

The Circle Keeper's LINEAGE LOG

EVER WIDENING CIRCLE PRESERVATION SERIES — BARKHAMSTED LIGHTHOUSE VILLAGE EDITION

GENEALOGY • DOCUMENTATION • FAMILY HISTORY



A professional working archive for recording ancestors, relationships, records, sources, oral histories, migration, property, service, and family artifacts.

A keepsake workbook for the keeper of your family's stories

Created by Coni Dubois



Welcome Home, Circle Keeper!

Well, look at you — holding your family's story right in your hands. And what a story it is.

I'm Coni Dubois. For more than thirty years I've been chasing our Lighthouse ancestors through courthouse basements, overgrown Connecticut cemeteries, and page after page of old census rolls. The Barkhamsted Lighthouse Village isn't just my research — it's my heart, my heritage, my home.

That's what this log is for. It's your invitation to become a Circle Keeper of the Lighthouse village — the one who asks the questions, writes down the answers, labels the photographs, and makes sure our village stories don't slip away.

Up front you'll find worksheets for the serious digging — vital records, land deeds, DNA, and all the rest. And in the back? Pure fun: interviews, tall tales, trivia, treasure hunts, and pages for the stories only our families can tell.

So sharpen your pencil, pour yourself something sweet, and come on. Your people are waiting — and darling, the village has been keeping the circle open for you.

With all my heart,

Coni



About Me

CONI DUBOIS · KEEPER OF THE EVER WIDENING CIRCLE

Howdy, friend — I'm Coni Dubois, and I have been happily lost in family history for more than thirty years. I'm a Native American genealogist and researcher, and this — the hunt for our people, the proof, the stories — is the work of my life.

I'm a proud Barkhamsted Lighthouse descendant, and that little village in the Connecticut hills is where my heart lives. I run Ever Widening Circle, my research home at conidubois.com, where I share everything I find. Over the years I've traced more than 70,000 souls — every one of them somebody's somebody.

I'm also the developer and owner of Heirloomie, my genealogy app, and the author of a dozen-plus research books and a children's book. But titles aside, here's the plain truth: I'm just a woman who believes every family deserves a Keeper.

This log is my gift to you — new descendant, new member, new friend. Fill it up. Ask the questions. Write it ALL down. And welcome to the circle, darling. We've been waiting for you.

Pull up a chair — the stories are just getting good.

This Circle Keeper's Log

belongs to

Welcomed into the Barkhamsted Lighthouse Village circle on

Presented by



Every family needs a Keeper. Today, it's you.

Lineage Log — Master Index

COMPLETE WORKSHEET INDEX

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Every page below is a doorway — pick one ancestor and begin.

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FUN PAGES, COLORING & NOTEBOOK

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The back of the book is where the fun lives — go play!

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Individual Profile

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA & FAMILY RECORD

◆ Coni's Tip: Start with what you know by heart — your own story is the root every branch grows from.

INDIVIDUAL

Full Name (Surname, First)	Birth Date / Place
Baptism Date / Place	Death Date / Place
Burial Date / Place	Burial Location

PARENTS & FAMILY

Father — Full Name	Mother — Full Name
Paternal Parents	Maternal Parents

SPOUSES, UNIONS & CHILDREN

Union / Spouse	Marriage Date / Place	Children / Notes

SOURCES & ANALYSIS

Source ID	Repository / Title	Location / Page	Verification Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

Birth Record

Marriage Record

Death Record

DNA Confirmed

Oral Tradition



Vital Record Analysis

VITAL RECORD VERIFICATION & SPATIAL MAPPING LOG

◆ Did you know? One birth record can whisper three generations of clues — read the witnesses, not just the names.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

VITAL RECORD VERIFICATION

Record Type	Data Point	Verification Method	Notes

INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY & NOTES

History / Context

LOCATIONAL ANALYSIS & RESEARCH LOG

Date	Activity	Researcher	Findings / Source

DOCUMENTATION & MEDIA INDEX

Document ID	Type	Description	Source / Repository

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

Vital Records Reviewed	Locations Confirmed	Sources Cited	Media Indexed
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Ancestral Profile

CORE ANCESTOR IDENTIFICATION

◆ Coni's Tip: Give each ancestor a one-page home of their own. Future-you will thank present-you.

ANCESTRAL PROFILE

Full Name	Birth Date & Place
Marriage(s)	Spouse(s)
Death Date & Place	Burial Location
Additional Notes	

FAMILY STRUCTURE

Father	Mother
Paternal Grandparents	Maternal Grandparents

RESEARCH STATUS

Birth Record Marriage Record Death Record DNA Confirmed Oral Tradition

NOTES



Master Family Profile

LINEAGE LOG — FAMILY RECONSTRUCTION

◆ Coni's Tip: Rebuild the whole family in one view — that's when the missing pieces start waving at you.

ANCESTRAL PROFILE

Full Name	Birth Date & Place
Baptism	Marriage(s)
Death Date & Place	Burial Location
Additional Notes	

FATHER'S DETAILS

Full Name	Birth Date / Place
Baptism	Death
Burial	Paternal Parents
Maternal Parents	

MOTHER'S DETAILS

Full Name	Birth Date / Place
Baptism	Death
Burial	Paternal Parents
Maternal Parents	

CHILDREN OF THIS UNION

Child	Birth	Baptism	Marriage / Spouse	Death	Burial

RESEARCH STATUS

Birth Record

Marriage Record

Death Record

DNA Confirmed

Oral Tradition



Spouses & Union Log

MARRIAGE, PARTNERSHIP AND UNION DOCUMENTATION

◆ Did you know? Marriage records often name parents, birthplaces — even the ship they sailed on.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

PRIMARY MARRIAGE / UNION

Spouse Name	Marriage Date & Place
Notes / Children from Union	

ADDITIONAL UNIONS

Spouse Name / Dates	Union Notes	Children / Evidence

VERIFICATION & ANALYSIS

Child	Birth Record	Baptism	DNA Confirmed	Death	Burial

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

Birth Record

Marriage Record

DNA Confirmed

Oral Tradition



Children of This Union

CHILD AND SPOUSE RECONSTRUCTION

◆ Coni's Tip: List every child, even the little ones who left too soon. Every life counts in your story.

UNION IDENTIFICATION

Parent / Union	Marriage Date / Place
Source / Record	Researcher

CHILDREN

Child's Full Name	Birth Date / Place	Baptism Date / Place	Marriage & Spouse	Death Date / Place	Burial	Notes / Cause

VERIFICATION & ANALYSIS

Birth Record	Baptism Record	Marriage Record	Death Record	Burial Record	DNA Confirmed	Oral Tradition
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Grandchildren Summary

MULTI-GENERATION FAMILY OVERVIEW

◆ Coni's Tip: Zoom out to the grandchild view — patterns of names and places pop right out.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

GRANDCHILD INDEX

#	Grandchild's Full Name	Parent	Birth	Marriage / Spouse	Death	Burial	Lineage Branch

VERIFICATION & ANALYSIS

Birth Record	Marriage Record	Death Record	DNA Confirmed	Oral Tradition
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Source & Citation Log

MASTER SOURCE AND DOCUMENTATION INDEX

◆ Did you know? A source without a citation is just a rumor with good penmanship. Write it down!

SOURCE & CITATION LOG

Source ID	Type of Record	Repository / Location	Title / Description	Volume / Page	Date	Accession / Notes

VERIFICATION & ANALYSIS

Original Document Digital Copy Transcription Verified Citation Complete Cross-Referenced

NOTES / ANALYSIS



Lineage Proof Summary

EVIDENCE REVIEW AND PROOF ARGUMENT

◆ Coni's Tip: Proof is a story told with evidence — lay it out so clear your grandkids could follow it.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

LINEAGE CLAIM

Research Subject	Lineage Claim
Verified Generations	DNA Match ID / Kit #
Verification Date	

EVIDENCE REVIEW

Source Type	Repository	Confidence Level	Conflicts Found	Resolution / Notes

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited Conflicts Resolved DNA Confirmed Peer Reviewed Final Proof Complete



Research Notes & Findings

RESEARCH SUMMARY AND FINDINGS LOG

◆ Coni's Tip: Write down the dead ends too — “already looked, not there” is pure gold later.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Research Subject	Research Focus / Goal
Research Date Range	Researcher

FINDINGS TABLE

#	Date	Finding / Summary	Source / Repository	Confidence	Notes

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

Finding VerifiedSource CitedCitation CheckedConflict ResolvedDNA SupportedAdded to Lineage Proof



Ancestor Profile Deep-Dive

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHY

◆ Did you know? Your ancestor lived through history — set their life against it and watch them come alive.

ANCESTOR IDENTIFICATION

Full Name	Birth Date / Place
Death Date / Place	Parents
Spouse(s)	Children

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Time Period	Location	Historical Context / Event	Relevance

SOURCE SUMMARY

Source Type	Repository	Record Title	Confidence	Notes

NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHY

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited

Dates Verified

Relationships Confirmed

DNA Linked

Profile Complete



Family Group Sheet

FAMILY IDENTIFICATION AND HOUSEHOLD RECONSTRUCTION

◆ Coni's Tip: One sheet per family keeps the tangle tidy. Messy research loves this page.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

PARENTS

Role	Full Name	Birth Date / Place	Death Date / Place	Notes
Father				
Mother				

CHILDREN

#	Child Name	Birth Date / Place	Death Date / Place	Spouse	Notes

SOURCE SUMMARY

Source Type	Repository	Record Title	Confidence	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited Dates Verified Relationships Confirmed DNA Linked Family Complete



Household Census Extraction

CENSUS RECORD IDENTIFICATION AND HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

◆ Did you know? Census takers knocked every ten years — each knock is a snapshot of a whole household. Find your Lighthouse ancestors in the Barkhamsted rolls and watch the village come alive.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

CENSUS RECORD IDENTIFICATION

Census Year	Location (Town / County / State)
Enumeration District / Page #	Researcher

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Name	Age	Sex	Relationship to Head	Occupation	Birthplace	Notes

PROPERTY & ECONOMIC DATA

Category	Value	Notes

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Entries Verified

Source Cited

Relationships Confirmed

Economic Data

Census Profile Complete



Migration & Movement Log

MIGRATION OVERVIEW, TIMELINE AND ROUTES

◆ Coni's Tip: Follow the moving feet! Our Lighthouse families rarely moved alone — neighbors on the road became neighbors for life in Barkhamsted.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

MIGRATION OVERVIEW

Ancestor Name	Family Group / Line
Research Period	Researcher

MIGRATION TIMELINE

Year	Origin Location	Destination Location	Reason for Move	Source / Record	Notes

TRANSPORTATION & ROUTES

Mode of Travel	Route Taken	Duration	Companions / Family Members	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited	Dates Verified	Routes Confirmed	Family Connections Linked	Migration Profile Complete
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Heirloom & Artifact Catalog

FAMILY OBJECTS, PROVENANCE AND PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

◆ Did you know? That chipped teacup might be the only thing your great-grandmother ever owned outright. Honor it.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

CATALOG OVERVIEW

Family Line / Owner	Research Period
Researcher	Storage Location / Custodian

ARTIFACT INVENTORY

Item #	Artifact Name	Description	Material / Composition	Estimated Date / Era	Provenance / Origin	Notes

PHOTOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

Item #	Photo Reference / File Name	Date Photographed	Photographer	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Items Verified	Photos Attached	Provenance Confirmed	Dates Verified	Catalog Complete
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Land & Property Record

PROPERTY OWNERSHIP, TRANSACTIONS AND BOUNDARIES

◆ Coni's Tip: Land records are family records wearing work boots — deeds name heirs, neighbors, and debts.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

RECORD IDENTIFICATION

Property Owner / Family Line	Research Period
Researcher	Source Type / Repository

PROPERTY DETAILS

Record Date	Location	Acreage / Size	Transaction Type	Value / Amount	Notes

BOUNDARY & NEIGHBOR INFORMATION

Neighbor Name	Adjacent Property Description	Direction / Boundary Side	Notes

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited

Dates Verified

Boundaries Confirmed

Neighbor Data Linked

Property Profile Complete



Military Service Record

ENLISTMENT, CAMPAIGNS, DISCHARGE AND PENSION DATA

◆ Coni's Tip: Folded flags and pension files hold whole biographies. Handle these pages with a grateful heart.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

ENLISTMENT DETAILS

Enlistment Date	Location	Age at Enlistment	Branch	Rank / Grade	Unit / Regiment	Source

ENGAGEMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Date Range	Location / Battle / Campaign	Role / Duty	Outcome	Remarks	Source / Record

DISCHARGE & POST-SERVICE DATA

Discharge Date	Reason / Status	Pension Record #	Burial Location	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited

Dates Verified

Campaigns Confirmed

Pension Linked

Military Profile Complete



Occupation & Skills Profile

EMPLOYMENT, TRADES, SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

◆ Did you know? A trade passed father-to-son can trace a family through three counties.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Year Range	Occupation / Trade	Employer / Organization	Location	Source / Record	Notes

SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

Skill / Expertise	Certification / License	Date Obtained	Issuing Authority	Notes

TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

Tool / Instrument	Usage / Context	Period / Location	Source / Record	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited

Dates Verified

Skills Confirmed

Certifications Linked

Profile Complete



Community & Social Standing

CIVIC PARTICIPATION, MEMBERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

◆ Coni's Tip: Church minutes, lodge rolls, and club lists — that's where ancestors show their character.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

CIVIC PARTICIPATION & MEMBERSHIPS

Organization / Group	Role / Position	Date Range	Location	Source / Record	Notes

SOCIAL REPUTATION & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Date Range	Description of Event / Contribution	Public Recognition	Source / Citation	Notes

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited	Dates Verified	Memberships Confirmed	Community Impact Linked	Profile Complete
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Medical & Health History

FAMILY HEALTH RECORDS AND HISTORICAL HEALTH PATTERNS

◆ Coni's Tip: Family health patterns are heirlooms too — the kind that can protect the living.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

HEALTH CONDITIONS & DIAGNOSES

Condition / Diagnosis	Date Identified	Severity	Treatment / Remedy	Outcome / Status	Source / Record	Notes

GENETIC TRAITS & FAMILY HEALTH PATTERNS

Trait / Condition	Family Member / Relation	Generation / Line	Source / Record	Notes

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS & FACILITIES

Practitioner Name	Specialty	Facility / Hospital	Location	Date Range	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited Dates Verified Conditions Confirmed Family Patterns Linked Medical Profile Complete



Religious & Spiritual Life

AFFILIATION, CEREMONIES, RITES AND PRACTICES

◆ Did you know? Baptism and burial records often survive when nothing else does — faith kept the books.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION & MEMBERSHIP

Faith / Denomination	Congregation / Church / Temple	Location	Date Range	Role / Position	Source / Record	Notes

CEREMONIES & RITES OF PASSAGE

Event Type	Date	Location	Officiant / Clergy	Witnesses / Participants	Source / Record	Notes

SPIRITUAL BELIEFS & PRACTICES

Practice / Tradition	Frequency / Period	Associated Objects / Symbols	Source / Record	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited Dates Verified Ceremonies Confirmed Beliefs Linked Spiritual Profile Complete



Economic & Financial Profile

INCOME, ASSETS, DEBTS AND TRANSACTIONS

◆ Coni's Tip: Tax lists don't lie about where someone lived — follow the money, find the family.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

INCOME SOURCES & EMPLOYMENT

Year Range	Occupation / Trade	Employer / Source of Income	Location	Annual Income (Approx.)	Source / Record	Notes

ASSETS & PROPERTY HOLDINGS

Asset Type	Description	Location	Date Acquired	Value / Estimate	Source / Record	Notes

DEBTS & FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Creditor / Institution	Type of Debt	Date Incurred	Amount / Balance	Source / Record	Notes

TRANSACTIONS & BUSINESS DEALINGS

Date	Transaction Type	Parties Involved	Description	Value / Amount	Source / Record

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited Dates Verified Assets Confirmed Debts Linked Financial Profile Complete



General Notes & Summary

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS, CONNECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS

◆ Coni's Tip: End each research day here — three lines today saves three hours next month.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Topic / Subject	Summary of Findings	Source / Record	Notes

CROSS-REFERENCES & CONNECTIONS

Related Page / Record	Linked Ancestor / Event	Description of Connection	Source / Record	Notes

RESEARCHER'S OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS

NEXT STEPS / FUTURE RESEARCH GOALS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited	Connections Verified	Observations Recorded	Next Step Outlined	Summary Complete
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Family Legends & Oral Histories

FAMILY MEMORY, STORIES AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

◆ Did you know? Every “tall tale” usually has a true seed — and Barkhamsted Lighthouse has some tall ones. Write them down before the telling is lost.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

LEGEND SUMMARY

Story Title	Origin / Source	Generation / Teller	Summary of Legend	Notes

ORAL HISTORY ACCOUNTS

Interviewee Name	Relation to Family	Date Recorded	Key Themes / Events	Source / Record

NARRATIVE TRANSCRIPTION

CULTURAL & SYMBOLIC ELEMENTS

Symbol / Motif	Meaning in Family Context	Associated Ancestor / Event	Notes

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited	Dates Verified	Stories Confirmed	Symbols Linked	Legend Profile Complete
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Photographic Record Index — Part I

PHOTO CATALOG AND ARTIFACT/DOCUMENT IMAGE INDEX

◆ Coni's Tip: Label every face while someone still remembers the smile. Mystery photos multiply fast!

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

PHOTO CATALOG

Image ID	Subject / Description	Date Taken / Estimated	Location	Photographer / Source	File / Notes

ARTIFACT & DOCUMENT IMAGES

Image ID	Artifact Type	Description	Date Captured	Source / Archive	File Reference / Link	Notes

NARRATIVE ANNOTATIONS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited	Dates Verified	Images Linked	Artifacts Cataloged	Index Complete
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Photographic Record Index — Part II

CONTINUED PHOTO CATALOG AND IMAGE REFERENCES

◆ Did you know? The back of a photo often tells more than the front — always scan both sides.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

PHOTO CATALOG — CONTINUED

Image ID	Subject / Description	Date Taken / Estimated	Location	Photographer / Source	File / Notes

ARTIFACT & DOCUMENT IMAGES — CONTINUED

Image ID	Artifact Type	Description	Date Captured	Source / Archive	File Reference / Link	Notes

NARRATIVE ANNOTATIONS

VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

All Sources Cited	Dates Verified	Images Linked	Artifacts Cataloged	Index Complete
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DNA & Genetic Genealogy

GENETIC EVIDENCE AND MATCH ANALYSIS

◆ Coni's Tip: DNA is the witness that never forgets — pair every match with paper and watch your tree prove itself.

IDENTIFICATION OVERVIEW

Individual / Research Subject	Family Line / Branch
Research Period	Researcher
Date Compiled / Updated	Source / Repository

DNA TESTS TAKEN

Test Taker	Company	Test Type	Kit # / Username	Date Tested	Notes

KEY DNA MATCHES

Match Name	Company	Shared cM	Predicted Relationship	Known Connection	Contact / Notes

HAPLOGROUPS

Paternal Haplogroup (Y-DNA)	Maternal Haplogroup (mtDNA)
Testing Company	Notes

DNA RESEARCH NOTES

VERIFICATION & ANALYSIS

All Kits Logged Matches Contacted Trees Compared DNA Corroborated Triangulated



Interview a Relative

ASK, THEN HUSH — AND LET THEM TALK

◆ Coni's Tip: The best family historian is a good listener with a full cookie plate. Ask, then hush and let them talk.

THE INTERVIEW

Relative interviewed	Relation to you
Date	Place

What is your earliest happy memory?

Who was the family storyteller when you were growing up?

What did our family eat on special occasions?

Tell me about a time the family laughed until they cried.

What was Grandma / Grandpa really like — the part nobody writes down?

What family saying do you still hear in your head?

What do you wish younger generations knew about our people?



Family Stories & Tall Tales

EVERY TALL TALE HAS A TRUE SEED

◆ Did you know? Every “tall tale” usually has a true seed. Our Lighthouse stories deserve ink — write them down before the telling is lost.

THE TALE

Story title	Told by
Heard from (generation)	Where it happened

Tell the story the way you've always heard it:

The true seed — what part might really have happened?

Who else needs to hear this story?



The Heirloom Hunt

TREASURES HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

◆ Coni's Tip: Open every drawer, lift every quilt. The good stuff hides where nobody thinks to look.

HEIRLOOM SCAVENGER CHECKLIST

- ☐ A quilt stitched by hand
- ☐ A pocket watch or a piece of jewelry
- ☐ Letters tied with ribbon
- ☐ A military medal or uniform piece
- ☐ A cast-iron skillet with a story
- ☐ A Bible with names written inside
- ☐ An old photograph nobody can name — yet
- ☐ A tool from somebody's trade
- ☐ A recipe card in familiar handwriting
- ☐ A holiday decoration older than you
- ☐ Something nobody will explain (ask!)
- ☐ The weirdest thing in the attic

MY MOST-WANTED HEIRLOOM

The heirloom	Whose was it?
--------------	---------------

The story this heirloom carries:



Recipes Passed Down

TIME TRAVEL THROUGH SOMEBODY'S KITCHEN

◆ Coni's Tip: The fastest way to time-travel is through somebody's kitchen. Save the splatters — they're flavor.

THE RECIPE

Dish name	From whose kitchen?
Who taught them?	Occasion

INGREDIENTS

HOW TO MAKE IT

The secret nobody writes down...



Family Trivia Night

TEN QUESTIONS · ONE LOUD FAMILY · ZERO WRONG ANSWERS

◆ *Coni's Tip: There are no wrong answers here — only stories. Loudest table wins.*

1. Who in our family lived the longest?

2. Who had the most children?

3. Who traveled the farthest from home?

4. What is the oldest family name we still use?

5. Which ancestor had the most unusual job?

6. What year did our family first come to this town?

7. Who was named after somebody — and after whom?

8. What family dish is everybody always begging for?

9. Which ancestor would you most want to have supper with?

10. What should our family's trivia team be called?



Draw Your Family Tree

NO RULERS ALLOWED — THE MESSIER, THE TRUER

◆ Coni's Tip: Start with YOU at the roots and branch on up. Wonky branches welcome.

MY FAMILY TREE

Draw here — you at the roots, everybody else branching up

The branch I'm most curious about:



Photo Scavenger Hunt

TWELVE MISSIONS — CAMERAS READY

◆ Coni's Tip: *The back of a photo often tells more than the front — always scan both sides.*

PHOTO MISSIONS

- ☐ The oldest photo you can find
- ☐ Somebody laughing mid-laugh
- ☐ A wedding — any wedding
- ☐ A baby who is now somebody's grandparent
- ☐ A house that isn't standing anymore
- ☐ A car the family still talks about
- ☐ Matching outfits (we all had that era)
- ☐ A pet who was basically family
- ☐ Somebody at work, doing their thing
- ☐ A holiday table loaded with food
- ☐ A photo with writing on the back — transcribe it!
- ☐ Your favorite find of the whole hunt

Best find of the hunt:

The story behind the photo:



Ancestor Superlatives

HAND OUT THE AWARDS — THEY EARNED THEM

◆ Coni's Tip: Every family has them. Be generous — and be honest about the funny ones.

Best Name in the Family goes to...

Farthest Traveled goes to...

Bravest Heart goes to...

Funniest Bone goes to...

Hardest Worker goes to...

Best Cook goes to...

Most Mysterious goes to...

Most Likely to Be Remembered in 100 Years goes to...



Time Capsule Letter

WRITE TO THE FAMILY YOU HAVEN'T MET YET

◆ Coni's Tip: Somebody will open this with happy tears. Make it good, keeper.

THE CAPSULE

Seal this letter until	Written by
------------------------	------------

DEAR FUTURE FAMILY,

One thing I want you to know:



Where We Come From

EVERY PIN ON THE MAP IS A CHAPTER

◆ Coni's Tip: Follow the moving feet! Mark Barkhamsted on your map — for Lighthouse descendants, every road leads home.

Our family's oldest known place:

The place everybody ended up:

A place we left — and why:

A place I want to visit someday:

SKETCH YOUR FAMILY'S MIGRATION MAP

Draw it here — rivers, roads, and all



The Keeper's Promise

SAY IT OUT LOUD — IT COUNTS MORE THAT WAY

◆ Coni's Tip: This is the most important page in the whole log. Mean it.

I promise to ask the questions before it's too late, to write down the answers, to label every photograph, and to keep our stories safe — so that a hundred years from now, somebody will know our names, and know they were loved.

SIGNED & SEALED

Signed	Date
--------	------

Why I want to be the Keeper:

The first story I will save:

The first relative I will interview:



Mystery Photo Detective

SOMEBODY IN THIS PHOTO IS WAITING TO BE NAMED

◆ Coni's Tip: Work the clues like a detective — clothing, cars, signs, handwriting. The photo is talking; listen.

THE CASE FILE

Photo ID	Where it was found
----------	--------------------

Describe everything you see:

Clues — clothing, cars, signs, handwriting on the back:

Who do you THINK this is?

Who could confirm it?

Case status:



Name Stories

NAMES ARE THE SHORTEST STORIES WE TELL

◆ *Did you know? Naming patterns — first sons, family surnames as middle names — can crack a brick wall wide open.*

Who were YOU named for?

What does your name mean?

A naming tradition in our family:

A nickname that stuck — and why:

If you could ask one ancestor about their name, who — and what would you ask?



The Keeper's Own Story

BEFORE YOU CLOSE THIS LOG — THE KEEPER BELONGS IN IT TOO

◆ Coni's Tip: Future generations will flip straight to this page first. Give them someone worth meeting.

THE KEEPER	
My name	Born
The branch I'm keeping	Keeper since

My earliest memory of family:

What I want my descendants to know about me:

My hope for this log:



Coloring Page

JUST FOR THE LITTLE KEEPERS

◆ Grab your brightest crayons — our village is waiting for YOUR colors. Add your family's names and stories to the scene!



Coming Soon!

THE CONI STYLE COLORING BOOK



A whole coloring book of family, ancestors, and fun — starring your favorite Keeper — is on its way! Here is a sneak peek to tide you over.

Keep your crayons handy, darling — more is coming!



◆ *Fresh from the hunt — scribble it here before it flutters away.*



Stories Caught on the Fly

THE KEEPER'S NOTEBOOK

◆ *Somebody just said something wonderful. Catch it!*



Notes from the Porch Swing

THE KEEPER'S NOTEBOOK

◆ *Slow-swinging thoughts count double. Write them down.*



◆ *Every bright idea deserves ink. Go on, keeper.*



◆ *The ancestors visit at midnight. Take notes.*



Cemetery Walk Notes

THE KEEPER'S NOTEBOOK

◆ Names, dates, and the quiet in between — record it all.

Lined area for notes, consisting of multiple horizontal lines.



◆ *Deeds, wills, and dusty ledgers — log the treasures.*



◆ *The best stories are told over coffee. Save them here.*



Welcome to Coni's World

COME SIT A SPELL — THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM AT THIS TABLE

Well now — if you've made it this far, you're family. And family ought to know where the front door is.

My world is called the Ever Widening Circle, because that is what family does: it widens. My research home is conidubois.com, where I share everything I find. But that is only the beginning — let me show you around:

◆ **MY RESEARCH BOOKS**

A dozen-plus research books and counting, with my Barkhamsted Lighthouse Village volumes closest to my heart. Every one is proof you can hold in your hands — the records, the photographs, the stories, all of it.

◆ **HEIRLOOMIE — MY GENEALOGY APP**

The app I built to keep it all together: your photographs, records, and stories, safe and organized in one beautiful place. Your whole family, right in your pocket.

◆ **THE BARKHAMSTED LIGHTHOUSE VILLAGE COMMUNITY**

Our Facebook family — hundreds strong and growing every week. We share photographs, swap stories, and welcome new friends home. Come pull up a chair with us.

◆ **DESCENDANT CARDS**

For proven descendants, a keepsake card tracing your line back through the generations — a little piece of paper that says, in ink: you belong.

The Circle Is Ever Widening

You'll find me most days at conidubois.com — and on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, where the ancestors get their close-ups and the stories keep coming.

And if you ever need a hand with your own line — a brick wall that won't budge, a mystery photograph, a story only half-remembered — well, darling, that is what I do. Thirty-plus years of chasing ancestors, and I still get goosebumps when a record gives up its secret. Reach out through conidubois.com and let's go hunting together.

Whether you came to this log as a brand-new descendant, a new member of the circle, or a friend I've simply never met yet — I am so glad you're here.



This log was only the beginning, keeper. The circle is ever widening — and there's a chair with your name on it.

Coni