

# Genealogical Crime Mystery



## Creative Writing Course



# Housekeeping



# Aims & Expectations of the course

- Understanding of the genre and key elements
- Get you writing (for pleasure or profit)
- Give you practical writing skills
- Write part of a genealogical crime mystery story
- Fun & enjoyable

# Course overview

Week 1: Introduction to Genealogical Crime Mysteries

Week 2: Crafting Compelling Characters

Week 3: The Art of Setting: Bringing the Past to Life

Week 4: Dialogue & Interactions

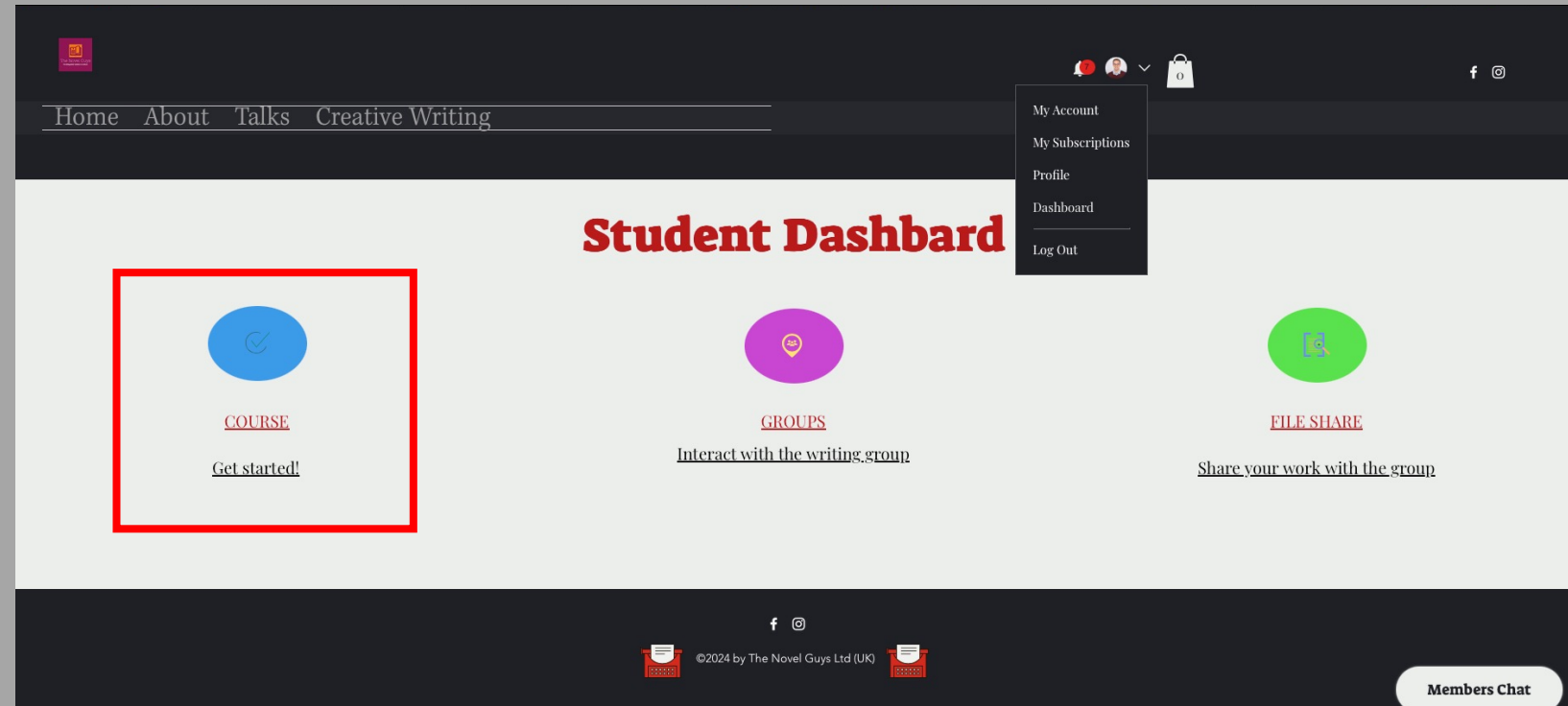
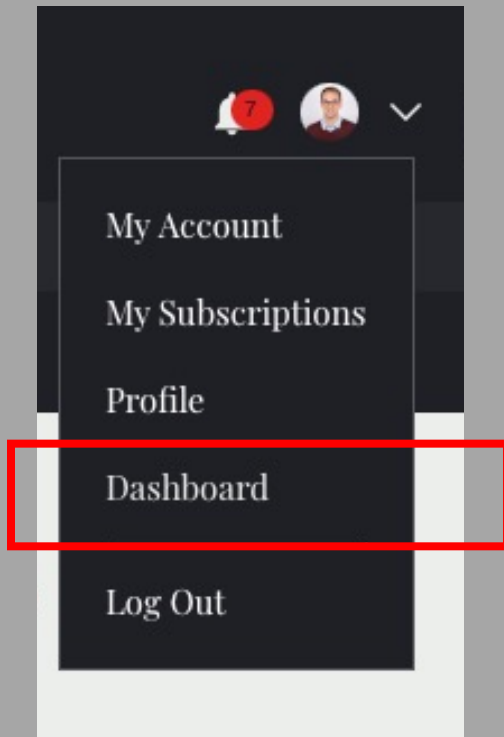
Week 5: Using Real Genealogy in Fiction

Week 6: Unravelling the Past: Plotting your Mystery

Week 7: Writing your own Genealogical Crime Mystery



# Orientation



# Orientation



**Genealogical Crime Mystery**  
**Creative Writing Course**

Sep 1, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024

**Exploring Genealogical Crime Mysteries: A Beginner's Writing Journey**

28 Participants

**About**

Over this seven week course you will learn how to write your own genealogical crime mystery story. You will be lead and guided by experienced author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, through a range of practical sessions covering setting, characterisation, dialogue and weaving genealogy into your narrative. The course will have a live weekly session with modelling, examples, workshops and individual writing assignments. Nathan will give formative feedback each week and summative feedback on a final (up to) 3,000-word submission.

**Instructors**



Nathan Dylan Goodwin

[View Details](#)

Exploring Genealogical Crime Mysteries: A Beginner's Writing Journey

Sep 1, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024  
61 Days · 7 Steps

Overview


**Tue, Sep 3, 2024**  
0/1 steps

**Tue, Sep 10, 2024**  
0/1 steps

**Tue, Sep 17, 2024**  
0/1 steps

**Tue, Sep 24, 2024**  
0/1 steps

**Tue, Oct 1, 2024**  
0/1 steps



**Genealogical Crime Mystery**  
**Creative Writing Course**

Members Chat

# Orientation

The screenshot shows a course page with a sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The sidebar contains a navigation menu with the following items:

- Overview
- Tue, Sep 3, 2024** (0/1 steps)
- Introduction to Genealogical Crime Mysteries: Setting the Sc
- Tue, Sep 10, 2024** (0/1 steps)
- Tue, Sep 17, 2024** (0/1 steps)
- Tue, Sep 24, 2024**

The main content area displays the following information:

Tue, Sep 3, 2024 > Introduction to Genealogi...

## Introduction to Genealogical Crime Mysteries: Setting the Sc

**Introduction to Genealogical Crime Mysteries: Setting the Scene**

- Understanding the genealogical crime mystery genre
- Exploration of key elements of the genre
- Case Study. Small group discussion. Individual writing task
- Assignment: Write a brief outline of a genealogical crime mystery story
- Q&A

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**Assignment: To write an outline for your own genealogical crime mystery**

- Can be entirely fictional, from your own family history research or something found in the archives
- Do some basic research on the 'story world' that allows you to expand on your central themes.
- Expand on your central theme(s). Who was murdered? Why? What was the missing artefact? Who faked their identity? Why?
- Try and read some fellow students work and offer construct criticism

**Things to consider:**

- Essential components of the genre
- Central theme (What is the family secret / hidden past?)

[Any tech issues, please email: techsupport@thenovelguys.com](mailto:techsupport@thenovelguys.com)

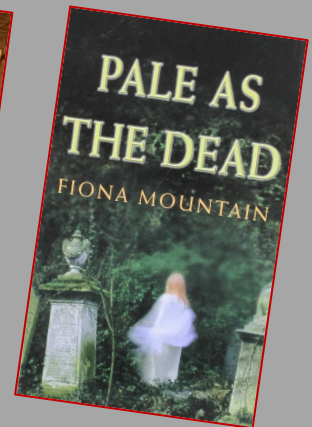
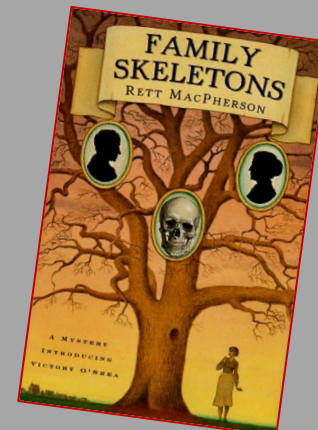
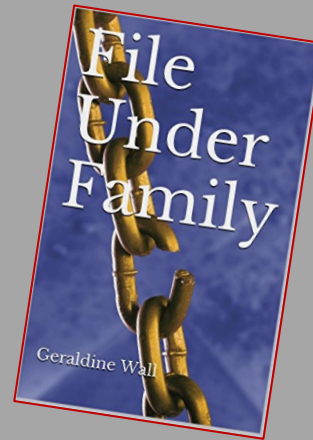
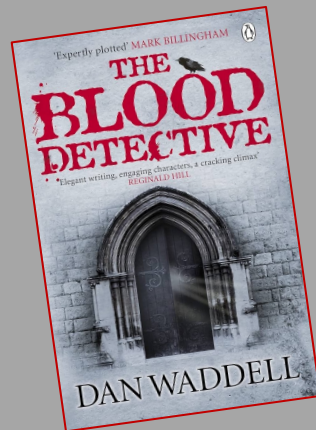
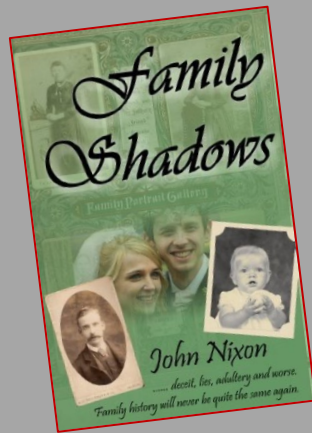
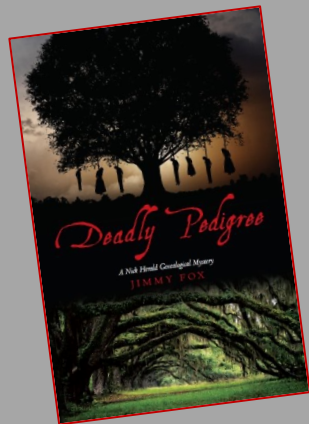
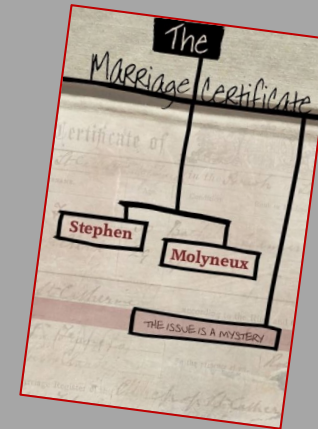
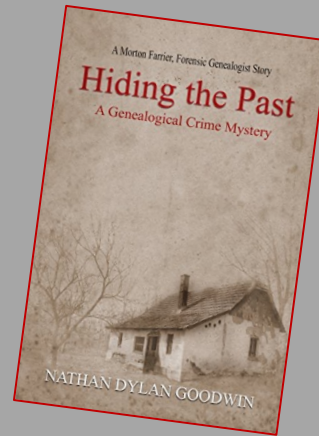
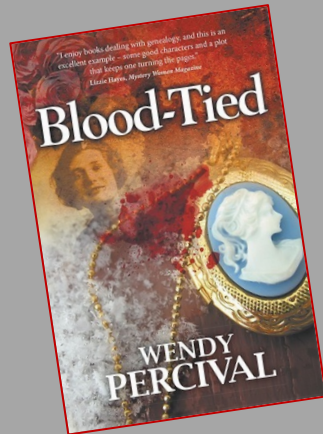
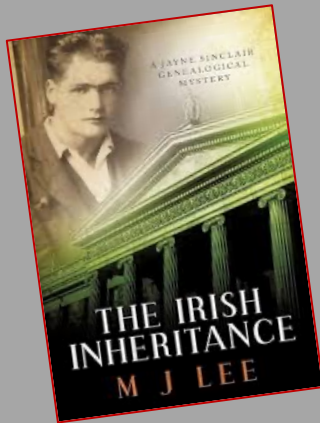
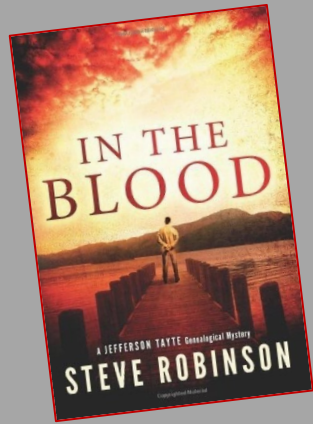


# Session overview

## *Week 1 - Introduction to Genealogical Crime Mysteries: Setting the Scene*

- Understanding the genealogical crime mystery genre
- Exploration of key elements of the genre
- Case Study. Small group discussion. Individual writing task
- Assignment: Write a brief outline of a genealogical crime mystery story

# What is a genealogical crime mystery?

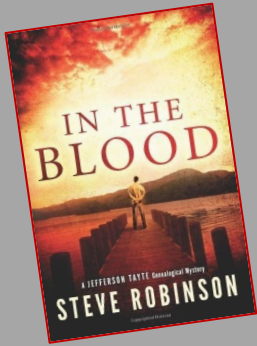


# Essential components of the genre...

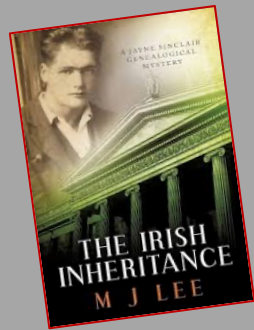
- A crime / mystery is involved, usually in the past
- Has to have a significant element of genealogy involved throughout the story
- Genealogy / genealogist helps to solve the crime in a significant way by the end of the book
- Main protagonist usually a genealogist working in the modern day
- Some level of personal story for the main protagonist
- Sometimes main protagonist(s) in the past narrative (if depicted)
- Sometimes somebody trying to stop the genealogist



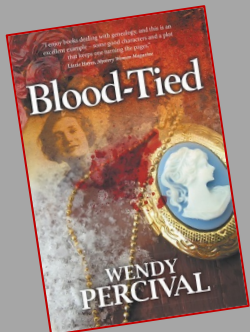
# Basic plot lines



Two hundred years ago a loyalist family fled to England to escape the American War of Independence and seemingly vanished into thin air. American genealogist Jefferson Tayte is hired to find out what happened.

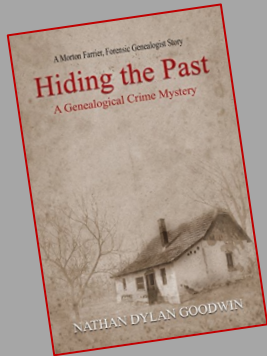


Former police detective, Jayne Sinclair, now working as a genealogical investigator, is commissioned by an adopted American billionaire to discover the identity of his real father.

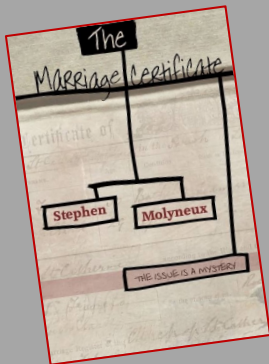


Esme Quentin is devastated when her sister Elizabeth is assaulted and left unconscious, miles from her home. Two days later Esme discovers that Elizabeth has a secret past.

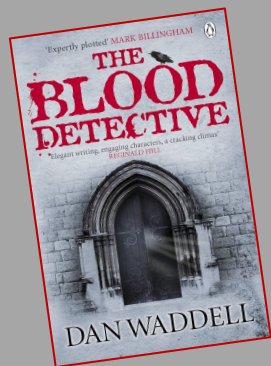
# Basic plot lines



**Peter Coldrick had no past; that was the conclusion drawn by years of personal and professional research. Then he employed the services of one Morton Farrier...**



**When amateur family historian Peter Sefton buys the marriage certificate he sees on display in an antiques arcade, little does he realise that it will lead him towards a potentially lucrative discovery and a long-forgotten family secret.**



**As dawn breaks over London, the body of a young man is discovered in a Notting Hill churchyard. The killer has left DCI Grant Foster and his team a grisly, cryptic clue. It's not until the clue is handed to Nigel Barnes, a specialist in compiling family trees, that the full message becomes spine-chillingly clear...**

## Common themes

- **Adoption**
- **Illegitimate children**
- **Fake identity**
- **Missing person / artifact / treasure**
- **Concealed criminal activity – often murder**

**Most genealogical crime mysteries boil down to this central theme:**

**Family secrets & hidden pasts**



## SHOCKING SUICIDE.

Mary Parr, a young woman who was taken to Stockport Infirmary on Thursday night for an abdominal complaint, rushed from the ward early yesterday morning to the kitchen and fatally cut her throat with a dinner knife.

## ATTEMPTED MURDER.

At Worcester assize, yesterday, David White, aged 63 years, was sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude for attempting to murder his wife, at Oldbury.

## CHARGE OF BIGAMY.

At the Clerkenwell police court, London, yesterday, W. Henry Cadman, described as a traveller, of Manchester, was charged on remand with marrying Beatrice O. Hodgetts, his former wife, Mary Ellen, being still alive. Beatrice Hodgetts said she first became acquainted with the prisoner through his calling at her mother's house in the capacity of an insurance agent, and a year later, in 1889, they were married in Brussels. She realised her property and gave Cadman the proceeds, between £8000 and £7000. The prisoner was again remanded.

## A KISS AND A SUICIDE.

A sensational discovery was made on Thursday at Messrs Calvert and Son's mill at Preston. A man named James Tuson, employed in serving out wett to the weavers, was accused of kissing a girl a few days ago, and was reprimanded by the manager. His workmates chaffed him about it. He disappeared on Wednesday afternoon, and on Thursday he was found drowned in the mill waterlodge. It is supposed that Tuson, who was of a sensitive disposition, was unable to bear the teasing of his mates and drowned himself.

## BURIED BONES RIDDLE: WAS IT MURDER?

Human bones found buried in the grounds of a convent school at Abergavenny might have been there 15 years or centuries, a doctor told a coroner who held an inquest on the bones there to-day.

Dr. Magarey, of the Welsh School of Medicine, said the bones were the remains of two skeletons—one an adult aged between 40 and 70, and the other a child between two and seven.

He said he had seen bones buried for 2000 years which did not differ

## One-sided account of baby swap

*The Baby Swap Conspiracy*  
By Loretta Schwartz-Nobel  
Villard, \$20, hardcover, 248 pages  
Reviewed by Peter Mitchell

Consider, first, the facts: Two babies are quietly switched at birth. Two sets of parents raise the wrong child. Then, years later, one set discovers the truth.

That may sound like plenty of drama for a compelling new book. But if you're Loret-



Arlena Twigg (above left), who died in 1988, and Kimberly Mays are the subjects in the 'Baby Swap Conspiracy.'

## \$50,000 INSURANCE SWINDLE CHARGED

Paroled Convict Held in \$25,000 Bail as Fake Death Claim Plotter

A paroled convict, Philip Oxman, 40, of 48th st. and Orange ave., yesterday was held in \$25,000 bail by Magistrate Usilton for swindling life insurance companies out of large sums of money.

Oxman was arrested Saturday night and charged with forging and collecting on life insurance policies. He is believed to have mulcted various life insurance concerns out of

## The Baby and the Sperm Donor

A baby is supposed to be a bundle of joy but Mary Beth Whitehead's daughter turned out to be a pound of flesh. The nation has been following Mary Beth's failing fight to recapture the child she had by artificial insemination from William Stern. Unhappily for her she signed a contract to hand over the baby to the sperm donor, who will have the title.

At a distance it looks like a struggle between yuppies and old-fashioned motherhood. The sperm donor, who is a scientist, and his wife, who is a doctor, have every aspect of your moneyed, young, upwardly



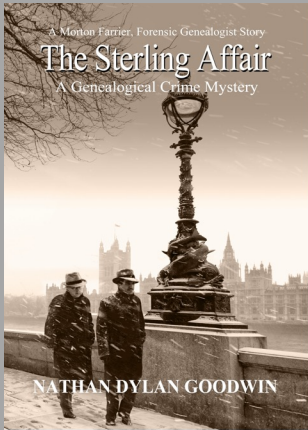
Nicholas Von Hoffman

## Search for relatives of baby hidden a century ago



It will take at least eight weeks to determine how long ago the baby was hidden beneath floorboards

# Central themes - Family secrets & hidden pasts




The National Archives  
MI5 records | Festive treats | Suffrage season | 2017 in review  
To: Nathan Dylan Goodwin,  
Reply-To: The National Archives

This message is from a mailing list. [Unsubscribe](#)

December's newsletter | [View in a browser](#)

## The National Archives



Welcome to December's newsletter

It's the time of year when we look back over the past 12 months. Read on for a round up of some of 2017's projects and plans we have for 2018.

This month, we also look at recently released MI5 files, special gifts available from our shop, and blogs and podcasts to keep you entertained over the festive period.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!  
Caroline James  
Editor

### MI5 file release

Earlier this month, we made available to the public previously top secret files from the UK Security Service, or MI5. Spanning the Second World War and post-war era up - to the mid-1960s - they include files relating to a range of intelligence agents, suspected agents, and double agents.

[> Read more about this file release](#)

Bookings are open for our new season of events, including a film screening and panel debate to launch our Suffrage 100 season. Keep an eye on our newsletters for more information on this year-long programme of events and activities.

[> 'Suffragette' film screening, 9 February 2018](#)

[> 'Did militancy help or hinder the franchise' Suffragette debate, 20](#)

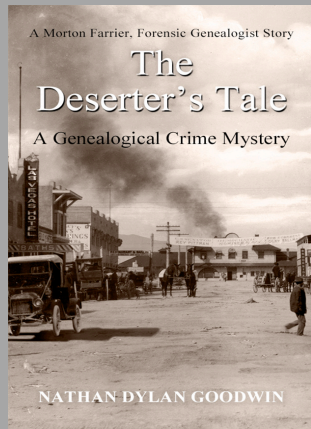
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# Central themes - Family secrets & hidden pasts



Graves of Roy Stewart (Charles Dengate) & Beulah Stewart  
 Miracle Valley, Arizona, U.S.A.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE**  
 NO. 10672  
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
 TO ANY JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT, JUSTICE OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, JUDGE OF ANY POLICE COURT, CITY RECORDER, PRIEST OR MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL OF ANY DENOMINATION YOU ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED AND LICENSED TO SOLEMNIZE, WITHIN SAID COUNTY, THE MARRIAGE OF

George Philip Brown  
 AGED 35 YEARS, RESIDING AT Los Angeles, NATIVE OF Mich., COLOR OR RACE WHITE

Louise Bullington  
 AGED 32 YEARS, RESIDING AT Los Angeles, NATIVE OF Germany, COLOR OR RACE CALIFORNIA, AND WHITE

THE DULY VERIFIED WRITTEN CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF THIS LICENSE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO AND FILED BY ME, L. E. LAMPTON, COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE SEAL OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, ON THIS Aug. 28th, 1926.

BY *M. Bullington* DEPUTY

---

**CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE (ORIGINAL)**  
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 1926

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THE 28th DAY OF Sept. AT Glendale UNDER AUTHORITY OF A LICENSE ISSUED BY L. E. LAMPTON, COUNTY CLERK OF SAID COUNTY, I, THE UNDERSIGNED, AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL OF THE GOSPEL OF ANY DENOMINATION, IN THE PRESENCE OF George Philip Brown and Louise Bullington CALIFORNIA, AND John Jordan and Olive Cook CALIFORNIA, WHO WITNESSED THE CEREMONY.

RESIDING AT Glendale  
 RESIDING AT Glendale  
 RESIDING AT Los Angeles

TO PERSON SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGE - IMPORTANT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS  
 COMPLETE ABOVE CERTIFICATE AND THE CERTIFICATE ON SEPARATE VITAL STATISTICS FORM AND WITHIN THREE DAYS AFTER THE CEREMONY FILE BOTH, WITH LICENSE, WITH THE RECORDS. ALSO FILL OUT AND CERTIFY THE ORNAMENTED CERTIFICATE BELOW AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY DETACH AND HAND TO THE PARTY. NAMES IN CERTIFICATE MUST BE IDENTICAL WITH NAMES IN LICENSE. PRIEST OR MINISTER MUST STATE DENOMINATION. WRITE NOTHING ON REVERSE SIDE, BUT CAREFULLY READ THE ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS THERE GIVEN.

**AFFIDAVIT FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF Roy A. Stewart and Beulah M. Hennes FOR A LICENSE TO MARRY

FILED Jan 15-1930  
 Walter A. Williams, Clerk

(MALE)  
 COUNTY OF MARICOPA STATE OF ARIZONA  
 Roy A. Stewart  
 does declare, depose and certify: That his true name; that his age is 38 years; that he is a resident of Prescott, Arizona; that he is of the race; that he is not related to past year.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of January, A. D. 1930  
 Walter A. Williams  
 Clerk Superior Court.  
 Deputy.

(FEMALE)  
 STATE OF ARIZONA COUNTY OF MARICOPA  
 Beulah M. Hennes  
 does declare, depose and certify: That her true name; that her age is 39 years; that she is a resident of Prescott, Arizona; that she is of the race; that she is not related to past year.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of January, A. D. 1930  
 Walter A. Williams  
 Clerk Superior Court.  
 Deputy.

# Central theme



What family history mysteries have you come across in your research with the theme of family secrets / hidden pasts?

- Adoption
- Illegitimate children
- Fake identity
- Missing person / artifact / treasure
- Concealed criminal activity – often murder





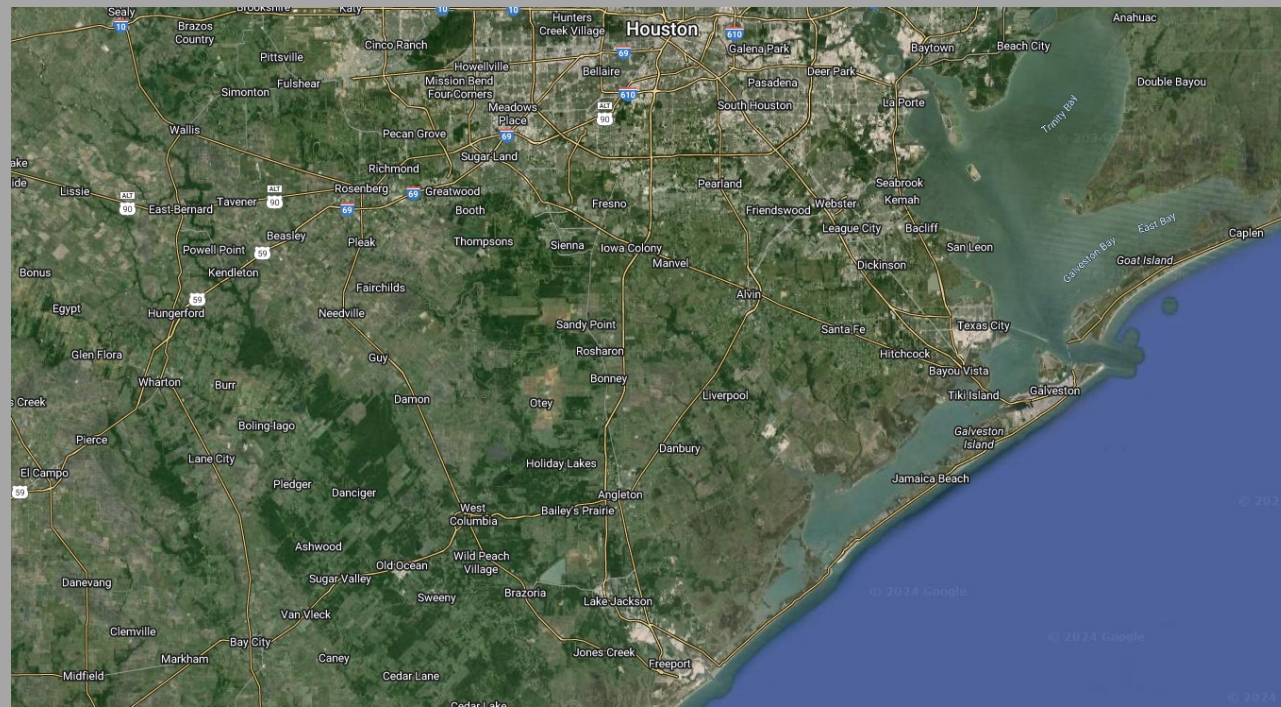
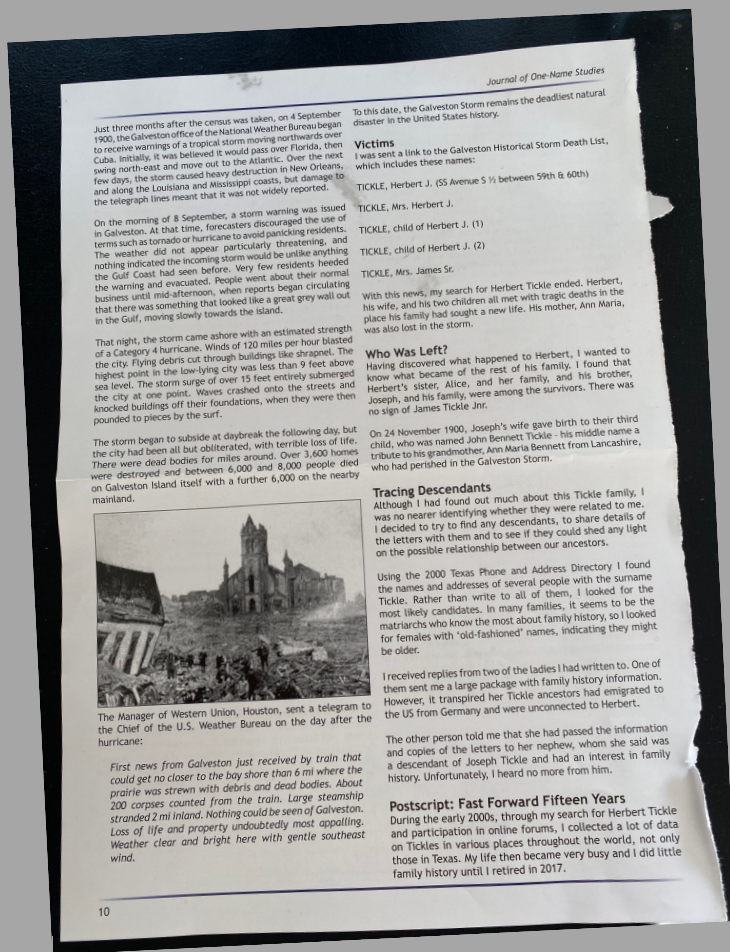
# Finding stories





# Plotting a genealogical crime mystery - Case Study

- The Great Galveston Storm
- Fourth largest city in Texas in 1900 with a population of 37,788.





# Plotting a genealogical crime mystery – Case Study







3198 The path of desolation, wrought by the great storm at Galveston September 8th 1900.



REMOVING DEAD BODIES TO THE BARGES FOR BURIAL AT SEA



New York City, N. S. A.

"Have you seen my children?" Galveston Disaster.

# Plotting a genealogical crime mystery – Case Study



- How would I plot this story?
- Keep it simple and uncomplicated at this stage
- You don't need to know everything!
- Know my 'story world' is Galveston, Texas, USA in September 1900



# Central themes – Family Secrets / Hidden Pasts

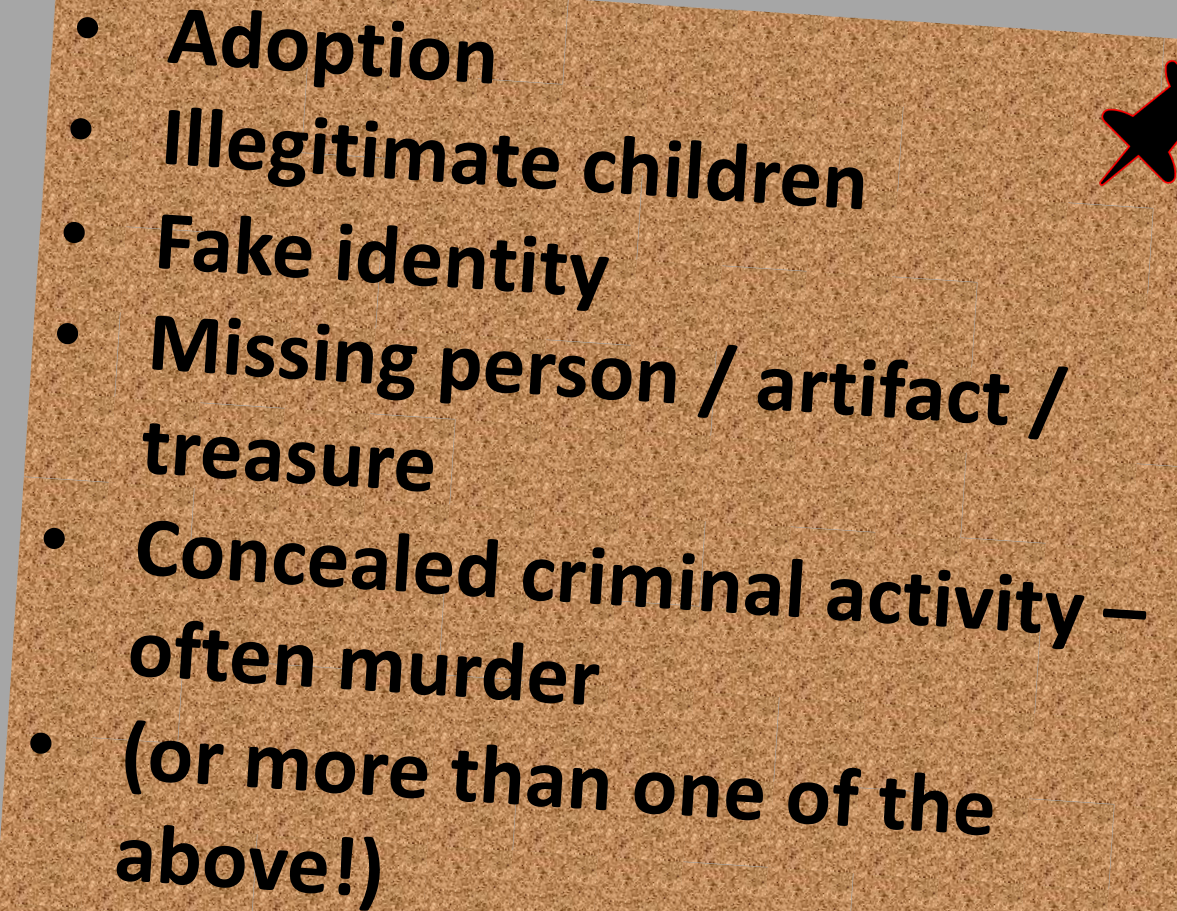
- **Adoption**
- **Illegitimate children**
- **Fake identity**
- **Missing person / artifact / treasure**
- **Concealed criminal activity – often murder**
- **(or more than one of the above!)**



# Individual activity



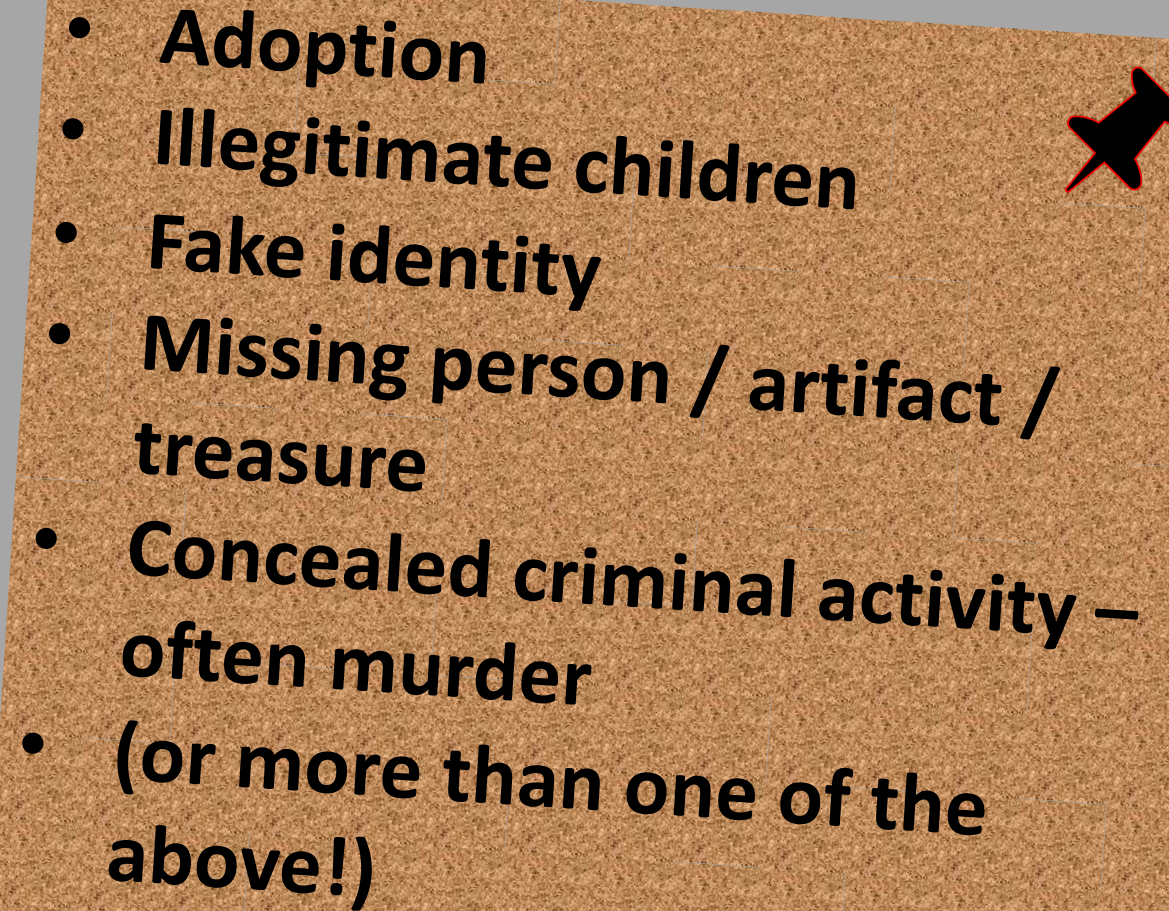
- Choose one theme and jot down some ideas of how this could work in the Galveston Storm story. Keep it brief and don't get bogged down with detail!
- Then choose a different theme and jot down some ideas about this could work in the Galveston Storm story.
- Can you combine any themes?
- *(You won't be forced to share your notes!)*

- 
- **Adoption**
  - **Illegitimate children**
  - **Fake identity**
  - **Missing person / artifact / treasure**
  - **Concealed criminal activity – often murder**
  - **(or more than one of the above!)**

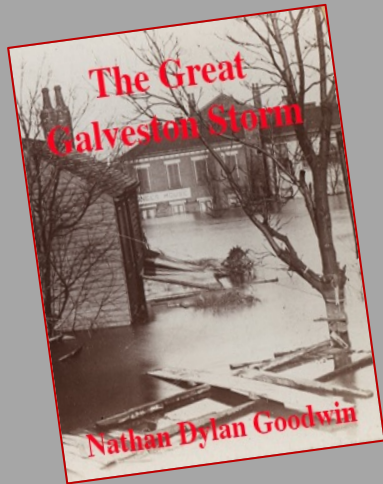


# Individual activity

- What would I do?
- A murder. Possibly someone killed just before storm hit. Body found among the storm victims. Detective suspicious.
- A missing person. Someone disappears that night
- A valuable artefact that goes missing that night – presumed lost to the storm

- 
- **Adoption**
  - **Illegitimate children**
  - **Fake identity**
  - **Missing person / artifact / treasure**
  - **Concealed criminal activity – often murder**
  - **(or more than one of the above!)**

# Basic plot lines

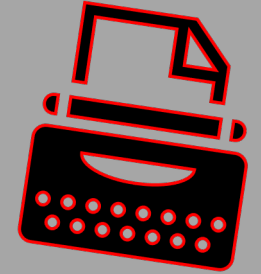


When esteemed forensic genealogist, Morton Farrier is called upon to investigate what happened to a priceless artefact that disappeared on the night of the Great Galveston Storm in 1900, he is drawn into a world of murder, deception and fake identity...

What's next?

**RESEARCH!**

# Assignment



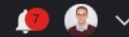
## To write an outline for your own genealogical crime mystery

- Can be entirely fictional, from your own family history research or something found in the archives
- Expand on your central theme(s). Who was murdered? Why? What was the missing artefact? Who faked their identity? Why?
- Do some basic research on the 'story world' that allows you to expand on your central themes.
- Try and read some fellow students work and offer construct criticism
- Name your document ***your name week1***

### Things to consider:

- Essential components of the genre
- Central theme (What is the family secret / hidden past?)
- Where / when is your story world?





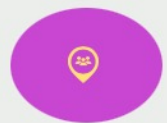
- My Account
- My Subscriptions
- Profile
- Dashboard
- Log Out

# Student Dashboard



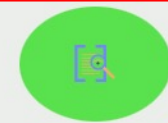
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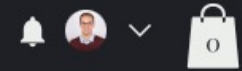
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[Share your work with the group](#)



[Members Chat](#)







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Files & Folders > Week 1 Assignment...

New Folder

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Search "Week 1 Assignment....."

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Click "+ File" to add new files. Once you upload them they'll appear here.

Add File

Members Chat

Any questions?



“You might not write well  
every day, but you can always  
edit a bad page.

You can't edit a blank page.”

- Jodi Picoult

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