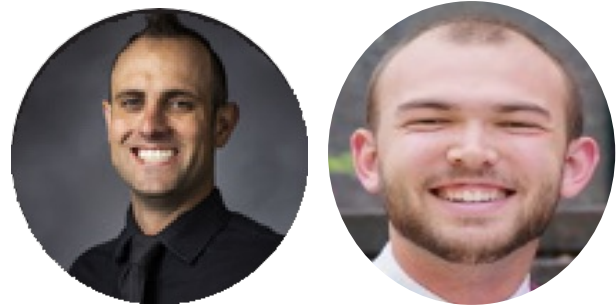


- Please silence all electronic devices
- No audio or video recording
- No photos



BEGINNERS Genealogy Track at RootsTech Sponsored by BYU!



Cacey Farnsworth and James Rasmussen

Getting Started Part 1: Research Goals, Logs, Plans, and Being Effective



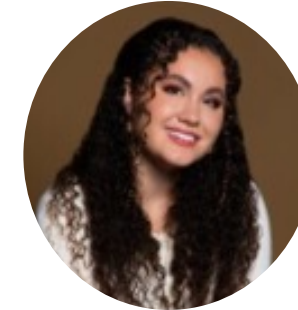
Sarah Reed and Kristina Kaufman

Getting Started Part 5: Searching Smarter, Making the Most of Your Time and Resources



Jana Greenhalgh and Kyra Bryant

Getting Started Part 2: Record Types and When to Use Them



**Amy Harris and Danielle Elder
Blaylock**

Getting Started Part 6: Reading Old Documents



**Joseph Stuart, Serena Juhasz,
and Jaclyn Pruett**

Getting Started Part 3: Analyzing Data, Making Good Decisions



Kelli Allen and Kristilee Manuel

Getting Started Part 7: Siblings and Cousins Matter! Expanding Family Tree and Moving Forward



Liz Snow and Aubrey Morris

Getting Started Part 4: Using Record Hints: Harnessing the Power of AI to Document Your Family

Sponsored by:

BYU History Department
COLLEGE OF FAMILY, HOME, & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Getting Started, Part IV

READING OLD DOCUMENTS

Amy Harris, PhD, AG ®

Danielle Elder Blaylock

*Sponsored by the Family History Bachelor's Program
at Brigham Young University*





BYU FAMILY HISTORY BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

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- 4-Year Bachelor's Degree
- In-person only
- Focused on students' experiential learning
- Visit history.byu.edu/family-history for more information!

PALEOGRAPHY

Reading and interpreting old writing and documents

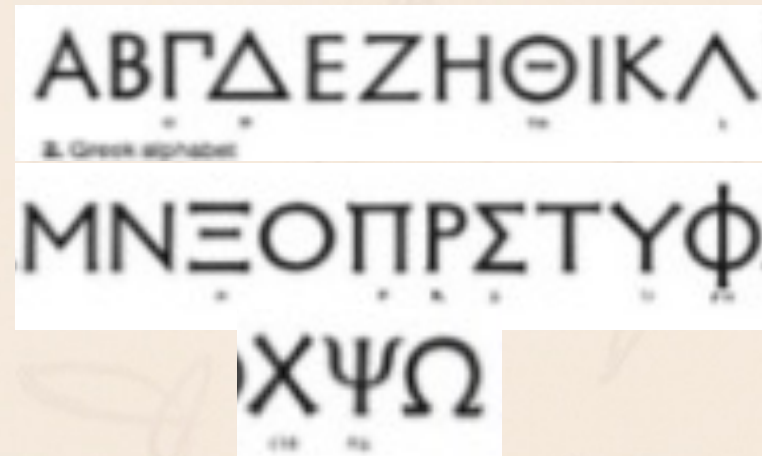


SCRIPT.BYU.EDU

- **Free!**
- **Tutorials in most major European languages**
 - Catalan, offered in English and Spanish
 - Dutch, offered in English
 - English, offered in English
 - French, offered in English and French
 - German, offered in English and German
 - Italian, offered in English and Spanish
 - Latin, offered in English
 - Portuguese, offered in English and Portuguese
 - Russian, offered in English
 - Spanish, offered in English and Spanish



HISTORY OF EUROPEAN ALPHABETS



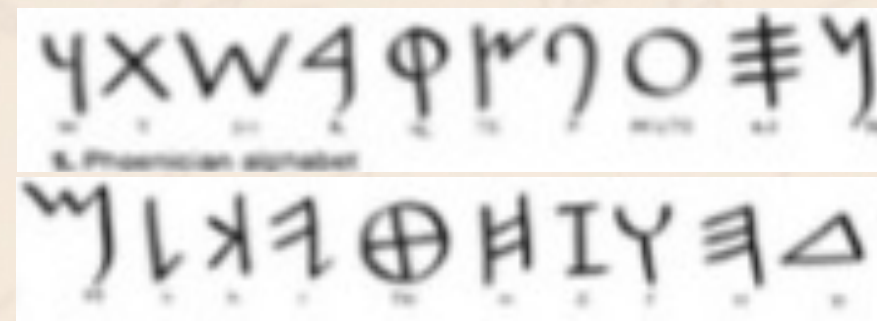
GREEK



In much of the world today,
Roman/Latin letter forms
remain in use.

TODAY

PHOENICIAN



194



ROMAN/LATIN



XYZ



HISTORY OF EUROPEAN ALPHABETS



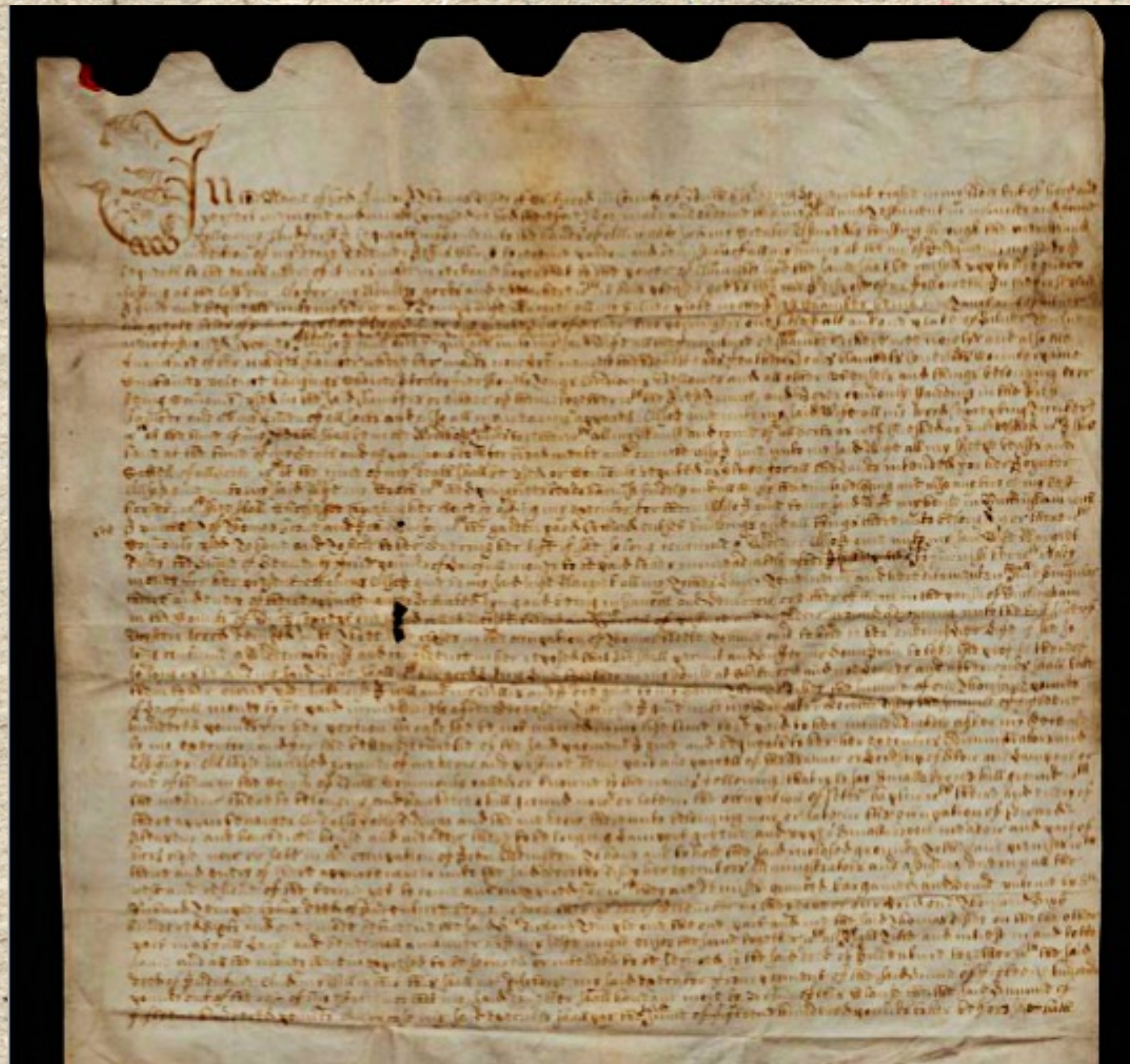
- Cyrillic letter forms created in Slavic-speaking areas
 - 9–10th centuries
- Remains in use in much of Eastern Europe today.



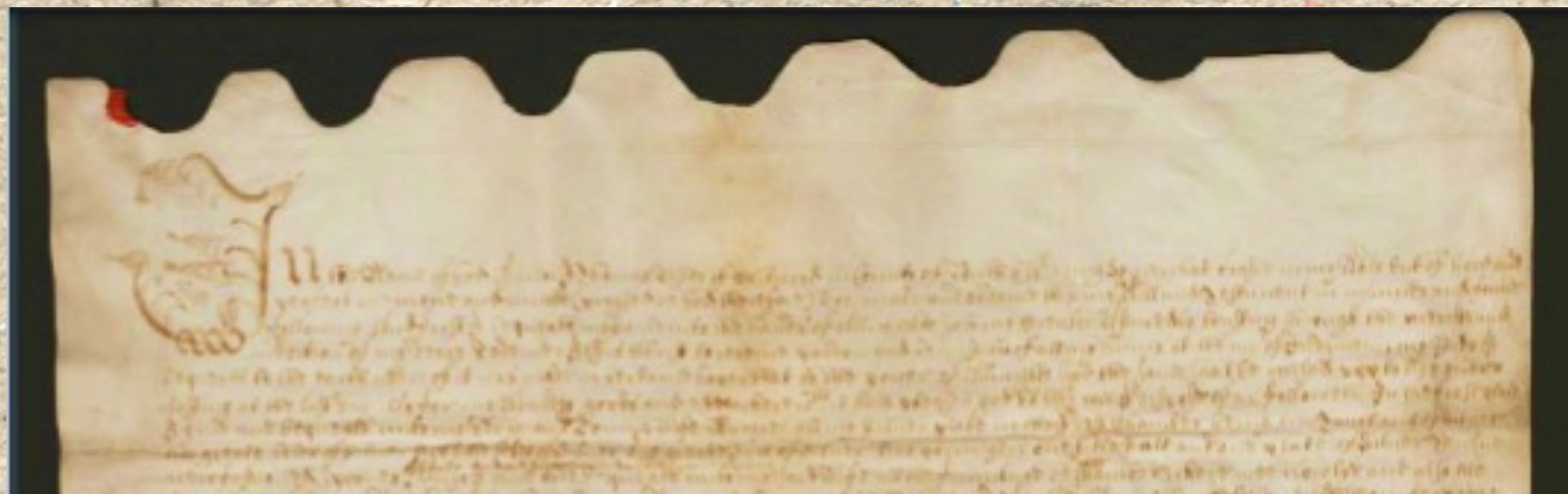
Russian Cyrillic alphabet (Русский кириллический алфавит)					
Uppercase lowercase (Uppercase lowercase (Uppercase lowercase))					
А а (a)	Б б (b)	В в (v)	Г г (g)	Д д (d)	Е е (e)
Ё ё (yo)	Ж ж (zh)	З з (z)	И и (i)	Й й (y)	К к (k)
Л л (l)	М м (m)	Н н (n)	О о (o)	П п (p)	Р р (r)
С с (s)	Т т (t)	У у (u)	Ф ф (f)	Х х (h)	Ц ц (c)
Ч ч (ch)	Ш ш (sh)	Щ щ (shch)	Ъ ъ (hard sign)	Ы ы (y)	Ь ь (soft sign)
Э э (e)	Ю ю (yu)	Я я (ya)			

Thomas Risley's Will

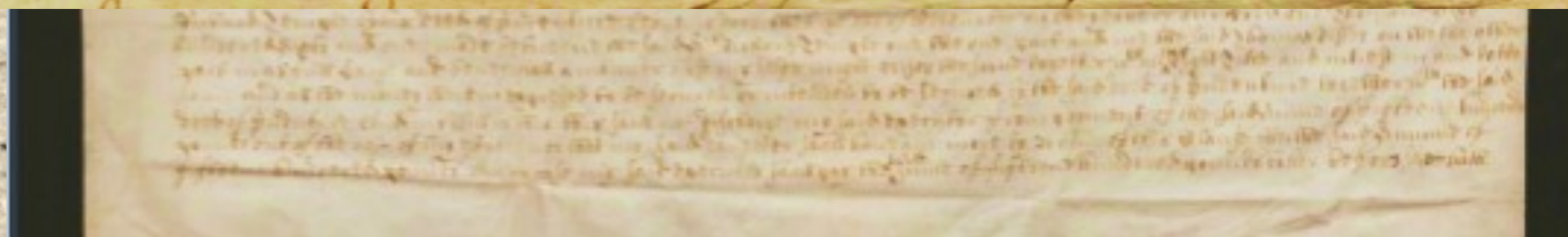
1665



Thomas Risley's Will 1665



In the Name of God Amen I Thomas Risley of Chitwood in County of North Essex being
of sound mind and memory (praying to God therefor) do make and ordain this my
will: And first I bequeath my Soul into the hands of allmighty God my Creator
in of my dear Redeemer Jesus Christ to receive pardon and remission of all my
sins whosoever of it was made in certain hopes that by the power of allmighty God
I may be saved: Also for my movable goods and estate here with it hath pleased god to bestow
unto my dear and Loving Wife Margaret all my Silver plate in the Possession



ROADMAP

01

Tips and Tricks for Deciphering Handwriting

02

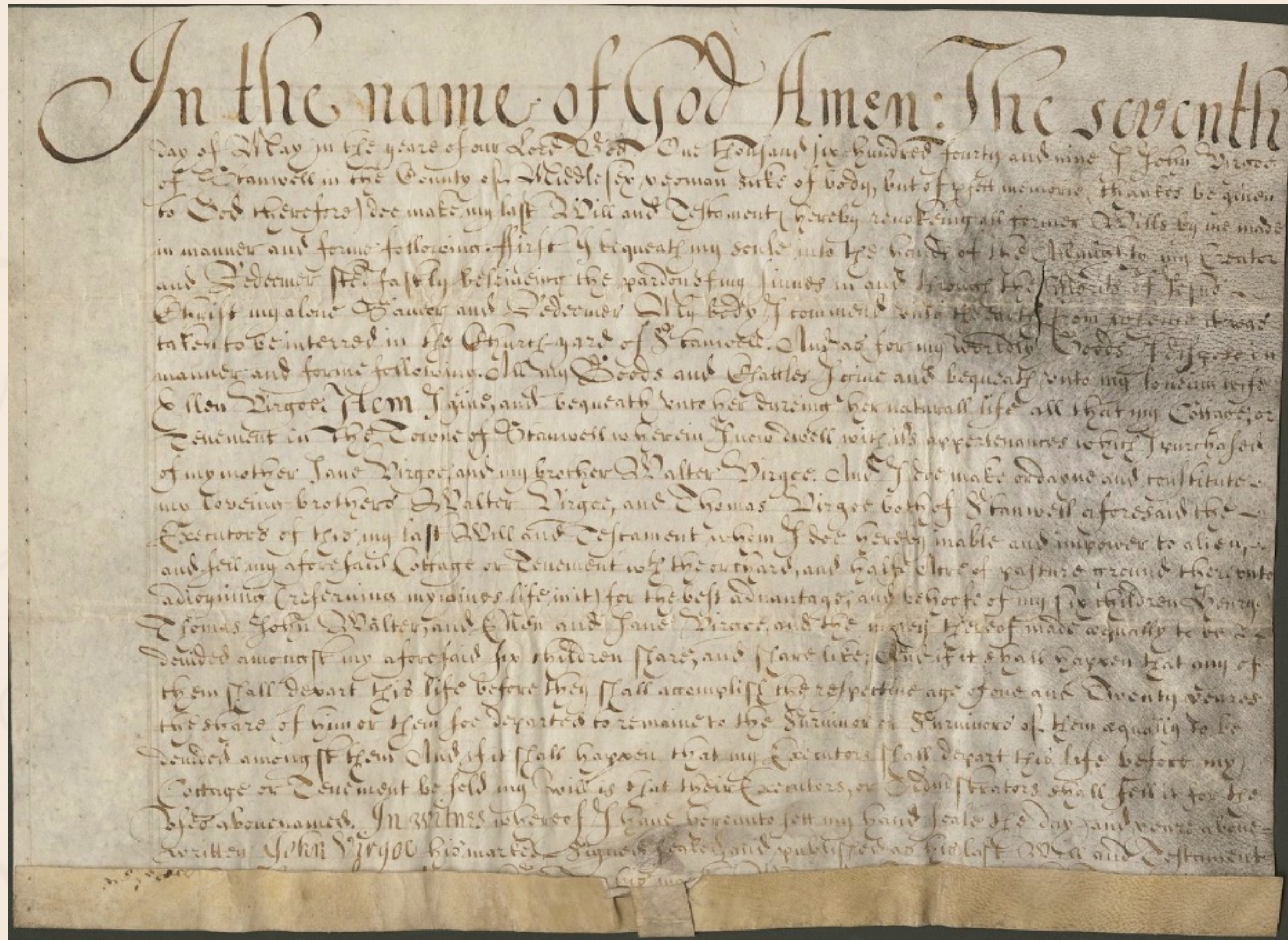
Examples and Practice Applying the Principles Taught

03

Reminders and Additional Resources



TIP 1: CONDUCT AN OVERVIEW



John Virgoe, will, 7 May 1649, BYU Special Collections, Land Indenture Collection, MSS 1779 Series 3, Item 3, Box 7,, Folder: 11.

TIP 2: DO THE EASY PARTS FIRST

No. 3549	Anno 1887 die 1 mensis Februarii nata et anno 1887 die 15 mensis Februarii baptizata est
Walsh ✓	Catharina Walsh filia Patritii et
	Harriet uxor Walsh (olim Haron) conjugum :
	a me Alfredo Walmsley M.C.
	Patrinus fuit Matrina fuit Helena Haron

England, Lancashire, Liverpool, Roman Catholic Parish Records, 1709-1968, "FamilySearch

(<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 9 February 2024), entry for Catharina Walsh, dated 15 February 1887.

TIP 3: CONSULT THE BYU SCRIPT TUTORIAL

BYU

Script Tutorial

Making sense of old handwriting



Language Tutorials

Catalan Tutorial
English | Español

Dutch Tutorial
English

English Tutorial
English

French Tutorial
English | Français

German Tutorial
English | Deutsch

Italian Tutorial
English | Español

Latin Tutorial
English

Portuguese Tutorial
English | Português

Russian Tutorial
English

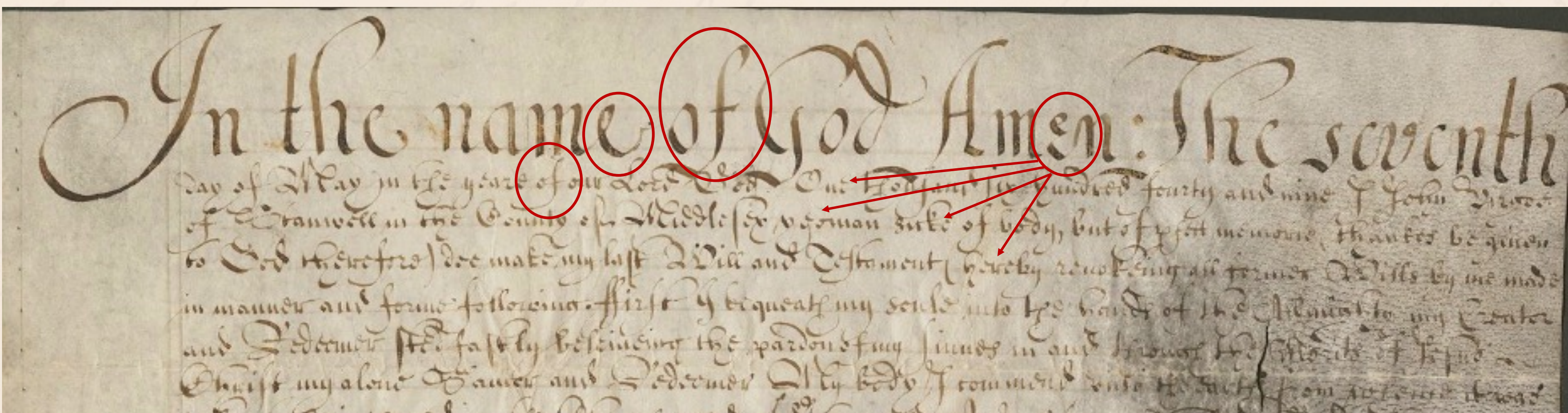
Spanish Tutorial
English | Español

TIP 4: COMPARE LETTERS TO AN ALPHABET CHART

73	Aug. 7	Maria L. Smith	36	21	Sharon	Married
----	--------	-----------------------	----	----	--------	---------

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz.
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O
P **Q** R S T U V W X Y Z.


TIP 5: USE THE DOCUMENT TO DECIPHER ITSELF



Know the format of the document type.
Use familiar words to create a key for difficult letters.

TIP 5: USE THE DOCUMENT TO DECIPHER ITSELF


						PLACE OF DEATH.		
68	July 28	Asabah Gay Drake (Smith)	67	14	Stoughton	F. Matreid	.	
						Stoughton		
						Stoughton		
						Stoughton		
						Stoughton		
						Stoughton		
						Stoughton		
						Stoughton		



A close-up photograph of the word "Stoughton" written in cursive script. Two black arrows point from the word in the table above to this close-up. The first arrow points to the "S" and the second arrow points to the "t" in "Stoughton".

“Stoughton, Norfolk, Massachusetts, United States records, Aug 5, 2018,” images, FamilySearch
(<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 9 February 2024), image 671 of 860.


TIP 6: COLLABORATE!



Community HomeAsk a QuestionCommunity NewsGroups

HOME › GROUPS › RUSSIAN EMPIRE RESEARCH

Translation help - J. Wionzkowski and M. Stanisławska. Łódź, 1912



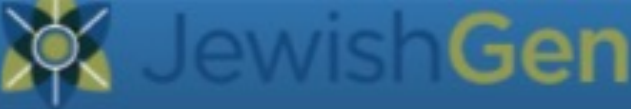
December 15, 2023


Hello,


May I recive help with translating the following marriage record?


Thank you and best regards,


...





 Home

 Guidelines

 Messages

 Hashtags

 Subgroups

 Calendar


 Main

 Topics


Help with reading a handwritten German document #translation



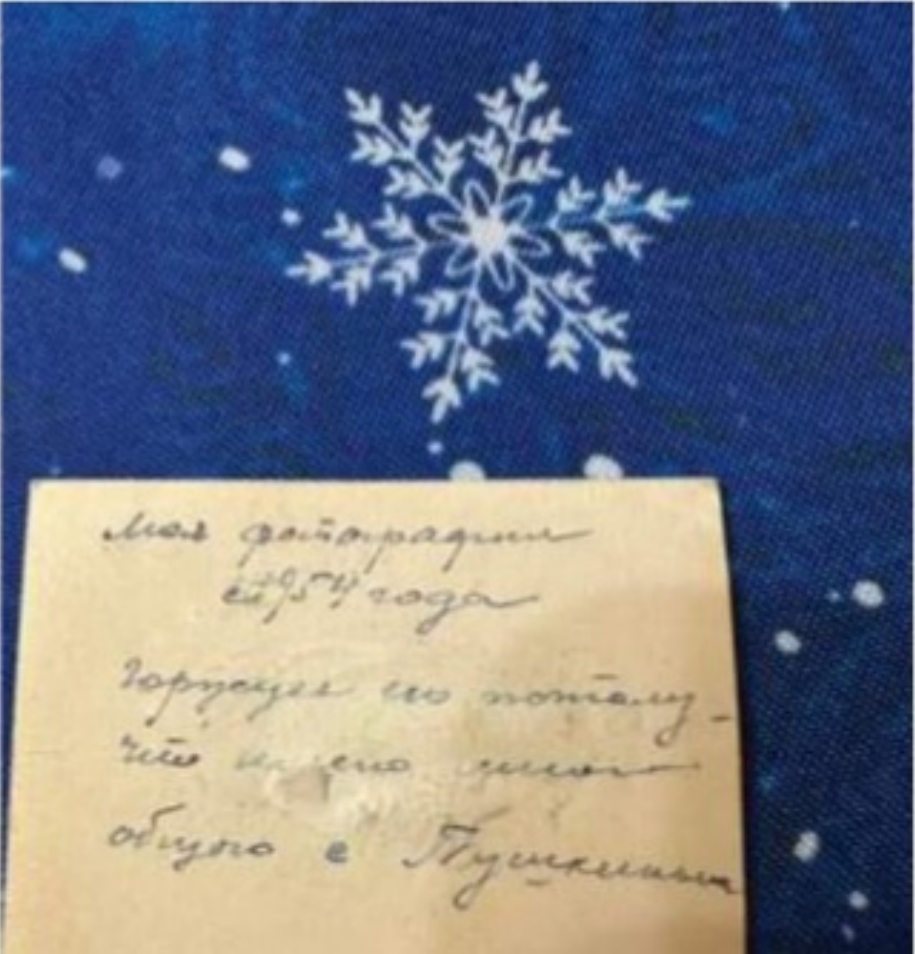
If anyone is able to read this handwriting, I would be most grateful for a transcript. It was the family. I can understand the German, I just cannot make out the words in this script.



Russian Heritage and Genealogy

20 hrs · 

Can someone translate this?
Back of a picture I believe was my dad's mom from somewhere in Russia



PRACTICE!

“ Learning to read new writing styles is just like learning to read for the first time. Proper practice makes proper understanding! ”



18TH-CENTURY ENGLAND

Mixed Hand

Primarily italic hand with
components of secretary hand

the 25 day of the 5 mo: 1720
John homons and Hannah Ashby
layd their intencion of marriage
be fore the meeting and Sarah King
and Jane Ashby was desired to make
in quire consern her clothes

the 29 day of 6: mo: 1720

John homons and Hannah Ashby layd
their intencion ^{of marriage} the second time be fore
the winnons meeting and finding nothing
but clothes they was left to their liberty
to proceede accordin to the good order of truth

the 26 day of the 10 mo: 1720

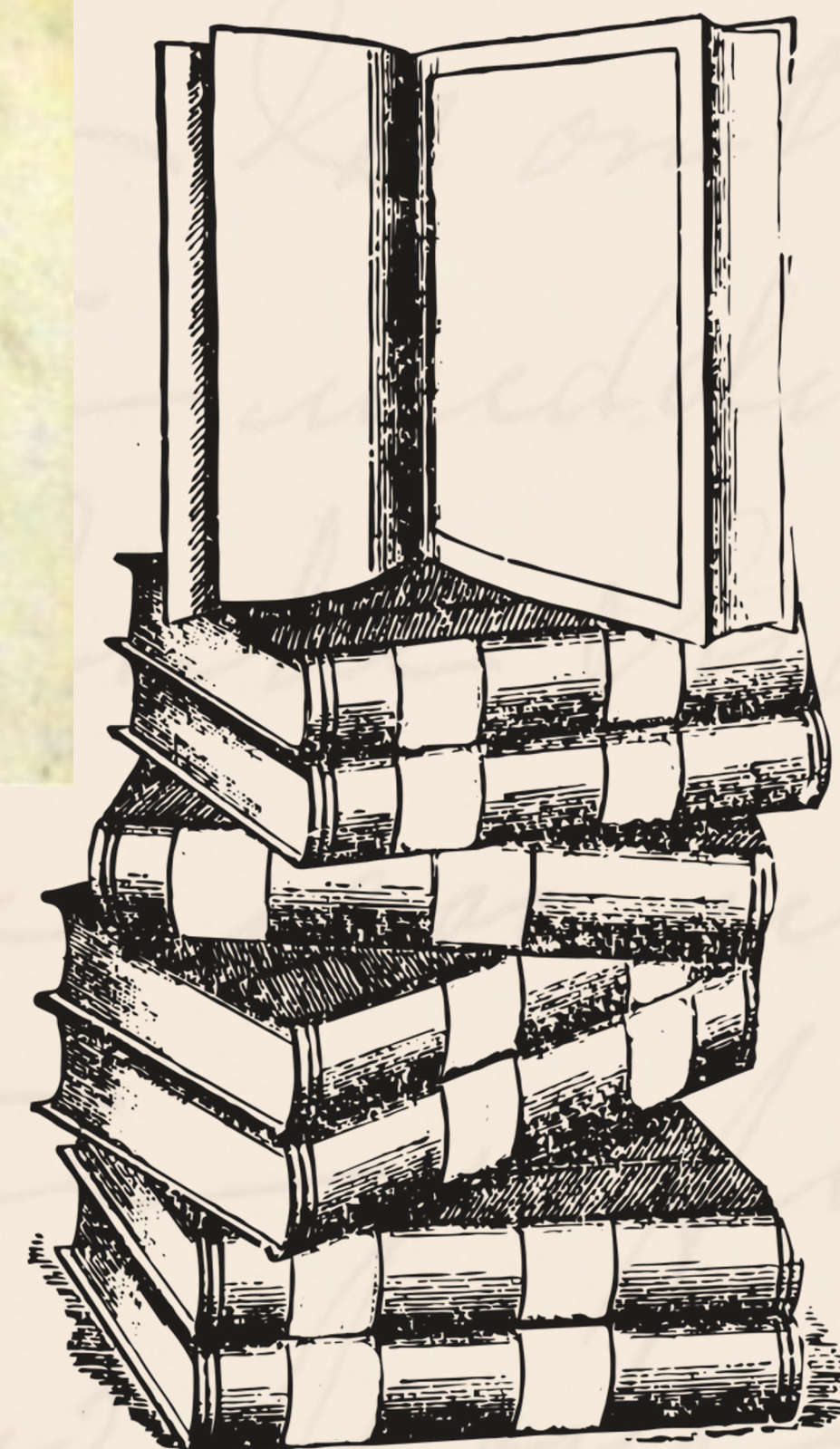
william bards and mary cubge layd
their intencion of marriage the first time
be fore the winnons meeting and Jane
Ashby was desired to in quire consern
her clothes

the 30 day of 11 month 1720

william bards and mary cubge
layd their intencion of marriage be fore
the winnons meeting the second time

the 25 day of the 5 mo: 1720
John Thomas and Hannah Alfby
sayd their intention of marriage
to have the meeting and search rings
and Jane Alfby was desired to make
in quere consern her children

Tip Used:
Use the Document to
Decipher Itself



ENGLISH SECRETARY HAND

being common. y^e used in the said Chambers or either of them: together wth the said Summe, and y^e odds commonly standing in the said
Chamber and all my portion of all sorts and also all my wearing apparel. Also I give unto my said Wife all my wood (excepting timber)
wth at the time of my death shall be in the Woodhose and
haud at the time of my death and all provisions both for bread and ale and drink also I give unto my said Wife all my sheep beasts and
Cattel of all sorts wth at the time of my death shall be used or commonly reputed as stock for all the lands intended for her Joynter
Also I give unto my said Wife my Coat wth the Springetts beads harness bridle and all my horse furniture belonging and also any five of my best
horses: wth shee shall choose and keeping her choice by selling my executor for them: Also I give to my said Wife my house in Buckingham with

Also I give unto my said Wife all my wood (excepting timber)

wth at the time of my death shall be in the Woodhose and

Secretario Vplabile.

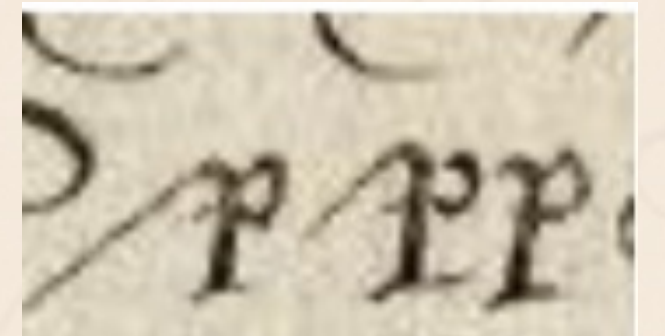
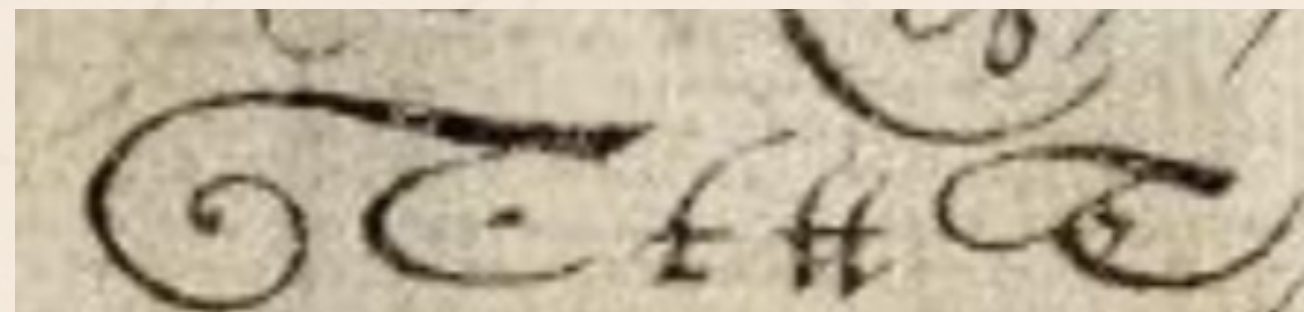
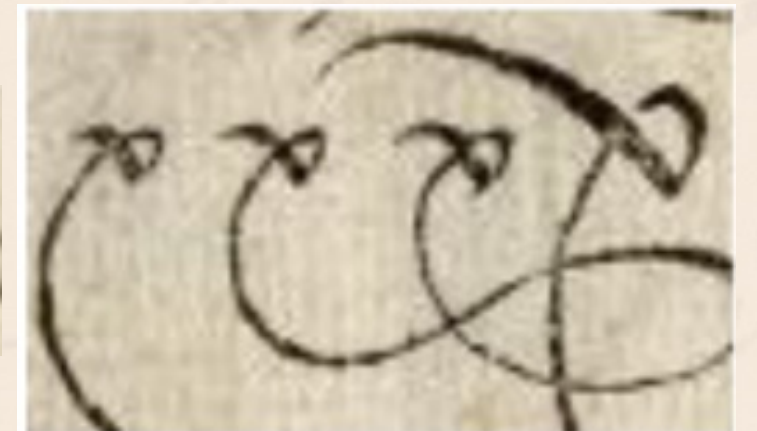
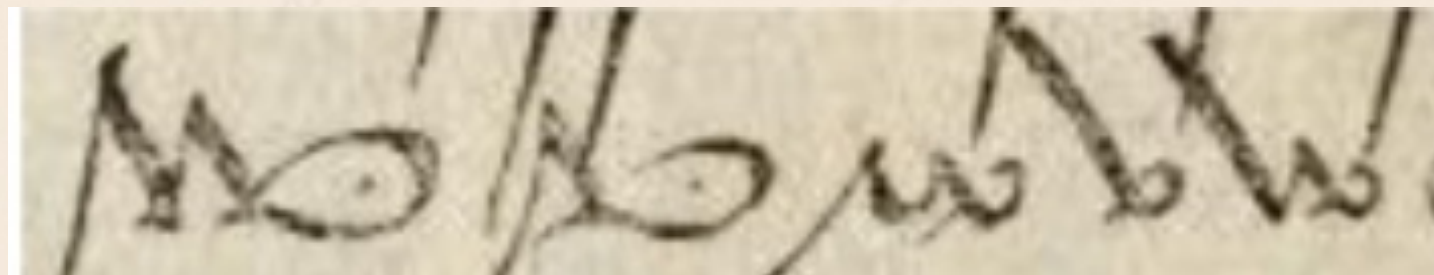
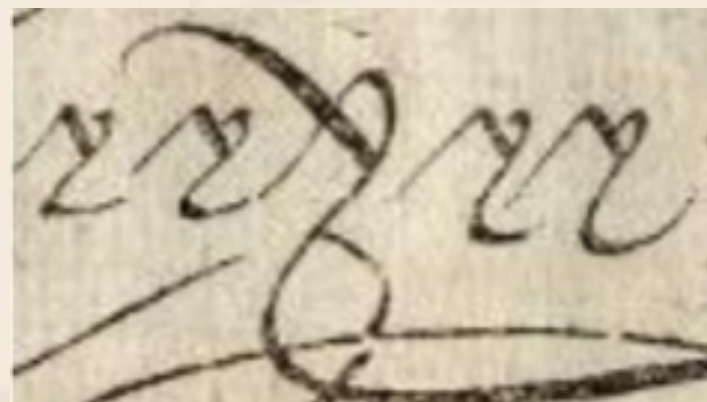
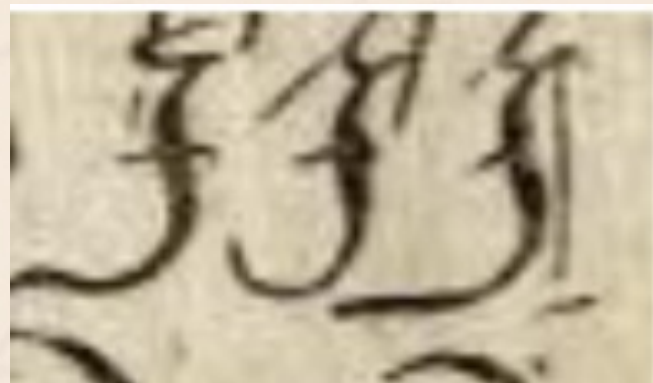
V a a a d d a a a d d b b b z z s s t t c c t
c c c c d d d d s s s s e e e e e e e f f f f
f f f g g g g g g g h h h h h h h i i i i
k k k k l l l l m m m m n n n n o o o
p p p p q q q q r r r r s s s s t t t t
u u u u v v v v w w w w x x x x y y y y
z z z z

Tip Used: Compare Letters to an Alphabet Chart

being common. y^e used in the said Chambers or either of them: together wth the said Chamber, and y^e goods commonly standing in the said
Chamber and all my portion of all sorts and also all my wearing apparel: Allso I give unto my said Wife all my wood (excepting timber)
wth at the time of my death shall be in the Woodhogs and y^e goods together wth all my Mant and corn of all sorts as well th^oghed as unth^oghed wth I shall
have at the time of my death and all provisions both for bread and ale and also I give unto my said Wife all my sheep beasts and
Cattell of all sorts wth at the time of my death shall be used or commonly reputed as store for all the lands intended for her Joynter
Allso I give unto my said Wife my Coath wth the Springfords beads having a bridle and all my goods belonging and also any five of my best
horses: wth shee shall have the keeping her horse by asking my executor for them: Also I give to my said Wife my house in Buckingham with

Allso I give unto my said Wife all my wood (excepting timber)

wth at the time of my death shall be in the Woodhogs and



Spanish

Diziembre de 1721 a^s
Visente ind. En el Pueblo de San José de Gracia, Jurisdⁿ de la Villa de Ag^s Cal^s en en prim^o de diz^e
h. lex. de milset.^{os} y beintium a^s baptise Y puse los ss^{os} oleos á Visente ind h.lex de Mig^l
desⁿ tiago, Y de Maria Garcia fueron pad.^s Ignacio de la Cruz Y Josepha de Nan
garita, aq^{nes} adverti suobligⁿ Y cogⁿ esp^l Y lo firmé. —
Joseph de Mendoza

de la Villa de Ag^s Cal^s en en prim^o de diz^e
los ss^{os} oleos á Visente ind h.lex de Mig^l
Ignacio de la Cruz Y Josepha de Nan
garita, aq^{nes} adverti suobligⁿ Y cogⁿ esp^l Y lo firmé. —
Joseph de Mendoza

TRANSCRIPTION		LINE	TRANSLATION	
	Diziembre de 1721 a ^s	1		December of 1721 years
Visente ind.	En el Pueblo des ⁿ Joseph de Gracia Juris ⁿ de la Villa de Ag ^s Cal ^s en en prim ^o de diz ^e	2	Vicente, Indian	In the town of San José de Gracia, jurisdiction of the town of Aguascalientes on the first of December
h. lex.	de milset. ^{os} y beintium a ^s baptise.Y puse los ss ^{os} oleos á Visente ind h.lex de Mig ^l	3	legitimate son	of one thousand seven hundred and twenty-one I baptized and poured the holy oils on Vicente, Indian, legitimate son of Miguel
	des ⁿ tiago, Y de Maria Garcia fueron pad. ^s Ignacio dela Cruz Y Josepha de Nan	4		de Santiago and of Maria Garcia. His godparents were Ignacio de la Cruz and Josepha de Nangarita,
	garita, aq ^{nes} adverti suoblig ⁿ Y cog ⁿ esp ^l Y lo firmé.	5		whom I warned regarding their duties and spiritual relationship. And I signed it.
	Joseph deMendoza	6		Joseph de Mendoza

Tools Used:

- the Easy Parts First
- the Script Tutorial and online transcriptions

German

In
den 1^{ten} Febr. fünf
und sechs, und sechs
d. 3^{ten} beygeben
Elisabetha Hirscher.
Johr,
fingiges Lungen und Fagelstern.
Nota d. 27. Aug. 1747. Alt 62 Jahr 5 M. 17.

E l i s a b e t h a

Elisabetha

Elisabetha

Tips Used:

- Do the Easy Parts First
- Compare Letters to an Alphabet Chart
- script.byu.edu

Honora Gear vidua sepulta fuit Martij 28^o. 1708.
 Johannes Little de Alders sepultus Augusti 31^o.
 Richardus Rabbats sepultus fuit Octobris 24^o.

Honora Gear vidua sepulta fuit Martij 28^o. 1708.
 vis. June 7.

1708. Johannes Little de Alders sepultus Augusti 31^o.
 Richardus Rabbats sepultus fuit Octobris 24^o.


Honor Gear widow was buried March 28th 1708.
 vis[itation] June 7.


1708. John Little of Alders buried August 31st.
 Richard Rabbats was buried October 24th.

Latin in English
 Mixed Hand

FAMILYSEARCH 'FULL-TEXT SEARCH'

View Experiments

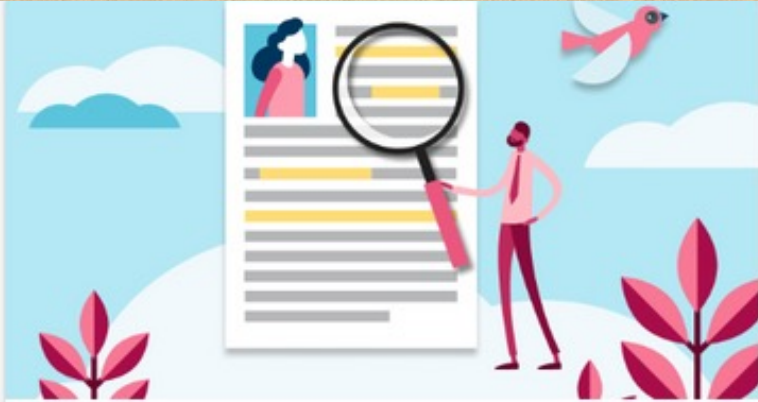
 FamilySearch Labs



Try out some potential new features and tell us what you think.

[VIEW EXPERIMENTS](#)

Go To Experiment



Search

Expand your search with Full Text

Unlock hidden discoveries in historical records that have never been searchable until now.

[TURN OFF](#)

[Go To Experiment](#)

Search

Start your search

Keywords

Ex: "Jane Lee" or Car*

Name

Place

City, County, State, Province, or Countr

Year (Range)

From

Image Group Number (DGS)

[SEARCH](#)



CITATION



ATTACH TO TREE

Full Transcript

Argentina. Notarial Records 1641



Show Keywords



Summarize the document



..... ↔ Julio de Juqu dona
Vecina despino
..... Sello tercero en Pral . Años de Sila
Seiscientos Y Cuarenta y seis y Seiscientos
cuarenta y uno
..... Enente
..... al de verdad en el
.....
..... a
..... de e dedo ni
com de lo que de
.....
..... de a Sencia el
.....
..... la primero de castrenidad a dres
..... de el mes de secana
de mes su cients cuarenta y niño de
..... , de

Image

148

of 435



View item 2 by itself



Feedback

Full Transcript

Goathurst. Manorial Records 1670-1782



☒ Show Keywords








★ Summarize the document

and Seven Hundred and six List of
goathurst in the County of Somerset Bart
of the one pr and Margaret Lovell of
Axbridge in the same County widdow of
the other Jacon of arler and absolute
Surrender made into his hands by the said
Margaret Lowell of all such estate right
title and Inter ed whatsoever which the th
said **Margaret** Lowell now hath or
hereafter may chain to have of in and to
the prmisses hereafter menconed by | in
the six and thirtieth year of the Reign of
our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second
then over England or King or As allsoe for
and in Considerator | the said Margaret
Lowell in hand well and truely satisfied
contented and paid at and before the
ensealing and delivery of these presents th
receive and to farm letten And by these
presents doth demise ease grant and to

Whereas the Twelfth day of February in the year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred and Six
of Goathurst in the County of Som. sett Bart of the one pt And Margaret Lovell of Axbridge in the same County widdow of the other
of a rldel and absolute Surrender made into his hands by the said Margaret Lovell of all such estate right title and inter
ed whatsoever which the said Margaret Lovell now hath or hereafter may chain to have of in and to the prmisses hereafter mentoned by
in the six and thirtieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second then over England or King or As allsoe for
the said Margaret Lovell in hand well and truly satisfied contented and paid at and before the ensealing and delivery of these presents the widdow
and to farm letten And by these presents doth demise ease grant and to farm letten unto the said Margaret Lovell and her Assignes All
in Anglond wher within the parish of Gouthurst in the said County between the Landes now or late in the tenure of Robert Goven the North
with all wares paths water courses commons and common of pasture to the said one and belonging or in anywise apperteyning
standing and every part and partell thereof with the appurtenances unto the said Margaret Lovell her Exors Adms and Assignes immedie
all end and term of flower stow and Nineteen years from thenceforth next ensuing fully to be compleat expired and ended if pfect
and daughter of Margaret Lovell widdow and Mary Wells daughter of John Wells Rector of Axbridge aforesaid (aged about eleaven years
four years) during the said term hereby granted unto the said S. John Wynt his heirs and Assignes the Annall or yearly rent of one Shilling
payment (that is to say) the feast of St Michael the Archangell and the Annuntiation of our blessed Lady St Mary the Kingm beken and equ
the said S. John Wynt his heirs and Assignes to be holden and kept at and for his and their Manor of Walswell upon reasonable warning and sum
justified and ordered by the Steward and Remage there for the tyme being in all things touching and concerning the well cudeing requi

Image 126 of 156
 exa

Complete document
(one of the first person)



 View item 1 by itself 





☆ Summarize the document

Full-text search is not designed to teach you what all of this means

FULL-TEXT SEARCH IS A GAME CHANGER!
IT WILL GREATLY EXPAND THE NUMBER OF
ANCESTORS YOU CAN FIND.
**YOU WILL STILL NEED TO KNOW HOW TO
DECIPHER THE LANGUAGE, CONTEXT, AND
MEANING OF OLD DOCUMENTS.**



Bonus Tip: Use Historical Dictionaries

The Hand of God Amen I Thomas Kisser of Whitwood in County of North Essex being
of memory and mind (praised be God therefor) do make and ordain this w
ing: And first I bequeath my Soul into the hands of allmighty God my Creator

being somewhat **crasie** in my Body but of good and

BEING SOMEWHAT CRASIE IN MY BODY BUT OF GOOD AND

Oxford English Dictionary : crasie/crazy

Obsolete definition (16th-19th centuries):

having poor health, diseased, sickly, frail, infirm

perfect memorie and minde (prayer be God therefor) I do make and ordaine

ordaine this my ^{last} Will and Testament in minde and sound

REMINDERS



**BYU Family History
Program**



**Script Tutorial
Available to All**



**Syllabus and More
Resources**

YOU CAN DO THIS!

**All it takes is good practice with
the help of good tools.**



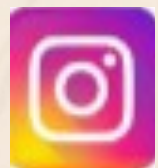
CONTACT INFORMATION

BYU Family History Program

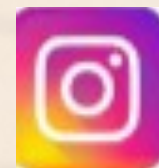
Dr. Amy Harris



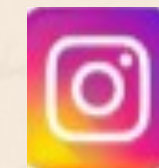
Danielle Elder Blaylock



@familyhistoryprof



@realdanielleelder



@byuhistory



amy.harris@byu.edu



danielle.e202010@gmail.com



history.byu.edu/family-history

“

**Thank you for attending
*Getting Started, Part 6-
Reading Old Documents.***

Additional resources and websites are listed on the syllabus.

”

RootsTech 2024

Session Name

Overall, how would you rate the session you just attended?

1 - Low, 5 - High

☐ 1

☐ 2

☐ 3

☐ 4

☐ 5

Overall, how would you rate the presenter?

1 - Low, 5 - High

FEEDBACK

01

Find this session in the RootsTech Mobile App

02

Scroll down to *Fill Out Survey*

03

Let us know how this session was!