

# Final Proof Summary

## BCG-Compliant Research Conclusion Documentation

This template documents research conclusions in compliance with the Board for Certification of Genealogists' Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). Complete each section to demonstrate thorough, reasoned research.

### Research Question

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Primary Question:</b>   |  |
| <b>Subject Individual:</b> |  |
| <b>Time Period:</b>        |  |
| <b>Geographic Scope:</b>   |  |
| <b>Research Duration:</b>  |  |

### GPS Element 1: Reasonably Exhaustive Search

Document all source categories searched and their results:

| Source Category                        | Searched?                                                | Results/Notes |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Vital Records (birth, marriage, death) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Census Records (all available years)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| City/County Directories                | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Church/Religious Records               | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Immigration/Naturalization             | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Newspapers (obituaries, notices)       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Property/Tax Records                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Probate/Court Records                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Cemetery Records                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Military Records                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| DNA Analysis                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Family Papers/Photographs              | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| Other: _____                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |               |
| <b>Total Sources Consulted:</b>        |                                                          |               |
| <b>Primary Sources:</b>                |                                                          |               |
| <b>Secondary Sources:</b>              |                                                          |               |

## GPS Element 2: Complete and Accurate Citations

List key sources with full citations (Evidence Explained format recommended):

| # | Full Citation |
|---|---------------|
| 1 |               |
| 2 |               |
| 3 |               |
| 4 |               |
| 5 |               |
| 6 |               |
| 7 |               |
| 8 |               |

## GPS Element 3: Analysis and Correlation of Evidence

### Direct Evidence

Evidence that directly answers the research question:

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

### Indirect Evidence

Evidence that supports the conclusion through inference:

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

### Correlation Analysis

How do multiple sources corroborate each other?

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

## GPS Element 4: Resolution of Conflicting Evidence

| Conflict | Sources Involved | Resolution/Reasoning |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|
|          |                  |                      |
|          |                  |                      |
|          |                  |                      |

If no conflicts found, explain why sources are consistent:

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

## GPS Element 5: Sound, Reasoned Conclusion

### Conclusion Statement

*State the conclusion clearly and definitively:*

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|  |
|  |

### Reasoning Summary

*Summarize the logical chain from evidence to conclusion:*

|  |
|--|
|  |
|  |

### Alternative Theories Considered and Rejected

| Alternative Theory | Why Rejected |
|--------------------|--------------|
|                    |              |
|                    |              |
|                    |              |

### Final Assessment

| GPS Compliance Checklist                    | Yes                      | No                       |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Reasonably exhaustive search conducted      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All sources properly cited                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Evidence thoroughly analyzed and correlated | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conflicting evidence resolved               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conclusion is logical and well-supported    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Confidence Level:</b>         |  |
| <b>Remaining Research Needs:</b> |  |
| <b>Research Completed By:</b>    |  |
| <b>Date:</b>                     |  |

*Template from The Brooklyn Mat Maker Case Study | Storyline Genealogy*

Based on BCG Genealogical Proof Standard requirements