

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

1



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

2



---

---

---

---

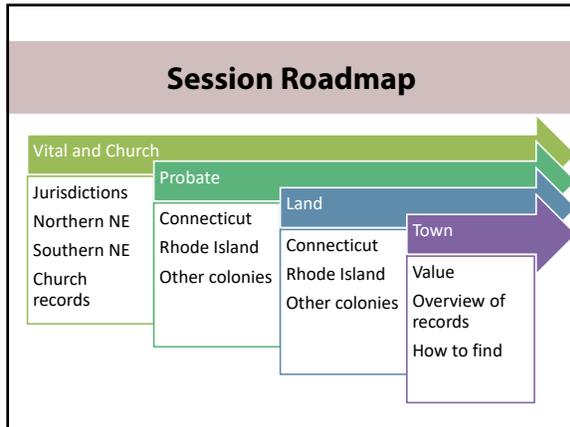
---

---

---

---

3



4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Jurisdictions for Colonial Records**

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town	County	County
Massachusetts	Town	County	County
New Hampshire	Town	County	County
Rhode Island	Town	Town	Town
Vermont	Town	Its complicated	Its complicated

6

---

---

---

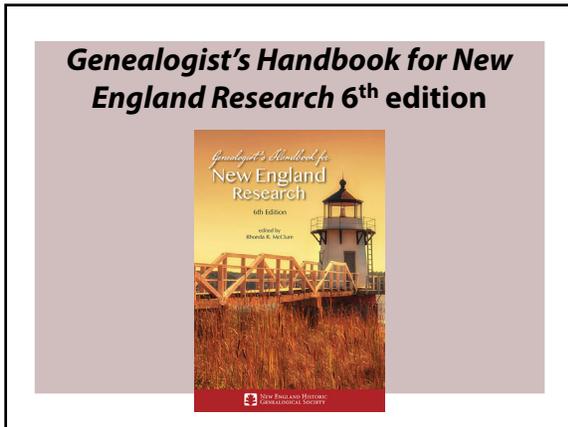
---

---

---

---

---



7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



8

---

---

---

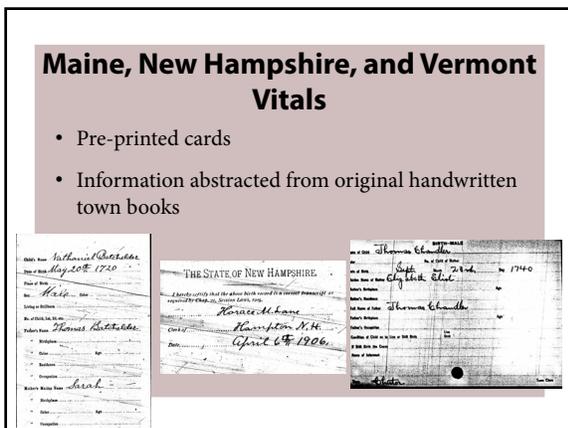
---

---

---

---

---



9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Massachusetts Vital Records

- Massachusetts has the most complete set in the nation
- Kept by towns beginning in 1620s
- Generally well-kept, but not always complete
- VRs up to 1850 published for over 200 towns, the majority in eastern Massachusetts
- For the western part of the state, will need to consult special collections such as the Corbin or Shepard Collections



10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850

CRONIQUE SHEET 300

**ABBREVIATIONS.**

a.—age; aged  
 abt.—about  
 B.—born  
 Bp.—baptized  
 bur.—buried  
 ch.—child  
 c.a.1.—church record, First Congregational, Unitarian  
 c.a.2.—church record, Christ Church, Episcopal  
 c.a.3.—church record, First Baptist Society, Cambridgeport  
 c.a.4.—church record, First Church in Cambridge, or Shepard Congregational Society  
 c.a.5.—church record, Harvard Street Methodist  
 c.a.6.—church record, Old Cambridge Baptist Society  
 c.a.7.—church record, St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
 c.a.8.—church record, Trinity Methodist Church, East Cambridge  
 c.a.9.—church record, Cambridgeport Parish, now united with Third Congregational  
 c.a.10.—church record, Third Congregational, Unitarian  
 c.a.11.—church record, Evangelical Congregational Church, East Cambridge, now entry; records in possession of Congregational Library, Boston  
 c.a.12.—church record, Second Baptist Church, East Cambridge, now entry; records in possession of City of Cambridge  
 d.—daughter; died; day  
 Dec.—deceased  
 dec.—deceased  
 dup.—duplicate entry  
 G.A.—grave record, cemetery at Harvard Square

**CRONIQUE SHEET 300**

Mason, James, s. of Cyrus and Mary B., Apr. 6, 1804.  
 Jones Page [—], w. of John Cook, June 19, 1804.  
 John Willard [—], s. of Henry Adams, May 2, 1806.  
 ——— c.a.3  
 ——— c.a.4  
 ——— c.a.5  
 ——— c.a.6  
 ——— c.a.7  
 ——— c.a.8  
 ——— c.a.9  
 ——— c.a.10  
 ——— c.a.11  
 ——— c.a.12  
 ——— c.a.13  
 ——— c.a.14  
 ——— c.a.15  
 ——— c.a.16  
 ——— c.a.17  
 ——— c.a.18  
 ——— c.a.19  
 ——— c.a.20  
 ——— c.a.21  
 ——— c.a.22  
 ——— c.a.23  
 ——— c.a.24  
 ——— c.a.25  
 ——— c.a.26  
 ——— c.a.27  
 ——— c.a.28  
 ——— c.a.29  
 ——— c.a.30  
 ——— c.a.31  
 ——— c.a.32  
 ——— c.a.33  
 ——— c.a.34  
 ——— c.a.35  
 ——— c.a.36  
 ——— c.a.37  
 ——— c.a.38  
 ——— c.a.39  
 ——— c.a.40  
 ——— c.a.41  
 ——— c.a.42  
 ——— c.a.43  
 ——— c.a.44  
 ——— c.a.45  
 ——— c.a.46  
 ——— c.a.47  
 ——— c.a.48  
 ——— c.a.49  
 ——— c.a.50  
 ——— c.a.51  
 ——— c.a.52  
 ——— c.a.53  
 ——— c.a.54  
 ——— c.a.55  
 ——— c.a.56  
 ——— c.a.57  
 ——— c.a.58  
 ——— c.a.59  
 ——— c.a.60  
 ——— c.a.61  
 ——— c.a.62  
 ——— c.a.63  
 ——— c.a.64  
 ——— c.a.65  
 ——— c.a.66  
 ——— c.a.67  
 ——— c.a.68  
 ——— c.a.69  
 ——— c.a.70  
 ——— c.a.71  
 ——— c.a.72  
 ——— c.a.73  
 ——— c.a.74  
 ——— c.a.75  
 ——— c.a.76  
 ——— c.a.77  
 ——— c.a.78  
 ——— c.a.79  
 ——— c.a.80  
 ——— c.a.81  
 ——— c.a.82  
 ——— c.a.83  
 ——— c.a.84  
 ——— c.a.85  
 ——— c.a.86  
 ——— c.a.87  
 ——— c.a.88  
 ——— c.a.89  
 ——— c.a.90  
 ——— c.a.91  
 ——— c.a.92  
 ——— c.a.93  
 ——— c.a.94  
 ——— c.a.95  
 ——— c.a.96  
 ——— c.a.97  
 ——— c.a.98  
 ——— c.a.99  
 ——— c.a.100

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Vital Records – Rhode Island

- Rhode Island – James Arnold
- Vital Records of Rhode Island, 1636-1850, First Series: Births, Marriages and Deaths (see handout)

Vol 1: Kent County	Vol 8: Episcopal and Congregational	Vol 17: Providence Gazette, marriages	Vol 18: Providence Gazette, deaths
Vol 2: Providence County (Providence, Cranston, Johnston, North Providence, Glocester, Southfield)	Vol 9: Baptist, Pentecostal and Neuman Congregational Church	Vol 19: United States Marriage Marriages; American Journal, Imperial Gazetteer; Providence Journal, marriages and deaths; Providence Semi-weekly Journal, marriages	Vol 20: United States Census; Providence, Rhode Island, Marriages A-B
Vol 3: Providence County (Glocester, Burdette, Scituate, Foster, Cumberland, Smithfield)	Vol 10: Town and Church Records	Vol 21: Providence Phoenix, Providence Patriot, Providence Phoenix, marriages A-B	Vol 22: Providence Phoenix, Providence Patriot, Providence Phoenix, marriages S-T, deaths A-M
Vol 4: Newport County	Vol 11: Church Records	Vol 23: Revolutionary rolls and newspapers, including Providence Journal, deaths A-B	Vol 24: Rhode Island American, marriages A-G
Vol 5: Washington County	Vol 12: Revolutionary rolls and newspapers, including Providence Journal, deaths A-B	Vol 25: Providence Phoenix, Providence Patriot, Providence Phoenix, deaths A-B	Vol 26: Rhode Island American, marriages H-Z, deaths A-B
Vol 6: Bristol County	Vol 13: Deaths, Providence Journal and Providence Gazette	Vol 27: Providence Phoenix, Providence Patriot, Providence Phoenix, deaths A-B	Vol 28: Rhode Island American, deaths, C-E
Vol 7: Friends and ministers deaths and marriages	Vol 14: Providence Gazette, deaths and marriages		

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Vital Records - Connecticut

- Barbour Collection to 1850
  - Lucius Barnes Barbour, State Examiner of Public Records from 1911-1934
- Charles R. Hale Collection, Vital Records, 1640-1955

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

13

### Barbour Collection

**Slip Index (FS)**

**Town Page Windsor (AA)**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

14

### Suffield Records – FamilySearch.org

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

15



**Pursue Vital Record Substitutes**

- Church records
- Cemetery records
- Probate records (usually filed within three months of death)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

19

**Church and Cemetery Records**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

20

**Where to Find Church Records**

- Many New Englanders were Congregationalists
  - Check County Histories for clues about denominations in your ancestor's town
- Indexed databases
  - *American Ancestors*
  - *Family Search*
  - *Ancestry*
- Unindexed images
  - *Family Search*
- Congregational Church Archives

---

---

---

---

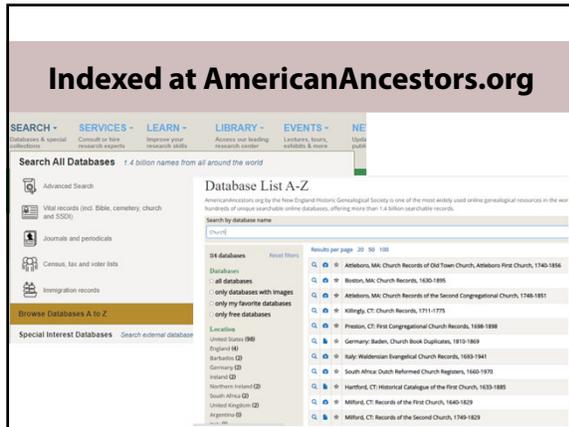
---

---

---

---

21



22

---

---

---

---

---

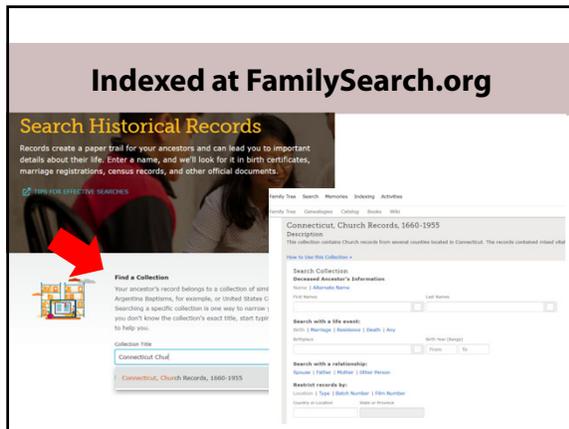
---

---

---

---

---



23

---

---

---

---

---

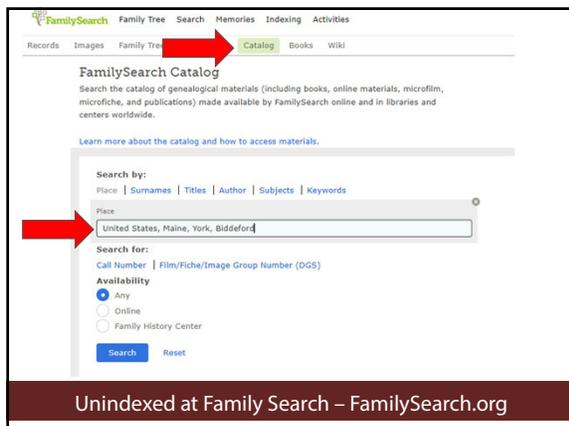
---

---

---

---

---



24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog  
 Part of United States, Maine, York

- United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Cemeteries ( 2 )
- United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Church history ( 1 )
- United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Church records ( 7 )**
  - Manual of the Second Congregational Church, Biddeford, Maine.  
Author: Second Congregational Church in Biddeford Maine
  - Marriages of St. Andre, Biddeford, Maine (1899-1978)  
Author: Laboné, Youville, 1925-
  - Marriages of St. Joseph, Biddeford, Maine (1870-1979)  
Author: Laboné, Youville, 1925-
  - Marriages, St. Mary's Parish, 1850-1989, Biddeford, Maine  
Author: Bergeron, Simone; Franco-American Genealogical Society of York County, Maine; Catholic Church. St. Mary's Parish (Biddeford, Maine)
  - Membership, baptisms, marriages of the 1st Church of Christ in Biddeford, Maine  
Author: Lily, Georgiana H. (Georgiana Herwins), b. 1877; First Church of Christ (Biddeford, Maine); Daughters of the American Revolution. Mary Kilton Dummer Chapter (Hallowell, Maine)
  - Parish records, 1742-1872

FamilySearch.org

25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Records of first congregational church in Biddeford  
 Statement of Responsibility: communicated by A. K. P. Meserve  
 Format: Journal Article  
 Language: English  
 Physical: p. 8-14

Notes  
 To view a digital version of this article click [here](#).

Church records, including vital dates, with dates ranging 1756-1777.

Subjects  
 Locality Subjects  
 United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Church records

Part of

FamilySearch.org

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Congregational Library & Archives  
 History Matters

Series I: Church Records  
 This series contains collections of church records documenting early Puritan, Congregational, and Christian (denominational) history in New England. These collections describe the founding and operating of these churches, their concerns, officials, and triumphs. They speak to the lives of their ministers, the events and concerns of their communities, the civil affairs of the town, and the lives of the people who led in the pines.

In this series you will find records of church meetings and votes, births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages, church discipline, including admonitions, confessions, censures, and excommunications, ecclesiastical council minutes. Of particular note are the personal conversion narratives, called "relations," found in several of the collections. These documents, prepared by any individual seeking church membership, offer insight into many under-documented populations including women, children, Native-Americans, slaves, and indentured servants.

Click on the name of the collection to go to its description page.

The Collections

- Abington, Mass. First Congregational Church (1714-1877) TRANSCRIPTION AVAILABLE
- Barnstable, Mass. East Parish Church (1717-1816) TRANSCRIPTION AVAILABLE
- Barnstable, Mass. West Parish Church (1630-1853) TRANSCRIPTION AVAILABLE
- Berkeley, VT. First Church (1752-1927) <sup>NEW</sup>
- Berkeley, Mass. Congregational Church (1737-1814)
- Biddeford, Maine. First Church of Christ (1742-1781) <sup>NEW</sup>

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

- New England's Hidden Histories: Colonial Era Church Records
- Series I: Church Records
- Series II: Personal Papers and Documents
- Series III: Conference and Association Records
- About the Project Partners
- Church Records Transcription Project
- Digital Collections Copyright & Use
- People of Color Finding Aid
- Image Catalog

congregationallibrary.org/digital-collections

27

---

---

---

---

---

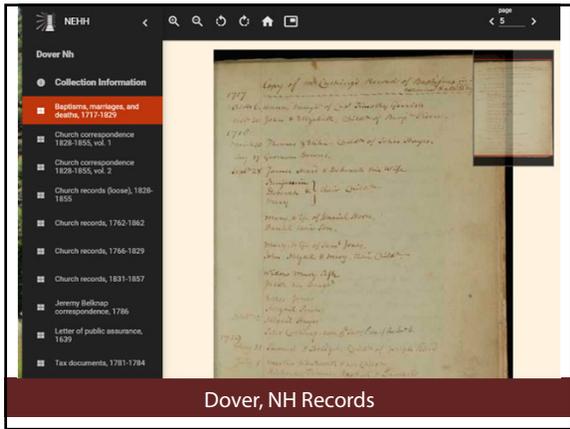
---

---

---

---

---



28

---

---

---

---

---

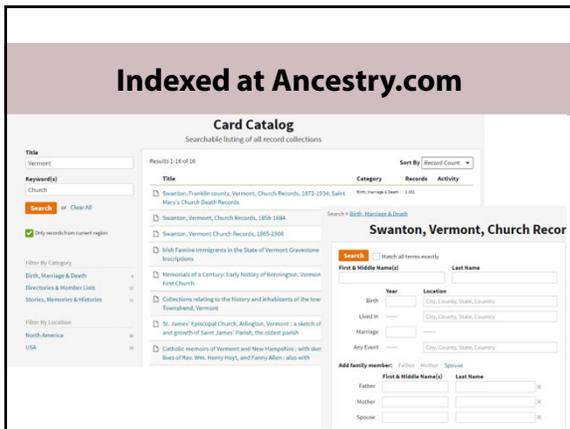
---

---

---

---

---



29

---

---

---

---

---

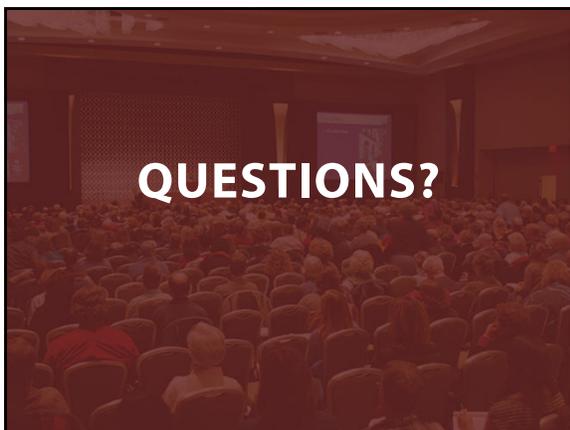
---

---

---

---

---



30

---

---

---

---

---

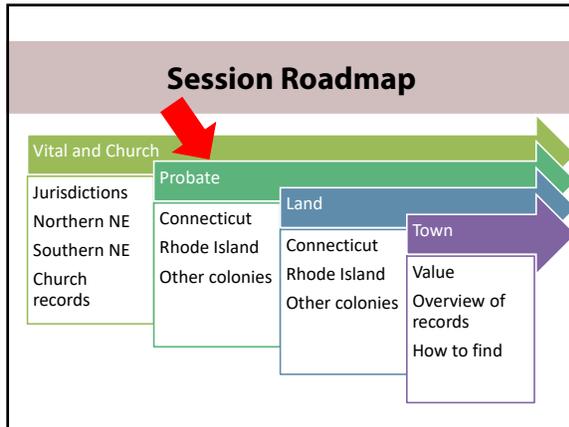
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

31

**Probate Records**

- Probate is the process of settling an estate after death
  - Many steps
  - Generates documents
- Use to:
  - Verify family relationships
  - Substitute when vital records are lacking
    - Approximate death dates
    - When a daughter was married by
    - When a wife was deceased by
  - Trace the origin of family items or property
  - Provide context of ancestor's life

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

32

**Jurisdictions for Colonial Records**

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town	County	County
Massachusetts	Town	County	County
New Hampshire	Town	County	County
Rhode Island	Town	Town	Town
Vermont	Town	Its complicated	Its complicated

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

33

### Colonial Connecticut Probate

- New Haven Colony (to 1655) – Probate kept at town or colony
- Connecticut Colony
  - Particular Court (1639 - 1665) - Records transcribed and published
  - Court of Assistants (1665- 1711) – An appeals court, records transcribed and published
  - County Courts (1666 - 1855) - Handled probate for four original counties, Hartford, New London, New Haven, and Fairfield until 1698
  - 1698 Probate District system established
    - Original 4 county courts
    - 1719 new districts began to be established.

---

---

---

---

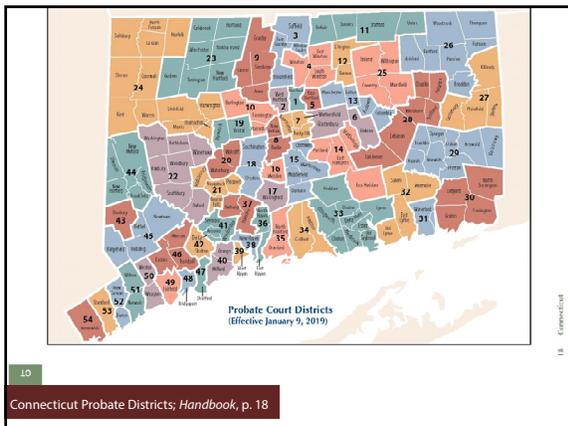
---

---

---

---

34




---

---

---

---

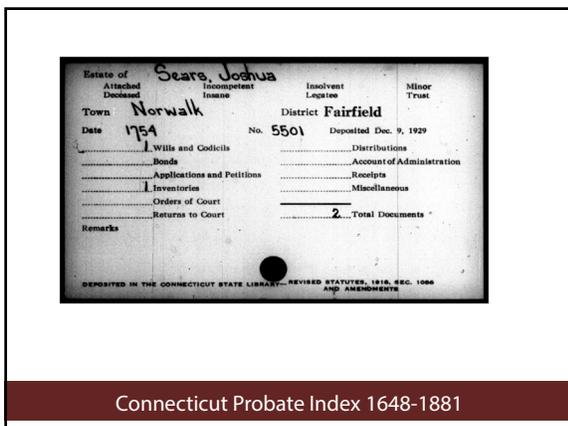
---

---

---

---

35



Connecticut Probate Index 1648-1881

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

36

### Colonial Rhode Island Probate

- *AmericanAncestors.org*: microfilms of town probates for about half of Rhode Island towns
- *AmericanAncestors.org*: Index to Providence probate, 1646-1899
- *FamilySearch.org*: Search BY TOWN for probate records – will need to access through a Family History Center or Affiliate
- *Ancestry.com*: Varied material, years 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

37

<b>Smith</b> ) <b>Smyth</b> ) <i>cont.</i>				<b>Snow, cont.</b>			
1830	William G. . . .	guardianship	A5276	1872	Edward S. . . .	administration	A10412
1811	William Henry . . .	guardianship	A4067	1822	Elisha . . . .	administration	A4686
1812	William Henry . . .	administration	A4119	1806	Eliza . . . .	will . . . .	2993
1891	William J. . . .	depend't child	A17711	1890	Elizabeth . . . .	guardianship	A16834
1890	William J. . . .	administration	5131	1860	Florence E. . . .	will . . . .	A3653
1893	William J. B. . . .	administration	1000	1890	Florence P. . . .	guardianship	A16746
1896	William M. . . .	will . . . .	A3431	1822	George . . . .	will . . . .	A4703
1855	William R. . . .	alien . . . .	A18329	1895	George W. . . .	will . . . .	2564
1873	William T. . . .	will . . . .	A10778	1890	Helen P. . . .	guardianship	A16746
1889	William T. . . .	guardianship	A16288	1812	James . . . .	administration	A4147
				1879	Jennette M. . . .	real estate . . .	A18705
				1801	J. Lippitt . . . .	administration	18
				1851	John . . . .	administration	A6992
1895	Ann . . . .	administration	2476	1848	John B. . . .	administration	A6656
1895	Mary E. . . .	guardianship	2477	1842	John C. . . .	guardianship	A6178
				1879	John C. . . .	will . . . .	A12401
				1852	John E. . . .	guardianship	A18945
				1872	John L. . . .	guardianship	A10456
				1873	John L. . . .	administration	A10555
				1773	Joseph . . . .	will . . . .	A936
				1884	Joseph G. . . .	administration	A13980
				1830	Joseph Potang .	will . . . .	A5298
				1801	Josiah . . . .	administration	A3558
				1813	Josiah . . . .	administration	A4158
				1888	Julia E. . . .	will . . . .	A15922

Rhode Island Probate Index 1636-1899

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

38

### Colonies with County-Level Probate

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

39

## Colonial Maine Probate

- Probate kept at COUNTY level
  - Cumberland Co. Probates destroyed by fire in 1907.
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of probate for 1760-1979
- Ancestry.com: All counties varied years 17th-20th Century
- Published Compilations
  - Sargent's *Maine Wills 1640-1760*, on [www.AmericanAncestors.org](http://www.AmericanAncestors.org)
  - John E. Frost's, *Maine Probate Abstracts 1687-1800* were published in 1991 by Picton Press in two volumes

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

40

The image shows the cover of the book 'Maine Probate Abstracts, Volume 1, 1687-1775' by John Elbridge Frost, published by Picton Press. To the right is a page of abstracts from the book, including entries for SARGENT & KARAH LOVETT, JOSEPH MITCHELL, JOSEPH HARMON, JOHN JORDAN, NATHANIEL DRESSER, and WILLIAM VAUGHAN.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

41

## Colonial Massachusetts Probate

- Probate at COUNTY level
- AmericanAncestors.org
  - Barnstable Abstracts 1685-1789;
  - File papers: Essex 1638-1881;
  - Hampshire 1660-1858;
  - Middlesex 1648-1871;
  - Plymouth 1686-1881;
  - Worcester 1731-1881.
  - And indexes for Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester counties.
- Ancestry.com: All counties varied years 17th-20th centuries.
- FamilySearch.org: Use the catalog to search for probate records from your ancestor's county of death.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

42

**Colonial New Hampshire Probate**

- Probate at COUNTY level
- Probates to 1771 are abstracted in the NH State Papers (vols. 31-39) including wills transcribed. <http://sos.nh.gov/Papers.aspx>
- AmericanAncestors.org has microfilm at it's Boston Research Center for several counties
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of New Hampshire probate records – 1660-1973
- Ancestry.com's collection covers 1643-1982

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

43

**PROBATE RECORDS**  
OF THE  
**PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
VOL. 1  
1635-1717  
STATE PAPERS SERIES  
VOL. 31  
ALBERT STELLMAN BATTLELOR  
Editor of State Papers  
OTIS GRANT HAMMOND  
EZRA SCOLLAY STEARNS  
Assistants  
CONCORD, N. H.  
HUNFORD PRINTING CO.  
1981

**NEW HAMPSHIRE WILLS** 243  
GODFREY DEARBORN 1686 HAMPTON  
I Godfrey Dearborn of Hampton in the Province of New Hampshire in New England Being aged and Infirm of Body  
I Give and Bequeath Unto Dorothy Dearborn my loving wife for the term of her life my Dwelling House & Barn & orchard and the Use and Improvement of all my land both Arable land pasture & marsh land for her Comfortable subsistence During the term of Her life, and the care and Improvement of all my moveables within Doree and without During the term of her life  
It: I Doe Give and bequeath Unto my Grand Child Ann Sharrod that now liveth with mee one two year old Heffer which she is to Receive at the End of Her time if she is to Die with mee  
It: I Doe Give Unto my sonne Thomas Dearborne my Dark Bessewe horse which I Use to Rid on  
It: I Doe Give Unto my son Thomas and Henry Dearborne all the Rest of my Cattle that shall Remaine at the Decese of the longest liver of mee or my wife Excepting Sheep and swine which are other wayes Disposed of  
It: my will and pleasure is that all the Sheepe and swine that shall Remaine at my wifes Decese shall bee Equally Divided betwix all my Grand Children if shall live then living; and the Division to be made by my Executors & over seers  
It: I Doe Give and Bequeath Unto my Son John Dearborne my House barns and house luts and all my land both Arable land pastures meadows & marshes and all Towns Rights and privileges thereunto belonging and all my tooles and Cares & other Implements of Husbandry; and I Doe appoint my son John Dearborne to bee my Executor to this my will and the Estate he which he is to Enter Upon and possess at my wifes Decese and to bee and Remaine to him and his Heires for Ever  
It: I Doe ordaine and Appoint my two Eldest sons Thomas Dearborne & Henry Dearborne to bee my over seers to this my last will and testament whom I appoint to see to the management

New Hampshire State Papers - Probate

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

44

**Vermont**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

45

### Colonial Period Vermont

- No known probate records for Vermont prior to 1777
- May find probate in New York or New Hampshire records
  - From 1749, New Hampshire claimed Vermont
  - From 1764, New York claimed Vermont as part of Albany County
    - Cumberland County from Albany in 1766
    - Gloucester County from Albany in 1770
    - Charlotte County from Albany in 1772

---

---

---

---

---

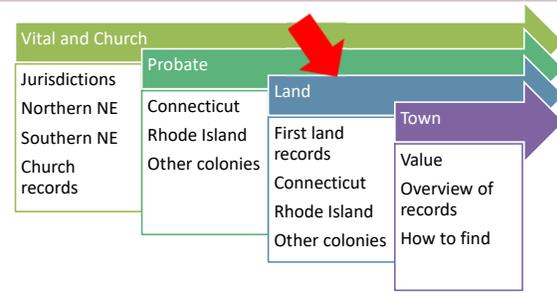
---

---

---

46

### Session Roadmap




---

---

---

---

---

---

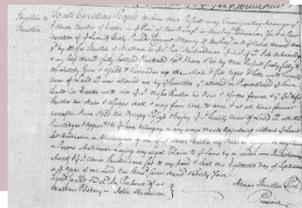
---

---

47

### Why Use 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




---

---

---

---

---

---

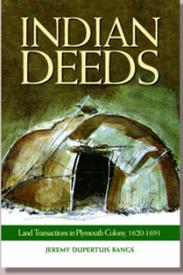
---

---

48

### First New England Land Records

- Transfer from Crown to Colony via:
  - Council (e.g. Council of New England)
  - Proprietors (e.g. Mason and Gorges)
  - “After the fact” Charter (e.g. Connecticut, Rhode Island)
- Purchase from indigenous tribes




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

49

### First Charters/Grants/Patents

Colony	Year	Grant / Charter / Patent / Other	From
Connecticut	1639	Other: Fundamental Orders	Towns of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield
	1643	Other: Government of New Haven Colony	Towns of New Haven and Milford
	1662	Charter: Connecticut Colony	King Charles II
Maine	1622	Grant: Mason and Gorges	King James and Council of New England
Massachusetts	1629	Charter: Massachusetts Bay	King Charles I and Council of New England
	1619	Other: Mayflower Compact	Pilgrims
	1691	Charter: Massachusetts Colony	King and Queen William and Mary
New Hampshire	1622	Grant: Mason and Gorges	King James and Council of New England
	1629	Grant: Mason	King Charles I
Rhode Island	1636	Sale: Providence lands	Narragansett Tribes
	1643	Patent: Providence Plantations	King Charles I and Robert Warwick

Yale Law School, "Colonial Charters, Grants and Related Documents," [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject\\_menus/statech.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/statech.asp)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

50

## Colony-Specific Subsequent Land Transfers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

51

### Deeds in Colonial Connecticut and Rhode Island

- Organized by TOWN
- Beware of changing town boundaries
- Use the FamilySearch.org catalog to find Connecticut and Rhode Island records at the town level.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

52

### Deeds in Colonial Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts

- Organized by COUNTY
- Be aware of changing county boundaries
- Some early Maine deeds at the Massachusetts State Archives
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of Massachusetts land records
- Maine and New Hampshire records are not indexed. Use the FamilySearch.org catalog to find at the county level.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

53

### Deeds in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts

- Organized by COUNTY
- Be aware of changing county boundaries
- Some early Maine deeds at the Massachusetts State Archives
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of Massachusetts land records
- Use the FamilySearch.org catalog to find Maine and New Hampshire records at the county level.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

54



**Pre-Republic Transfers in Vermont**

- New Hampshire Land Grants 1749-1764 - New Hampshire Provincial & State Papers, Volume 26
- New York Land Patents 1688-1786 - State Papers of Vermont, v. 7
- Post colonial records are at the town level



Vermont Historical Society, Map of New Hampshire Land Grants, 1774

---

---

---

---

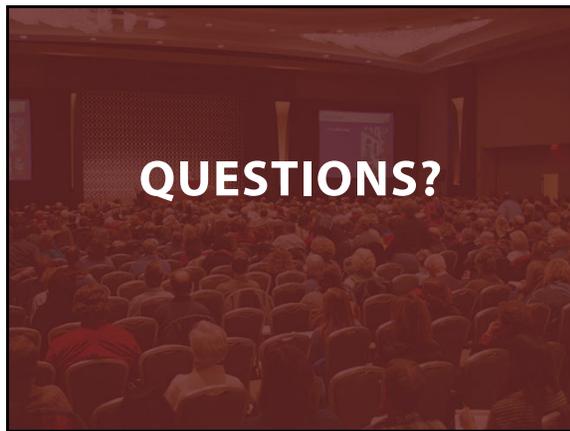
---

---

---

---

58




---

---

---

---

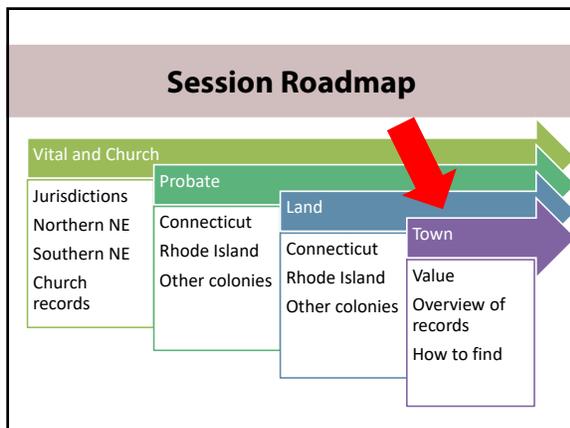
---

---

---

---

59




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

60

**New England's Unique Resource:  
Town Records**

- Kept by Town Clerks
- Catalog of town activities
  - Births, marriage and deaths
  - Land transfers
  - Cattle ownership
  - Taxes
  - Other
- Even if your ancestor does not appear in the Town Vital Records, their presence in the community may be elsewhere in the books

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

61

Town Meeting Minutes, 1755

Special Town Meeting, 1755

Land Record, 1735

Town Records

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

62

**Examples of Town Records**

- Lists of Officers
- Meetings
- Vitals – birth, marriage, and death
- Land Transactions
- Ear marks
- Military
- Treasurer's records
- Tax records
- Warnings out
- Pew deeds
- Licenses

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

63



**Town Clerk**

- Keeper of vital records
- Documented votes, resolutions, and orders
- Recorded the meeting proceedings
- Administered oaths and affidavits
- Certified licenses

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

67

**Selectmen**

- Generally elected to a one-year term
- Managed the affairs of the town
- Performed many tasks
  - Created slate of jurors
  - Divided town lands
  - Judge offenses against town laws and orders

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

68

**Constable**

- Posted notice for town meetings
- “Policeman” of the town
  - Conduct
  - Illegal activity
- Acted as tax collector if specific position did not exist
- Warned out strangers

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

69

**Treasurer**

- Managed town's finances
- Presided over reimbursements
  - Military service
  - Care of poor
  - Services by townspeople (constructing and repairing roads, building schoolhouse, etc.)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

70

**Other Town Offices**

- Town Clerk
- Selectmen
- Constable
- Treasurer
- Fence Viewers
- Hog Reeves
- Listers and Collectors
- Surveyor of Highways
- Jurors

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

71

Town Meeting Record, Sandown, NH, 1756

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

72





76

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Volume 1 contains: vol. A & B (transcript of A) town records and land grants 1647-1753. Volume 2 contains: vol. C fragments of records, lot layouts 1656-1675, tax lists 1675-1677; vol. D town records 1661-1676; vol. E rate books 1660-1676; vol. G town records 1722 and 1746; vol. I highway layouts 1666-1726; vol. J highway layouts 1711; vol. K highway layouts 1733-1805; vol. Y scraps of records; vol. M vital statistics 1684-1838. Volume 3 contains: vol. F town records and lot layouts 1689-1753; vol. H index. Volume 4 contains: vol. M town records and land grants 1736-1807; vol. N index. Volume 5 contains: vol. L surveyor of highway records 1812-1825; vol. Q inventories 1794-1812. Volume 6 contains: vol. R inventory list 1820; vol. S inventory list 1821; vol. T inventory list 1822; vol. U inventory lists 1822-1828; vol. V inventory list 1823. Volume 7 contains: vol. O town accounts 1741-1766; vol. P town accounts 1816-1832.

Includes indexes.

Also includes births 1676-1838, marriages 1704-1822 and deaths 1703-1834.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

**Subjects**

Locality Subjects

United States, New Hampshire, Strafford, Dover - Vital records

United States, New Hampshire, Strafford, Dover - Town records

United States, New Hampshire, Strafford, Dover - Land and property

**Film/Digital Notes**

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Town records vol. 1 1647-1753; vol. 2 1692-1838	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor	Film	15118 5510598	📺
Town records vol. 3 1669-1757	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor	Film	15119 5510599	📺
Town records vol. 4 1736-1807	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor	Film	15120 5510600	📺
Town records vol. 5 1794-1825; vol. 6 1820-1828	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor	Film	15121 5510601	📺
Town records vol. 7 1741-1832	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor	Film	15122 6619658	📺

**Town Records for Dover, NH**

77

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Summary**

- Colonial-era resources are often in book format.
- Vital records in New England began at the town level when a town was formed or incorporated.
- Land and probate records may be kept at the town, county, or other jurisdictional level.
- Study and know the location where your ancestor lived: location is key to New England research!

78

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



79

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



80

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



81

---

---

---

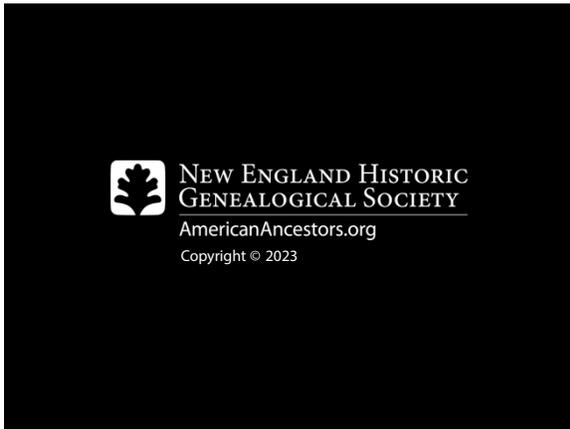
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

82