: 02 Jul 1941

Address: Addressee: Mayo Memorial Hospital City: Northfield County: Washington Co. State: Vermont

Memo: ||cause of death: cerebral hemorrhage due to arteriosclerosis with hypertension due to chronic nephritis

Witness: Roy HEDGES (1:16198) say ___ 1 Witness

Citation: 1:3982 VT Vital Records (FS) Jane Abbott death re 3 3 3 3

Citation

Source: 1:3982 VT Vital Records (FS)

Citation Detail: Jane Abbott death record (1941) | | 22 December 2013 | Jane Abbott death (1941) | FHL microfilm 1953261

Citation Memo: ||Jane Abbott, d. Mayo Memorial Hospital, Northfield, Vt., 2 July 1941, age 91 years 5 months 21 days; cause of death: cerebral hemorrhage due to arteriosclerosis with hypertension, due to chronic nephritis; resides

Reference: Surety: 1 2 D P M 3 3 3 3

Figure 4. Death event tag and corresponding Citation Detail screen. Complete citation reads, “Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954,” database and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 22 December 2013), Jane Abbott death record (1941); citing Vital Records, Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Middlesex, Vermont; specifically citing FHL microfilm 1953261.

1. I record cause of death in Memo 2 of the Death event tag. This gives me a reliable way to search for specific causes of death and to create cause of death reports.
2. In general, I *abstract* the information from a death record and record it in Citation Memo 2. *This location doesn't print out in any standard report.* If I decide that a transcription or abstract of the record's information is required in a research report on the subject, I record it in a separate custom tag, the Document event tag. I do have an Excel output report that includes this Citation Memo 2 information, but I don't use it very often.
3. This death record is readily available (for free!) online, so I don't download an image copy and attach it to the event tag, the citation, or the individual. If I had written off for a copy of

the record, I would scan it and attach it to either the event tag or the citation. If it were critical to a proof argument, I would attach an image copy to the event tag or to the individual, whether the record were readily available or not.

4. The *FamilySearch* citation for this record is: "Vermont, Vital Records, 1760-1954," index and images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.3.1/TH-1-17850-108340-13?cc=1784223&wc=13971433> : accessed 22 Dec 2013), 004703503 > image 1093 of 2225. This is a reasonable alternative citation, but these points explain why I don't use this format.
 - a. It is possible that both the specific image URL and the image number may change in the future, so including that information in the citation might be misleading in the future. *FamilySearch* images may be more stable than other sites', so this may not be an important consideration for this record, but it can be important when citing other online resources.
 - b. This record was found via an index search, so the image number is not necessary for finding the record quickly. The name and year of death together serve as unique identifiers. When I find an image via a site's *browse* function, I use a different source template.
 - c. The number, 004703503, is the record's *digital folder number*. That number doesn't help another researcher find this record in its FHL microfilm version, or investigate the digital image's origins further. The microfilm number I used in my citation, 1953261, better describes the "source of the source," and leads to more complete information on the original record.
5. Note that I reserve CD3 (Citation Detail 3) for the date I viewed *any* record, not just the access date of an online source. Although not required in many citation formats, including that information allows me to create a chronologically ordered listing of all records searched on an individual or family quickly and easily.
6. The informant, Roy Hedges, was added to the database and linked to this record as a witness. The witness sentence for this death tag reads, "Roy Hedges was informant on the death certificate of Jane M. Abbott, who died on 02 Jul 1941 in Mayo Memorial Hospital, Northfield, Washington Co., Vermont." Note that the sentence uses the name chosen in the drop-down name box, not the subject's primary name.

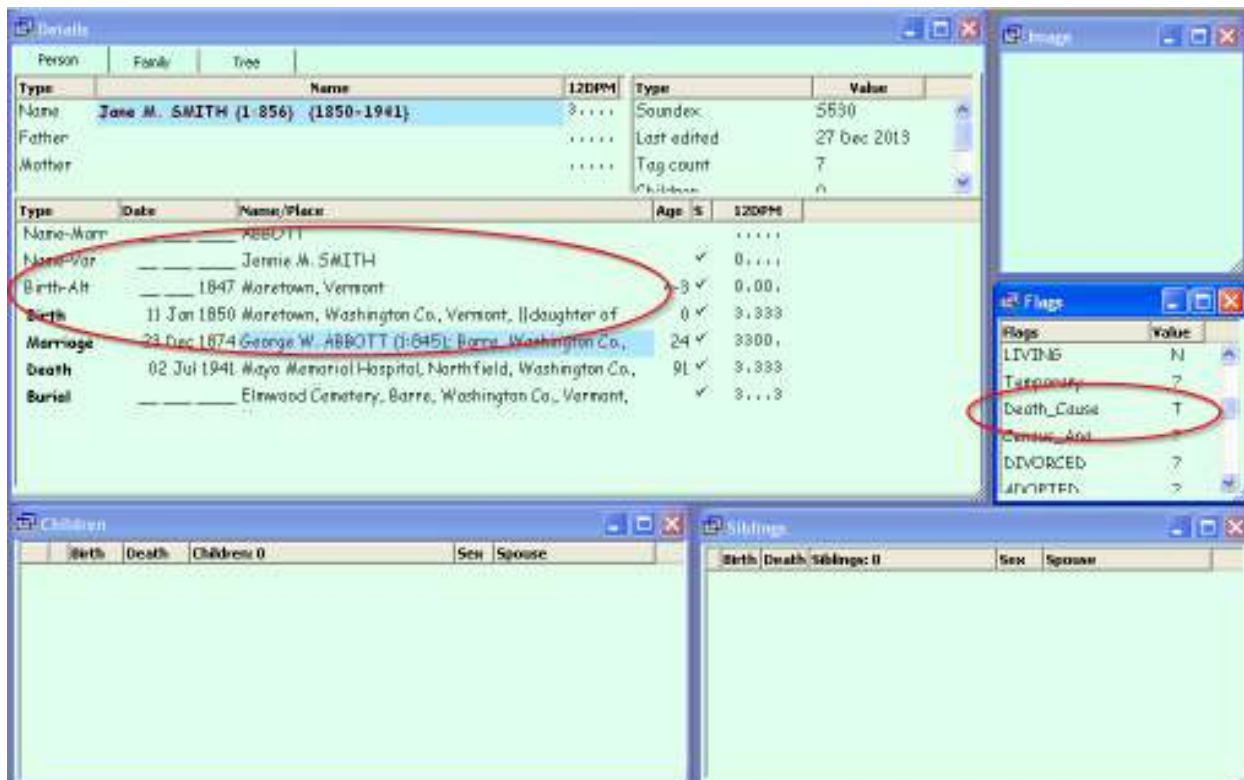


Figure 5. Individual Detail screen and Flags window.

This death record citation and any new information it contains were added to the Birth event tag and the Marriage tag, as well as to the new Death event tag.

I use a flag that indicates the cause of death. A cerebral hemorrhage comes under the category of stroke, indicated by the flag value T. This allows me to color-code some reports to indicate an individual's cause of death.

1. There is still a conflict as to Jennie's date of birth that has not been resolved. Given the fact that her tombstone may have been erected during her lifetime, the date of birth inscribed there may have been a date she provided. The fact that this is the same date recorded on the death record doesn't guarantee corroboration. It's possible that the death record's informant, Roy Hedges, simply repeated the birth date already inscribed on the tombstone.
2. The death record does not indicate Jennie's actual burial place. If Elmwood Cemetery's burial records can be located, those might confirm that she is buried under her tombstone.
3. Jennie (Smith) Abbott is not a central figure in my research, the couple had no children, and there are no central research problems requiring an in-depth study of her life. However, it would be nice to resolve the date of birth conflict.
 - a. Census records for Jane M. "Jennie" (Smith) Abbott and her husband, George W., have not been searched. Those records should be investigated and may help resolve the conflict.
 - b. The couple's marriage record should be located.
 - c. Only one birth record for a child of William and Jerusha Smith was found in the Vermont Vital Records collection, that of Elijah F. Smith, born 30 July 1859 in Moretown, Vermont. However, this collection's index is currently complete only for the years 1871-

1908. It's possible that Jennie's birth record might be found by browsing the appropriate microfilm roll, *if* that roll has been placed online.

d. Roy Hedges must be identified!

A NARRATIVE PARAGRAPH

Jane M. "Jennie" (Smith) Abbott died of a cerebral hemorrhage July 2, 1941. She was 91 years of age, and had outlived her husband by more than seventeen years.⁴ The elderly widow was childless, and with a lifespan far exceeding the average at the time of about 69 years, had also outlived most of her contemporaries.⁵ Without financial resources, women like Jennie Abbott survived with difficulty. After George's death in 1924, Jennie maintained her independence for a few years working as a domestic, but by 1927, she was lodging with Lottie M. (Hedges) Larrabee, probably her great-niece.⁶ She was enumerated with Lottie and her family in the 1930 census,⁷ but by 1935, she had removed to the Northfield Town Farm, part of Vermont's system of poor homes.⁸ Jennie, enumerated as Jean Abbott, was the first of three patients listed as residing in the Mayo Memorial Hospital in Northfield on April 6, 1940.⁹ This tiny hospital, founded only a few years earlier, had been the dream of its superintendent and head nurse, Cordelia DeLary. By reputation, it was a "small, well-equipped and immaculately kept hospital."¹⁰ Despite her poverty, Jennie's last days were probably made as comfortable as possible here.

⁴ "Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954," database and digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/> : accessed 22 December 2013), Jane Abbott death record (1941) and George W. Abbott death record (1924); citing Vital Records, Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Middlesex, Vermont.; specifically citing FHL microfilm 1953261.

⁵ Public Health Service, National Office of Vital Statistics, *State and Regional Life Tables, 1939-41* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, [1948]), "Vermont: White Females," 244-245; digital images, *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/lifetables/life39-41.pdf> : accessed 27 December 2013).

⁶ Roy Hedges, who provided the information for Jennie's death record, was probably Lottie's brother, Elroy Hedges. These siblings were the children of James B. Hedges and grandchildren of Elijah Hedges Jr. The latter, born in 1818, was possibly the brother of Jerusha (Hedges) Smith, Jennie's mother. "Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954," Lottie M. Hedges birth (1884), Flint Royal Larrabee-Lottie May Hedges marriage (1917), Elroy Byron Hedges birth (1899); James B. Hedges death (1924); also "Vermont Vital Records, 1760-2003," Lottie Larrabee death (1974), Elroy Hedges death (1966).

⁷ 1930 U.S. census, Washington Co., Vermont, population schedule, Northfield township, ED 12-31, p. 284 (stamped), sheet 14A, dwell. 320, fam. 331, Jane Abbott, lodger in Flint R. Larrabee household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://home.ancestry.com/> : accessed 27 December 2013); citing National Archives microfilm publication T626, roll 2431.

⁸ "U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989," database and digital images, *Ancestry* (<http://home.ancestry.com/> : accessed 27 December 2013), entries for George W. Abbott, Jane M. Abbott, and Flint R. Larrabee. All listings were for the town of Northfield, Vermont, specifically: George W. and Jane Abbott (1920: 529, 1921: 469, 1922: 449, 1924: 451), Jane M. Abbott (1927: 485, 1935: 494, 1936: 494, 1937: 492), Flint R. Larrabee (1927: 508).

⁹ 1940 U.S. census, Washington Co., Vermont, population schedule, Northfield Village, ED 12-38, p. 456 (stamped reverse), sheet 4B, household no. 97, Jean Abbott, patient, Mayo Memorial Hospital; digital image, *Ancestry* (<http://home.ancestry.com/> : accessed 27 December 2013); citing National Archives microfilm publication T627, roll 4238.

¹⁰ Northfield Historical Society, "Northfield, Vermont Photos and Voices from the Past," 9 September 2013, *Facebook* (https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=564052026983491&id=500404580014903 : accessed 27 December 2013).