

# Connecticut Research

## *Class 3: 19th-Century Research*

Chris Child, Senior Genealogist of the  
Newbury Street Press  
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THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Meet today's presenter



Christopher C. Child  
Senior Genealogist of the  
Newbury Street Press

# OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - History
  - Major Record Sets
  - Common Challenges
  - Research Strategies
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

# Overview

## History

1800-1850

Constitution of 1818

Daughter towns and consolidation

Industrial Revolution

Gradual abolition of Slavery

1850-1897

Civil War

Immigration

## Major Record Sets

Vital and Religious Records

Probate and Land Records

Census and City Directories

Newspaper and Cemetery Records

Military and Pension

Immigration and Naturalization

## Strategies

Family Genealogies

Common Problems

Local Histories

Manuscript Material

Strategies



*Voice of*  
Chris Child  
*Senior Genealogist*

# History, Part One

## 1800-1850

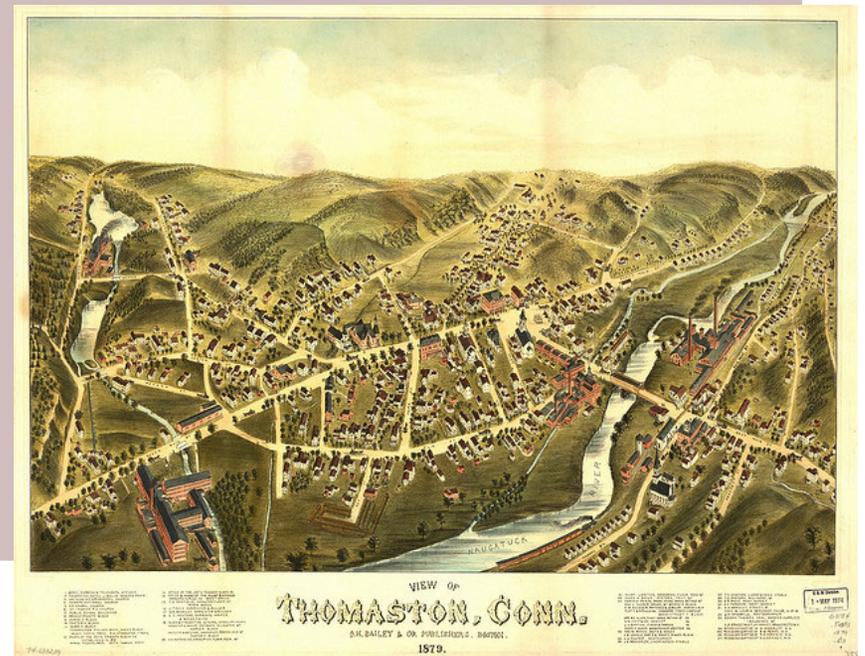
# Disestablishment

- State constitution of 1818 disestablished the Congregational Church and eliminated property ownership for voting
- While the church is still powerful, commerce is driving newer towns and cities



# Thomaston

- 1780 - Ecclesiastical Societies in Waterbury of Northbury and Westbury incorporated as Watertown
- 1805 – Residents east of the Naugatuck River form Plymouth
- 1875 – western portion of Plymouth set off as Thomaston



# Gradual Abolition of Slavery

# Gradual Abolition of Slavery

- 1790 – 2764 enslaved persons (1.16%)
- 1800 – 951 enslaved persons (0.38%)
- 1810 – 310 enslaved persons (0.12%)
- 1820 – 97 enslaved persons (0.04%)
- 1830 – 25 enslaved persons (0.008%)
- 1840 – 8 enslaved persons (0.005%)

# Nancy Toney of Windsor

- Born 1774
- Freed in 1848 by “An Act to Prevent Slavery”
- Died Windsor, Conn., 19 Dec. 1857



# History, Part Two

## 1850-1897

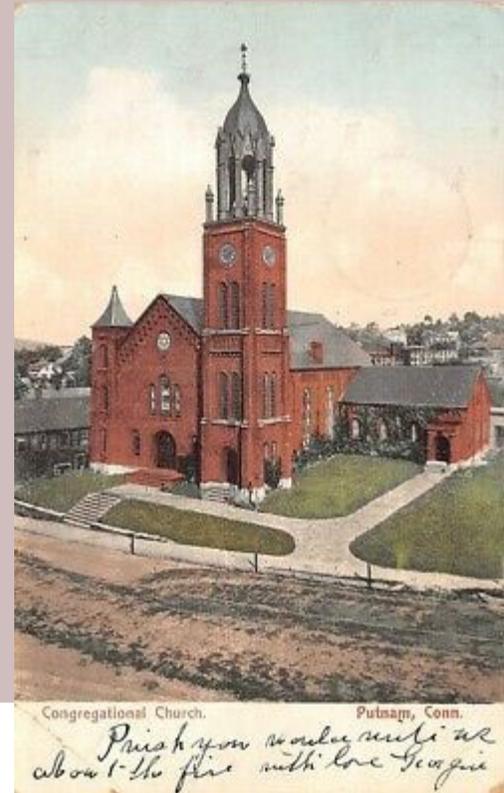
# The rise of mill towns

- Early 19<sup>th</sup> century textile mills
- Consolidation of towns
- Second Industrial Revolution in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century results in greater levels of immigration



# Putnam

- 1708 – Killingly established from “northern Plainfield”
- 1785 – “Thompson Parish” set off as its own town
- 1855 – Putnam created from Killingly, Thompson, and Pomfret (1713)



# Information on Immigration

## Data from the Census

- 1820 – how many foreign-born people “not naturalized” in each household
- 1830 – how many white “foreigners not naturalized” in each household
- 1850 – birthplace is asked for all individuals
- 1870 – “Is the person a male citizen of the United States of 21 years or upwards” asked of all people
- 1890 – naturalization status of foreign-born aged 21 or older

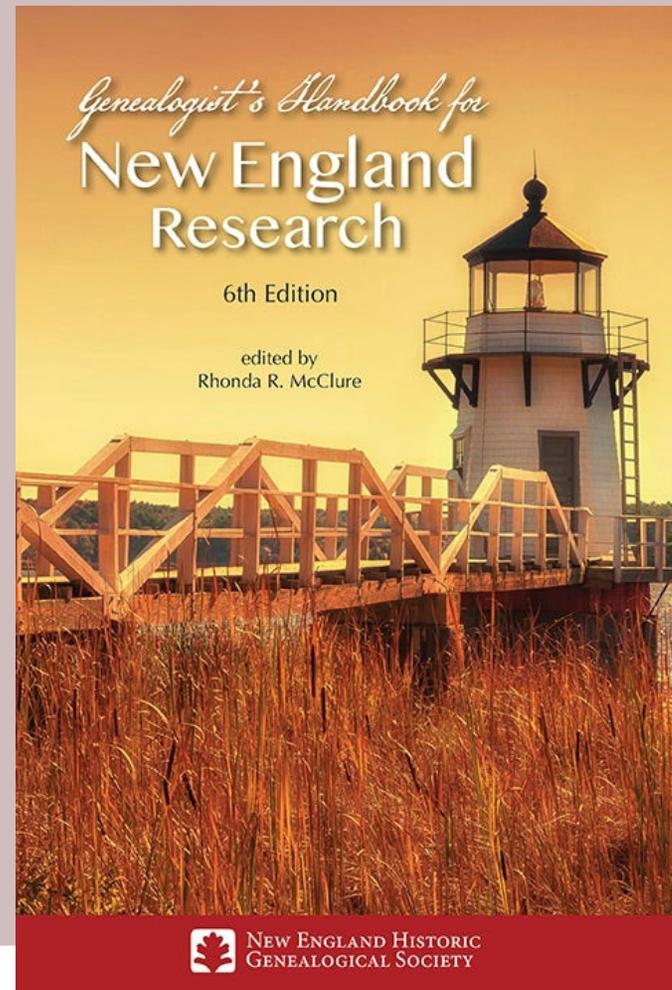
# Census Data Relating to Immigration

- 1820 – 568 foreigners not naturalized (2.5%)
- 1850 – 38,518 foreign born (10.4%)
- 1860 – 80,696 (17.5%)
- 1870 – 113,169 (21.1%)
- 1880 – 129,992 (20.9%)
- 1890 – 183,601 (24.6%)

# Compendia

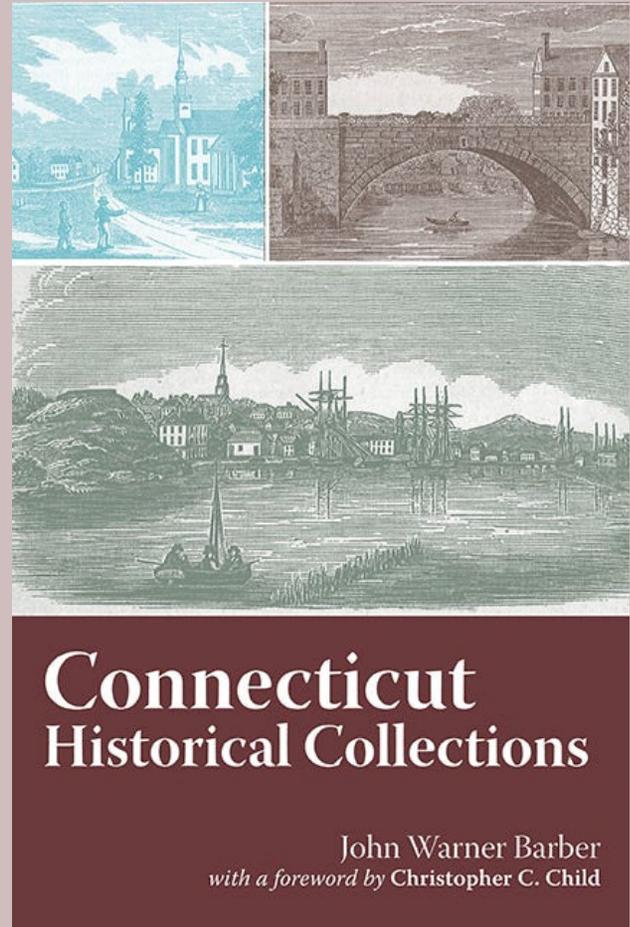
# Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research

- Town and County Lists
- Detailed Maps
- Court Houses
- Library and Archives



# Connecticut Historical Collections

- Snapshot of Conn. through 1830
- Verbatim inscriptions of interesting gravestones
- Viewpoints of the town
- Statistical Tables from 1840 and 1850 census



# New Towns 1838-1856

## P U T N A M ,

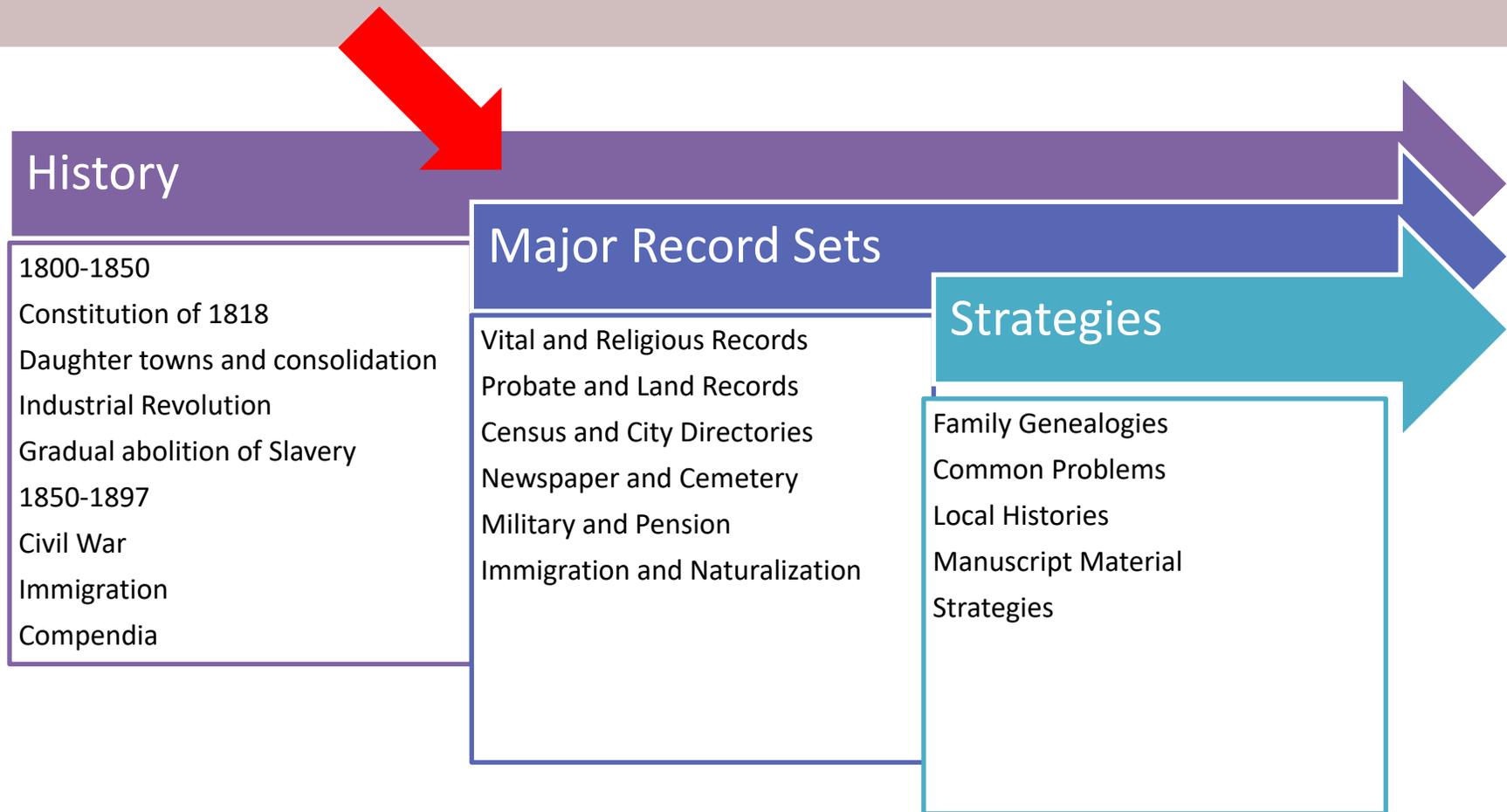
Was incorporated a town in 1855. The township is triangular in shape, being formed from the north part of Killingly, south part of Thompson, and the N. E. section of Pomfret. The village, (formerly called Quinnebaug,) on the line of the Railroad and Quinnebaug River, is 41 miles E. from Hartford, 81 from New Haven, and 10 miles from Brooklyn, the County town. Cargill's grist-mill, the first in the village, was erected about the year 1776. This was repaired by Mr. Wilkinson, in 1816, who first commenced the manufacturing business in the place.

The village now contains 4 cotton mills, 560 looms, manufacturing 5,000,000 yards of cotton goods annually, valued at \$350,000; one woolen mill, one steam machine shop, 10 stores, and 4 shoe manufacturing establishments. Population of the village is estimated at upwards of 1,600, the township at upwards of 2,300.

## B R I D G E W A T E R ,

Was incorporated a town in 1856. It was formed from the south-eastern section of New Milford, formerly called the 'Neck,' and more recently Bridgewater Society.

# Overview



# Vital Records 1800-1897

# Vital Records in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- Still being kept by families
- Record keeping getting a bit a lax

Marriage between Job Williams & Polly White. Solemnized, Oct 2, 1809  
 Mary Williams, Daughter to the above. Born, Oct 5<sup>th</sup> 1810  
 George Hamilton Williams, Son of the above, Born, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1812.  
 Lewis Williams, Son to the above. born, July 12<sup>th</sup> 1815  
 Hannah Williams, daughter to the above. born, June 4<sup>th</sup> 1817.  
 Ederis Williams, son to the above, born, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1820.  
 Caroline Williams daughter to the above, born, Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1823,  
 Elisha Williams, son to the above. born, Aug 18<sup>th</sup> 1826.  
 Marriage between Job Williams, & Sophia S. Herrick. Solemnized, May 10, 1826.

Mrs Polly Williams wife of Job Williams died, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> 1825.  
 Hannah Williams, died, January 12<sup>th</sup> 1819.  
 Mary Williams Storms, daughter to the before named, and wife of  
 Rev John Storms, died at Newfield Conn, Nov 23, 1832.  
 Caroline Williams daughter of Job Williams died, May 5<sup>th</sup> 1843.  
 Dear Job Williams, father of the above children,  
 departed this life in great peace, March 8<sup>th</sup> 1868.

# Changes in Record Keeping 1850s

- Births, along with marriages and deaths, being kept at the time of the event in sequential order
- Additional details about occupations of father, ages, and birthplaces of parents
- Additional information added in later years

# Marriages 1852

#

Record of Marriages in the town of Pomfret

Date	Names	Age	Colour	Occupation	Birth-Place
1852					
November	Samuel Spear	24	White	Mechanic	West Jefferson Ohio
15	May E. Webb	24	White		Plainfield Ct
1853					

from October 1<sup>st</sup> 1852 to December 31, 1853

Residence prior to	Residence after	Month	By whom married	Residence of Clergyman
W. Jefferson Ohio	Norwich Ct	1 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. David Hunt	Pomfret Ct.
Pomfret Ct	Norwich Ct	1 <sup>st</sup>		

# 1849 births

2

Record of Births in the Town of KILLINGLY, 1849.

DATE.		NAME OF CHILD.	SEX.	NAME AND BIRTH-PLACE OF FATHER.	NAME AND BIRTH-PLACE OF MOTHER.	AGE OF	
MONTH.	DAY.					FATHER.	MOTHER.
Dec.	1847	6 <sup>th</sup> Sprague, Henry S.	male	Samuel Stearns Sprague, Killingly, Ct.	Ester Pierce, Northwich, Killingly, Ct.	28	23
Sept.	1849	30 Hannah Blanshard.	female	George Blanshard,	Caroline Blanshard		
1846	July	11 Samuel S. Fairfield.	male	Orlyon Fairfield,	Sophenia Fairfield.		33
1844	Aug	25 Mary & Davis.	female	Charles & Davis.	Mary Davis.		
1843	Dec	12	male	Charles & Davis.	Mary Davis.		

3

Record of Births in the Town of KILLINGLY, 1849.

RESIDENCE OF PARENTS.		COLOR OF		OCCUPATION OF FATHER.	No. of Child of the Mother.	PHYSICIAN OR PERSON CERTIFYING.	REMARKS.
FATHER.	MOTHER.	FATHER.	MOTHER.				
Killingly	Conn	White	White	James	2 <sup>d</sup>	Samuel H. Catlin M.D.	Physician did not return birth report by Henry S. Sprague Dec 18 1849.
Killingly		White	White	carpenter,			
Killingly.		White	White,	carpenter			
Killingly.							

## Is there anything more?

- Single page certificates for vital events (mostly marriages) began in some towns in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Most relevant genealogical information from these certificates is stated in the index books available at Town Halls
- Main item often omitted is place of marriage.

# Tip

If any FamilySearch Microfilm has births less than 100 years old, it cannot be made digitally available

# Woodstock Vital Records, vols. 1-5

## Subjects

### Locality Subjects

[United States, Connecticut, Windham, Woodstock - Vital records](#)

[United States, Connecticut, Windham, Woodstock - Town records](#)

## Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Births, marriages, deaths v. 1-4 1686-1867	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1376372	7730721	 
Births, marriages, deaths v. 5 1867-1929	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1376373	7730731	 

# Divorce Records

- Original Divorce Records at Conn. State Library
- New London, Tolland, and Windham Counties, Indexed 1719-1910
- Hartford Counties Indexed 1740-1849
- Litchfield Counties Indexed 1752-1922
- New London County on FamilySearch 1719-1875

# Divorce Index

**PEABODY**  
William of Stonington m. 16 May 1784 Rebeckah Brown of Stonington  
- adultery - appl. Stonington 7 Sept. 1791 - granted.

# Divorce Records on FamilySearch

## Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

 [PRINT](#)  [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

[Notes](#) ▼

New London County was created in 1666 (original county)

Part of [United States, Connecticut](#)

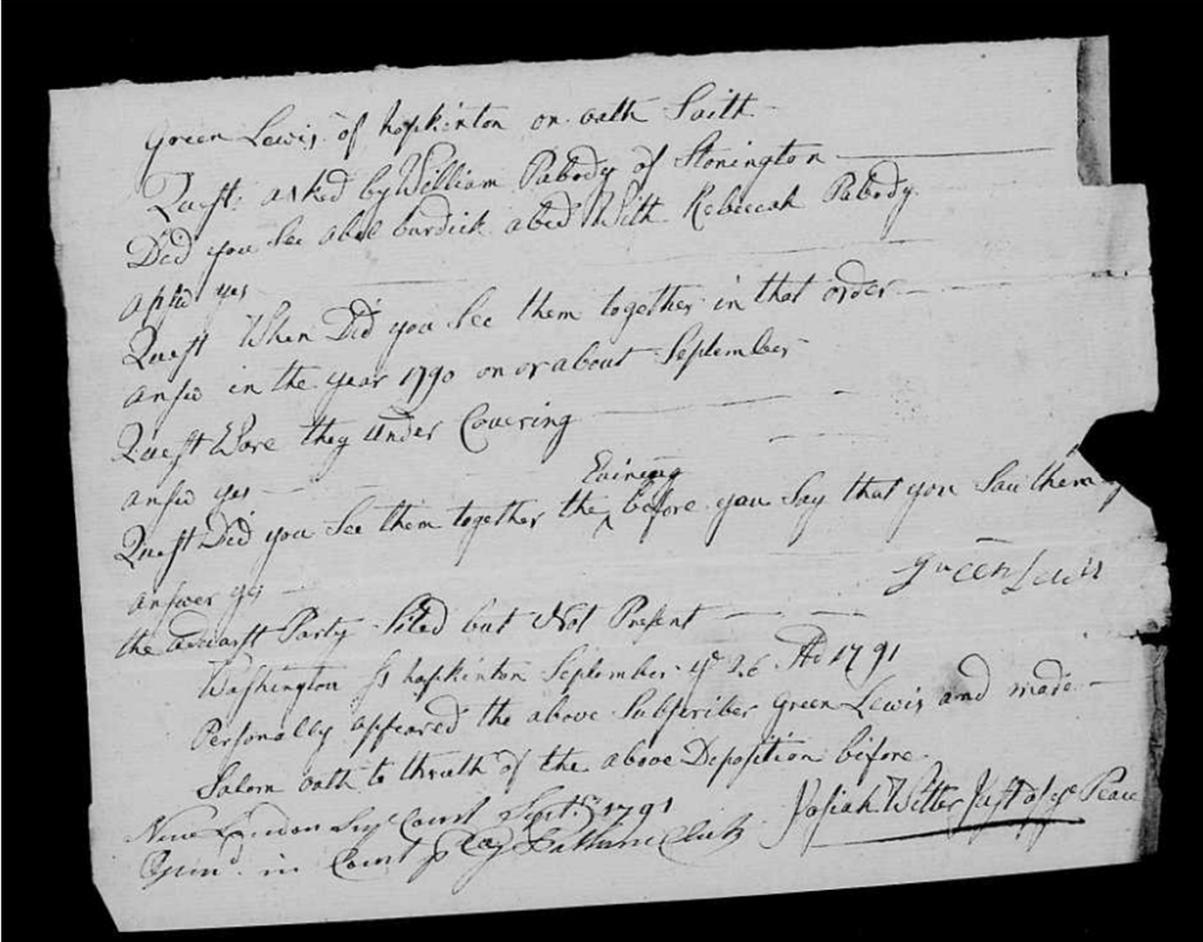
[Places within United States, Connecticut, New London](#) ▶

- ▶ [United States, Connecticut, New London - Biography \( 11 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Connecticut, New London - Business records and commerce \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Connecticut, New London - Cemeteries \( 3 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Connecticut, New London - Census - 1800 - Indexes \( 1 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Connecticut, New London - Church history \( 3 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Connecticut, New London - Church records \( 36 \)](#)
- ▼ **[United States, Connecticut, New London - Court records \( 3 \)](#)**

[Print List](#)

<a href="#">Connecticut divorces : Superior Court records for the counties of New London, Tolland &amp; Windham, 1719-1910</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
Author: Knox, Grace Louise; Ferris, Barbara B.	
<a href="#">Divorce papers, 1719-1875</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
Author: Connecticut. Superior Court (New London County)	
<a href="#">Records of trials, 1661-1700, in the county court of New London County, Connecticut</a>	<a href="#">Add</a>
Author: Connecticut. County Court (New London)	

# Witness Testimony



Green Lewis of Hopkinton or with Smith  
Quest: asked by William Pebody of Stonington  
Did you see Abel Cardick and with Rebecca Pebody  
answ: yes  
Quest: When did you see them together in that order  
answ: in the year 1790 on or about September  
Quest: Were they under Coercing  
answ: yes  
Quest: Did you see them together <sup>during</sup> before you say that you saw them  
answ: yes  
the Aircraft Party - filed but Not Present  
Washington of Hopkinton September 4<sup>th</sup> 1791  
Personally appeared the above Subscriber Green Lewis and more  
Salomon with to thrath of the above Deposition before  
New London by Court Sept. 1791  
Green in Court of Judge Salsman Clerk Josiah Water Just of Peace

# Religious Records

# Shift in Congregations

- With the disestablishment of the Congregational Church, many more places of worship are erected, especially Catholic congregations after significant Irish immigration, and later immigration from Quebec, Italy, Poland, etc.
- Many religious records are at the Connecticut State Library and Catholic Archives
- Faiths besides Congregational and Catholic have less indexes

# Census Records

# Census Records

- 1790-1840 – head of household only, and “tick marks”
- 1850-1870 – all individuals recorded
- 1880 forward – relationships between individuals

# Absence of Native Americans 1860 – 3 Indians?

INDIAN.

1	New Haven .....	1	1	2	1												
2	Tolland .....																
3	Windham .....			1		1	1		1								
	Total .....	1	1	1	2	2	1	1					1	1	1		



# African & Native Resources

- Records of Godfrey Malbone, Brooklyn slaveholder
- Earle Report of 1861
- Quinnips website of Thomas Doughton (archived)
- *Full Circle* by Marcella Houle Pasay
- Court Records
- Warnings Out
- Apprenticeships
- *Family Secrets* also by Pasay



# City Directories

# City Directories

- Hartford – 1799
- New Haven – 1840
- New London - 1855

150

CITY DIRECTORY.

Smith, John, carriage painter, h 23 Wallace  
 Smith, John, hostler, h 34 Broadway  
 Smith, John, laborer, 7 Rose  
 Smith, Joseph, meat market, Sanford's B., h 132 Church  
 Smith, Joseph A., sexton Trinity Church, h 39 Crown  
 Smith, Kelley, house mover, h 48 Greene  
 Smith, Laban, Park Place, near Morocco  
 Smith, Lewis T., marble cutter, h 8 Grove c High  
 Smith, Laurin S., tailor, h 28 Bradley  
 Smith, Lyman M., cabinet maker, h 20 Washington  
 Smith, Matthew, (Ives & S.,) h 3 Crown  
 Smith, Marvin, melodeon maker, h 151 State  
 Smith, Michael, gardener, h Mt. Pleasant House  
 Smith, Michael, 171 George  
 Smith, Michael, laborer, 60 Wallace  
 Smith, Michael, carman, h 7 Rose  
 Smith, Nathaniel, livery stable rear 85 Chapel, h 87 Orange  
 Smith, Peter A., prof. of music, h 190 Chapel  
 Smith, Philip, carman, bds 20 East Water  
 Smith, Philip, 2d, laborer, Hillhouse Av.  
 Smith, Philo, farmer, h upper end of Ashmun  
 Smith, R. A., brakeman H. & N. H. R. R., h 31 Chestnut  
 Smith, Ralph, carriage maker, h 33 St. John  
 Smith, Richard, carriage smith, Dixwell c Webster  
 Smith, Riley, meat market 31, h 33 Union  
 Smith, Robert, 62 Church  
 Smith, Robert F., book binder, bds 48 Greene  
 Smith, Samuel B., (J. T. Mix & Co.,) bds City Hotel  
 Smith, Samuel B., joiner, h 50 East  
 Smith, Samuel L., (Riggs & S.,) bds 1 St. John Place  
 Smith, Samuel M., cabinet maker, h 68 Greene  
 Smith, Sherman, (S. & Barnes,) h 8 Chapel  
 Smith, Sherman, clock face manufac., c Hamilton and St. John h 18 Maple  
 Smith, Stiles, joiner, rooms 10 Exchange, bds Bishop's Hotel  
 Smith, Sylvester, clerk 105, bds 102 George  
 Smith, Terence, 28 Union  
 Smith, Thomas, laborer, bds 20 East Water  
 Smith, Thomas L., joiner, h 37 St. John  
 Smith, W. W., machinist, bds City Hotel

# City Directory Collections

- Ancestry – U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995
- FamilySearch – (town by town)
- Connecticut State Library – (town by town)
- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Town Public Libraries

# Passenger Lists

# Mostly to New York or Boston, but also Conn.

Report of sixteen Passengers on board Schooner Catharine of which  
 Mrs Bradley is Master, Arrived at the port of Fairfield in the State  
 of Connecticut on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of Aug<sup>r</sup> 1822

Names	Age	Place of Nativity	Country from they came	To what Nation they belong	Occupation	Description of Persons
Jared S. Wheeler	25	Connecticut				
Michael Bryson	26	Ireland	Ireland	American		Sight
Asst. M <sup>r</sup> Daniel	20	Do	Do	England	Wearer	Do
Isaac Law	57	Do	Do	Do	Boatman	Do
Isaac Law jr	15	Do	Do	Do	Boatman	
John Lesmit	32	Do	Do	Do	Boatman	
Dennis McCarty	28	Do	Do	Do	Boatman	"
John Bradley	28	Do	Do	Do	Wearer	"
Jam <sup>s</sup> Lacey	31	Do	Do	Do	Boatman	"
John Smith	31	England	England	Do	Do	
Wm <sup>th</sup> Hathington	28	Do	Do	Do	Do	
Margaret M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup>	74	Ireland	Ireland			
John M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup>	22	Do	Do			
M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup>	21	Do	Do			
Asst. M <sup>r</sup> M <sup>r</sup>	24	Do	Do			
Mary Jane Law	28	Do	Do			
Lydia Law	17	Do	Do			

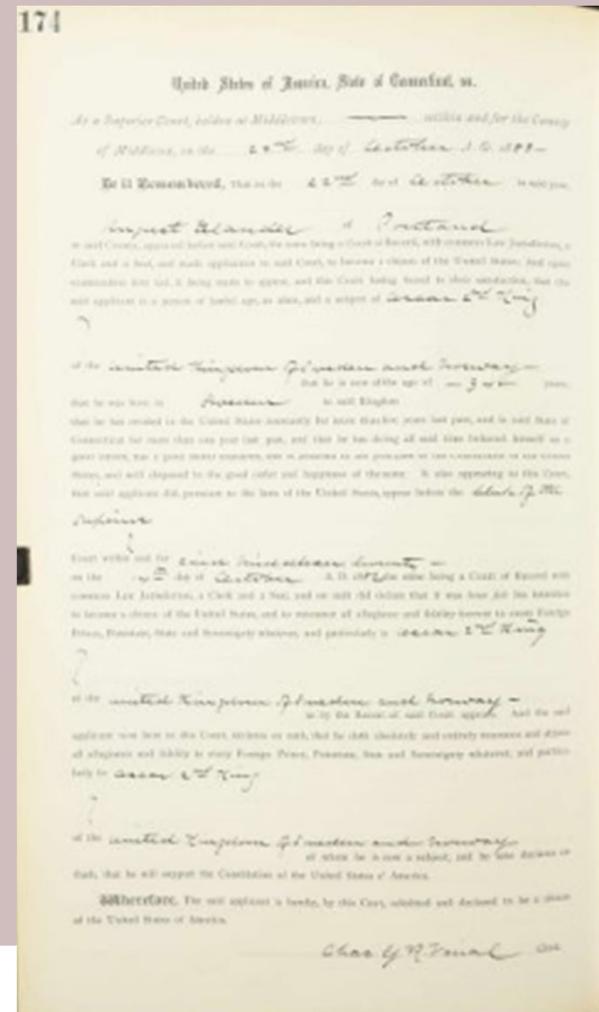
# Immigration Records

# Naturalization and Declarations of Intent

- First Record – Intending to be a citizen
- Second Record Naturalization
- Unfortunately, often minimally detailed

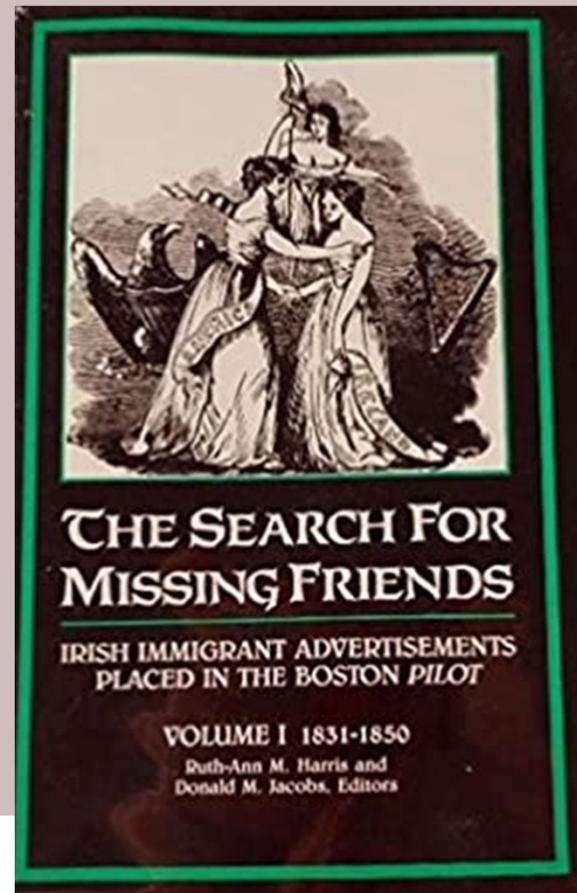
# Naturalization Records

- Former allegiance
- Year of immigration
- Witness (for declaration of intent)



# Other Ways of Finding Origins

- Usually specific to country of origin
- *Search for Missing Friends*



# Search for Missing Friends

MARY CUNNINGHAM, lately arrived at New Haven, from Carrickonellan, county Sligo, wants the address of her brother, John Cunningham; he is supposed to be a resident of New Orleans, La. Please address her, care of Thomas McGowan, Healy's Block, Congress Avenue, New Haven, Conn.

OF THOMAS A., and WILLIAM H. FENNING; Thomas was born at Salisbury, Conn., Aug. 6, 1850, and left Hartford, Conn., November, 1884; William was also born at Salisbury, Conn., March 10, 1853, and left Lime Rock, Conn., in the summer of 1885. Thomas has been heard from in the West; William has never been heard from. Any one knowing of them will please address their brother, Edw. S. Fenning, Hartford, Conn.; or John F. Conroy, 167 Main Street.

28 October 1892

*MISSING FRIENDS*

# Jennie (Nelson) Sheldon

- Born Sweden, 1879
- Immigrated 1882 with parents and siblings
- Married Fred Sheldon in 1896 (of New England Yankee ancestry)
- While father John Nelson claims in 1910 he was naturalized, no naturalization record has been found (and name is quite common)

# Swedish Emigrant Records

## Jenny Ottilia Ellen Johannesdotter Nilsson

in the Sweden, Emigrants Registered in Church Books, 1783-1991

Detail	Source
Name: Jenny Ottilia Ellen Johannesdotter Nilsson	
Gender: Kvinna (Female)	
Birth Date: 7 Nov 1879	
Birth Place: Jönköping, Gällaryd	
Departure Date: 6 Feb 1882	
Departure Place: Jönköping, Gällaryd	
Arrival Place: Nordamerika	
Marital Status: Unmarried (Single)	
Notes: Travels with family	
Original Page: 115	

**Household Members**

- Nils Viktor Johannesson Nilsson
- Frans Alfred Johannesson Nilsson
- Johanna Elisa Johannesdotter Nilsson
- Ida Maria Johannesdotter Nilsson
- Jenny Ottilia Ellen Johannesdotter Nilsson**
- Johannes Nilsson
- Kristina Petersdotter

**Suggested Re**

- 1930 United St  
Jennie T Sheld
- 1920 United St  
Jennie J Sheld
- 1910 United St  
Jennie T Sheld
- U.S., Social Sec  
Index, 1936-200  
Jenny T Nelson
- Sweden, Index  
Jenny Ottilia El
- 1900 United St  
Jennie T Sheld
- U.S., Obituary  
Jennie Sheldor
- U.S., Find a Gr  
Jennie Ottilia E
- Massachusetts  
1915  
Jennie T E Nels
- 1940 United St  
Jerne T Sheldo

# Tip

Cast a wide net. Use  
20th- century records for  
finding 19th-century origins



# QUESTIONS?

# Probate Records

Local Government   Pictorial Collections   Record Groups   State Government

Probate Court   Manuscript Collections   Genealogical Collections

Early General Records

## Probate Court Finding Aids Index

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G](#) | [H](#) | [I](#) | [J](#) | [K](#) | [L](#) | [M](#) | [N](#) | [O](#) | [P](#) | [Q](#) | [R](#) | [S](#) | [T](#) | [U](#) | [V](#) | [W](#) | [X](#) | [Y](#) | [Z](#)

Unlike other New England states, where there is usually one probate court per county, often located in the county seat, the probate courts in Connecticut historically have served a much smaller geographic area. Researchers should consult our [Probate Records](#) guide for more information about the Connecticut probate court system and the types of probate court records held by the State Library.

### A

[Andover Probate Court, 1787-1946 \(RG 004:001\)](#)

[Ansonia](#)

[Ashford Probate Court 1865-1944 \(RG 004:003\)](#)

[Avon Probate Court 1844-1905 \(RG 004:004\)](#)

### B

[Barkhamsted Probate Court, 1825-1977 \(RG 004:005\)](#)

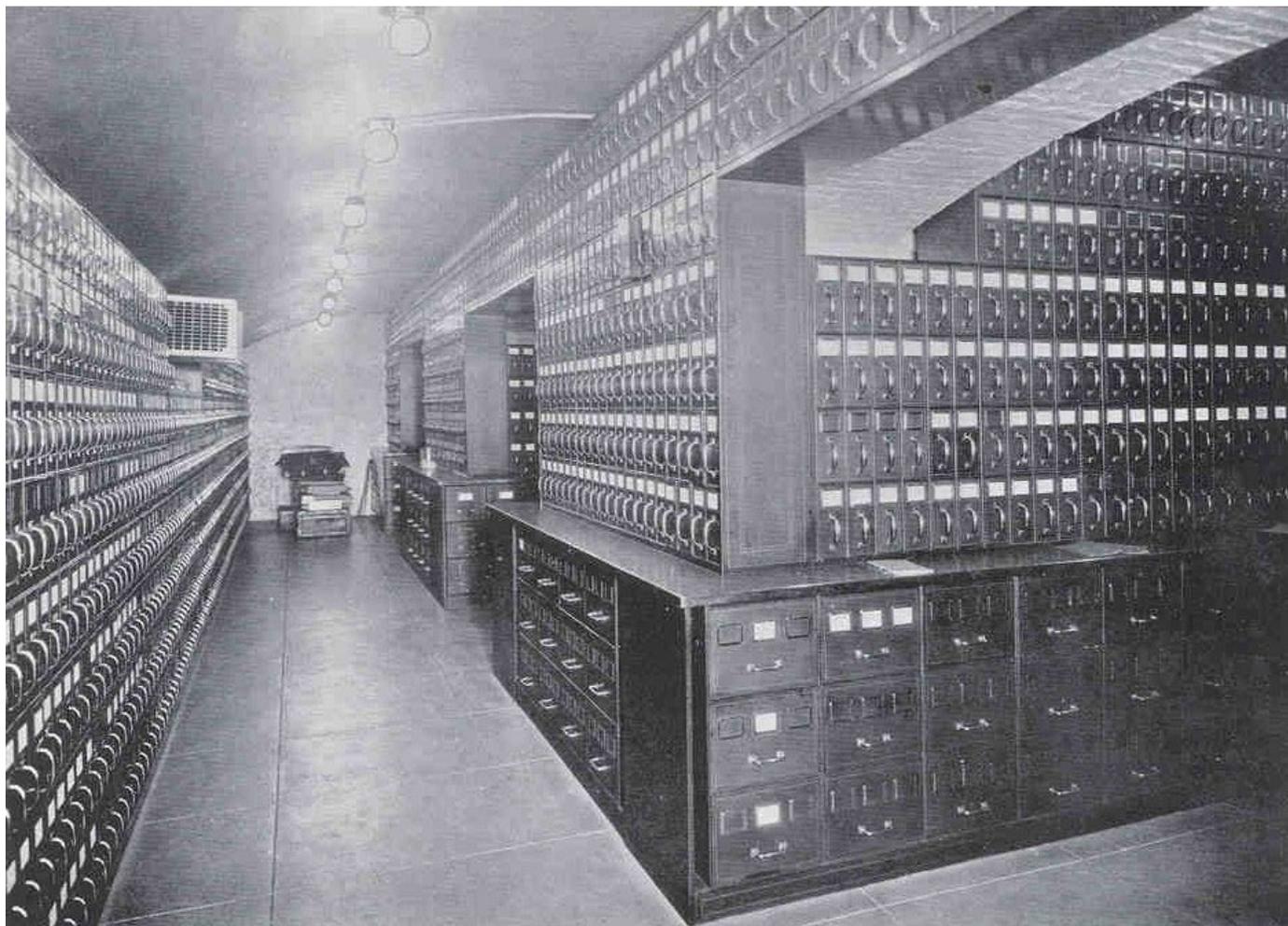
[Beacon Falls](#)

[Berlin](#)



<https://ctstatelibrary.org/archives-finding-aids/>

# Connecticut Probate 1641-1948



# Locating Probate Records

- Connecticut State Library: books and loose papers
- Ancestry.com: “Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999”

Estate of Child, Asa T.

Attached Deceased	Incompetent Insane	Insolvent Minor	Trust .....
----------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	----------------

Town Woodstock District Woodstock  
Date 1860 No. 338 Deposited November 6, 1911

..... Wills and Codicils	..... Distributions
<u>1</u> ..... Bonds	<u>1</u> ..... Account of Administration
..... Applications and Petitions	..... Receipts
<u>1</u> ..... Inventories	..... Miscellaneous
..... Orders of Court	..... Total Documents
..... Returns to Court	<u>3</u>

Remarks

-A DEPOSITED IN THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY--PUBLIC ACTS 1906, CHAP. 175

# Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999

 Match all terms exactly

**First & Middle Name(s)**

**Last Name**


	Day	Month	Year	Location
Probate	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="City, County, State, Count"/>
Any Event	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	<input type="text" value="▼"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="City, County, State, Count"/>

**Keyword**


e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▼

**Case Number**


[Clear search](#)

## Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

**County**

**Notes**

## Related data collections

[U.S. Wills and Probates](#)

U.S. Wills and Probates

[Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index, 1650-1934](#)

This database is an index containing details from Connecticut death and burial records.

[Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2012](#)

## Source Information

# Ancestry.com

# 1609?

Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999 for William Chatterton

New Haven > Probate Records, Vol 3-4, 1703-1719

1<sup>st</sup> of January 1699: or 1700      172 167

I William Chatterton being at this time in health of Body, of good and perfect memory thanks be to Almighty God, but Calmy to mind of uncertaine estate of this life & of Certainty of death when it shall please God to Call, I do make, constitute, ordain & declare this my last will & testament in maner and forme following, revoking and Annulling by these & only all and every testament and Testaments will or willys heretofore made by me and declared either by word or by writings, and this to be my last will and Testament and none other, And first begging of God that he would please to forgive all my sins and accept of my person through the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. I give and Commit my Soule unto Almighty God my Saviour and deare redemer, for whose sake I humbly hope a glorious Resurrection, and my body decently to be buried in the dust and for the settling my Temporall Estate and such goods Chattels and Debts as it hath pleased God to bestow upon me, I do order Give & bestow of same in maner following. — First that all my Just debts be truly in convenient time paid after my decease by my Executor. — Item I Give and bequeath to my deare and loving wife all the thirds of my real and personall estate, but if any of her thirds shall be left at her death it

# 1999?

## Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999 for Eliza D Sheldon

New Haven > Probate Records, Vol 10, 12, 15, 19, 1896-1906

issue. him or her surviving then the said property is to be divided between the surviving child or children share and share alike.

Doubt I nominate and appoint my said beloved son Albert Sheldon to be the Executor of this my Will and I request that he be Exempt from furnishing a surety or sureties upon his official bond as such Executor In Testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand in the presence of three witnesses declare this to be my last Will this twentieth day of November A.D. 1999

Eliza D. Sheldon

On this twentieth day of November 1899 Eliza D Sheldon of Naugatuck Connecticut signed the foregoing instrument in our presence declaring it to be her last Will and as Witnesses thereof we there do now at her request, in her presence and

# Probate Chronology

## *Example: Woodstock*

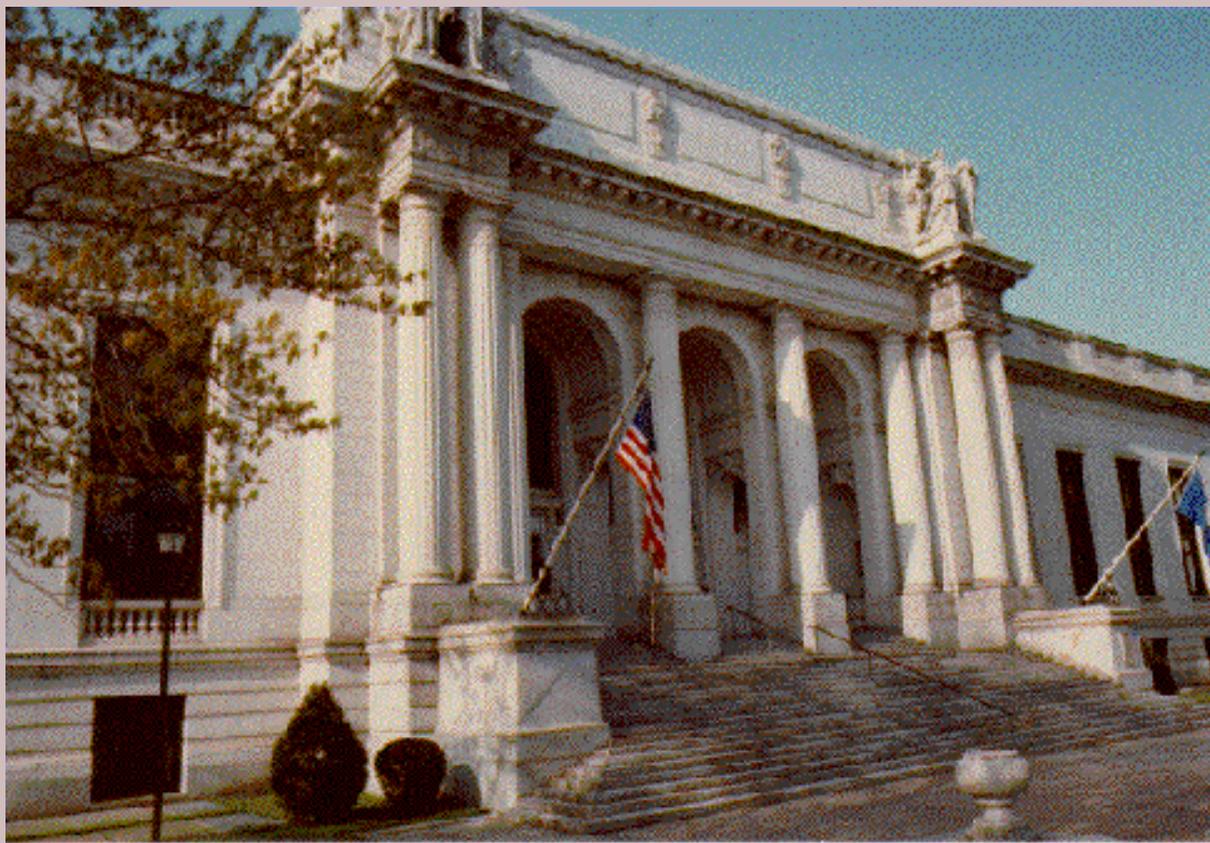
- 1686-1731, Suffolk County, Massachusetts
- 1731-1749, Worcester County, Massachusetts
- 1749-1752, Windham District
- 1752-1831, Pomfret District
- 1831-2011, Woodstock District
- 2011 - present, Northeast Probate District

# Last Resort

- “Connecticut Archives” books:
  - Estates of Deceased Persons, 1640-1820
  - Estates of Incompetent Persons, 1711-1820
  - Estates of Minors, 1715-1820

# Land Records

# Connecticut Deeds to 1900



# Land Records

- Grantor can mention how he acquired the land
- Can sign his name with his wife
- Narrows down the chronology
- Land description can be compared to other deeds
- Provides clues:
  - Where someone lived and when
  - Origins and family migrations
  - Prove family relationships

To all Christian People to whom these Presents may Come giving Knowledge  
I Abner Huston of Exeter in the County of New Hampshire in New England for in Consideration of a Sum of Thirty Pounds Current Money of New England to be paid to me the said Abner Huston by Moses Huston of Stratham in the County of Hillsborough in the Province of New Hampshire and my self thereto fully satisfied Contented and I have & do by these Presents fully fully & absolutely Give & Assign & Surrender up the whole & full Right & Title unto Twenty Acres of Land w<sup>ch</sup> was allowed me by a Committee of attested or Proprietors of Town Land in Exeter unto me the said Moses Huston his Heirs & Assigns forever & if the said Huston his Heirs & Assigns shall & may from time to time & at all times forever hereafter Have Hold Use Occupy Possess & Enjoy of & Twenty Acres of Land w<sup>ch</sup> all the Privileges & Appurtenances to it in any ways thereto appertaining without of Least Let Hindrance or Interruption of me the said Abner Huston my Heirs or Assigns or any other Person whatsoever Laying any Legal Claim to the same by or under any Pretence wherof the said Abner Huston have got to my hand & Seal this Eighteenth day of September in the Year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred & Forty Four  
Signed sealed & Del<sup>d</sup> in the Presence of us  
Nathan Pillsbury & John Hutchinson } Abner Huston (Seal)  
Provind

# Tip

You ancestor did not need to  
reside in a community to  
own land there.

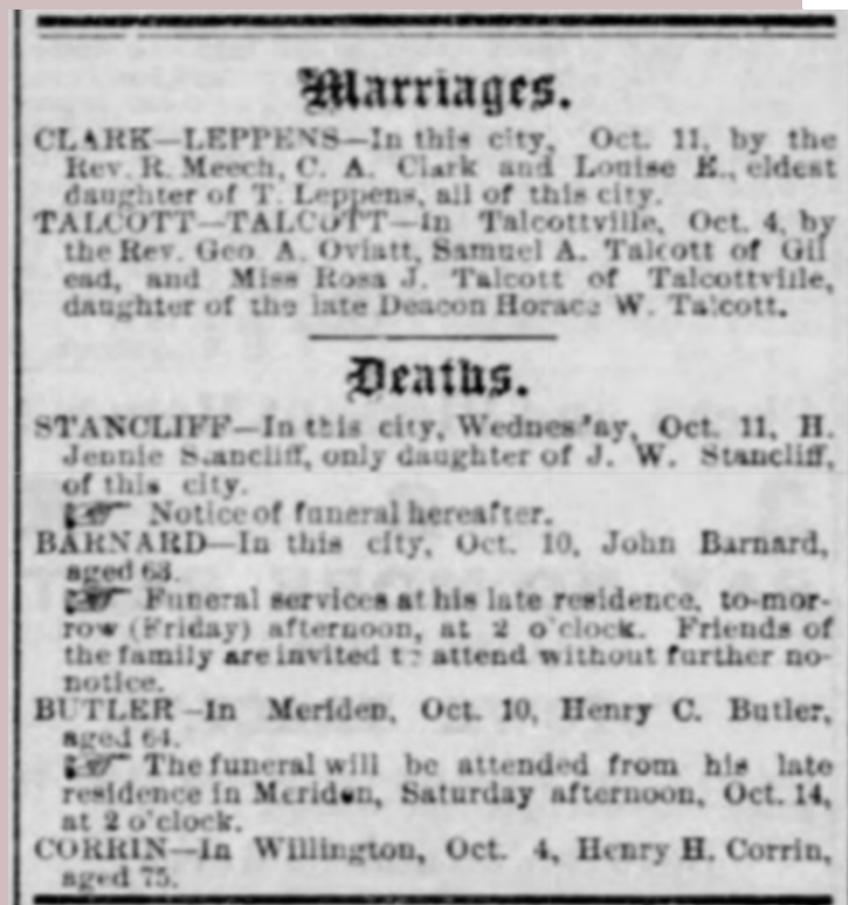
# Tip

Remember not all deeds were recorded at the date of the sale.

# Newspaper and Cemetery Resources

# Key Newspaper Sources

- Charles R. Hale Collection
- GenealogyBank
- Newspapers.com
- Connecticut State Library / Local Libraries and related websites

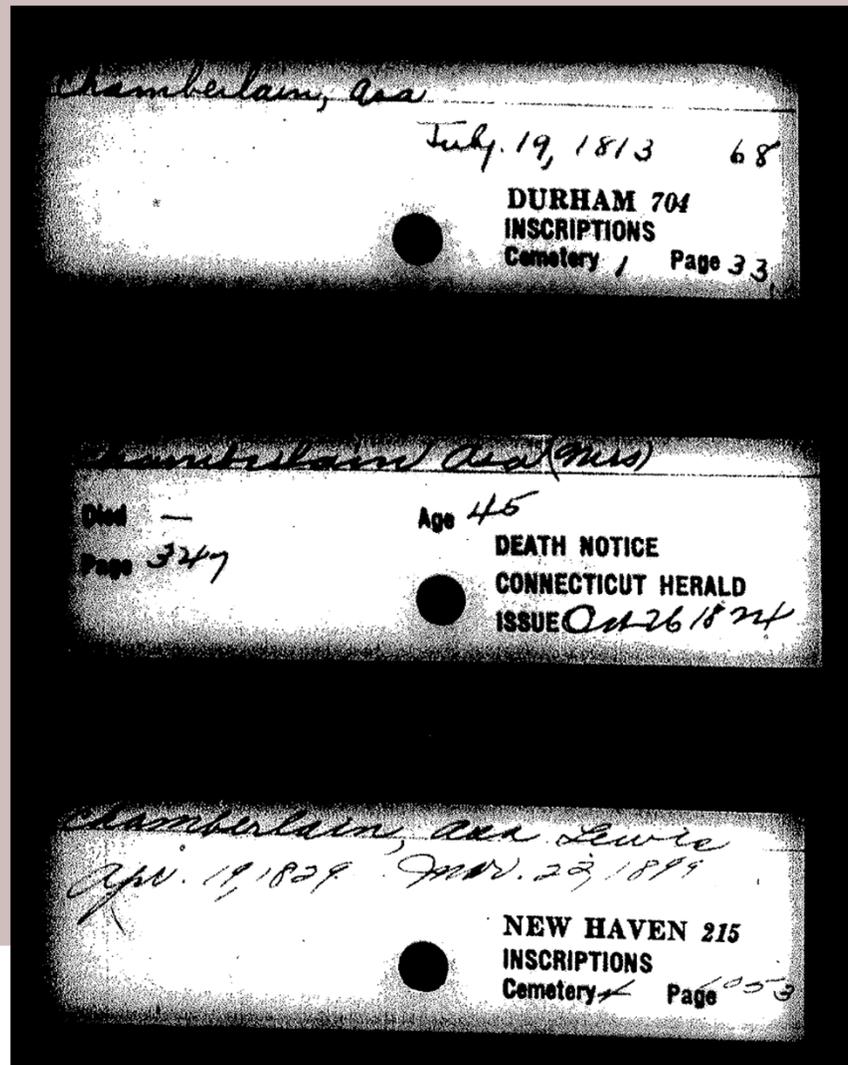


# Charles R. Hale Collection

- Cemeteries: W.P.A. Project 1932-1935
- Gravestone inscriptions from 2,269 cemeteries
- Newspaper Project 1937-1941
- Newspapers, 1755-1866
- Danbury Times to 1900



# Connecticut Hale Collections – “Deaths & Inscriptions & Marriage Announcements”



## Connecticut Hale Collections – “Deaths & Inscriptions & Marriage Announcements”

### *Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index*

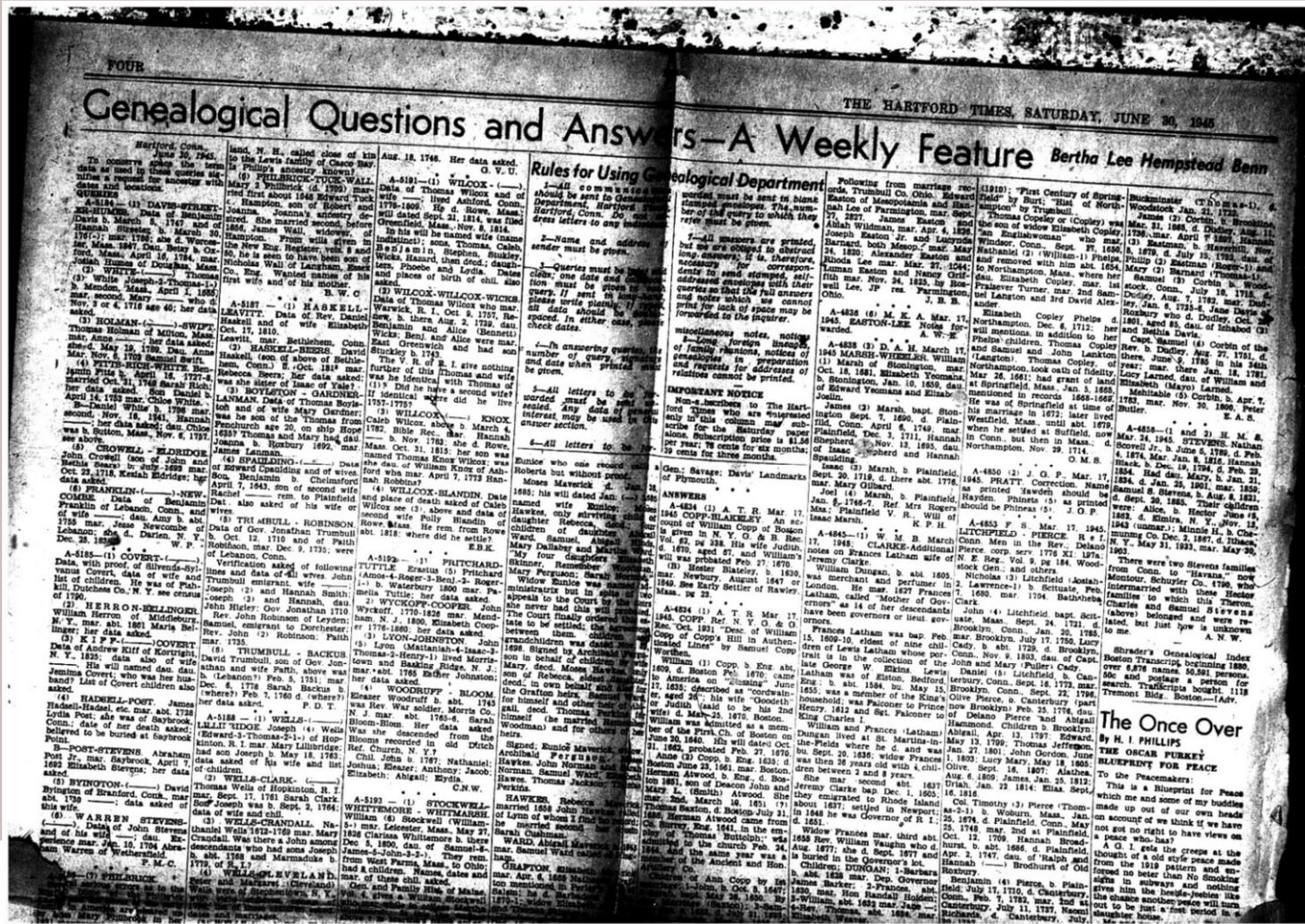
<b>Name:</b>	Sarah Latimer
<b>Birth Date:</b>	abt 1765
<b>Age at Death:</b>	88
<b>Death Date:</b>	26 Apr 1853
<b>Death Place:</b>	New London, Connecticut
<b>Gender:</b>	Female
<b>FHL Film Number:</b>	3246

# Connecticut Hale Collections – “Deaths & Inscriptions & Marriage Announcements”

Lee, Sarah	<u>MAY 19, 1853</u> Carlton	Widow of Dan, former- ly widow of Walter H. Good and dau. of Henry Latimer	Apr. 26	88
Paulison, Richena	New York	Child of Richard & Ellen	May 7	4

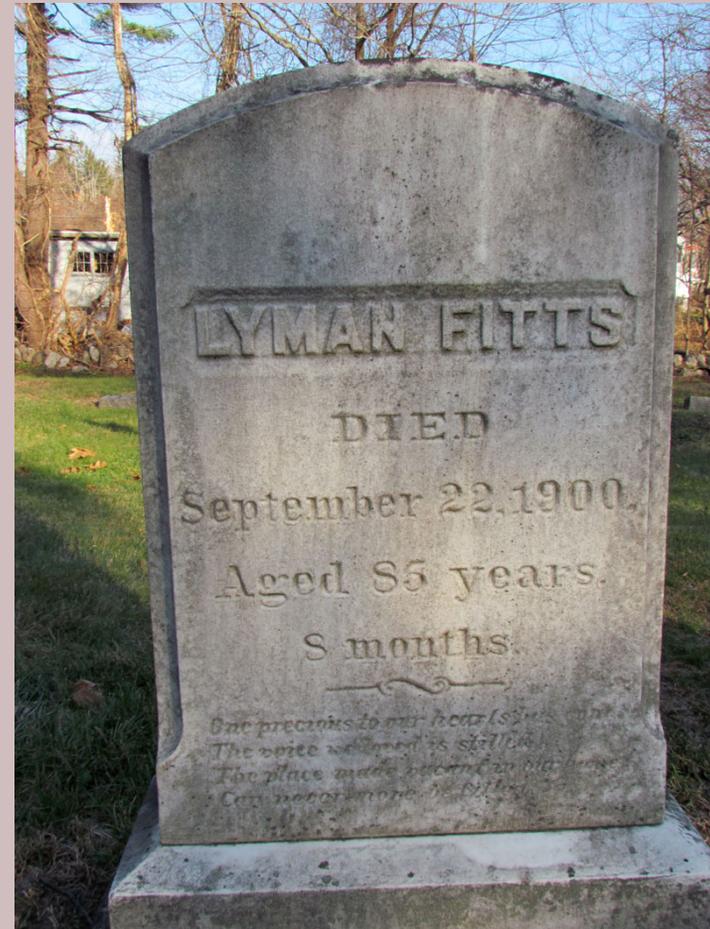
MAY 26 1853

# Other Newspapers of Genealogical Interest, The Hartford Times, 1918-1967



# Other Cemetery Resources

- Manuscript and Published Inscriptions
- FindaGrave
- BillionGraves
- Interment



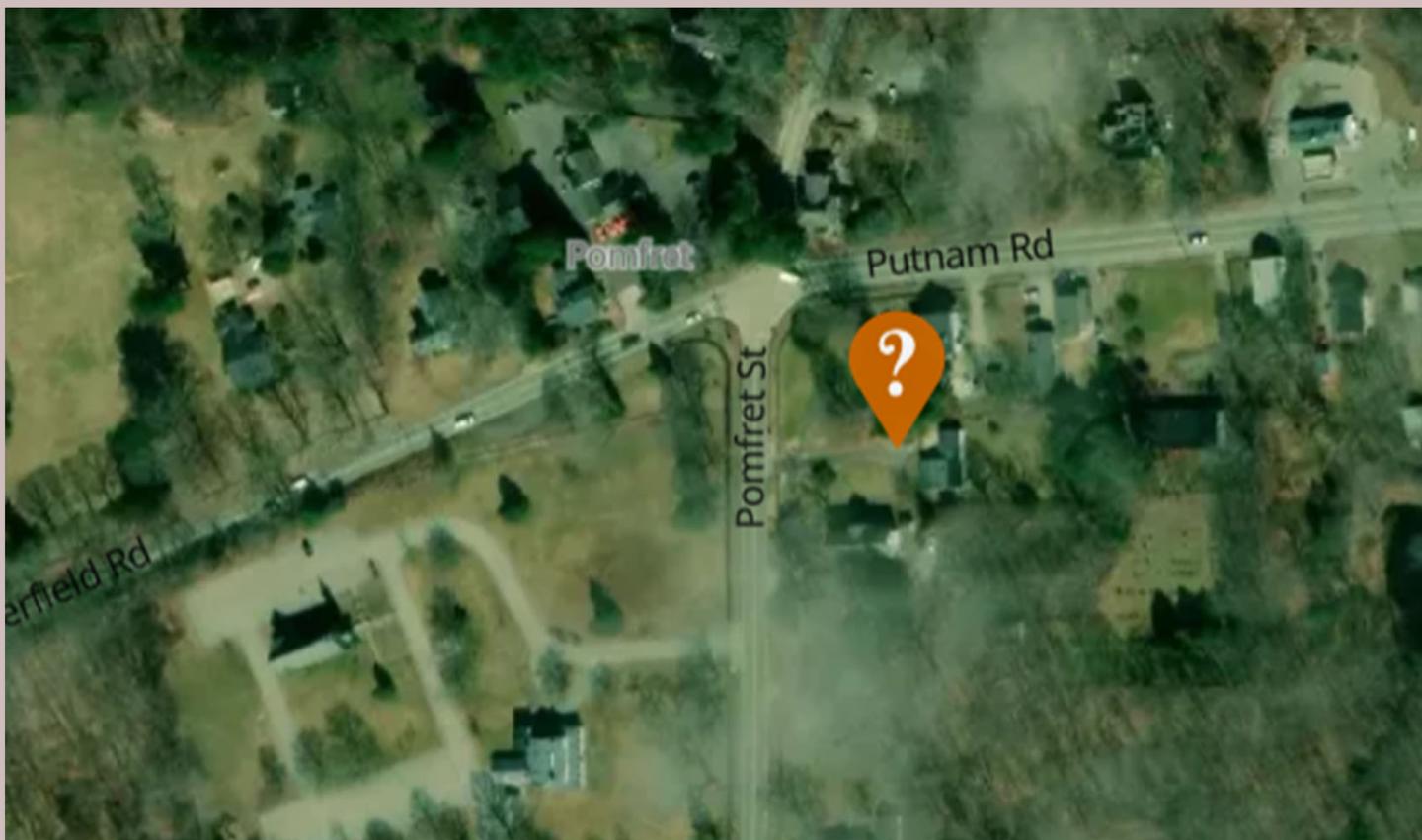
# Finding Cemeteries



# See the sign?



# Just East of Pomfret Street



# Military Records

# Pension Records

- Revolutionary War
- War of 1812
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War
- Indian Wars, 1817-1898

NAME OF SOLDIER: <i>Child, George W.</i> (3-II-3)				
NAME OF DEPENDENT: <i>Widow, Child, M. Agnes</i>				
SERVICE: <i>G. 26 Conn. Inf.</i>				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.
<i>1887 Sept. 28</i>	<i>Invalid.</i>	<i>731027</i>	<i>4855-94</i>	<i>Conn.</i>
<i>1909 Oct. 29</i>	<i>Widow,</i>	<i>929602</i>	<i>692220</i>	<i>Conn.</i>
	<i>Minor,</i>			
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS: <i>M.H. 1/45</i>				

# Revolutionary War Pension of Joseph Tourtellotte

Abraham Tourtellotte Born Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 1725  
and died May 1779

Thebe Tourtellotte Born . . . 1730.  
and died May 1808.

Children of Abraham Tourtellotte

Mary Tourtellotte	Born	Jan. 4 <sup>th</sup>	1747.
Michael Tourtellotte	"	Feb. 4.	1748.
Barnes Tourtellotte	"	Oct. 9.	1750.
Isaac Tourtellotte	"	Nov. 20.	1752.
Israel Tourtellotte	"	Dec. 26.	1754.
Joseph Tourtellotte	"	May 29.	1758.
Amasa Tourtellotte	"	Feb. 4.	1758.
Dinner Tourtellotte	"	Jan. 4.	1760.
Anna Tourtellotte	"		1761
Esue Tourtellotte	"		1763
James Tourtellotte	"		1764
Jashua Tourtellotte	"		1766
Philph Tourtellotte	"		1767
Stephus Tourtellotte	"		1769
Esther Tourtellotte	"		1770

Joseph Tourtellotte Born 1736. No. 27

Margit Tourtellotte Born 1762. June 15

Lucy Tourtellotte Born 1785. Oct. 9

Polly Tourtellotte Born 1786. July 21

Grand Children of Joseph Tourtellotte

Margit Holmes	Born	1803. Apr. 18
John S. Holmes	Born	1804. Dec. 29
Joseph S. Holmes	Born	1806. Oct. 16
Stephen Holmes	Born	1808. Dec. 17
Polly Holmes	Born	1810. Dec. 27
Isaac Holmes	Born	1812. Nov. 15
Andrew S. Holmes	Born	1814. Dec. 3
James Holmes	Born	1816. June 27
Henry Holmes	Born	1818. Oct. 27
William S. Holmes	Born	1821. Jan. 20
Susanna Holmes	Born	1822. Apr. 9
Susan Holmes	Born	1825. March 27
William W. Holmes	Born	1827. Aug. 7

# Civil War Pensions

- Invalid
- Widow's
- Parents

(3-446)

DEPOSITION *R*

Case of *Jane Franklin* *Ex* No. *154592*

On this *Continued* day of *Continued*, 188*8*, at  
State of \_\_\_\_\_, before me,  
Special Examiner of the Pension Office, personally appeared  
*Jane Franklin*, who, being by me first duly sworn to answer  
truly all interrogatories propounded to her during this Special Examination of aforesaid pension claim, deposes and says:

*a railroad, but whether the avails of his labor was had by him or his father I do not know. The reason they did not live at home was because they could not live in peace. Upon one occasion, while I was there, there was some difficulty between Mr Franklin and his wife, and Mr Franklin seemed to be abusing her. David took it up, and when the father undertook to chastise him, he took him down, and made the father promise to cease his abuse of the mother, whatever it was. There was perhaps two or three times when they had some trouble and it was stopped by the boy, being able to handle the father. He was severe and cruel in his family, and when the boys were so small that they could not protect themselves I have seen him beat them with an ox-goad, and when he did whip, he was severe.*

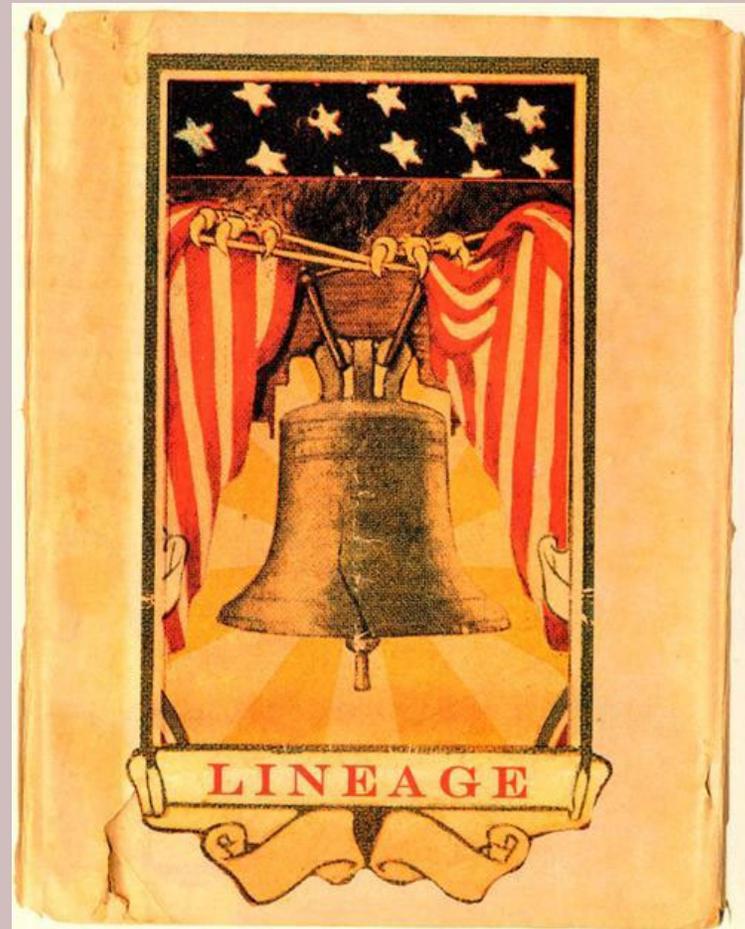
*He certainly never provided his family with near as comfortable support as he was financially able to do, as I know of my own personal knowledge. They had fully had picking their at home I tell you.*

*The habit of intoxication seemed to grow upon him, and it was the cause of his either with drinking or being expelled from*

Page *52* Deposition *R* (1883-10 N.) 6-28

# Lineage Societies

- Several emerge after the American Centennial in 1876 (SR, SAR, DAR)
- Genealogical Documentation less scrutinized
- Immediate generations *usually* more reliable



# Affidavits of Descent

SEMPER PARATIUS SERVARE REPUBLICAM

  
1783

**Society of the Cincinnati**  
IN THE  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP  
FRANKLIN CENTER FRISBIE  
FRANCIS SCOTT ALLEN  
FREDERICK BACON PHILBROOK

(Statement of <sup>NATHAN</sup>~~Andrew~~ Adams,  
(son of Lieut. John Adams, an  
(original member N.H. Society.)

AFFIDAVIT.

County of Rockingham, }                      Stratham, N. H., ..... 1897.  
State of New Hampshire. }

I, Nathan Adams, of Stratham, County of Rockingham,  
and State of New Hampshire, hereby declare upon honor, and in the  
presence of a competent witness:

That, I was born in the town of Stratham, County of Rockingham,  
and State of New Hampshire, on the ..... day of .....,  
18??

That I am the only surviving son of Lieutenant John Adams of  
Stratham, County of Rockingham, and State of New Hampshire, and of  
Ann Folsom of said town, county and State, his lawful wife.

That the said Lieutenant John Adams was an officer in the New Hamp-  
shire Continental Line in the American Army during the War of the  
Revolution, receiving for his services as such, a pension from the  
Government of the United States, up to the time of his death, which  
occurred at said Stratham, on the twenty-eighth day of August, 1847.

Witness: Martha J. Adams      Nathan Adams  
.....

# DAR Genealogical Research



**Ancestor** Member Descendants

## CHILDS, WILLARD

Ancestor #: A021585

Service: CONNECTICUT Rank(s): PRIVATE  
 Birth: 5-7-1758 WOODSTOCK CONNECTICUT  
 Death: 11-1-1844 WOODSTOCK CONNECTICUT  
 Pension Number: \*S  
 Service Description: 1) CAPTS.NATHANIEL MOREY DANIEL,LYON,  
 2) PERLEY HOWE,COLS. DOUGLASS,WILLIAMS

### SPOUSE

Number	Name
1)	LYDIA MORSE
2)	SYLVIA CHILD

*Hint: Click on the member number to see*

### ASSOCIATED APPLICATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTALS

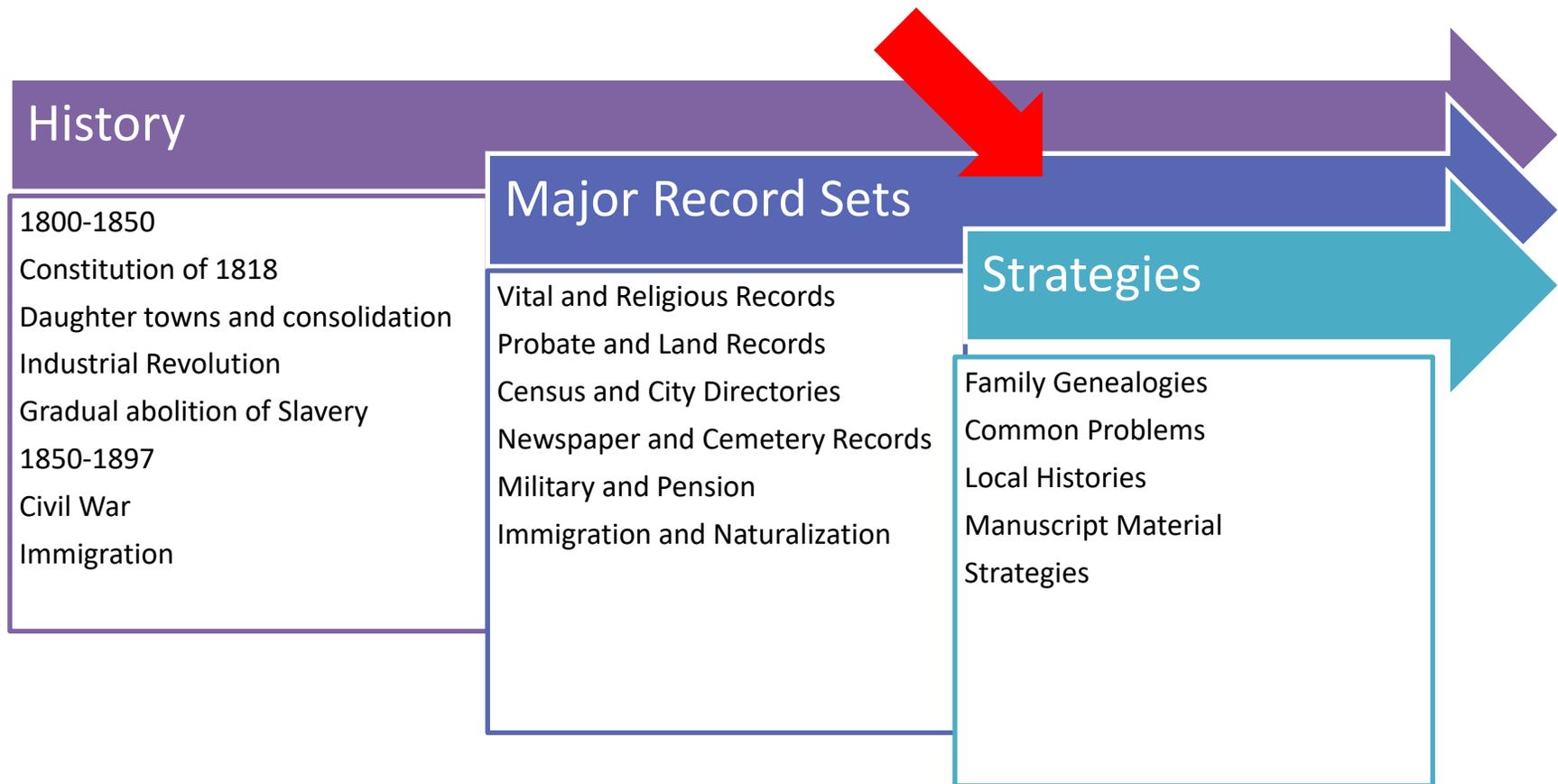
Nat'l Num	Add Vol.	Docs	Child	[Spouse #] Spouse	
20160		<b>D</b>	LUTHER	[1] PAMELA CHILD	<b>PURCHASE</b>

[https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR\\_Research/search](https://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/search)



# QUESTIONS?

# Overview



# Genealogies

# Family Genealogies

- Starting in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, largely with a focus on the “male line”
- The 1864 Hyde Genealogy a notable exception to this trend
- May be the only source for recent events

VI. PHEBE HYDE (1567), born at Franklin, Conn., 15 Dec., 1794, daughter of Joseph Hyde (378), by his second wife, Julitta Abel (2472), was a great granddaughter of Thomas Hyde (7) of the third generation. She m. 15 Dec., 1811, Charles Armstrong, b. 2 Aug., 1788, at Franklin, son of Lee Armstrong and Ednah Smith of Franklin. He was a farmer, and they settled at Franklin, where she d. 25 Jan., 1841. He then m. the widow Eunice (Ripley) Tracy, and was living at Franklin in 1857, without issue by her.

*His children by his first wife were :*

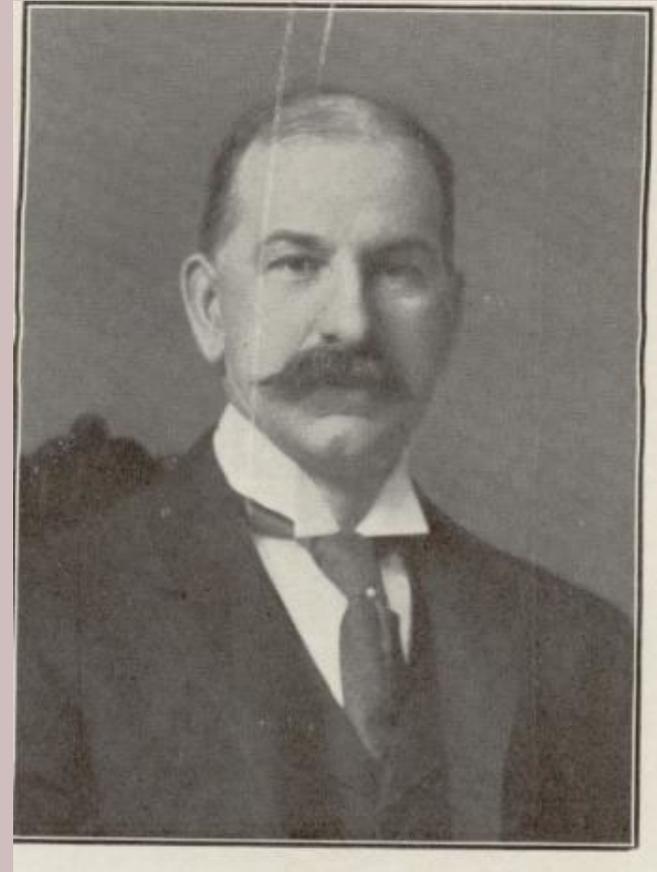
4752. Henry Abel, b. 5 Jan., 1813, at Franklin. He m. 5 Jan., 1848, Sarah Anne Tone, born in New Hampshire, daughter of Christopher Tone of Franklin county, O. They settled at Perry, O., where they were living in 1856, and had three children :



# Local Histories

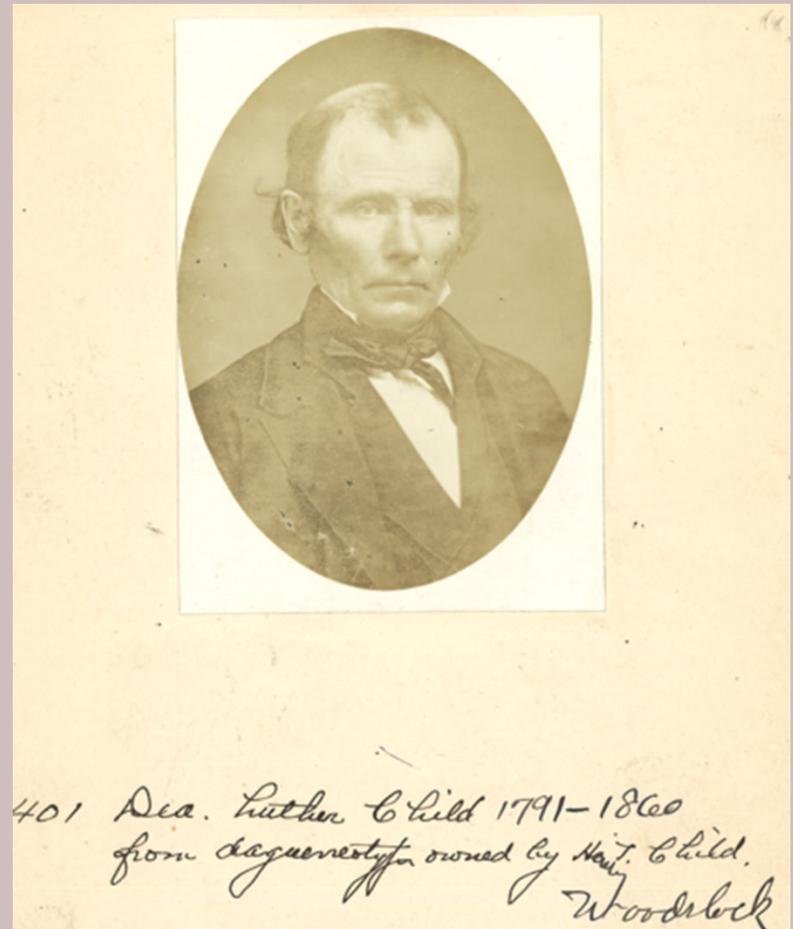
# Clarence Winthrop Bowen

- History of Woodstock
- Genealogies of Woodstock Families (vol. 2-6)
- Volumes 7 & 8
- Availability of Resources



# Bowen's Manuscript

- 53 boxes (Mss 1007)
- Copies of daguerreotypes
- Letters
- Draft Genealogies
- More information than in published volumes



Tip

Not all Connecticut  
Problems will be solved  
in Connecticut

# Rogers Family of CT, MA, and NY

Ebenezer Rogers Bible  
Town of Albion, N.Y.  
Printed 1823

Present Owner: Mrs. Burt Griswold  
West State St., Albion, N.Y.

Ebenezer Rogers b Oct 3, 1769  
Betsy Lyman b Nov 15, 1771 (wife of E) d Aug 28, 1849  
Ebenezer Rogers m Silvia Roberts Feb 12, 1850

Loose page, very old paper:

Benjamin Shaw Rogers b Apr 22, 1766  
Ebenezer Rogers b Oct 3, 1769 d Jan 28, 1865  
Nathan Caswell Rogers b Oct 11, 1770  
Elisha Merick " b 1776  
Margret Rogers d 1776  
Daniel " b Jan 16, 1761  
Amy " b Apr 3, 1784

# Manuscript Material

# Finding a genealogist's papers

- Papers of Lucius Barnes Barbour and Donald Lines Jacobus at the Connecticut Historical Society
- James Swift Rogers Papers at NEHGS

# Manuscript Papers

NAMES, ETC., OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF YOUR FATHER.

Names	Last Residence	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	If Deceased, Date of Death	If Married, Date of Marriage	Full Name of Person Married If wife, give full maiden name
Orlando Rogers	Albion		Sept 14 <sup>th</sup> 1801	dead	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup> 1822	Sophronia Thurston.
Benjamin Rogers	do		Dec 19 <sup>th</sup> 1799		Apr 13 1842	Barbara 9 Strickland
Betsy Rogers	do		July 13 <sup>th</sup> 1798		Aug 24 1849	Dec 31 <sup>st</sup> 1818 James Leonard (a man of course)
Sons of Orlando Rogers I give you as to happen to have them from recd						
Edson B Rogers	Albion	Albion	July 27 <sup>th</sup> 1823			
Urban C Rogers	Catonsville	Albion	Nov 6 1831			
Benjamin Rogers	Albion	Albion	Sept 10 1838		July 3 <sup>rd</sup> 98	

NAMES, ETC., OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF YOUR FATHER'S FATHER.

Names	Last Residence	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	If Deceased, Date of Death	If Married, Date of Marriage	Full Name of Person Married If wife, give full maiden name
Benjamin Rogers	do		Apr 22 1766			do
Elisha M. Rogers	do		July 20 <sup>th</sup> 1766			do
James Rogers	do		" 16 1781			do
Miss Rogers	do		Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1784			do
Margaret Rogers	do				Aug 14 <sup>th</sup> 1776	

NAMES, ETC., OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF YOUR FATHER'S FATHER.

Names	Last Residence	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	If Deceased, Date of Death
Benjamin Rogers	do		Apr 22 1766	do
Elisha M. Rogers	do		July 20 <sup>th</sup> 1766	do
James Rogers	do		" 16 1781	do
Miss Rogers	do		Apr 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1784	do
Margaret Rogers	do			Aug 14 <sup>th</sup> 1776

# Manuscript Papers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Please mention any facts of interest concerning yourself or any of your kindred. State where educated, offices held in church or state, service in army or navy, specifying company and regiment, and membership in church or state. Please give address of any person who can give additional information. Give addresses of all bearing the name, or their descendants, whom you may know, who are not mentioned herein.

Albert Wyman Rogers, Married second time Oct 26<sup>th</sup> 1897  
 Married Mrs Mary E. Hill. Her Father's name Seth Hubbard Gregory.  
 Her Mother's name, Almira Gregory.  
 Mrs. S. H. Gregory Born in Montpelier Vermont  
 Mrs. S. H. Gregory Born in Albion Orleans County N.Y.  
 Al W Rogers received his education at Albion Academy, Albion, N.Y.  
 I went to Oberlin College Ohio, 1862-3 and the Civil War joining an  
 Cavalry Co. to go South as a Teacher. At New Orleans 1864-1865  
 was a member of the Greek Army Co. Rev James O. Shaw Pastor, Fairview  
 Church (20) years, Rochester N.Y. Have served as Deacon, S. of S. 1840  
 myself & wife are now members of the M. E. Church, Millville N.Y.  
 I am now Capt of the M. E. Ch. Sunday School. No. 10.

My first Cousin Mr. U. Clark Rogers now of Patterson N. J.  
 Can give you valuable information if you will address  
 him as above, or thru. I know he will be glad to.

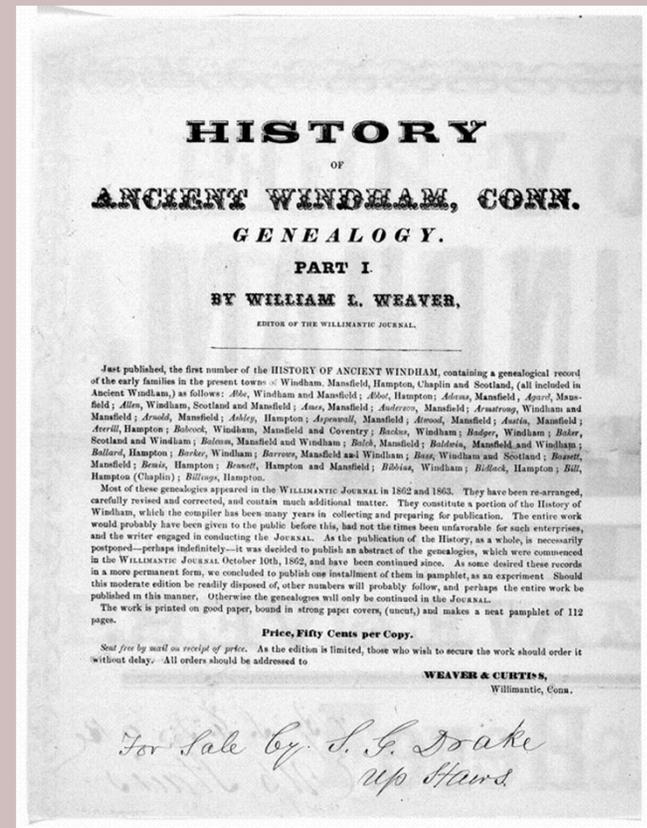
State your occupation, *Farmer*  
 Occupation of your father, *do*  
 Occupation of your father's father, *do*  
 If you can trace your line further than is provided for in this circular, please do so.

# Manuscript Material by Locality

- Charles Dyer Parkhurst on the New London area
- “Family Records of Ancient Windham,” by Jonathan Clark (1802-1859) [only at Connecticut State Library]
- David Williams Patterson manuscript on families of East Haddam [only at Connecticut Historical Society]

# Other genealogies in Newspapers

- William Weaver, *History of Ancient Windham, Connecticut, Part 1, A-Bil(lings)* (1864)
- Later articles in the *Willimantic Journal*



# Strategies

# Use of Suffixes

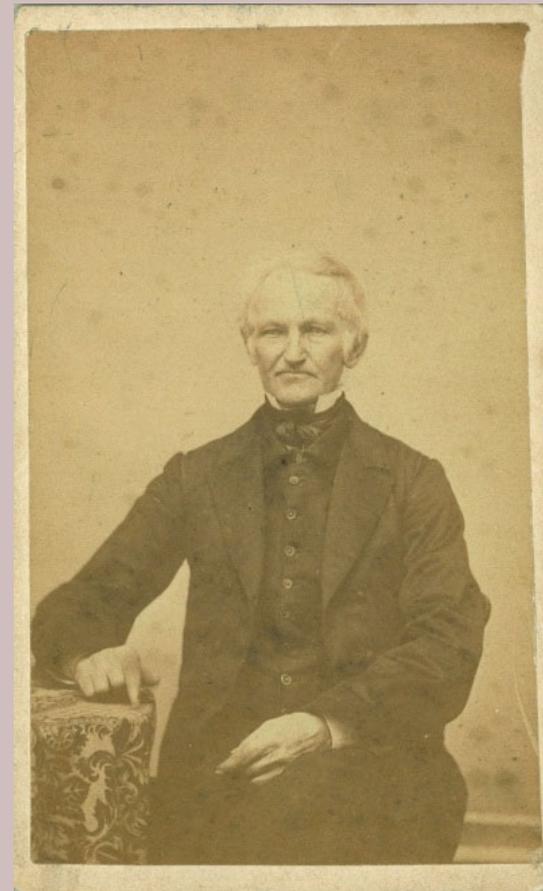
## 1823 Marriage of Moses Lyon 3rd

Moses Lyon 3rd  
Marriage to  
F. Kindall

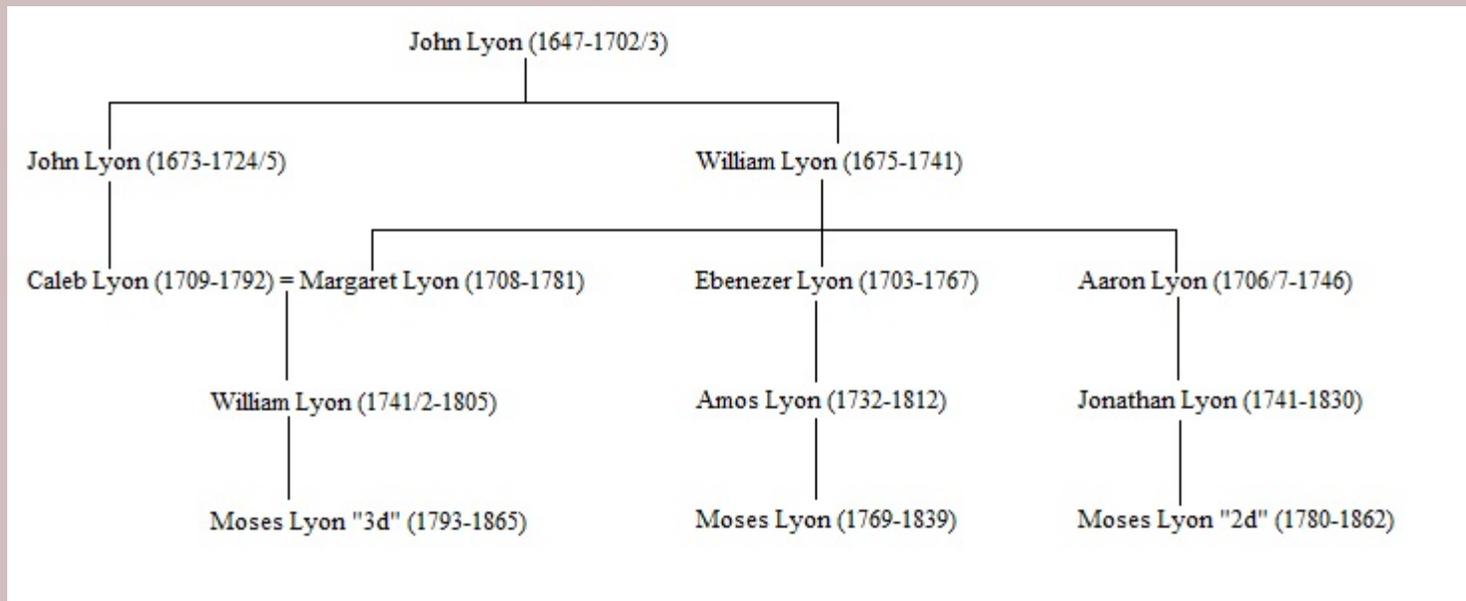
Woodstock April 1823 This may certify that Moses Lyon 3rd  
and Tryphena Kindall this Town were lawfully married  
on the 8 Day of January 1823 by me Elephat Lyman  
Clerk  
the above is a true copy of the original certifiat  
attest John Thos J. C.

# Moses Lyon 3<sup>rd</sup> (1793-1865)

- First Moses in Ancestral Line Moses<sup>6</sup> Lyon (*William<sup>5</sup>, Caleb<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3-2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*)
- Called “3d” from first marriage through the 1830s, then called “2d” until the early 1860s, then no suffix

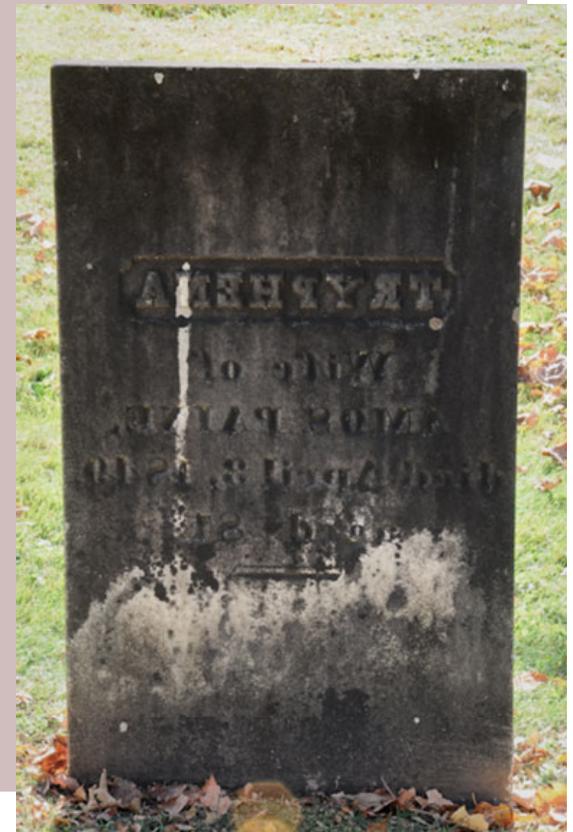


# Third youngest in town



# The parents of Mrs. Tryphena Kendall Paine

- No birth or first marriage record, and no parents on 1849 death record
- First husband Eli Kendall dies 1808, marries secondly 1809, Amos Paine
- Parents given in 1932 genealogy



# Tryphena's brother

- In 1880 genealogy on her second husband's family, she is identified as a sister of General William Eaton (1764-1811),
- William was born at Woodstock, son of Nathaniel and Sarah
- Amos Paine published William's biography



## *the husband of a sister of Gen. Eaton (1813)*

### THE COMPILER'S PREFACE.

GEN. EATON expired, June 1st, 1811. Shortly after his decease, several gentlemen, who having a just, entertained a high opinion of his talents and services, expressed a wish to see a history of his life and achievements, believing that in his numerous manuscripts there were ample materials, by judicious selection, for a biography of his life and a relation of its principal events, that were worthy preservation : hoping at the same time that a volume might be published of sufficient interest to defray the expense of publication, and perhaps yield a profit that might do much towards educating his orphan children. Major AMOS PAINE of Woodstock, (Con.) the husband of a sister of GEN. EATON, from regard to the family, and solely with a hope of rendering it a service, offered to risque the expense of publication. Having been intimately acquainted with EATON, and with

# Review

1. The 19th Century in Connecticut had a large shift in the overall population and in overall recordkeeping
2. Keep a wide net, see what other records are available for the families and towns you are interested in.

# QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**

*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**

*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

Search

Events

Membership

Give

Publications

Expert Help

Tools

Signature Projects

Centers &amp; Initiatives

Home | Connecticut Research 2022

# Connecticut Research 2022

**Thank you for registering for the online course, *Connecticut Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy!***

Whether your family connection to Connecticut is 400 years old or 40, there is a treasure trove of genealogical resources waiting for you: vital records have been kept by towns since the early seventeenth century; newspapers have existed since colonial times; and there are thousands of published genealogies, local histories, study projects, and other references that exist for Connecticut research. Yet, Connecticut is not without its challenges. This online course will provide a century-by-century look at the records, resources, repositories, and research strategies that are essential to exploring your Connecticut roots. We will also look at the historical context, settlement patterns, and migrations into—and out of—the state; from colony to statehood.

This course includes four 90-minute classes; exclusive access to handouts and recordings of each presentation; and in-depth q&a sessions with the instructors.

## JOIN LIVE SESSIONS

Click here to join the live sessions: <https://zoom.us/j/97736427224>

*If you are unable to attend a live session, you will be able to watch a recording posted below.*

# AmericanAncestors.org/connecticut-research-2022



# THANK YOU!

[AmericanAncestors.org/Education](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Education)



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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AmericanAncestors.org

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