

Candidate Elimination Matrix

Systematic Identification Among Same-Named Individuals

This matrix systematically eliminates candidates who cannot be your target individual. List all same-named individuals found in the geographic/time frame, then apply elimination criteria round by round until only one candidate remains.

Target Individual Profile

Target Name:	
Geographic Area:	
Time Period:	
Known Family Connections:	
Known Occupation(s):	
Other Known Facts:	

Initial Candidate List

List ALL individuals with this name found in records from the target time/place:

#	Name Variation	Birth Year	Location	Occupation	Initial Source
A					
B					
C					
D					
E					
F					
G					
H					

Elimination Process

Round 1: Age Elimination

Criteria: Birth/death years incompatible with known facts about target

Eliminated	Reasoning	Source
Remaining Candidates:		

Round 2: Geographic Elimination

Criteria: Wrong location or impossible migration pattern

Eliminated	Reasoning	Source
Remaining Candidates:		

Round 3: Family Structure Elimination

Criteria: Spouse/children don't match known family

Eliminated	Reasoning	Source
Remaining Candidates:		

Round 4: Occupational Elimination

Criteria: Job history incompatible with family narrative or skill level

Eliminated	Reasoning	Source
Remaining Candidates:		

Round 5: Additional Criteria

Criteria: (specify - economic level, religion, ethnicity, etc.)

Eliminated	Reasoning	Source

Final Candidate Assessment

Candidate	Evidence Score	Unique IDs	Alternatives Ruled Out	Confidence
				%
				%

Research Conclusion

Selected Individual:	
Primary Reasoning:	
Key Evidence:	
Alternatives Addressed:	

Confidence Assessment

Overall Confidence Level: ☐ High (95%+) ☐ Medium (75-94%) ☐ Low (<75%)

Evidence Quality Criterion	Yes	No
Strong documentary evidence from primary sources	☐	☐
Multiple independent sources confirm identification	☐	☐
No significant contradictory evidence	☐	☐
All alternative candidates systematically eliminated	☐	☐
Evidence chain is logically consistent	☐	☐
Occupation/economic status matches family narrative	☐	☐

Template from The Brooklyn Mat Maker Case Study | Storyline Genealogy

Used to identify John Kenny (1838-1895) among dozens of Brooklyn John Kennys through systematic elimination