

## Place Names

*What is the correct name of the locality at the time of the event?!!!*

### **Proper Structure of a Place Name:** (include all government levels)

- 1<sup>st</sup> level: town/township/city/parish
- 2<sup>nd</sup> level: correct county *for the date of the event*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> level: correct state/province *for the date of the event*
- 4<sup>th</sup> level: correct country *for the date of the event*

### **General Housekeeping:**

- ✓ **of**, when an event took place in that area. (Place a comma after of, so software programs don't read it as part of the name of a city/town.)
- ✓ **< >** Brackets - possibility or assumed. If events of other family members happened in that place...
- ✓ **Blank** – Leave the field blank if unknown and put your ideas in the notes
- ✓ **Spaces and commas** for missing levels--- ( Marsing, , Idaho, USA)
- ✓ **No "County" or "Co."** necessary when all the levels are represented in some way.
- ✓ **No abbreviations** except for USA
- ✓ **Names of cemeteries, hospitals, religions, landmarks, etc.** should be in notes

### **Place Names are Time Sensitive:**

If the event was pre-statehood, use "America" instead of "USA". (See back for statehood dates.)  
Pre-statehood place names in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island found at  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~randall/connecticut-bdm-identifier.html>  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~randall/massachusetts-bdm-identifier.html>  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~randall/rhode-island-bdm-identifier.html>

### **How do I know what needs cleaning?**

Legacy  
PAF Insight

### **What to clean with...**

Ancestry's RED BOOK-American State, County & Town Sources (available at most FHC)

Familysearch.org > Library > Library Catalog > Place Search

Animap (available at FHC)

PAF (free download at familysearch.org)  
Global Search & Replace

PAF Pal (available at FHC)  
Expands Place Abbreviations  
Add USA to Places with *recognizable* states in USA and Canada and Britain

PAF Insight (available at FHC)

Internet Search Engines ("Google it!")

Quotation marks around the place name... (no county) "The Muddy" Utah