

S. C. Computer / Genealogy Class SIG

October 09, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Computer Classroom

Karen Ristic

Timelines: An Important Genealogical Research Tool

John Truax Fa... Plan People Places Media Sources Publish Web Search

File Edit View Person Tools Help Sylvia A. Truax John Truax Anna Wells

Tree Person

Timeline

| Year / Age | Event | Date / Place | Description |
|------------|---|---|-------------|
| 1500 | World History Colonialism | Bet. 1500-1900 World | |
| 1500 | World History Atlantic Slave Trade | Bet. 1500-1900 Africa, Europe, North America, South | |
| 1750 | World History The Industrial Revolution | Bet. 1750-1850 Great Britain | |
| 1816 | Birth | 09 Jul 1816 Schoharie County, NY | |
| 1821 4 | Birth (Spouse) Anna Wells | Abt. 1821 Hopewell, Ontario, NY | |
| 1830 13 | World History Mass Immigration to the United St | Bet. 1830-1930 Europe, United States, Canada | |
| 1837 20 | Marriage Anna Wells | 05 Jun 1837 Cohocton, Steuben, NY | |
| 1838 21 | Birth (Son) Jerome Truax | 12 Apr 1838 NY | |
| 1840 23 | Birth (Daughter) Thankful Truax | 09 Jan 1840 NY | |
| 1843 26 | Birth (Daughter) Clarissa "Clara" J. Truax | 17 May 1843 Ontario County, NY | |
| 1844 27 | Birth (Son) Greig Truax | Abt. 1844 NY | |
| 1844 28 | Death (Daughter) Thankful Truax | 10 Dec 1844 NY | Age: 4 |
| 1845 28 | Birth (Daughter) Nancy Maria Truax | 22 Jan 1845 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1846 29 | Birth (Daughter) Sylvia A. Truax | Jul 1846 Ontario County, NY | |
| 1848 32 | Birth (Son) Ralph Chapin Truax | 27 Jul 1848 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1850 33 | Birth (Son) Jonas Wells Truax | 02 Mar 1850 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1852 35 | Birth (Daughter) Mary Emigene "Jennie" Truax | 24 May 1852 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1853 36 | World History Crimean War | Bet. 1853-1856 Crimean Peninsula | |





Timelines: A Great Genealogical Research Tool

**1. What is a
Timeline?**

**2. Why Use a
Timeline?**

**3. How Can a
Timeline Help Us in
Our Research?**

**4. How to Create
a Timeline?**

**5. Some Timeline
Examples**

**6. Adding History to
Our Timeline**

**7. Some Rules of
Thumb for
Timelines**



1. What is a Timeline?

Definition of a Timeline

A table listing important events for successive years within a particular historical period.

Elements of a Good Timeline

Name of ancestor, spouse, children, parents

- Year, month, day of all the events
- Event name: birth, marriage, death, of ancestor, spouse, children, parents and age at time of the event
- Localities and dates of all events, displayed in reverse order -- Nevada, Clark, Las Vegas, 1934/11/31
- Citation number (source)
- Comments
- History



2. Why a Timeline?

Granted, the people genealogists study usually had no affect on history, but, instead, they were affected by it. As a calendar of events in that ancestor's life, a researcher can use a time line to:

- * demonstrate mathematical **problems** (such as a 5 year old giving birth),
- * **summarize** a person's life,
- * stay focused,
- * keep chronology in mind,
- * demonstrate how **lives interconnected**,
- * divide an ancestor's life into workable parts (such as childhood, marriage, old age, years, **localities**),
- * discover **discrepancies**,
- * aid in evaluating the quality of another researcher's work
- * eliminate possibilities when two or more with the same name live in an area at the same time
- * **suggest cause and effect** when compared to historical data.



3. How Can a Timeline Help Us in our Research?

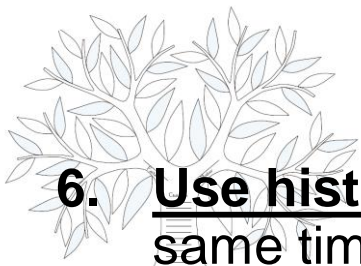
1. **ORGANIZES:** A chart of ordered events gives a valuable overview of your ancestor's life. At a glance, you'll see milestones such as marriages, changes in occupation or residence, the births of children, the death of a parent or spouse, military service and other significant dates.
2. **REVEALS:** Your ancestor didn't live in a vacuum. Adding relevant historical events to your timeline reveals the impact of social, political and economic circumstances. This helps you understand how events affected him and his family.
3. **ILLUMINATES:** A timeline can expose gaps in your research, as well as conflicting information you need to resolve. It can help you solve identity puzzles by anchoring your ancestor to a particular place at a certain time.
4. **SUGGESTS:** How did your ancestor get from Point A to Point B? Why did he take a new job? What did she do after her husband died? A timeline might suggest possible migration routes, or shed light on why things occurred.



4. How to Create a Timeline

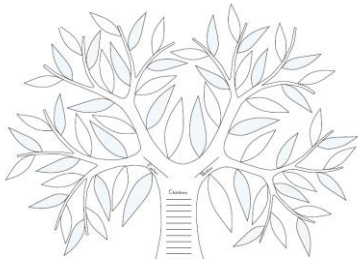
A timeline can be as **simple** as a handwritten straight line with dates on one side and events of a person's life on the other. Or, it can be a **complicated** chart, with pictures, floating bars, etc. Whichever type of timeline chart is chosen, the steps for putting it together are basically the same.

1. Decide what the objective is and what sort of time line to use to reach that objective. **Do you want to**
 - * compare members of a family,
 - * look at the direct events of one person's life and see what's missing, or
 - * compare an ancestor's life with what is going on around him?
2. **Review records** and decide which events to include. Begin with major events in the ancestor's life. In an attempt to determine what is important to include in a timeline and what is superfluous,
3. **List events** to be included **in chronological order**.
4. **Decide the units of time**: months, years, or decades to be used.
5. **Label dates**. Some events have definite dates, some have approximate dates and some have no time reference at all.



How to Create a Timeline (cont.)

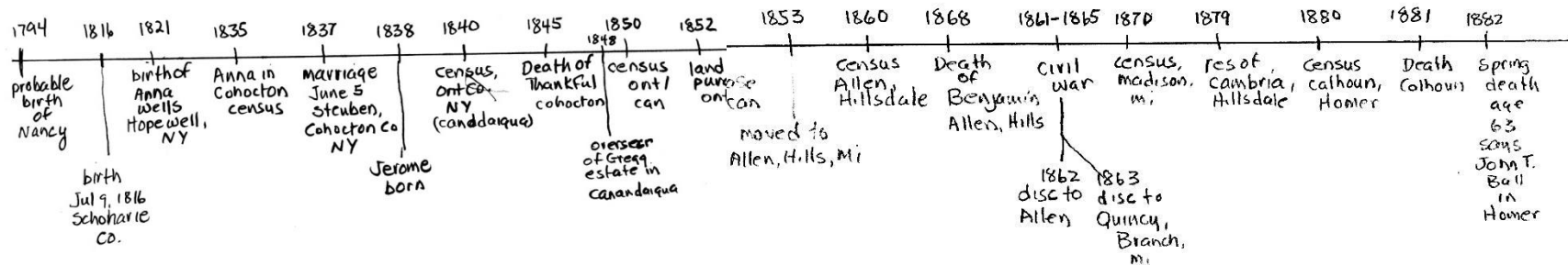
6. **Use history books** to find out what was happening in the world at the same time. Frequently, encyclopedias and Internet sites already have historical timelines. <http://www.e-referencedesk.com/resources/state-history-timeline/> provides timelines for the history of each of the fifty states.
7. In addition to using a simple paper and pencil method, a timeline can be created with any number of **programs most people already have** on their computers. A **spreadsheet** based timeline is one of the easiest to use, while **word processor** documents allow the flexibility to include more information than spreadsheets do.
8. Some genealogy **programs include timelines** as part of their packages. Certain historical events that surrounded the targeted person geographically, ethnically, religiously, and occupational are included while others can be added.
<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/timeline-30007.html> provides free horizontal and vertical timelines on its website. At Ourtimelines.com, custom timelines are produced for free, although they do have a page asking for a donation.



5. Timeline Examples

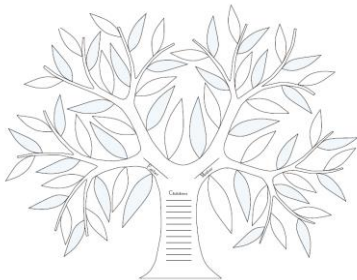
a. Paper and Pencil Timeline

John Truax



| | |
|----|---|
| NY | 1816 - Schoharie 1837 - steuben 1840 - Ontario |
| Mi | 1853 - Hillsdale 1863 - Branch 1870 - Lenawee 1879 - Hillsdale 1880 - Calhoun 1881 - death Calhoun |

Where he lived



b. Excel

Using the Excel Program

| Vincent Smarsh | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| age | year | date | event | location | source | comments | |
| 0 | 1804 | | Birth | Austria/Bohemia | 1, 3 | | |
| 20 | 1824 | | b. Maria Seizburg | Austria/Bohemia | 1 | | |
| 35 | 1839 | | b. Vincent A | Austria/Bohemia | 1 | Prior marriage? | |
| 42 | 1846 | | Marriage - Maria Seizburg | Austria/Bohemia | 4 | | |
| | 1848-1850 | | b. Rosa | Austria/Bohemia | 1, 2 | | |
| 49 | 1853 | | Immigration | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | 1, 2 | Elizabethtown | |
| 49 | 1853 | 3-Dec | b. Chris J | on ocean | 2, 4, 5, 23 | | |
| 50 | 1854 | 3-Apr | Baptized - Chris | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | 23 | Elizabethtown St. Peter's Catholic Church go | |
| 50 | 1854 | 19-Sep | b. Joseph | Pennsylvania | 3, 6, 7 | not baptized at St. Peter's - Elizabethtown, PA | |
| 50 | 1854 | | naturalization of Vincent A | | 10 | | |
| 53 | 1857 | 8-Sep | b. Mary Anna | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | 4, 23 | Elizabethtown | |
| 53 | 1857 | 27-Sep | Baptized - Mary Anna | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | 23 | Elizabethtown St. Peter's Catholic Church Jo | |
| 55 | 1859 | 16-Sep | b. Kate / Catherina | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | 1, 8 , 10, 6, 23 | Elizabethtown | |
| 55 | 1859 | 25-Sep | Baptized - Catherina | Lancaster, Pennsylvania | 23 | Elizabethtown St. Peter's Catholic Church Jo | |



To Download an Excel Spreadsheet for Genealogy

<http://genealogydecoded.com/researching/resources/>

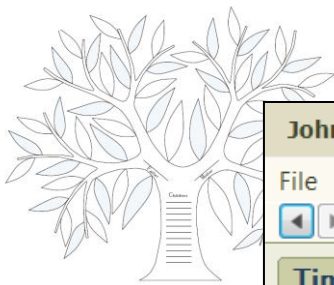
- [Simple Ancestor Timeline Table with Source List](#)

This spreadsheet provides the framework for building a timeline or chronology for an individual. Number each source in the Source List and cross reference them in the timeline.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F | G |
|----|-----|------|------|---|--------------------------|----------|--|
| 1 | | | | | | | |
| 2 | | | | <ancestor's name> | | | |
| 3 | Age | Year | Date | Event (birth, marriage, death, residences, military, children's births, migrations) | Location (County, State) | Source # | Comments (town name, cemetery name, occupation, neighbors) |
| 8 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 9 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 10 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 11 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 12 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 13 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 14 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 15 | 0 | | | | | | |

| Source # | Source | Repository |
|----------|--------|------------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |
| 7 | | |
| 8 | | |
| 9 | | |
| 10 | | |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | | |
| 13 | | |
| 14 | | |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |

sources



c. Family Tree Maker

John Truax Fa...
Plan
People
Places
Media
Sources
Publish
Web Search

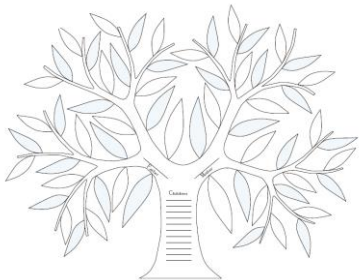
File Edit View Person Tools Help
Sylvia A. Truax
John Truax
Anna Wells

Tree
Person

Timeline

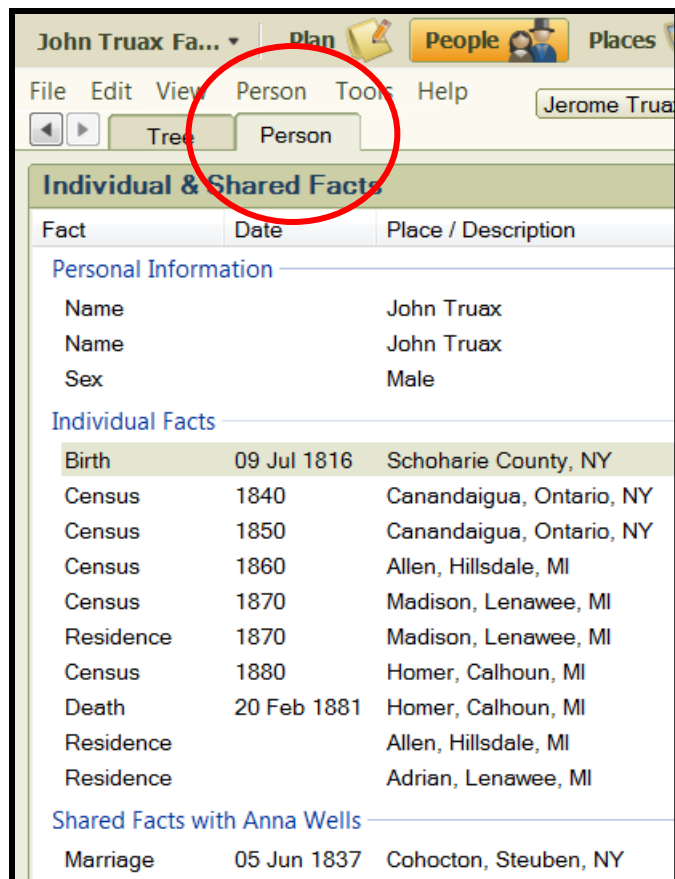
| Year / Age | Event | Date / Place | Description |
|------------|--|--|-------------|
| 1500 | World History Colonialism | Bet. 1500-1900 World | |
| 1500 | World History Atlantic Slave Trade | Bet. 1500-1900 Africa, Europe, North America, South | |
| 1750 | World History The Industrial Revolution | Bet. 1750-1850 Great Britain | |
| 1816 | Birth | 09 Jul 1816 Schoharie County, NY | |
| 1821 4 | Birth (Spouse) Anna Wells | Abt. 1821 Hopewell, Ontario, NY | |
| 1830 13 | World History Mass Immigration to the United St | Bet. 1830-1930 Europe, United States, Canada | |
| 1837 20 | Marriage Anna Wells | 05 Jun 1837 Cohocton, Steuben, NY | |
| 1838 21 | Birth (Son) Jerome Truax | 12 Apr 1838 NY | |
| 1840 23 | Birth (Daughter) Thankful Truax | 09 Jan 1840 NY | |
| 1843 26 | Birth (Daughter) Clarissa "Clara" J. Truax | 17 May 1843 Ontario County, NY | |
| 1844 27 | Birth (Son) Greig Truax | Abt. 1844 NY | |
| 1844 28 | Death (Daughter) Thankful Truax | 10 Dec 1844 NY | |
| 1845 28 | Birth (Daughter) Nancy Maria Truax | 22 Jan 1845 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1846 29 | Birth (Daughter) Sylvia A. Truax | Jul 1846 Ontario County, NY | |
| 1848 32 | Birth (Son) Ralph Chapin Truax | 27 Jul 1848 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1850 33 | Birth (Son) Jonas Wells Truax | 02 Mar 1850 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1852 35 | Birth (Daughter) Mary Emigene "Jennie" Truax | 24 May 1852 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY | |
| 1853 36 | World History Crimean War | Bet. 1853-1856 Crimean Peninsula | |

Family Tree
Maker 2014



c. Family Tree Maker

1. Select Person



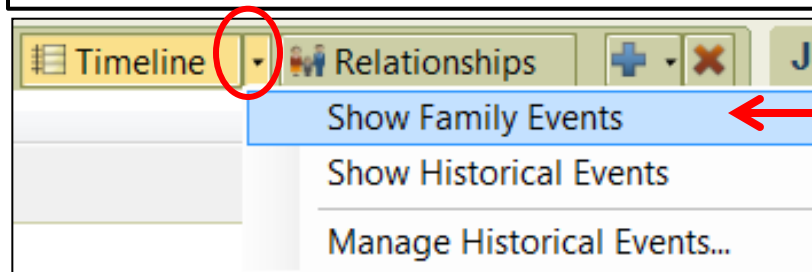
The screenshot shows the 'Person' tab selected in the top menu bar. The 'Individual & Shared Facts' section is visible, displaying a table of facts for John Truax.

| Fact | Date | Place / Description |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Personal Information | | |
| Name | | John Truax |
| Name | | John Truax |
| Sex | | Male |
| Individual Facts | | |
| Birth | 09 Jul 1816 | Schoharie County, NY |
| Census | 1840 | Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| Census | 1850 | Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| Census | 1860 | Allen, Hillsdale, MI |
| Census | 1870 | Madison, Lenawee, MI |
| Residence | 1870 | Madison, Lenawee, MI |
| Census | 1880 | Homer, Calhoun, MI |
| Death | 20 Feb 1881 | Homer, Calhoun, MI |
| Residence | | Allen, Hillsdale, MI |
| Residence | | Adrian, Lenawee, MI |
| Shared Facts with Anna Wells | | |
| Marriage | 05 Jun 1837 | Cohocton, Steuben, NY |

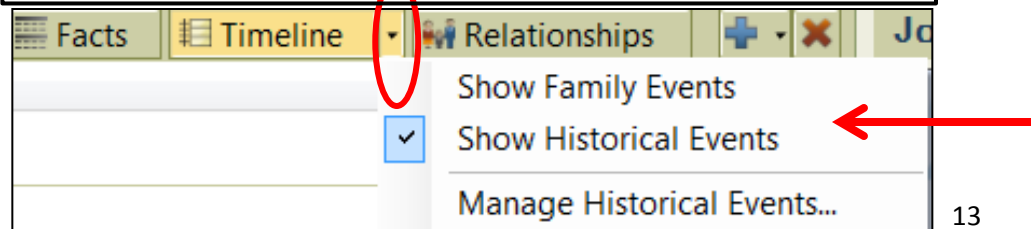
2. Select Timeline



3. Click the arrow next to the Timeline button and select Show Family Events



4. Click the arrow next to the Timeline button And select Show Historical Events





Family Tree Maker 14

Timeline

Report title: Timeline Report for John Truax

Background: None

50 % transparent

☐ Include event images
☒ Include family events
☐ Include historical events
☐ Include private facts
☐ Include preparer information

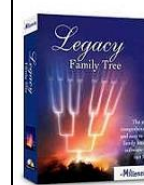
Generate Report

Timeline Report for John Truax

| Yr/Age | Event | Date/Place/Description |
|------------|--|---|
| 1816 | Birth | 09 Jul 1816 Schoharie County, NY |
| 1821 4 | Birth (Spouse) Anna Wells | Abt. 1821 Hopewell, Ontario, NY |
| 1837 20 | Marriage Anna Wells | 05 Jun 1837 Cohocton, Steuben, NY |
| 1838 21 | Birth (Son) Jerome Truax | 12 Apr 1838 NY |
| 1840 23 | Census | 1840 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| 1840 23 | Birth (Daughter) Thankful Truax | 09 Jan 1840 NY |
| 1843 26 | Birth (Daughter) Clarissa "Clara" J. Truax | 17 May 1843 Ontario County, NY |
| 1844 27 | Birth (Son) Greig Truax | Abt. 1844 NY |
| 1848 32 | Birth (Son) Ralph Chapin Truax | 27 Jul 1848 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| 1850 33 | Census | 1850 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| 1850 33 | Birth (Son) Jonas Wells Truax | 02 Mar 1850 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| 1852 35 | Birth (Daughter) Mary Emigene "Jennie" Truax | 24 May 1852 Canandaigua, Ontario, NY |
| 1854 38 | Birth (Daughter) Julia E. Truax | Oct 1854 MI |
| 1855 39 | Death (Daughter) Julia E. Truax | 14 Sep 1855 Allen, Hillsdale, MI |
| 1859 43 | Marriage (Daughter) Clarissa "Clara" J. Truax | 17 Jul 1859 Allen, Hillsdale, MI |
| 1860 43 | Census | 1860 Allen, Hillsdale, MI |
| 1867 50 | Marriage (Daughter) Sylvia A. Truax | 26 May 1867 Clinton, Lenawee, MI |
| 1868 52 | Marriage (Son) Jonas Wells Truax | 12 Aug 1868 Hudson, Lenawee, MI |
| 1868 52 | Marriage (Daughter) Nancy Maria Truax | 11 Nov 1868 Adrian, Lenawee, MI |



d. Legacy



Legacy 8.0
Family Tree
Setting a New Standard in Genealogy Software

Legacy Home | Family | Pedigree | Descendant | **Chronology** | Index

Name: **John TRUAX**

Parents: Nancy ---- (Abt 1794-)

Life Range: 1816 Jul 9 - 1881 Feb 20

1816 Jul 9 Birth: NY, Schoharie County.
~The 1820 census began on this day.:
1820 Aug 7 Birth of Spouse: NY, Ontario, Hopewell. Anna WELLS (Abt 1821-1897). Born in Hopewell, Ontario, NY. Died on 1897 Feb 28 in Cleburne, Johnson, TX.
Abt 1821 ~The 1830 census began on this day.:
1830 Jun 1 Marriage: NY, Steuben, Cohocton. Anna WELLS (Abt 1821-1897) in Cohocton, Steuben, NY.
1837 Jun 5 Son born (#1): NY. Jerome F. TRUAX (1838-1919) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in NY. Died on 1919 Aug 27 in Woodstock, Lenawee, MI.
1838 Apr 12 Daughter born (#2): NY. Thankful TRUAX (1840-1844) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in NY. Died on 1844 Dec 10 in NY.
1840 Jan 9 ~The 1840 census began on this day.:
1840 Jun 1 Daughter born (#3): NY, Ontario County. Clarissa J. TRUAX (1843-1906) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Ontario County, NY. Died on 1906 Jul 12 in Hillsdale, Hillsdale, MI.
1843 May 17 Son born (#4): NY. Greig TRUAX (1844-) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in NY.
1844 Death of Child (#2): NY. Thankful TRUAX (1840-1844).
1844 Dec 10 Daughter born (#5): NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Nancy Maria TRUAX (1845-Abt 1933) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died about 1933 in Cleveland, Cuyahoga, OH.
1845 Jan 22 Daughter born (#6): NY, Ontario County. Sylvia A. TRUAX (1846-1926) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Ontario County, NY. Died on 1926 Jun 7 in Adrian, Lenawee, MI.
1846 Jul Son born (#7): NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Ralph Chapin TRUAX (1848-1915) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died on 1915 Apr 4 in Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.
1848 Jul 27 Son born (#8): NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Jonas Wells TRUAX (1850-1870) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died on 1870 Aug 12 in Hillsdale County, MI.
1850 Mar 2 ~The 1850 census began on this day.:
1850 Jun 1 Daughter born (#9): NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Mary Emigene TRUAX (1852-1932) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died on 1932 Nov 12 in Cleburne, Johnson, TX.
1852 May 24 Daughter born (#10): MI. Julia E. TRUAX (Abt 1854-1855) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in MI. Died on 1855 Sep 14 in Allen, Hillsdale, MI.
Abt 1854 Oct Death of Child (#10): MI, Hillsdale, Allen. Julia E. TRUAX (Abt 1854-1855).
1855 Sep 14 ~The 1860 census began on this day.:
1860 Jun 1 ~The 1870 census began on this day.:
1870 Jun 1 Death of Child (#8): MI, Hillsdale County. Jonas Wells TRUAX (1850-1870).
1870 Aug 12 ~The 1880 census began on this day.:
1880 Jun 1 Death:
1881 Feb 20 MI, Calhoun, Homer.

Legacy - [C:\Drop

File Edit Add View Reports Tools Search Internet My Toolbar Options Help

Startup Back Name Marriage Add Search Search Report Last Merge Internet Legacy Map Create Census Research Exit
Family List List Person Results Menu Report Charting Family CD List Guidance Legacy

Shortcut Toolbar

Legacy Home | Family | Pedigree | Descendant | **Chronology** | Index

Legacy Options for Timeline (Chronology)

Chronology Options

Include Formatting Column Widths Report Options Sources Screen Fonts

Individual Events

- ☒ Individual events Color
- ☒ Event notes
- ☐ Event addresses
 - ☒ Event address phone numbers
 - ☒ Event address e-mails
 - ☒ Event address URLs
- ☐ LDS information

Marriage Events

- ☒ Marriages Green
- ☐ Ending status
- ☒ Marriage notes
- ☒ Marriage events
 - ☒ Event notes
 - ☒ Marriage event addresses
 - ☒ Event address phone numbers
 - ☒ Event address e-mails
 - ☒ Event address URLs
- ☒ Spouse's life range information Color
- ☒ Death of husband

Extended Family

- ☐ Grandparents Color
 - ☐ Death of grandparents
- ☒ Parents Color
 - ☒ Death of parents
- ☒ Children Color
 - ☒ Death of children
 - ☒ Child status
 - ☒ Child-parent relationships
- ☐ Grandchildren Color
 - ☐ Death of grandchildren
- ☒ Limit to the lifetime of the main individual

Other Options

- ☒ Include historical timelines ~Color
* Select
- ☐ Display in Black and White
- ☒ General notes
- ☒ Research notes
- ☒ Medical notes
- ☐ Cause of Death

Buttons: Save, Cancel, Help, Privacy Options..., Reset

Legacy Timeline Report

Chronology Report

Report Style

List Style

Name: John TRUAX

Parents:

Life Range
1816 Jul 9 -
1820 Aug 7

1816 Jul 9 - 1881 Feb 20
Birth:
~The 1820 census began
on this day:
Birth of Spouse:

Nancy ---- (Abt 1794-)

NY, Schoharie County.

Abt 1821

NY, Ontario, Hopewell.
Anna WELLS (Abt 1821-
1897). Born in Hopewell,
Ontario, NY. Died on 1897
Feb 28 in Cleburne,
Johnson, TX.

1830 Jun 1

~The 1830 census began
on this day:

1837 Jun 5

Marriage:

NY, Steuben, Cohocton.
Anna WELLS (Abt 1821-
1897). In Cohocton,
Steuben, NY.

1838 Apr 12

Son born (#1):

NY, Jerome F. TRUAX
(1838-1919) son of John
TRUAX and Anna WELLS.
Born in NY. Died on 1919
Aug 27 in Woodstock,
Lenawee, MI.

1840 Jan 9

Daughter born (#2):

NY, Thankful
TRUAX (1840-1844)

| Age | Event | Date | Info |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Name | | John TRUAX |
| | Parents: | | Nancy ---- (Abt 1794-) |
| 64 | Life Range: | 1816 Jul 9 - 1881 | |
| 1840 Ju | Birth: | 1816 Jul 9 | NY, Schoharie County. |
| 1843 M | ~The 1820 census | 1820 Aug 7 | |
| ~5 | Birth of Spouse: | Abt 1821 | NY, Ontario, Hopewell. Anna WELLS (Abt 1821-1897). Born in Hopewell, Ontario, NY. Died on 1897 Feb 28 in Cleburne, Johnson, TX. |
| 13 | ~The 1830 census | 1830 Jun 1 | |
| 20 | Marriage: | 1837 Jun 5 | Anna WELLS (Abt 1821-1897). in Cohocton, Steuben, NY. |
| 21 | Son born (#1): | 1838 Apr 12 | NY, Jerome F. TRUAX (1838-1919) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in NY. Died on 1919 Aug 27 in Woodstock, Lenawee, MI. |
| 23 | Daughter born (#2): | 1840 Jan 9 | NY, Thankful TRUAX (1840-1844) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in NY. Died on 1844 Dec 10 in NY. |
| 1844 | ~The 1840 census | 1840 Jun 1 | |
| 26 | Daughter born (#3): | 1843 May 17 | NY, Ontario County. Clarissa J. TRUAX (1843-1906) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Ontario County, NY. Died on 1906 Jul 12 in |
| 28 | Son born (#4): | 1844 | NY, Greig TRUAX (1844-) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in NY. |
| 1844 D | Death of Child (#2): | 1844 Dec 10 | NY, Thankful TRUAX (1840-1844). Born in NY. Died on 1844 Dec 10 in NY. |
| 28 | Daughter born (#5): | 1845 Jan 22 | NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Nancy Maria TRUAX (1845-Abt 1933) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died |
| 30 | Daughter born (#6): | 1846 Jul | NY, Ontario County. Sylvia A. TRUAX (1846-1926) daughter of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Ontario County, NY. Died on 1926 Jun 7 in Adrian, |
| 1845 Ja | Son born (#7): | 1848 Jul 27 | NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Ralph Chapin TRUAX (1848-1915) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died on 1915 Apr |
| 33 | Son born (#8): | 1850 Mar 2 | NY, Ontario, Canandaigua. Jonas Wells TRUAX (1850-1870) son of John TRUAX and Anna WELLS. Born in Canandaigua, Ontario, NY. Died on 1870 Aug |
| 33 | ~The 1850 census | 1850 Jun 1 | |

WELLS. Born in



6. Adding Historical Events to the Timeline

- a. **Historical Events** – Now weave in to your timeline any major events that were happening on the local, regional, national, or international stage during their lifetimes.
- a. Include any **wars** and **economic events** like the Great Depression.
 - b. Look for **health epidemics**.
 - c. If your family lived during the settling of the West, include when the pertinent states became territories, then states. Any **boundary changes**?
- b. **Historical Context Information** – This information is **best found in those “other” books in the library** that don’t contain lists of dates and are so often overlooked. State, county, and town histories have a wealth of information specific to where your ancestor lived that you won’t find elsewhere. But don’t stop there. There are histories on any mode of transportation you like, and histories on any church community you can name. The books can be found in local libraries in their “Local History” section or at state archives. One of the best locations to find local history is in the town or county itself. Don’t forget www.usgenweb.org for even more local history treasures.



7. Some Rules of Thumb for Timelines

1. **Keep name spellings as exactly as you see them** in the record. This helps you keep track of name variants; subtle changes in names might have significance. The same is true for names of locations. Always put elements in chronological order.
2. **No detail is too small or unimportant**. Though, if your ancestor was constantly in one set of records over a certain time period, it's okay to use a date range. For example, your entry might read "1787-1795, served as a juror."
3. **Use abbreviations** to make your entries as short as possible; for example, adj for adjacent, dau for daughter, etc.
4. **Use the smallest fonts you can**. I will often use a 9 or 10 point font for my important entries and then an 8 point for secondary items.



Some Rules of Thumb for Timelines (cont.)

5. **Make your matrix as large as needed.** In Word you can use landscape mode or choose legal size paper; in Excel you can make a table as wide as you want. When looking on your computer screen, it doesn't matter what size paper your document is set up for. However, if you will be printing out your matrix, You might want to stick to the size paper that your printer can accommodate.
6. If you don't have a color printer, use techniques to **distinguish entries** that can be easily spotted in black and white such as bold, italic, underline, different fonts, use of symbols (*), or combinations of these.
7. Be very clear about which items are **"documented,"** which items are clearly your ancestor (based on corroboration from other sources), which items are conjecture (e.g., birth date ca1785 based on census) and which items may or may not be your ancestor.
8. When sharing a timeline with another researcher, you may want to highlight **information that is "new"** since the last time it was shared. This allows the other researcher to quickly appreciate any changes.

Consider this:

Timelines: A Step Toward Compiling and Publishing your Genealogy

Mr. T. H. Hill That season an Italian orchestra was engaged and there were free concerts every afternoon and evening from the hotel balcony. Jerome Truax and Dr. B. A. Baker purchased the hotel in 1893 and made many improvements.

By 1899 it was known as the Lake Rest. The "Courier" featured the hotel in July 1899, as follows: "The Truax place at Lake Rest on the east shore of Devils Lake is rapidly becoming noted as a summer home. Since Mr. Truax bought the property, he has remodeled the hotel and grounds, planted grape vines, flowers, etc. The place represents a beautiful panoramic scene. One of the most complete improvements is a commodious separate three-story building containing a large hall for entertainment and dancing parties. It also contains 20 model sleeping rooms, and the basement is devoted to storing his ice supply. The west half contains a complete restaurant to accommodate picnic parties with ice cream, soft drinks, etc., thus preserving the quietness of the guests at the hotel. The hotel registers 70 stayers and 40 to 50 come and go. Saturday evening parties and Sunday dinners are very popular, and Mr. Truax receives the praise of all good people for the manner in which he conducts this popular resort."



Lake Rest Hotel. Courtesy Lenawee County Historical Society

Sadly, its glory days were short as a disastrous fire in March of 1901 burned the main building to the ground. The fire was thought to have been caused by a defective flue in the attic and was under good headway when discovered. A few things in the dining room and some bedding were all that were saved. The recent remodeling had cost \$3,000, and the value of the hotel with its contents was estimated to be \$8,000.

That spring Mr. Truax moved his store building to convert it into a dining room and kitchen; and he built a veranda around the annex which was not destroyed. This smaller version of the hotel, with a capacity for 40 guests, was in operation until the 1920s. [Tr-242]

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1893-1894 | Listed in the City Directory as being in real estate living at 621½ Adams. OH, Lucas, Toledo (Tr-224) |
| 1900 | Listed in the census as the head of family and a housekeeper at age 62 with his sister, Sylvia A. Wilkison at age 53 years and three servants. MI, Lenawee, Woodstock (Tr-164) |
| 1918/Jul/13 | Mortgaged the Devils Lake property in Woodstock Township to Mary Emigene Truax, and Sylvia Truax; he was to receive \$100.00 a year and he wanted this property to remain forever in his heirs' hands. MI, Lenawee County (Tr-51) |
| 1919/Aug/27 | Death due to cancer at age 81 years, four months, 15 days at Lake Rest. MI, Lenawee, Woodstock Township (Tr-01, Tr-305, Tr-341) |
| 1919/Aug | Buried in the Carpenter Cemetery. MI, Lenawee County (Tr-341) |
| 1920/Jun/18 | Court petitioned by Sylvia A. Stephens to become administratrix for the disposal of Jerome's estate since he left no will: Sylvia A. Stephens of Woodstock Township, Michigan and Jennie Torborn of Cleburne, Texas were named heirs since they were the only living relatives. MI, Lenawee, Adrian (Tr-32) |
| ii. Thankful Truax | |
| 1840/Jan/09 | Birth. (John Truax/Anna Wells) NY (Tr-305) |
| 1844/Dec/10 | Death. (Tr-305) |
| 1844/Dec | Buried in North Cohocton Cemetery, NY, next to "Grandma," probably Thankful (Wells) Redfield and "Cousin." NY, Steuben, North Cohocton (Tr-305) |
| 2. iii. Clarissa "Clara" J. Truax | |
| 1843/May/17 | Birth (John Truax/Anna Wells). NY, Ontario County (Tr-04, Tr-163, Tr-243, Tr-247, Tr-305) |
| 1859/Jul/17 | Marriage to John T. Ball. MI, Hillsdale, Allen (Tr-243, Tr-247, Tr-305) |
| iv. Greig Truax | |
| 1844 | Calculated date of birth (John Truax/Anna Wells). NY (Tr-152, Tr-247, Tr-305) |
| 1850/Sep/19 | Listed in the census with his parents at age six. NY, Ontario, Canandaigua (Tr-152) |
| 1860 | Not listed in the census with his parents. MI, Hillsdale, Allen (Tr-153) |
| 1880 | Listed in the census as a painter at age 36 living in the Solomon Scott household; he is listed as Craig Truax. OH, Williams, Florence (Tr-387) |

It is probable that he died before 1888. The John T. Ball biography states, regarding the children of John Truax and Anna Wells, that four children were dead before 1888 - two in early childhood and two after maturity. Greig had to be at maturity, given that two of his sisters died at a young age (one at age four and the other at age 11 months) and his brother Jonas Wells died in 1870 at age 20. The Ralph Chapin Truax biography of 1902 states that two of his brothers were dead. (Tr-243, Tr-245)

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|-------------------------|--|
| 3. v. Nancy Maria Truax | |
| 1845/Jan/22 | Birth (John Truax/Anna Wells). NY, Ontario, Canandaigua (Tr-152, Tr-244, Tr-247, Tr-305) |
| 1868/Nov/11 | Marriage to Willard Cleveland. MI, Lenawee, Adrian (Tr-02, Tr-244, Tr-247, Tr-305) |
| vi. Sylvia A. Truax | |
| 1846/Jul | Birth (John Truax/Anna Wells). NY, Ontario County (Tr-152, Tr-164, Tr-247, Tr-305, Tr-341) |
| 1867/May/26 | Marriage(1) to Job D. Wilkinson. MI, Lenawee, Clinton (Tr-01, Tr-10, Tr-247, Tr-305) |



S. C. Computer / Genealogy Class SIG

Next Computer Class
Thursday, November 13, 2014, 10:00 a.m.
Karen Ristic

Finding Your Ancestors in Online Newspapers

