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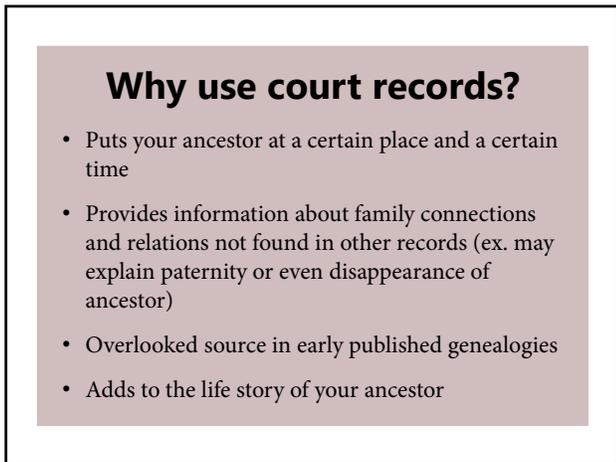
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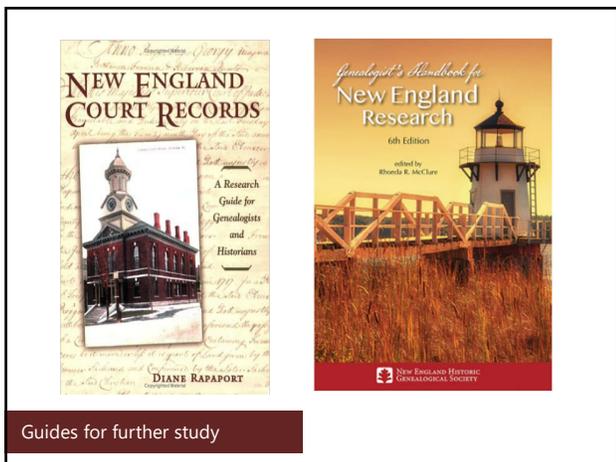
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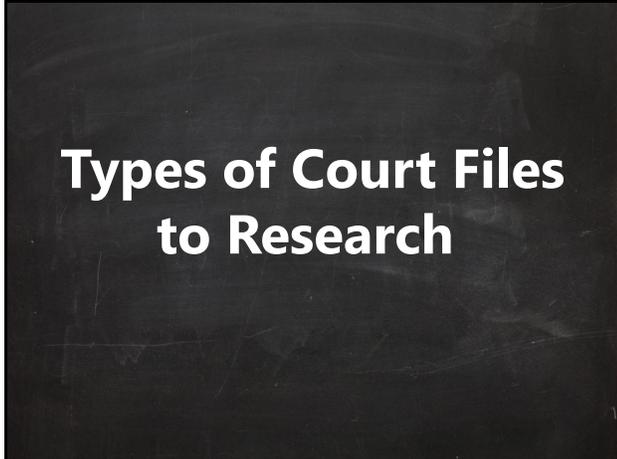
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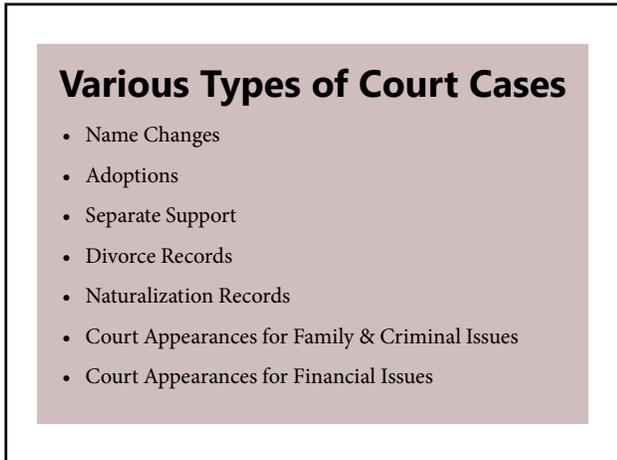
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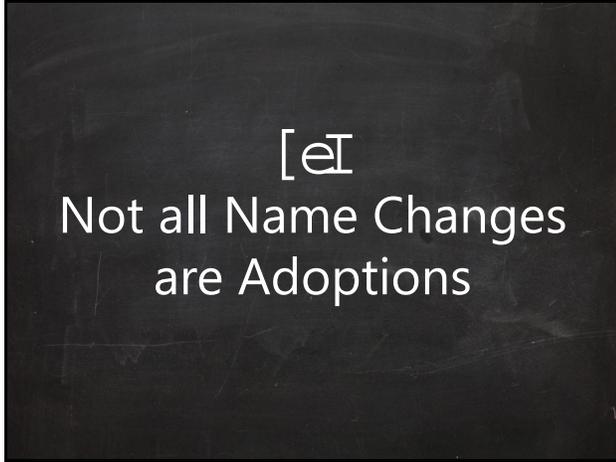
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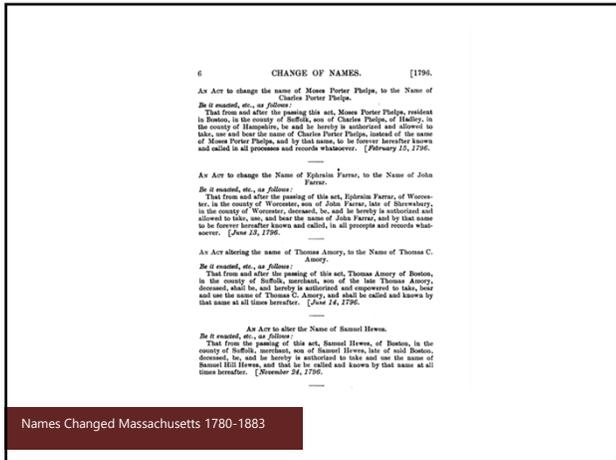
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Names Changed Massachusetts 1780-1883

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SUFFOLK COUNTY.			
1838.	George R. Curran	Stukely S. Wescott	
-	Caroline Tinkham Grinnell	Caroline Grinnell Smith	
-	Michael Gibbs, jun	Melville Shields Gibbs	
-	George Thomas Gillett	George Thomas Phinney	
-	Mary McGregor	Gertrude Eleanor Baker	
-	Newell Campbell Rogers	Newell Rogers Campbell	
-	Hinman Stevens	Hiram Stevens	
-	Minnie Stall	Nellie Florine Barton	
-	Celia Maria Sawyer	Celia Maria Hamilton	
-	Harriet Ann Webber	Hattie Tarbox	
-	Charles Forbush Warren	Jonathan Charles Warren	

ESSEX COUNTY.			
Feb. 2,	Mary Noonan*	Ella Dole	Rowley.
2,	Albert Knight,*	Eli Vickery Bartlett,	Marblehead.
Mar. 6,	Amos Abbott, 2d,	Amos Chandler Abbott,	Andover.

\* Changed by reason of adoption.

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

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# Adoption Records

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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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## 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



The poster is titled "WANTED Homes for Children" and features a large, bold "WANTED" at the top. Below it, the text reads: "A company of homeless children from the East will arrive at TROY, MO., ON FRIDAY, FEB. 25th, 1910". It lists names of agents: "G. H. Avery, E. J. Woolfolk, H. J. Childers, Wm. Young, G. W. Colbert". At the bottom, it says "Opera House Friday, Feb. 25, at 4:30 p. m." and "In W. Hill and Sons, A. L. Hill, Agents, 102 E. 21st St., New York City. Bldg. 2 of 100th St., International House, Newark, N. J."

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## Searching the FamilySearch Catalog for Adoption Case Dockets

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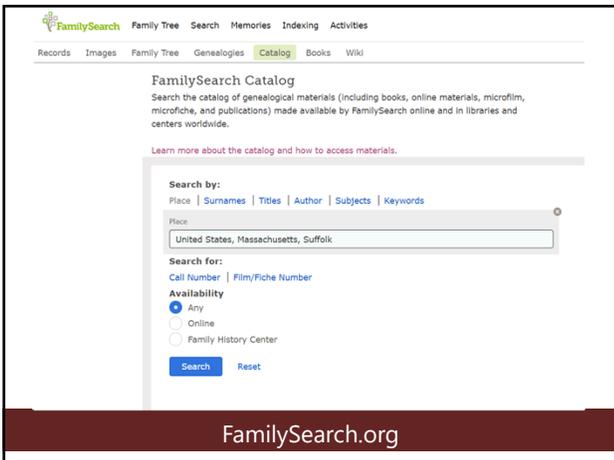
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The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Catalog search page. At the top, there are navigation links: "FamilySearch", "Family Tree", "Search", "Memories", "Indexing", "Activities". Below that, there are tabs for "Records", "Images", "Family Tree", "Genealogies", "Catalog" (selected), "Books", and "Wiki". The main heading is "FamilySearch Catalog" with a sub-heading: "Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide." There is a link to "Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials." The search section includes "Search by:" with options "Place", "Surnames", "Titles", "Author", "Subjects", and "Keywords". The "Place" dropdown menu is open, showing "United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk". Below that, there is a "Search for:" field with options "Call Number" and "Film/Fiche Number". The "Availability" section has radio buttons for "Any" (selected), "Online", and "Family History Center". There are "Search" and "Reset" buttons at the bottom. The footer of the page says "FamilySearch.org".

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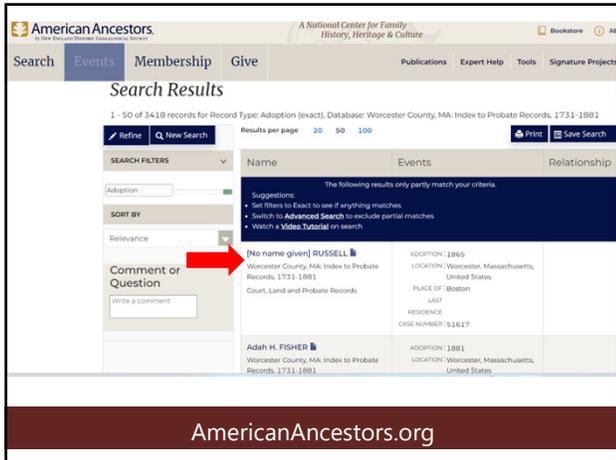
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Virtual Spring Stay at Home



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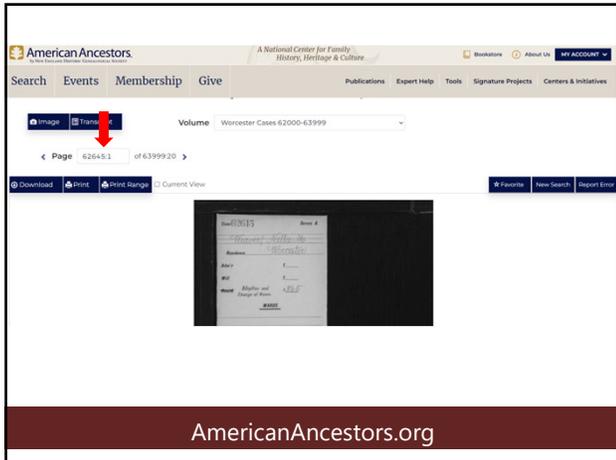
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Virtual Spring Stay at Home



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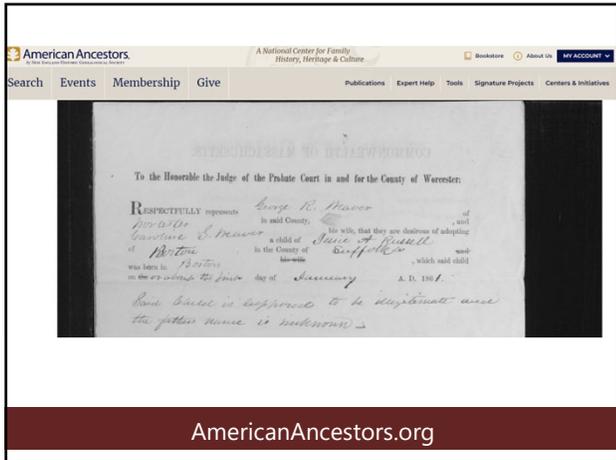
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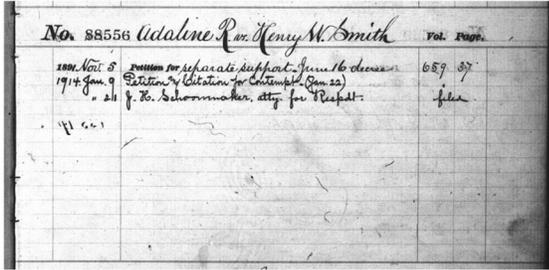
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### Separate Support



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... in one year of our now are upwards  
eight hundred and ninety-two.

On the petition of Adaline P. Smith of Boston in said County the wife of Henry W. Smith of Greenwich in the County of Hampshire, praying that said Court will by its order prohibit her said husband from imposing any restraint on her personal liberty, and make such further order as it deems expedient concerning her support, and the care, custody and maintenance of the minor children of herself and her said husband; Due notice of said petition has been given to the said Henry W. Smith and he appearing to the Court that said petitioner for justifiable cause is actually living apart from her said husband.

It is ordered that said Henry W. Smith be and he hereby is prohibited from imposing any restraint on the personal liberty of

1891 Suffolk Co. Sep. Support

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### Divorce Records

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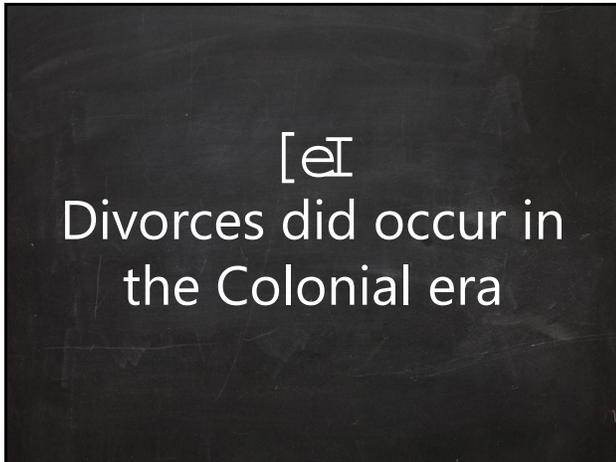
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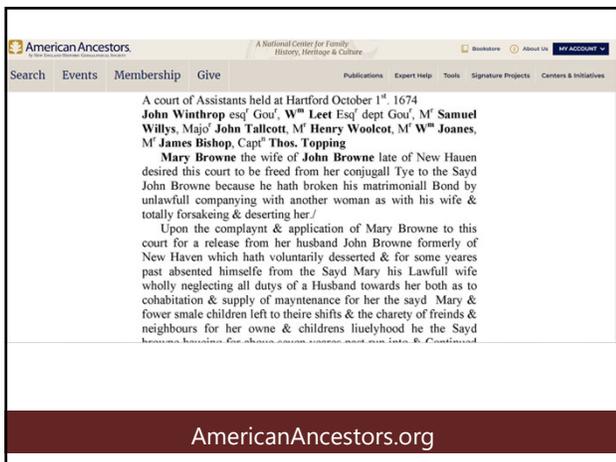
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### Massachusetts Divorce: 1692-1775

- 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

Authors: 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](#)

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Index to divorces - Abare to Browne	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	1001323	8571822	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	8135770	8

FamilySearch.org

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Record for Divorce

Husband's name in full  
William H. Brown

Residence  
Wapping

Wife's name in full  
Marguerite L. Brown

Residence  
unknown

Docket Number  
E044

Date of Marriage  
July 20, 1919

Place of Marriage  
Portsmouth, N.H.

Sex of Infant  
Male

Was case contested  
No

Date of Decree  
July 2, 1920

Cause  
Abandonment and refusal to cohabit.

Number of minor children affected by decree  
0

The State of New Hampshire  
Rockingham ss. Superior Court

I certify that the above record is correct.  
Clerk

Date  
July 2, 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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**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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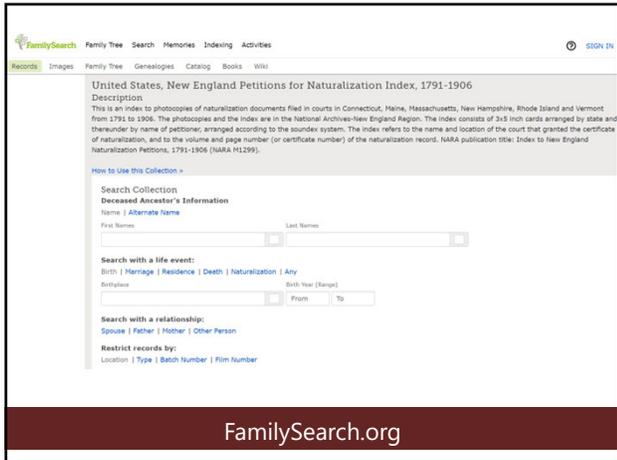
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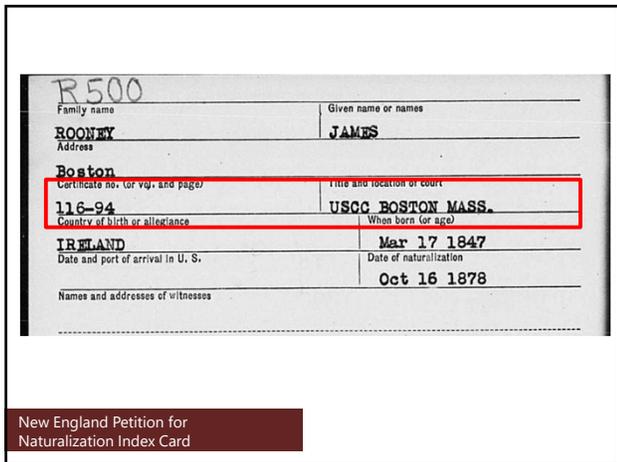
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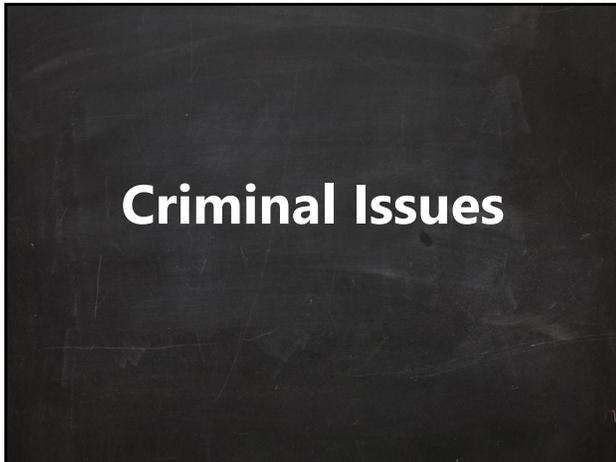
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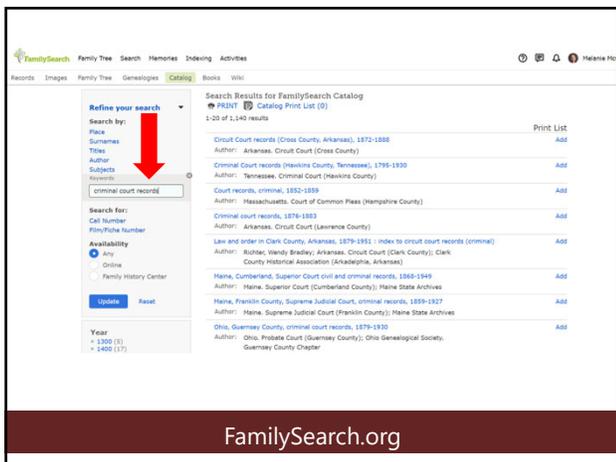
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## Financial Cases

- 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>m</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>h</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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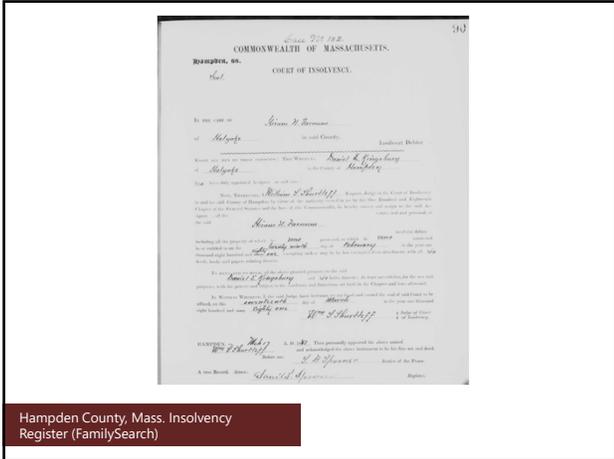
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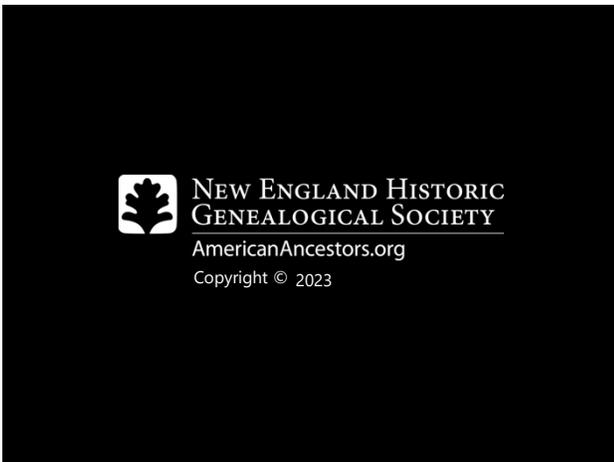
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