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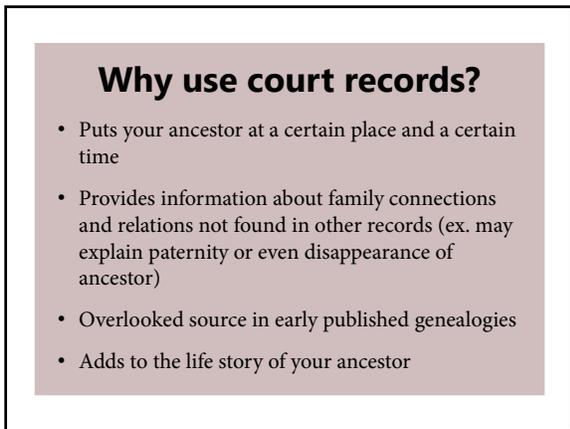
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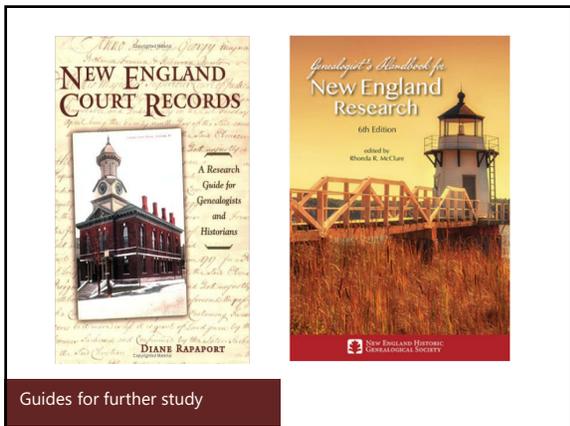
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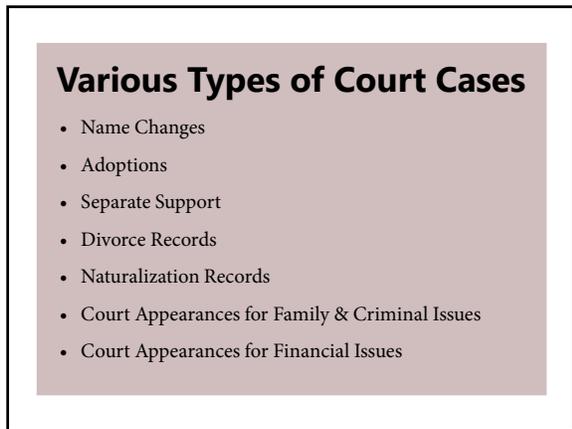
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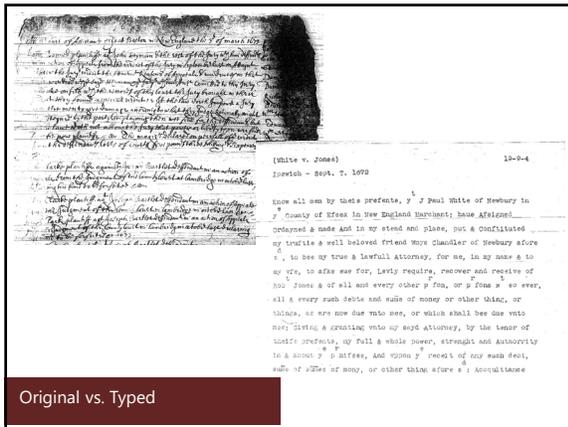
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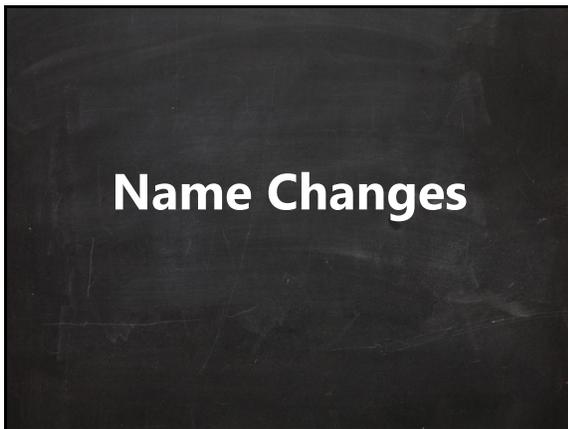
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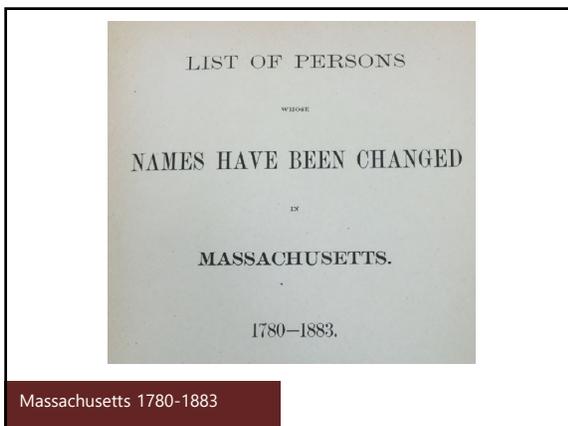
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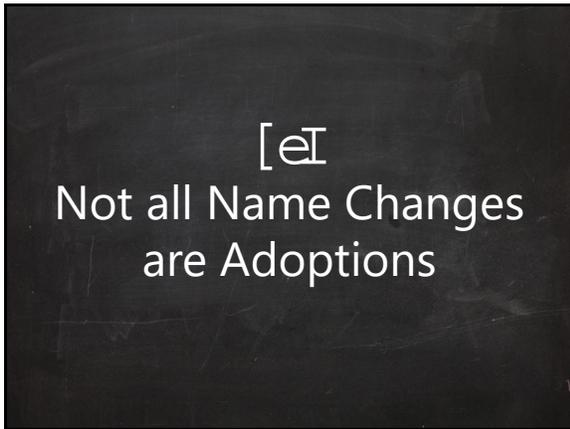
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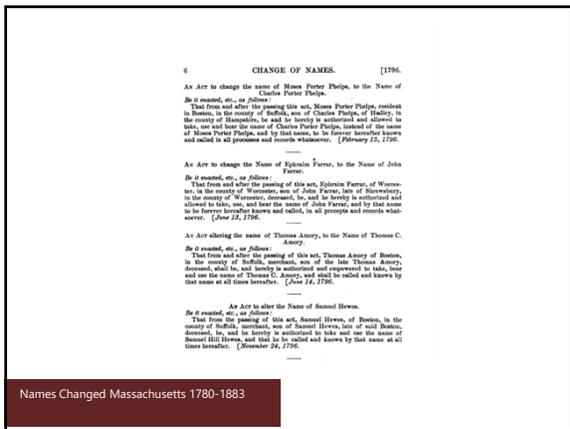
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Names Changed Massachusetts 1780-1883

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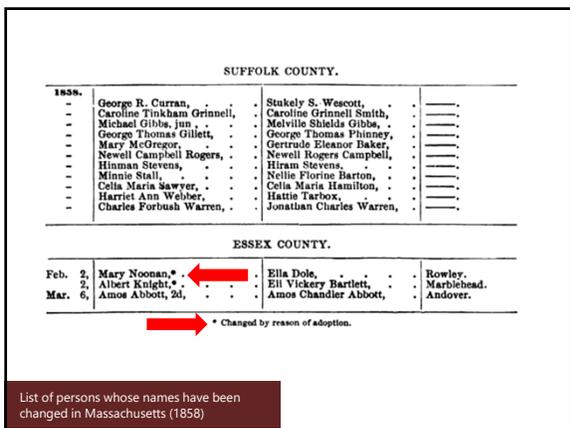
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List of persons whose names have been changed in Massachusetts (1858)

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**Adoptions Before 1851**

- Akin to the fostering system. Parents retained the legal rights over their children if a guardianship was established.
- Children could be "bound out" as indentured servants until adulthood
- Relatives often adopted extended family members
  - Single mother stigma
  - Widowed parents
  - Financial difficulties

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**Adoption of Children Act (1851)**

- First modern adoption law – passed in Massachusetts and copied in other states
- Passed to ensure adoptions were "fit and proper"
- The legal rights of the biological parents is terminated
- Adopted children were given right to inherit from their adoptive parents
- Children aged 14 and over cannot be adopted without their consent

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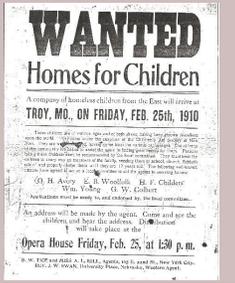
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**Orphan Trains**

- Between 1854 and 1929, the New York Children's Aid Society transported 250,000 children from New York, Boston and other Eastern cities out by train to the Midwest and western states
- Families showed up to train stations to "look over" the children



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**Searching the FamilySearch Catalog for Adoption Case Dockets**

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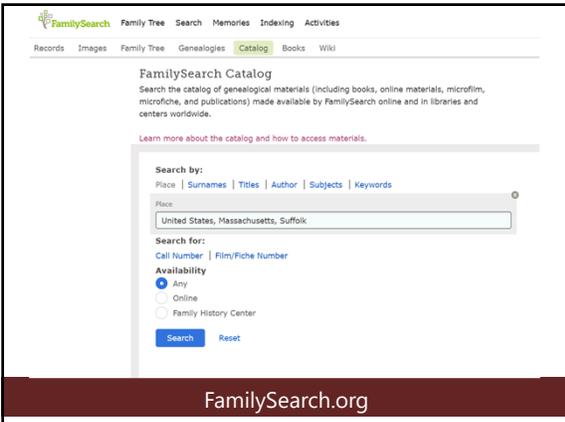
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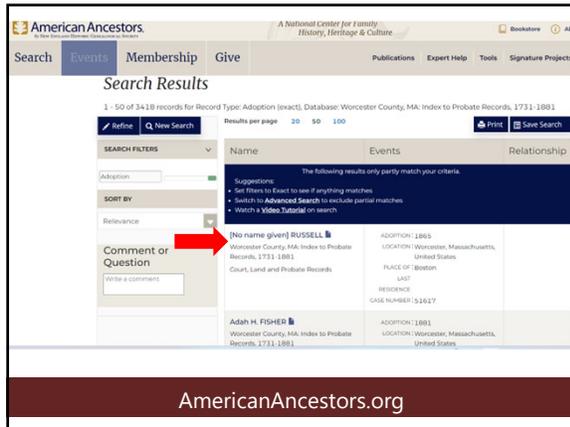
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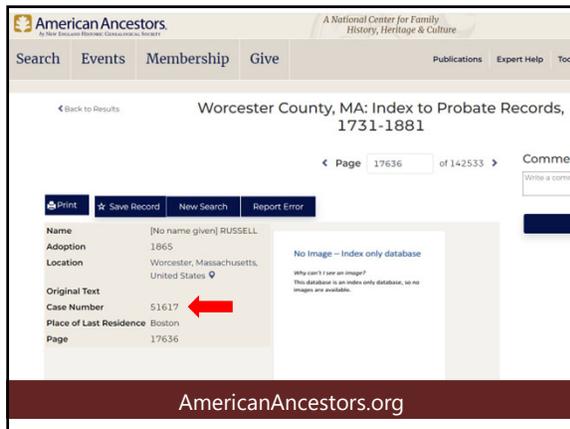
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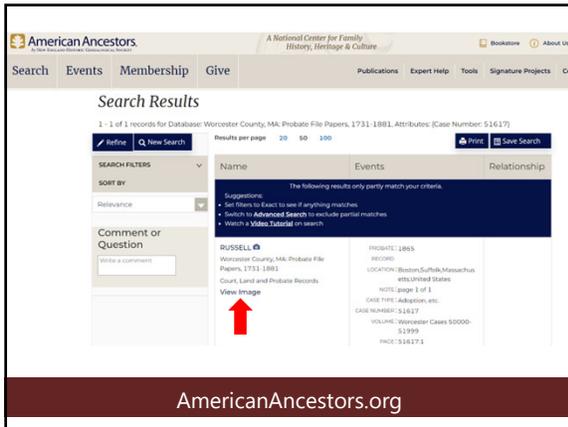
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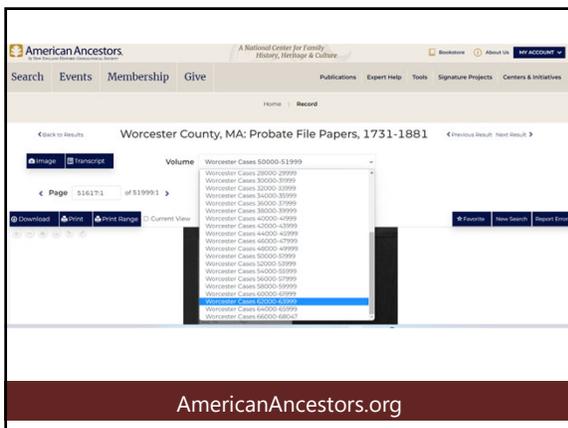
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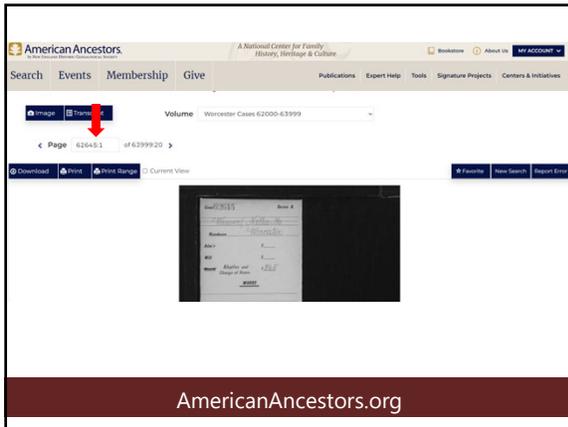
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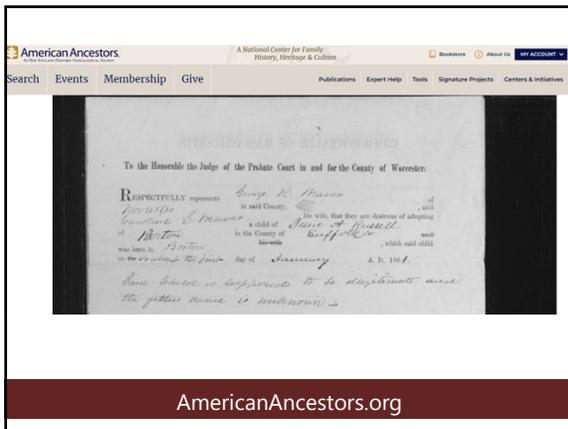
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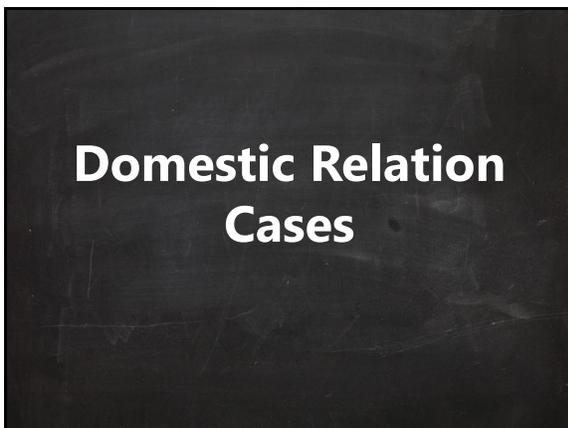
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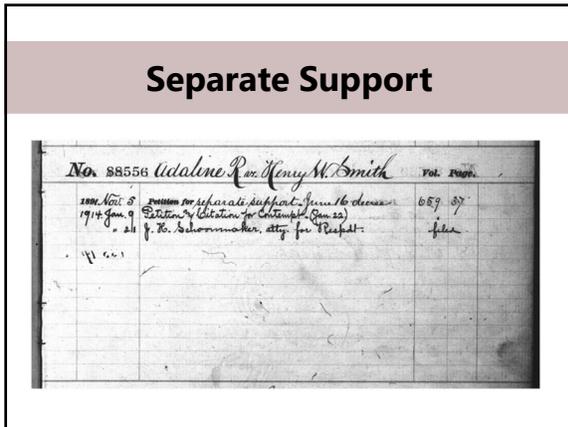
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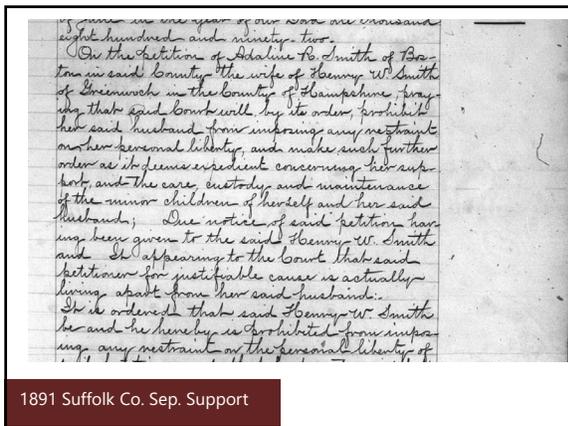
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1891 Suffolk Co. Sep. Support

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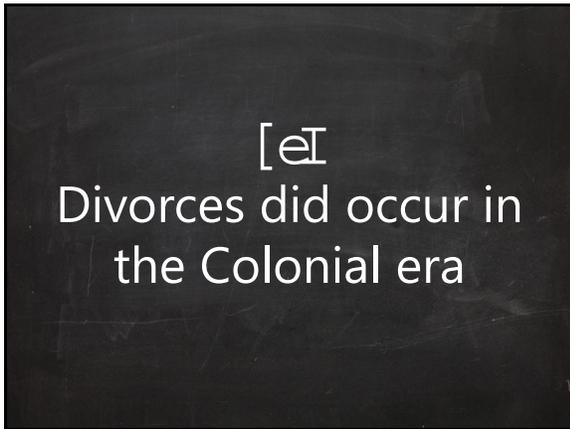
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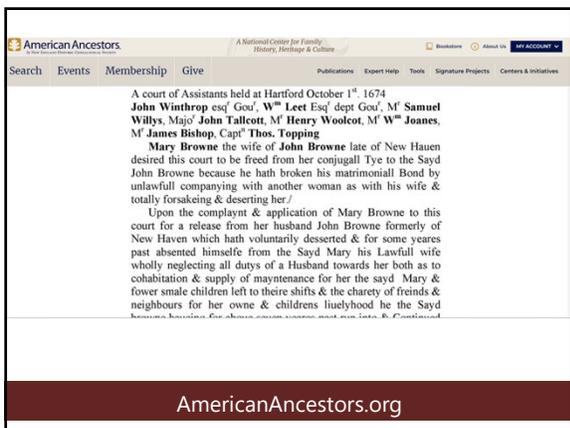
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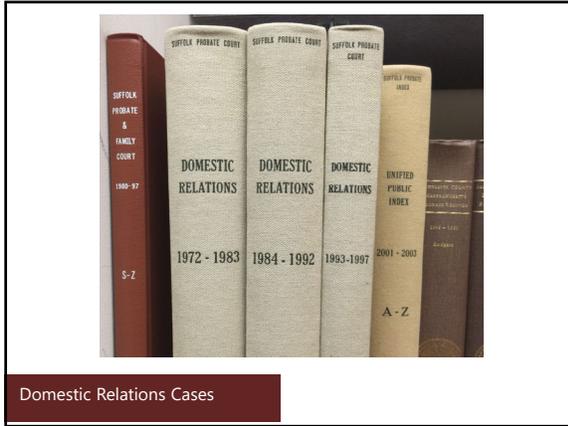
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Domestic Relations Cases

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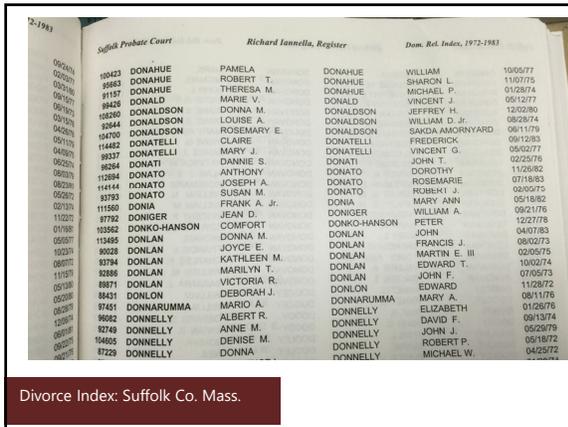
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Divorce Index: Suffolk Co. Mass.

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## Connecticut Divorce Records

- Divorce records are usually kept in the files at the Superior court where the divorce was granted.
- *Connecticut Divorce Index, 1968-1997* is an index of divorces from the Connecticut D.P.H. on Ancestry.com.

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Switch View View Slideshow

**Maine Divorce Returns, Volume 01, 1892-1893**  
Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics  
This volume contains a record of divorces sent to the Vital Records Office for the years 1892 and 1893.

**Maine Divorce Returns, Volume 02, 1894-1895**  
Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics  
This volume contains a record of divorces sent to the Vital Records Office for the years 1894 and 1895.

**Maine Divorce Returns, Volume 03, 1896-1897**  
Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics  
This volume contains a record of divorces sent to the Vital Records Office for the years 1896 and 1897.

DigitalMaine.com

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CLERK OF COURT'S BLANK.

Divorces decreed before the Superior Judicial Court of Androscoggin County for the year ending Dec. 31, 1894.

No. of Divorces	Name of Plaintiff	Name of Defendant	Place of Birth	Place of Birth	Date	Place	Grounds
1	Harriet A. Condit	Richard Condit			Jan. 1874	Androscoggin	Consent
"	Harriet B. Jones	John O. Jones			Sept. 1877	Androscoggin	Desertion
"	Ellie B. Stone	Frank B. Stone			Androscoggin	Androscoggin	Consent
"	Maggie Williams	Frank Williams			Androscoggin	Androscoggin	Desertion
"	P. Helen Rice	John L. Rice			Sept. 1878	Androscoggin	Consent
"	Carrie A. Stearns	William Stearns			Androscoggin	Androscoggin	Desertion
"	Hattie A. Smith	John Smith			Androscoggin	Androscoggin	Desertion
"	Maggie M. Currier	John Currier			Androscoggin	Androscoggin	Desertion

Androscoggin County, Maine Divorces (1894)

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**Massachusetts Divorce: 1639-1692**

- Divorce petitions filed in a variety of courts, including the county courts, the General Court, and the Court of Assistants
- Records of the General Court and the Court of Assistants have been published
- Original file records are available in the Suffolk Files Collection, the Massachusetts Archives Collection, and in the courts of the various counties

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**Massachusetts Divorce: 1692-1775**

- Divorces heard by the Governor and Council
- 1755 to 1757: six petitions were heard by the General Court
- Original records are found in the Massachusetts Archives Collection, Suffolk Files Collection, and the county courts

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**Massachusetts Divorce: 1775-1785**

- Governor's Council oversaw Divorces
- Records are part of the Massachusetts Archives Collection and the Governor's Council records
- 1785: Divorces granted by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts

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**Massachusetts Divorces (cont.)**

- 1887: Divorces heard in the county Superior Courts
- 1922: Divorces heard in Probate and family Courts
- 1952: All divorces are part of a statewide index at the Registry of Vital Records

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## New Hampshire Divorce Records

- Registrar of Vital Statistics. *Index to Divorces and Annulments Prior to 1938*. The records are arranged by surname, using the first and third letters.
- Bureau of Vital Records. *Divorce Certificates, 1938-47*. Records are sorted by surname, using the first and third letters.

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Index to divorces and annulments prior to 1938

Author: New Hampshire, Registrar of Vital Statistics (Main Author)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975

Physical: 8 microfilm reels ; 16 mm.

**Notes**  
Microfilm of original records at Concord, New Hampshire.  
The records are indexed by surname, the first and third letters being used.  
[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

**Subjects**  
Locality Subjects  
[United States, New Hampshire - Divorce records - Indexes](#)

**Film/Digital Notes**

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Index to divorces - Abens to Browne	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1001323	8571522	8
Index to divorces - Brown to Dubray	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1001324	8595744	8
Index to divorces - Dube to Gaines	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1001325	8595745	8
Index to divorces - Geisler to Jaster	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1001326	8138770	8

FamilySearch.org

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**Record for Divorce**

Husband's name in full  
William H. Brown

Residence  
Epping

Wife's name in full  
Marguerite J. Brown

Residence  
unknown

Docket Number  
2044

Date of Marriage  
July 30, 1919

Place of Marriage  
Doctimonah, N.H.

Sex of Defendant  
Male

Was case contested?  
No

Date of Decree  
July 5, 1920

Cause  
Abandonment and refusal to cohabit.

Number of minor children affected by decree  
None

By the State of New Hampshire  
Noah Quinn, ss. Superior Court

I certify that the above record is correct

*W. J. [Signature]*  
Clerk

Date  
July 5, 1920

New Hampshire Record for Divorce

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**Rhode Island Divorce Records**

- Early divorces recorded in the Rhode Island Supreme Court
- Divorce records 1905 to present at Rhode Island Family Court in Providence

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**Vermont Divorces**

- NEHGS: microfilm of Vermont divorces, 1861-1989
- Divorce Certificates from the last 5 years held with the State of Vermont Department of Health

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**Searching the FamilySearch Catalog for Divorces**

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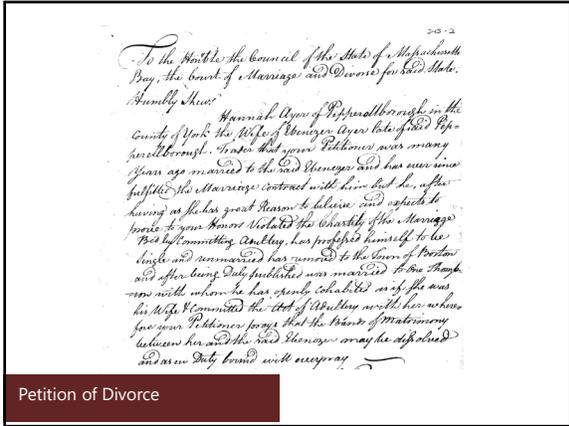
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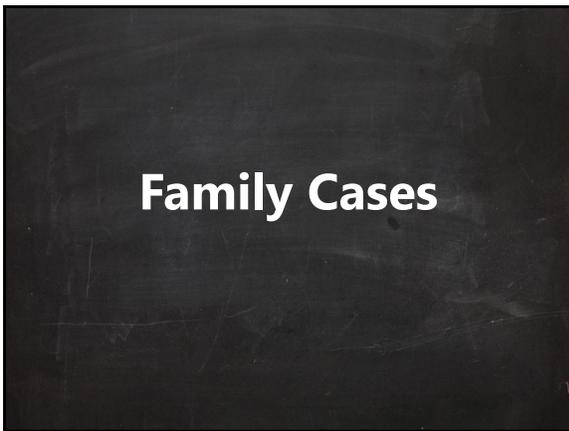
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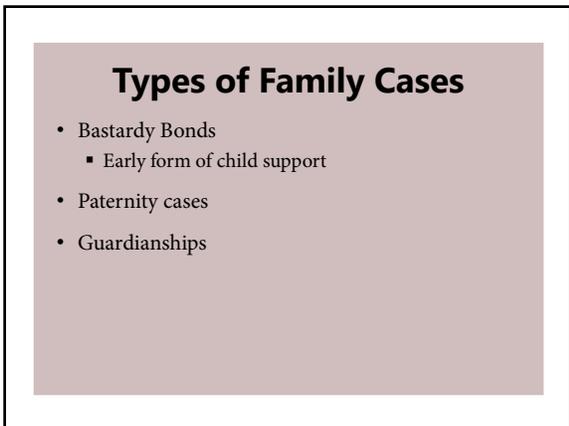
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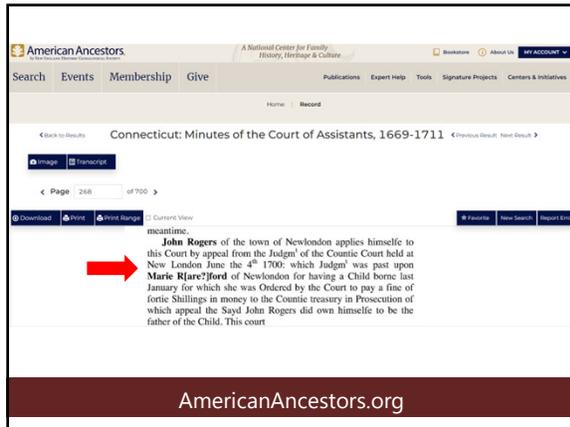
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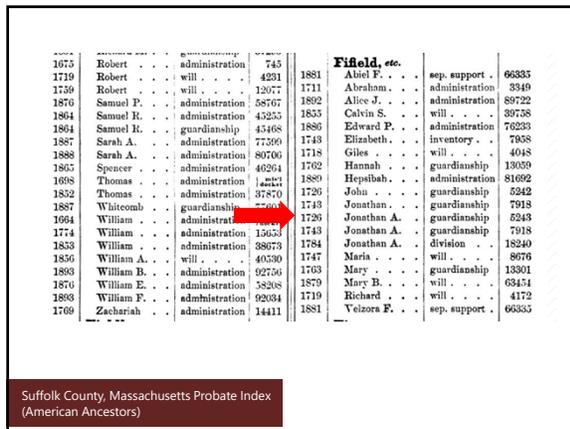
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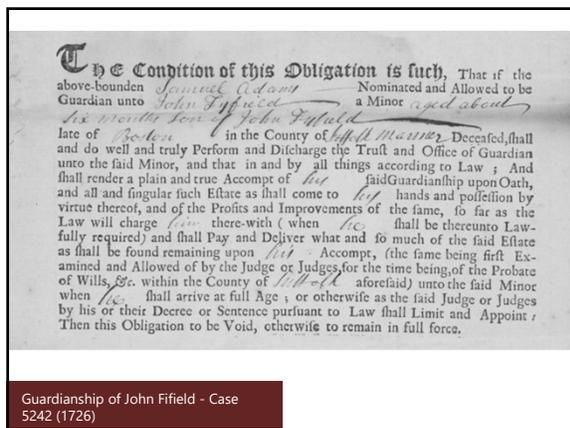
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**Naturalizations**

- Records include Declarations of Intention, petitions, and Granted and Denied Petitions
- Many are now searchable on FamilySearch, Fold3, and Ancestry.com
- Most New England Naturalizations prior to 1906 can be located at the National Archives in Waltham, Massachusetts

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**Various Courts to Petition Naturalizations before 1906**

- Superior Court
- Supreme Judicial Court
- Court of Common Pleas
- District Courts
- Police Courts

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# Searching the FamilySearch Catalog for Naturalization Petitions

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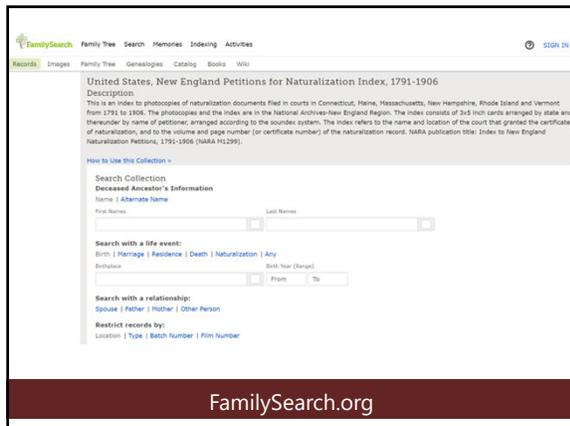
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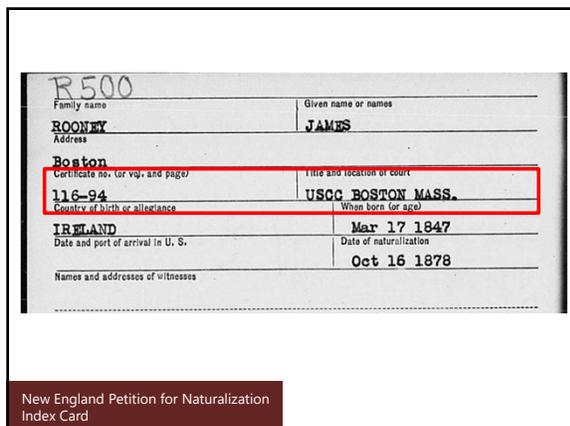
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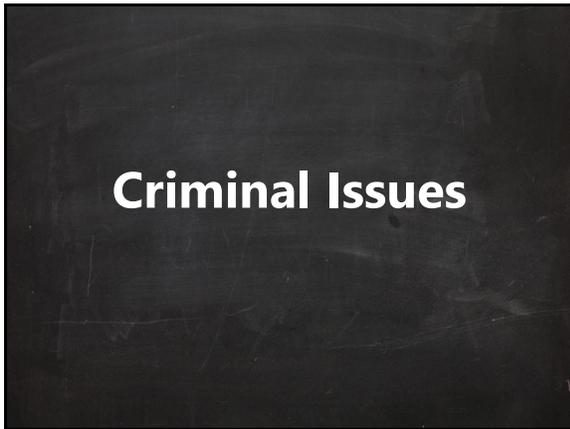
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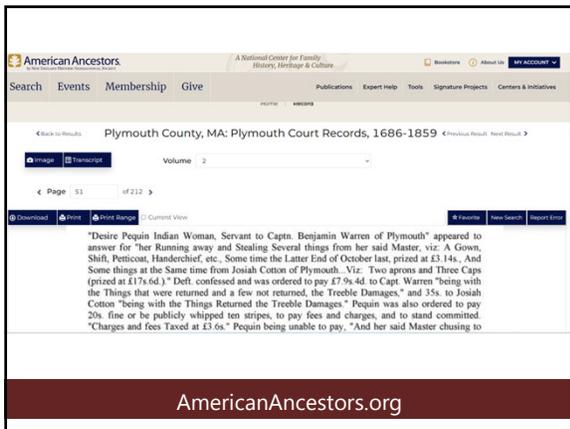
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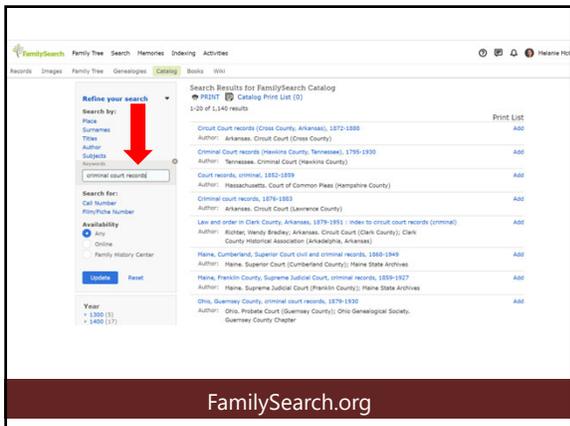
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Maine, Franklin County, Supreme Judicial Court, criminal records, 1859-1927 Add to Print List  
 Authors: [Maine, Supreme Judicial Court \(Franklin County\)](#) (Main Author)  
[Maine State Archives \(Repository\)](#)  
 Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images  
 Language: English  
 Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2011  
 Physical: 3 digital folders

**Notes**  
 To view digital images of these Maine, State Archive Collections, click here. Not available on microfilm.  
 Digital images of originals housed at the Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine.  
 Each volume is individually indexed.  
[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

**Subjects**  
 Locality Subjects  
 United States, Maine, Franklin - Court records

**Film/Digital Notes**

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film DGS	Format
Supreme Judicial Court, criminal records, v. 1, 1859-1896	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Digital		
Supreme Judicial Court, criminal records, v. 2, 1897-1907	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Digital	4723	

FamilySearch.org

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Indictment of John Pillsbury (1859)

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# Financial Issues

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**Financial Cases**

- Indentured servitude cases
- Landlord/tenant matters
- Repayment of a loan
- Probate cases
- Neighbor issues with adjoining property
- Bankruptcy/insolvency

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An Inventory of the Estate of Mathew Loomis of Windsor was Exhibited in Court and oath made by ye Releit that she made a true p'sentm<sup>t</sup> of the Estate of the Deceased to ye Apriz<sup>n</sup> of what at p'sent is known, and if more Come to knowledg she will Cause it to be added to the Inventory. The Court ord<sup>r</sup> it to be Recorded and yis Court grants admistration to ye Releit Mary Loomis w<sup>th</sup> the advice of Nath Loomis, and the widow, and Nath Loomis, Doe bind themselves in a yis Court Recognizance of therty five pounds, that they will <sup>one day</sup> Rend<sup>r</sup> a true Acc<sup>t</sup> of ye Estate to ye Court when it is Caled for to fix ad ation one Daught<sup>r</sup> Mary: 7 months old.

Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of CT, 1687-1688

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**Bankruptcy**

- Before the 1898 Federal Uniform Bankruptcy Act, bankruptcy law was determined state-by-state
- For Massachusetts, the insolvency petitions are held at the Massachusetts State Archives. They can be retrieved by the SJC Archivist.

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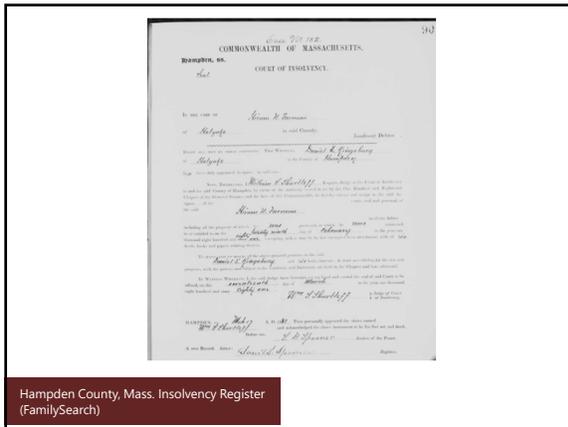
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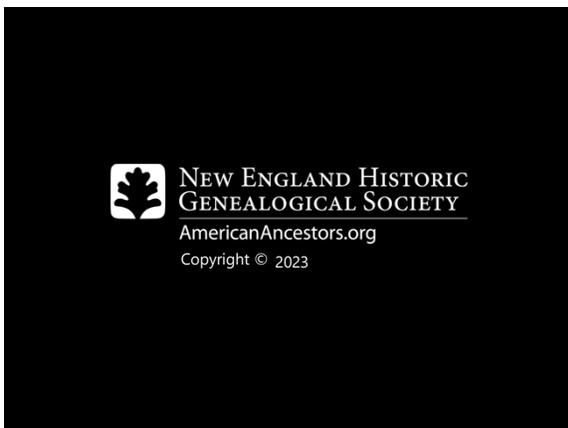
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