

# Researching Impoverished Ancestors in North America

## *Class 2: Cries for Reform: Quincy and Yates Reports*

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®  
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# Meet today's presenter

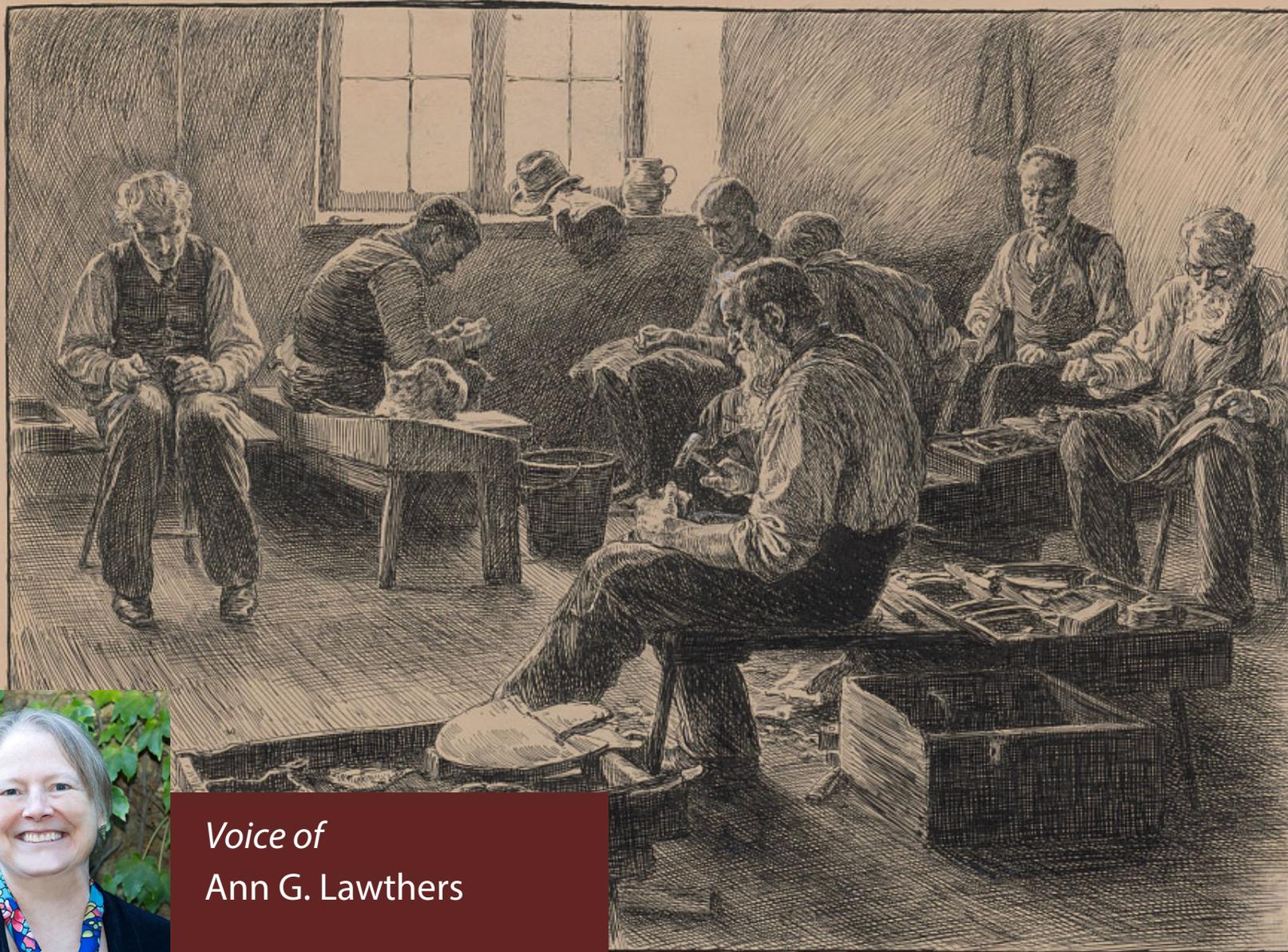


Ann G. Lawthers

Genealogist with the Brue Family Learning Center

# OVERVIEW

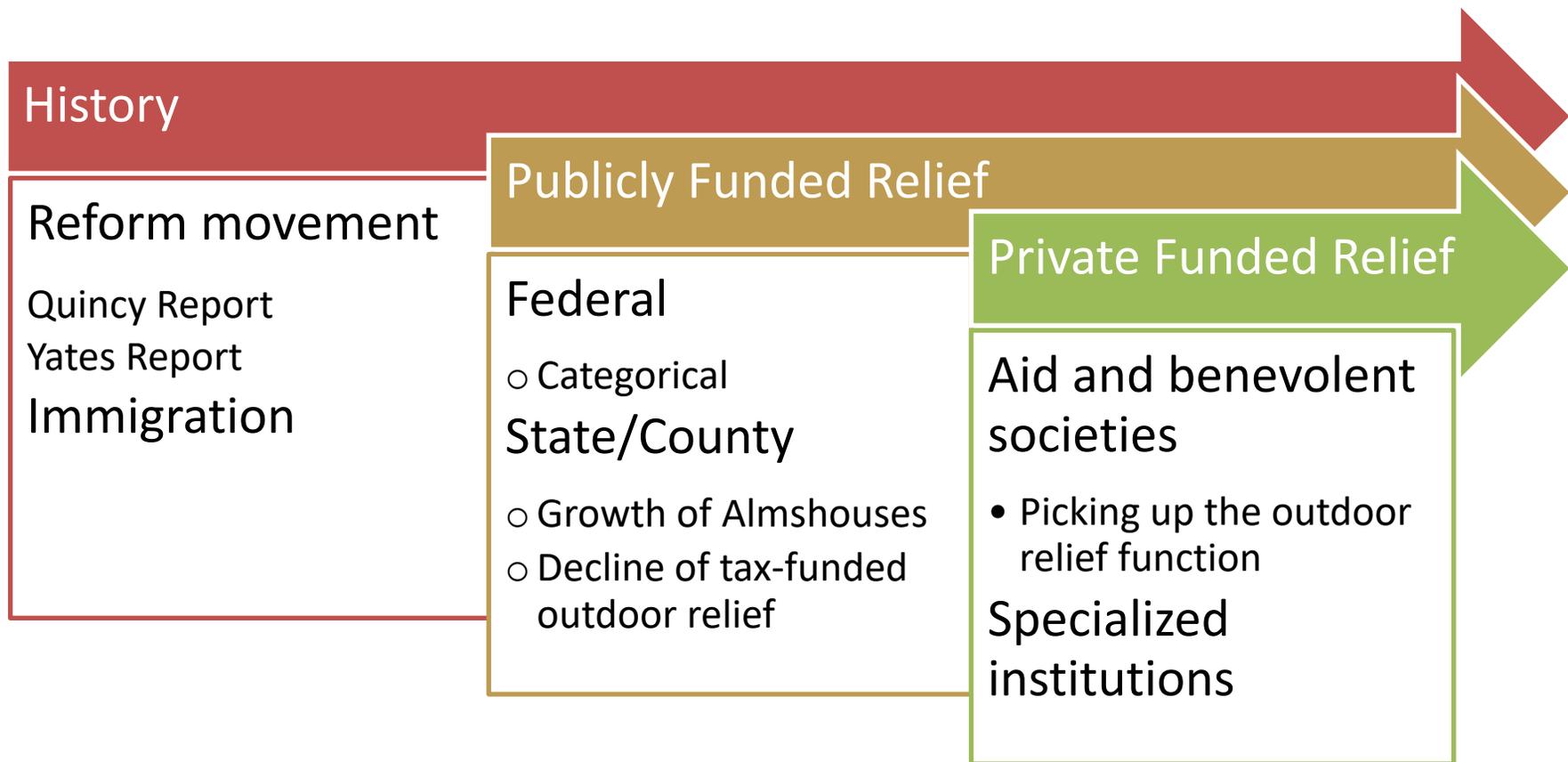
- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - History of the Reform Movement
  - Publicly Funded Relief
  - Privately Funded Relief
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**



*Voice of*  
Ann G. Lawthers

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# Session Roadmap



# Complaints

There are few towns in the United States more infested with vagrants and sturdy-beggars than Baltimore. . . . If some means are not adopted to stop the progress of these idle vagabonds, they will soon become very troublesome to the inhabitants

*Pennsylvania Packet 4 April 1787*

# Quincy Report

- Written in 1821 by Josiah Quincy III, of Massachusetts
- Sent surveys to town – 162 responded
- Summarized systems of relief operating in 1821
  - Outdoor Relief: provides supplies, food, fuel, and/or cash to poor families in their own homes.
  - Pauper Auction: provides for the poor by letting them out to the lowest bidder in families at large within the town.
  - Contract System: a town contract system where poor are indentured, bound out, or contracted to different members of the community.
  - Poorhouse or Almshouse

*The following Table, formed from Returns of the Towns, will show with sufficient accuracy, the actual Pauper burden of Massachusetts, as far as it extends.*

Counties.	No. of Towns making returns.	No. of Paupers for one year.	Population in 1810.
Suffolk,	2	411	33,844
Essex,	20	1281	66,026
Middlesex,	18	562	25,493
Plymouth,	9	221	13,365
Bristol,	11	228	24,283
Barnstable, Nantucket, &c. }	13	257	22,951
Norfolk,	11	231	15,844
Worcester,	30	587	32,836
Hampshire,	13	153	13,111
Franklin,	17	194	17,873
Hampden,	8	84	10,320
Berkshire,	10	131	11,491
Whole No. of Towns,	162	Whole No. Pau- pers in Towns making returns } 4340	Popul'n in Towns making returns according to Cen- sus of 1810, } 287,437

1821 Quincy Report Table – Paupers in Massachusetts

## SUTTON.

We have no Poor-House, but the opinion of our town, we think is rising in favor of one; and the present year, for the first time, we have contracted with an individual for the support of the whole, except a very few particular cases. This is an approximation in method towards that of supporting them in a Poor House, and has operated towards a reduction in number, and a diminution of the expense of those remaining on the list.

It may perhaps be totally useless for us to remark, that the cause of pauperage in a very large share of the instances on our list, may be traced to habits of intemperance; and these habits, in too many instances, are originated or increased, by improper and unlawful indulgences in licensed houses.

### 1821 Town of Sutton Return

## ANDOVER.

We have a Poor House, with about 80 acres of land attached to the same, consisting of mowing, tillage, pasture, and peat meadows. The males who are able to labor are employed on the farm, and in curing turf for their fuel, which, for a few years past, has made a great saving to the town. The females are employed in spinning, weaving, making clothes for the family, taking care of the sick, &c.

Those who are able to labor are few, considering the number in the house. It is found by experience, that the poor can be better taken care of, and cheaper supported here in the Alms House than at large. The average price of the whole number in the Alms House for their support has been 60 cents per week. In many cases where the Overseers have allowed those who have had strong aversions to going to the Poor House, a supply, not to exceed the expense of the house, have been under the necessity of paying large sums for doctors' bills, nursing, &c. which would not have accrued, had they been at the Alms House. This case more particularly happens, when they are indulged in staying in neighboring towns, where they have not a legal settlement.

## 1821 Town of Andover

# Report Conclusions

- Current system of relief fostered to mismanagement, waste, and abuses of power
- Methods of relief ineffective
  - Outdoor relief fostered dependence and discouraged work
  - Auctions and binding out lead to abuses
- Almshouses or workhouses least expensive and most efficient method
- Alcohol abuse was biggest cause of poverty

# Yates Report

- New York Legislature (1822) directed Secretary of State, John Yates to study poor relief; Reported in 1824
- Conclusions
  - Inconsistent application of aid across jurisdictions
  - “Farming out” the poor led to “barbarity and neglect”
  - Children grew up in “filth, idleness, ignorance, and disease”
  - No statewide provision for employment; idleness generated, vice, dissipation, disease, and crime
  - Overseers tended to grant relief without sufficient inquiry into circumstances
  - Laws encouraged street begging
  - “Idiots and lunatics” did not receive adequate care

# Report Recommendations

- One or more house of employment per county
- Each house to be connected to workhouse for “sturdy beggars and vagrants”
- Increase taxes on distillers and purveyors of liquor
- One year residency in a community established settlement
- No male between 18 and 50 with all faculties to receive aid
- Importing non-residents into a county associated with financial penalties.
- Street begging prohibited; offenders to be rounded up and sent to workhouse

# Reform Themes

- Change in locus responsibility
  - Shift funding away from local to county, state or federal
  - Rise in charitable funding
- Change in location of aid
  - Centralize relief in institutions
  - Declining outdoor relief
- Create separate institutions for different types of needs
  - Children
  - Insane
  - Poor
- Emphasize work

# Change in Attitudes (Simplified)

## Colonial

- Problem: Poverty a fact of life
- Solution: Communities responsible for all

## Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- Problem: Poverty a problem of bad behavior and choices
- Solution: Moral education of individual poor

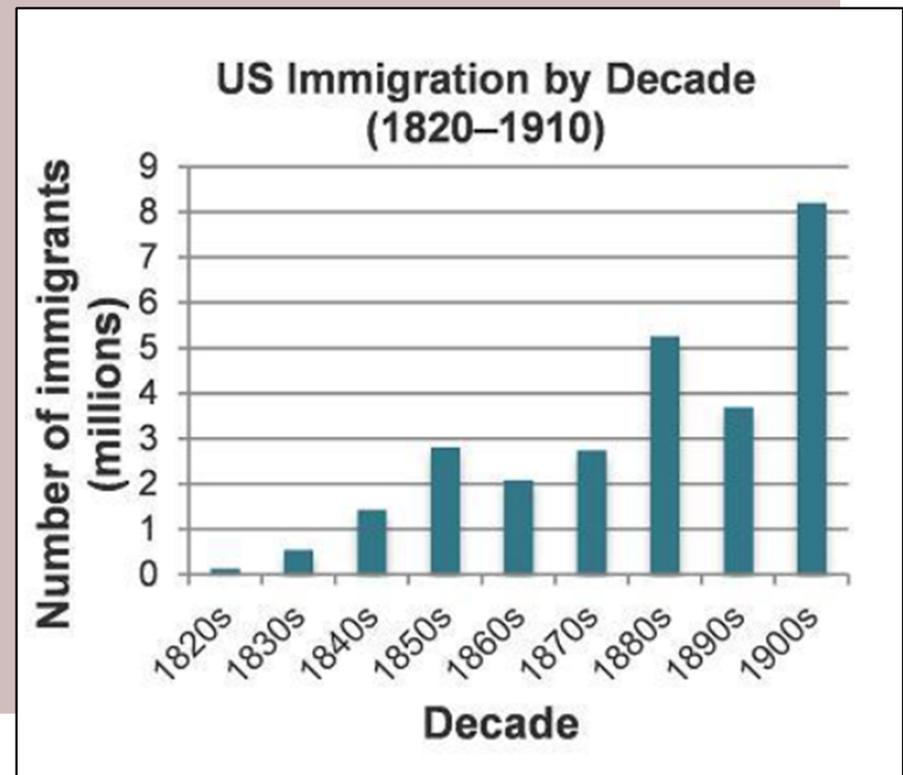
# Immigration

# Major Ports of Entry

- In colonial times many immigrants came through Philadelphia, largest city in colonial America
- After war, New York became busiest providing a water gateway through Appalachians: Hudson river and Erie canal
- Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans

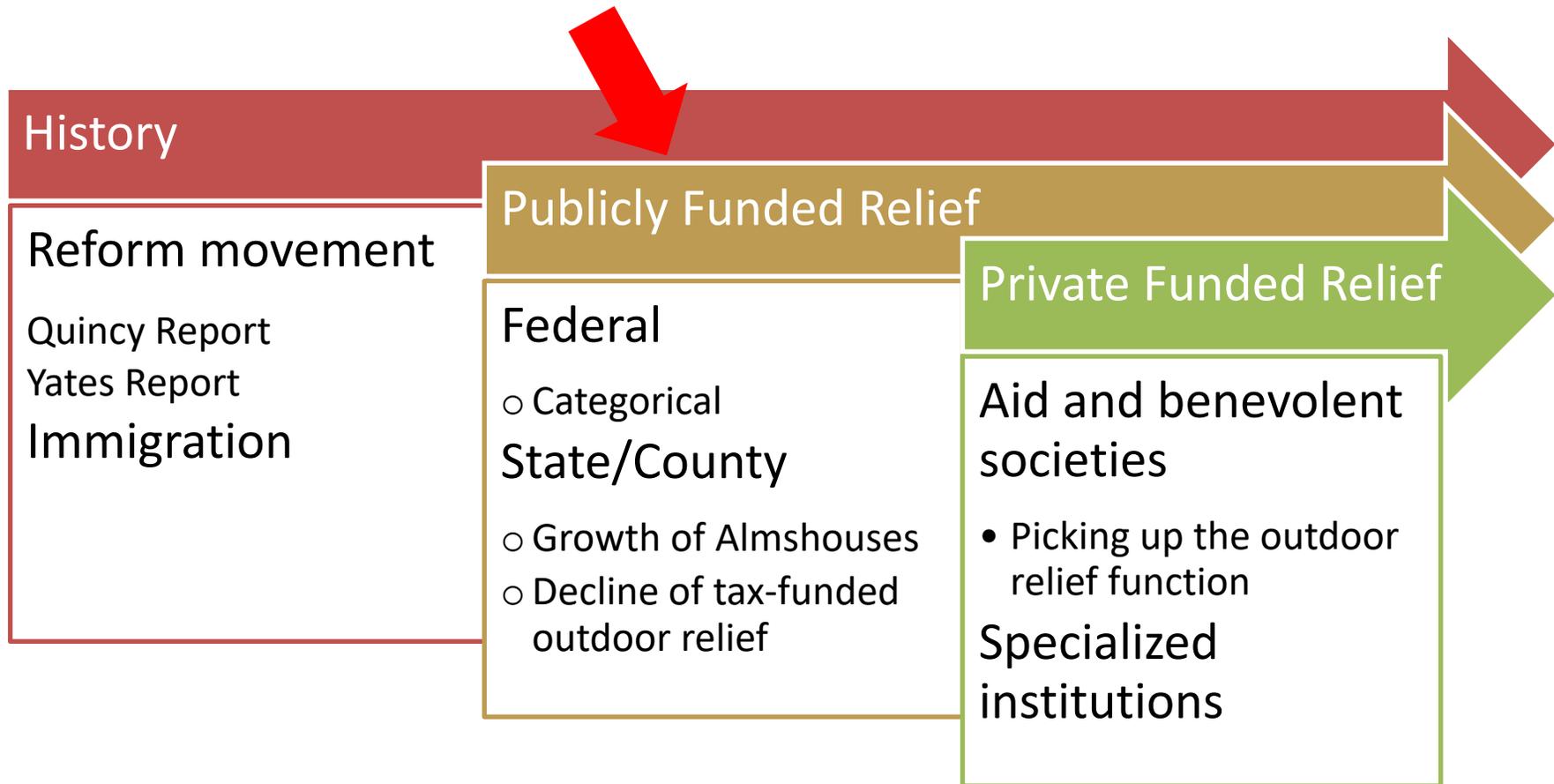
# 19<sup>th</sup> Century Immigration

- Initially, continuation of colonial patterns: German speaking, protestant Irish, and British Commonwealth
- As industrial revolution created jobs in America and famine and war pushed people out of Ireland and Germany, bump in immigration



# QUESTIONS?

# Session Roadmap



# Early Federal Poor Relief

# Categorical Relief Programs

- Revolutionary War Pension Act of 1818
  - Expected about 2,000 applications; received 20,000
  - Enacted means test in 1820
- Relief for Native Americans
  - Bureau of Indian Affairs established 1789
  - Annual funds for rations, annuities, and medical care, agricultural tools and instructors for the tribes
- Relief for Merchant Seaman
  - Established 1798 – Marine Hospitals for sick and disabled seamen

Mass

Harris, Benjamin

S. 38816

CONTENTS

Ancestry.com:U.S.,  
Revolutionary War Pension and  
Bounty-Land Warrant  
Application Files

8,700  
Rhode Island

Benjamin Harris

of ~~North~~ Providence in the state of Rhode Island  
who was a Private in the regiment commanded by  
Colonel Wigglesworth of the Massachusetts  
line, for the term of 3 years 1780

Inscribed on the Roll of Rhode Island  
at the rate of 5 Dollars per month, to commence on  
the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 1785

Certificate of Pension issued the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 1819  
and ~~sent to~~ Benjamin Harris, Esquire  
Providence, Rhode Island

Arrears to 4th of Mar: 1819, 1000<sup>ths</sup>  $\frac{4}{51}$  = 81.83  
Semi-ann. all'ce ending 4<sup>th</sup> Sep: 1819 - 48.  
129.83

{ Revolutionary claim, }  
{ Act 18th March, 1818. }

Continued

Pension File - RI



# Relief for Indigenous People

- 1800 – Congress appropriated funds for rations, annuities, medical care, agricultural tools and instructors for tribes
- Support renewed each year
- 1835 – Jackson in State of Union address notes that funds to “Indian poor” amounted to about \$30 per person annually

# Marine Hospital Service

- Established by Congress 1798, precursor of Public Health Service
- Established to:
  - Relieve port cities of the expense of caring for indigent sick seamen who are not local residents
  - Make service in the merchant marine more attractive by providing federal relief for seamen who could no longer work because of illness
- Records at FamilySearch.org (keyword = “Marine hospital”) and National Archives

Treasury Department  
Washington Dec. 4. 1823.

Sir

The amount of 31 <sup>56</sup>/<sub>100</sub> remitted  
to you on the 13<sup>th</sup> of last month, was for  
Gideon Staines, for boarding, lodging and  
nursing Richard Farrell, a sick and  
disabled Seaman, and for clothing  
furnished for his journey home, including  
your commission at 1 per cent. —

For any further information  
you may require, I refer you to the  
first Auditor of the Treasury. —

With respect  
Yours obed. Serv<sup>t</sup>  
H. B. Dashiell  
for the  
Treasurer of the  
U. States. —

Silas Crane Esq<sup>r</sup>

Federal Merchant Seamen relief

FHL Film 106231840, Image 2

# State & County Poor Relief

# New Almshouses

- Rapid growth after Quincy and Yates reports
- By 1850, all but four counties in New York had almshouses
- Pennsylvania had:
  - York County's home (1806)
  - Pittsburgh's first poorhouse was built in 1818 in response to the large number of westbound immigrants who found themselves stranded
  - Fayette County poorhouse (1822)
  - Berks County (1824)
  - Erie County (1833)

# Almshouses

- Full of early promise
- By 1850, bloom was off the rose
  - Unseemly rates of death and disease
  - Lack of discipline, graft, and mismanagement
  - Costs of maintaining poorhouses increased beyond the expectations and promises of public officials
  - Growing recognition that certain groups should not be mixed together, e.g. children, insane, blind

# Finding Almshouse Records

- FamilySearch.org – Catalog search where place is state or county
- ArchiveGrid - Centralized tool for locating archival materials
  - Held by libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies
  - Descriptions of physical materials
  - Some links to digitized content
  - Some links to finding aids

# How to Search ArchiveGrid

- Search by
  - Location
  - Surname
- Use Boolean search logic to your keywords and terms, using AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses.



Almshouse AND county

Search

### FIND ARCHIVES NEAR YOU

United States

- ▶ Alabama
- ▶ Alaska
- ▶ Arizona
- ▶ Arkansas
- ▶ California
- ▶ Colorado
- ▶ Connecticut
- ▶ Delaware
- ▶ District of Columbia
- ▶ Florida
- ▶ Georgia
- ▶ Guam

### ABOUT ARCHIVEGRID

ArchiveGrid includes over 7 million records describing archival materials, bringing together information about historical documents, personal papers, family histories, and more. With over 1,400 archival institutions represented, ArchiveGrid helps researchers looking for primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums and historical societies.

If you'd like to see your [collections included](#) in ArchiveGrid or have questions about the ArchiveGrid project, please get in touch with us.

### LOOKING FOR DIGITAL CONTENT?

Some collection descriptions include links to images, sound recordings, or other online materials. You can narrow your search results to those that have links to digital content by adding "has\_links:1" to your search.

For example: `1918 influenza has_links:1`

### RECENT ADDITIONS

- Museum of Science
- Washington College
- The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center at NEHGS
- Steamship Historical Society of America
- Jefferson County Archives

<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>



## 138 Almshouse AND county

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

Records 1 to 10 of 138 **1** 2 3 4 5 > >> Show: 10 ▾

### Adams County Poorhouse (Almshouse)

Gettysburg College - Musselman Library

Ledger of the Adams County Poorhouse, 1827 - 1875, recording all residents. One column lists the names of residents and their dates of arrival, and the second column records the date when that individual left the poorhouse, died, or was bound to another person. The ledger also includes statistics at the end of most years, noting the number of paupers that entered or left the institution that year as well as the total occupants at the year's close

[Contact Information](#)[View the Catalog Record](#)

### Robert L. Hope papers, 1884-1909

Hope, Robert L.

Atlanta History Center

Newspaper articles, correspondence, maps, and a scrapbook with some financial records of the Almshouse are included in this collection

[Contact Information](#)[View the Catalog Record](#)

### Ledgers, 1814-1826 (bulk 1814-1825)

Keeler, William, 1761-1832

Rutgers University Libraries

Ledgers, 1814-(1825)1826, pertaining to Keeler's work as almshouse steward

[Contact Information](#)[View the Catalog Record](#)

## ArchiveGrid – List View



Almshouse AND county

Search

# 138 Almshouse AND county

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

### PEOPLE

Name	Count
Chapman, Nathaniel, 1780-1853	3
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945	3
Baird, Spencer Fullerton, 1823-1887	2
Boynton, Jessie Early Clark, 1902-1980	2
Brooke McManus	2
Dana, James Dwight, 1813-1895	2
Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893	2

### GROUP

Name	Count
American Philosophical Society	4
Baker Library Special Collections, Harvard Business School	4
New-York Historical Society	4
State University of New York at Buffalo	4
University of Buffalo	4
Lancaster County (Pa.). Board of Commissioners	3
Pennsylvania Board of County Commissioners of	3

### PLACES

Name	Count
United States	11
Georgia -- Atlanta	5
Massachusetts	5
New York (State) -- New York	5
Pennsylvania	5
États-Unis -- 1775-1783 (Révolution)	4
États-Unis -- 1812, Guerre de	4

### ARCHIVES

Name	Count
University at Buffalo, State University of New York - Archives	10
Library of Virginia	8
Atlanta History Center	6
Historical Society of Pennsylvania	6
Maryland Center for History and Culture	5
New-York Historical Society	5
American Philosophical Society	4

### ARCHIVE LOCATIONS

Name	Count
United States - Pennsylvania - Philadelphia	11
United States - New York - New York	11
United States - District of Columbia - Washington	10
United States - New York - Buffalo	10
United States - Massachusetts - Boston	8
United States - New York - Albany	7
United States - Virginia - Richmond	8

### TOPICS

Name	Count
Almshouses	34
Asiles d'indigents	24
Politics and government	12
Poor -- Services for	12
Poor	7
Public welfare	7
Pauvres -- Services	6

## ArchiveGrid – Summary View

## 1 Almshouse AND county » Burlington County (N.J.).

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

Records 1 to 1 of 1

### Ledgers, 1814-1826 (bulk 1814-1825)

Keeler, William, 1761-1832

Rutgers University Libraries

Ledgers, 1814-(1825)1826, pertaining to Keeler's work as almshouse steward

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

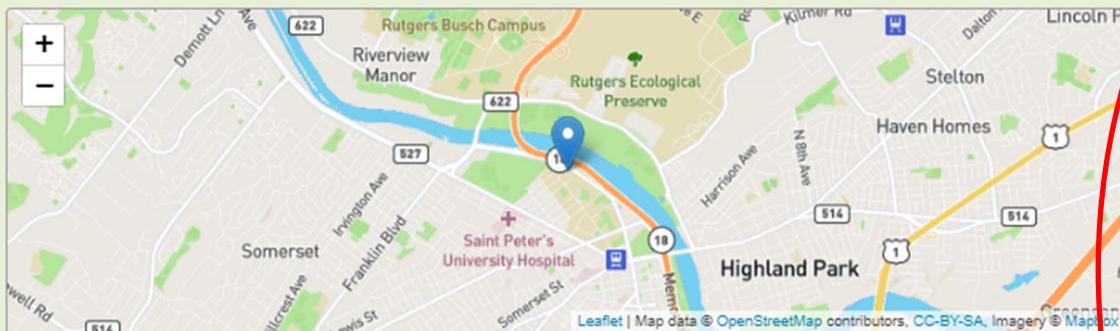
Records 1 to 1 of 1

Results of place sort

# Ledgers, 1814-1826 (bulk 1814-1825)

## Keeler, William, 1761-1832

### Rutgers University Libraries



Contact Information

View in Google Maps

### Details

2 volumes

Ledgers, 1814-(1825)1826, pertaining to Keeler's work as almshouse steward

Expenses recorded include payments for coffins

Resident of Pemberton Township, Burlington County, New Jersey; served as steward of Burlington County Almshouse, 1814-1825

William Keeler. Ledgers. MC 657. Special Collections and Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

### Related Resources

View this description in [WorldCat](#).

### More Like This

Middletown Collection  
Ward, James Russell  
Connecticut Historical Society

Account book, 1856-1861 (inclusive)  
Haines, William H.  
Rutgers University Libraries

Assessment ledger - Chesnut Ward, 1772  
Philadelphia (Pa.). Overseers of the Poor  
Pennsylvania State University Libraries

Register, 1854-1858, 1898-1905  
Newark Alms House (N.J.).  
New Jersey Historical Society

Poorhouse accounts for Calais, Maine, 1839-1840  
Hume, George W.  
Maine Historical Society

### Topics

[Almshouses](#)

[Asiles d'indigents](#)

[Pauvres](#)

[Poor](#)

[Registers of births, etc](#)

## Detail for William Keeler Ledgers

## FamilySearch Catalog

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.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

**Search by:**  
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Place

**Search for:**  
[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

**Availability**

Any  
 Online  
 FamilySearch center

[Reset](#)

**Other Catalogs to Consider:**

 **OCLC WorldCat**

WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to their resources on the web, where most people start their search for information.

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 **ArchiveGrid**

ArchiveGrid is a collection of nearly two million archival material descriptions, including MARC records from WorldCat and finding aids harvested from the web.

[familysearch.org/search/catalog](https://familysearch.org/search/catalog)

- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - Obituaries ( 5 )
- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - Occupations ( 3 )
- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - Orphans and orphanages ( 4 )
- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - Poorhouses, poor law, etc. ( 2 )
- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - Probate records ( 3 )
- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - Public records ( 4 )
- ▶ United States, South Carolina, Charleston, Charleston - School yearbooks ( 3 )

## Family Search Catalog Results

# South Carolina, Charleston County, Charleston Poorhouse and Correctional House Records, 1803-1916

Registers of outdoor pensioners at the Charleston City poorhouse and registers of inmates at the Charleston City correctional house many of which were free African Americans and former slaves for years 1803-1916. These records include birth, residence and occupation information and sometimes include family groups.

First Names	Last Names
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Place	Year
<input type="text" value="City, County, State, Province, or Cour"/>	<input type="text" value="Birth or Death Year"/>
<input type="button" value="SEARCH"/>	<input type="button" value="MORE OPTIONS"/>

[HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION](#)



**Cite This Collection**

"South Carolina, Charleston County, Charleston Poorhouse and Correctional House Records, 1803-1916." Database. FamilySearch. <https://FamilySearch.org> : 18 July 2022. Charleston County Public Library; Charleston Archive, South Carolina.

[COPY CITATION](#)

[Understand the Board of Health, Inmates, Books, Transcripts, and Sheriff, The Daniel Grounds, 1815-1896](#)

## South Carolina, Charleston County, Charleston Poorhouse and Correctional House Records, 1803-1916

28

TRANSIENT SICK AND CITY POOR						ADMITTED INTO THE HOUSE.					
Date of Admission.	NAMES.	By whose Order.	Place of Nativity.	Age.	Occupation.	Time of Residence in Charleston.	Date of Discharge.	Date of Decease.	Length of Time in the House.	Rate of Removal to Hospital.	REMARKS.
1810 June 5	Richard Thompson	M. Boyle	Eddleston	16			June 12 1811		368 Days		
13	Sathan's Coker	" Rhinco	Massachusetts	31			" 2	June 27 1810	" "		
21	O'mannin	" "	Old France					Dec 18	" 179	" "	
"	W <sup>m</sup> Campbell	" "	Ireland	24	Mariner		June 25 1810		41	" "	
25	Antoin Chenge	" "	Old France	56			Aug 31	"	67	" "	
July 10	Sam <sup>l</sup> D. Priest	" "	"	44			" 25	"	46	" "	
13	George C. Free	" Maguire	Boston	35	Mariner						
14	Maryann Wilcox	" Haring	New York	18			March 12 1812		602	" "	
20	Suliana Kister	" Boyle	New Orleans	25			July 21 1811		125	" "	
25	John Mitchell	" Johnson					Sept 14 1810		51	" "	
26	F. Eyerman	" "	Philadelphia	23			Aug 17	"	32	" "	
27	John Fousone	" "	France	29			" 1	"	5	" "	
Aug 1	Leah Swaley	" Boyle	Charleston				Oct 2	"	63	" "	
		"	Connecticut	25			Nov 14	"	11	" "	

Charleston, SC 1810

FHL Film 100641432, image 30

▼ **United States, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia - Poorhouses, poor law, etc. ( 16 )**

<p><a href="#">Admission records, ca. 1783-1835</a></p> <p>Author: <del>Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : Spruce and Pine, 10th and 11th Streets : 1767-1835)</del></p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Admission records, ca. 1834-1904</a></p> <p>Author: <del>Blockley Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : est. 1835); Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887)</del></p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Black [punishment] books, 1880-1912</a></p> <p>Author: Blockley Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : est. 1835); Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887)</p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Black women's cellar ward, 1826-1832</a></p> <p>Author: Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : Spruce and Pine, 10th and 11th Streets : 1767-1835); Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887)</p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Blotters or County case book and pay patients, 1881-1913</a></p> <p>Author: Blockley Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : est. 1835); Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887)</p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Bonds for support of illegitimate children, 1811-1859</a></p> <p>Author: Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887)</p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Daily occurrence docket and day books, 1787-1917</a></p> <p>Author: Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : Spruce and Pine, 10th and 11th Streets : 1767-1835); Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887); Blockley Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : est. 1835)</p>	<a href="#">Add</a>
<p><a href="#">Elopements (escapes) and deaths, 1857-1909</a></p> <p>Author: Blockley Alms House (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : est. 1835); Philadelphia (Pennsylvania). Guardians of the Poor (ca. 1788-1887)</p>	<a href="#">Add</a>

# Philadelphia, PA

**Admission records, ca. 1834-1904** Add to Print List

**Authors:** [Blockley Alms House \(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : est. 1835\) \(Main Author\)](#)  
[Philadelphia \(Pennsylvania\). Guardians of the Poor \(ca. 1788-1887\) \(Added Author\)](#)

**Format:** Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

**Language:** English

**Publication:** Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1975, 1998-1999

**Physical:** on 5 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

**References:** (Related (reversed)) [Admission records, ca. 1783-1835 / Alms House \(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania : Spruce and Pine, 10th and 11th Streets : 1767-1835\)](#)

**Notes**

Microfilm of original records at the Philadelphia City Archives.

Admission books are alphabetically arranged. Names are repeated in each volume until the inmate is discharged or dies, etc.

The Admission books include names, date of admission, where from or district, discharge (deaths, discharge, escapes, etc.). The Weekly admission books give name, place of residence, age, former customer or not, complaint (disease), which department sent to, remarks, name of mother and birth child.

The Women's admissions/discharges register gives name, date of admission and discharge or death, remarks; later includes ward to which admitted.

Philadelphia City Archives: 35.110 (GP 643-645, 814); 35.123; 65.9 (GP 659, 733)

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

**Subjects**

**Locality Subjects**

[United States, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Philadelphia - Poorhouses, poor law, etc.](#)

[United States, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia - Poorhouses, poor law, etc.](#)

**Film/Digital Notes**

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Admission book, 1863-1864 (July); 1866 (May)-1868	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	2110177 Items 7-8	8249812	

# Blockley Alms House, PA

Names	June, 1823			Where born or belonging	When came first to, or how long been in, this Commonwealth	Overseers Names	Discharged S.C. 1823
	Dates	State	City				
	1823	20	18				42
x Jane K. Andrews	June 13	1		Maine			
x Sally Prout, col <sup>d</sup>	" 14		0	Marblehead			1
x Mary Taylor, col. <sup>d</sup>	" "	1		New-york	nearly 2 years	Thomas Howe	
x Margaret Brock, c	" "	"	1	Boston		Tho. <sup>d</sup> Jackson	
x Mary Burnham	" "	"	0	Essex			
x Arthur Sumner	" 15		1	Milton		Stillman Lothrop	
x Rachel Hall	" "	"	0	Boston			
x Catherine Evans, c	" 16	0		Ireland			
x Mary Taylor, col. <sup>d</sup>	" "	"	0	New-york			
x Kenneth M <sup>c</sup> Kenzie	" "	"	1	Philadelphia		Thomas Edmonds	
x John Freeman, col. <sup>d</sup>	" "	"	0	New-york			
x Joshua Bell, col <sup>d</sup>	" "	"	1	New-Jersey	7 years	Thomas Howe	
x John Harden, col <sup>d</sup>	" "	"	1	New-York		Tho. <sup>d</sup> Jackson	
x John Connell	" 17	1		Ireland	6 months	do	
x Loring Sutton	" "	"	0	Scituate			1
x Mary Mitchell	" "	"	0	England			1
x Elizabeth Tufts	" "	"	0	Medford			1

## Roxbury Almshouse

June, 1823.		Remarks
Age	Count out Child	
24m	2	Del <sup>d</sup> her to Andrew Stacy per rest
25 yrs		
16 -		
36	1	Notified Milton June 17, 1823. See letter-book N <sup>o</sup> 5, p. 239
	1	
	1	
	1	
34 yrs	1	
52 -		
34 -		
44 -		
		F. J.
		Del <sup>d</sup> her to Leonard the same per order of rest
52 yrs		
56 -		
21 -		
22 -		
48 yrs		

Page two of Almshouse

# Decline of Outdoor Relief

# Outdoor Relief in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century

- Fewer tax dollars for funding
- Despite reform efforts, it didn't disappear
- Greater role for charitable and benevolent organizations

May 1856 Continued

Admissions - 27	}	Remaining Men - 53
Discharges - 27		in the Women - 28
Deaths - 7		House Children - 30 - 111
Births - 3		Men - 42
Eloped - 1		Hospital Women - 39
		Children - 16 - 118
		Total 229

Was one half of 12th -  
 Agreed to pay one half the expense of keeping J. S. Barr three months longer in the State Lunatic Hospital

June 1856 (Continued)

Matty Green - \$2	Mary Stutz - \$1	Ud. Nagle - \$1	Ud. Shively - \$1
Mary Good - 2	J. Kennedy keep - 2	Susan Holt - 3	Henry Jew - 3
Ud. Graham - 2	Peter Keller - 2	Carolin Nagle - 2	Urn Stockton - 2
M. S. Hamilton - 1	M. Kahn - 2	Urn Paulie - 1	Ud. Walker - 1
David Wilton - 4	Mary Keller - 3	E. Tolman - 1	Ud. Welsh - 1
Ud. Howarter - 1	Ud. Kipsinger - 2	Allen Quinn - 2	Susan Wittmer - 2
Ud. Hitz - 2	Coly. Sutz - 1	Ud. Rote - 1	Marg. Watson - 2
R. Holliday - 1	Ud. Lawrence - 1	M. a. Rittow - 1	Geo. Wile - 1
Jacob Hachert - 1	Benjn. Lambert - 3	Urn. Pook - 1	Matt. Weaver - 1
Martin Herr - 2	Ellyth Sutz - 1	Cath. Reese - 1	S. Wilfang - 1

June 7th 1856

at a stated meeting of the Board of the Poor & House of Employment of the City of Lancaster, Pa. Present, Messrs. Kauffman, Best, Peopler. Minutes of former meeting. Sophia Shunk of the City was accused. John Fish of the City was accused. Same & Hannah Porter of Salisbury. Mrs. Weiler also of the City were accused. A joint meeting was held of the Operators & Directors of the Poor, at which Mr. Kauffman presided, to consider of the Legislature, relative to the Prison & Almshouse - After a discussion to the expediency of the appointment of a committee for the further consideration of the matter, adjourned at 10 o'clock at the Prison.

Out door allowance

Marg. Armstrong - \$1	Ud. Bruner - \$3
Susan Albert - 2	S. Baker & daughter - 3
Urn. Bushong - 2	S. Walker - 2
Ud. Boyle - 2	James Brantow - 3
S. Womgartner - 1	Ud. Campbell & daug. - 2
Ud. Blue - 1	Ud. Demaringer - 1
Julia Brown - 1	Mary Dripps - 1
Rosanna Wright - 1	Ud. Deales - 1

Ud. Hufty - 2	Ud. Sutzman - 2	Ud. Shepper - 3	J. Taylor keep - 2
Hannah Harris - 2	E. Leinbach - 1	Marg. Switzer - 1	Barbara Young - 1
Ellyth Jones - 3	Ud. Marret - 1	Ud. Stehman - 3	Elleanor Yost - 3
Ann. Kennair - 1	Ud. Manly - 1	Marg. Smith - 3	Geo. Cuffling - 1
Ellyth Keller - 1	M. Major - 1	J. Stansby keep - 4	Total \$198

Admissions - 26	}	Remaining Men - 44
Discharges - 14		in the Women - 29
Deaths - 5		House Children - 32 - 105
Eloped - 3		Men - 44
Births - 1		Hospital Women - 60
		Children - 15 - 119
		Total 224

Lancaster County, PA 1856

FHL Film 8718947, image 350

## Economic Disenfranchisement in New England

Boston Overseers of the Poor Records [manuscript collection](#)

Luman Boyden Missionary Journals [manuscript collection](#)

Charlestown Overseers of the Poor Records [manuscript collection](#)

Home for Aged Colored Women Records [manuscript collection](#)

Humane Society of Massachusetts Records [manuscript collection](#)

Roxbury Almshouse Records [manuscript collection](#)

Roxbury Neighborhood House Association meeting minutes [item](#)

Society for the Employment of the Female Poor Trustees'

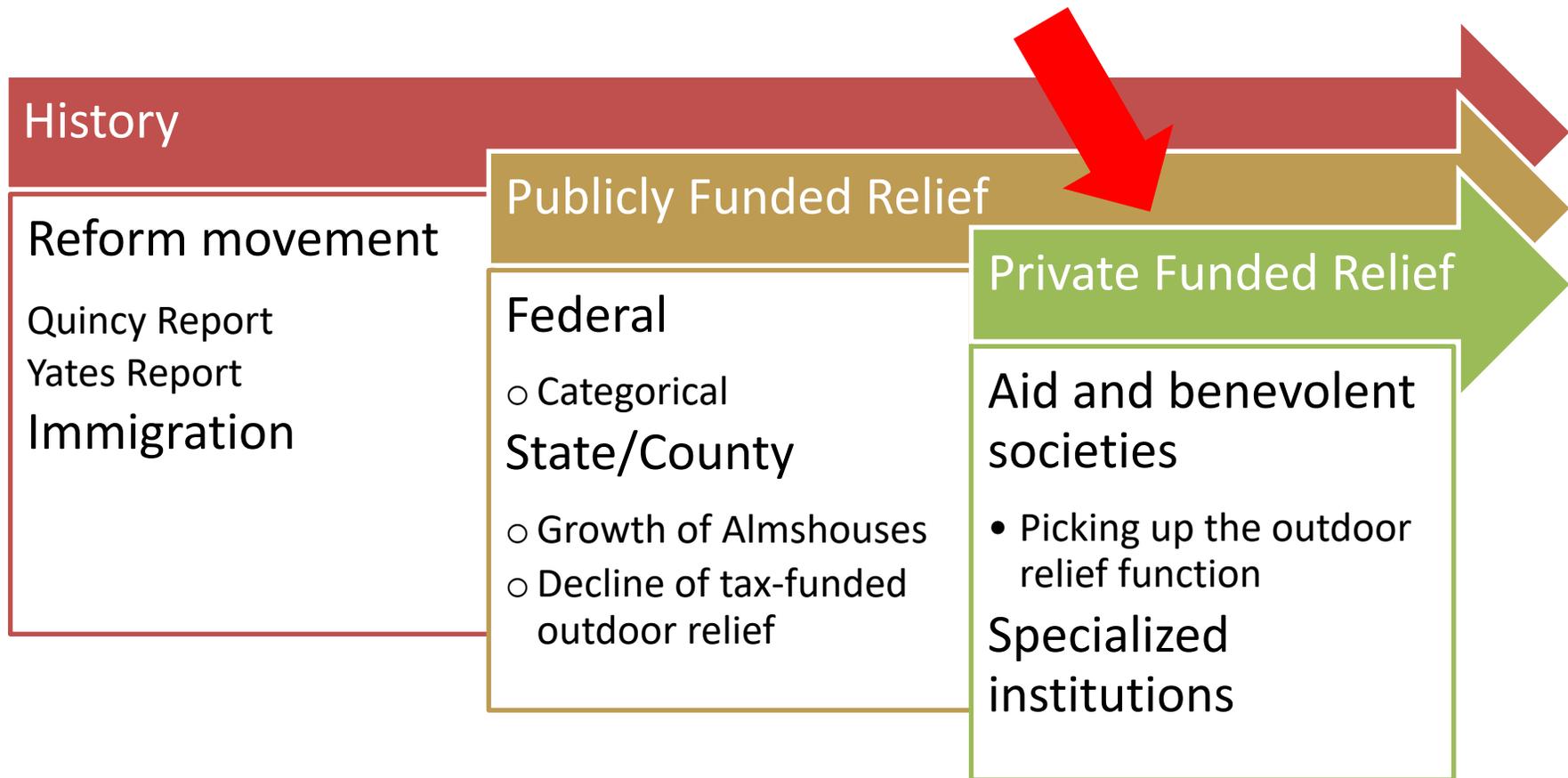
Reports [manuscript collection](#)

Massachusetts Historical Society

PAUPER EXPENSES OTHER THAN ALMSHOUSE.	
Relief to Mrs. Leland,	14 52
Relief and Funeral expenses, to Swasey,	15 66
Relief to Tans's family,	5 50
Relief to Foot's family,	36 40
Relief and funeral expenses. J. Blanchard	11 79
Relief and expenses. J. Smith,	7 63
Relief to Mrs. Rugg,	2 00
Relief to William Lund,	127 00
Relief to Robert Gibson,	5 01
Relief to C. Blodgett,	2 99
Relief to Joel Lund,	41 33
Relief to J. Hildrup,	5 54
Relief to William Harris,	22 50
Relief to E. J. Whittier,	18 21
Relief to Widow Winn,	60
Relief to J. Killicut,	3 26
Relief to Mary Boynton, paid Hollis,	10 00
Relief to Ezra Robbins,	2 10
	<hr/> \$332 04
SUPPORT OF COUNTY PAUPERS.	
Support and funeral expenses of Calvin Hill,	37 07
Relief to Zenas Davis,	14 66
Removal of R. Mitchell's family,	16 70
Removal of Mrs. Jones,	1 00
Removal of Asa Graves's family,	5 50
Relief to Mrs. Linden,	8 00
Allowance of accounts, professional services,	8 00
	<hr/> \$90 93

# QUESTIONS?

# Session Roadmap



# Signs of Charitable Growth

By Permission of the Commandant.  
 TICKETS of a LOTIERY.

FOR the **benevolent** purpose of giving comfort to the distressed at this rigorous season, are now for sale at Captain V. P. Ashfield's, at No. 497, Smith-Street; Mr. Lught, No. 190, Queen-Street; and Mr. D. Grim, No. 439, William-Street; who are appointed managers. Also of the several Printers.

S C H E M E :

1 Prize of	1000 Dollars, is	1000
2 do.	500 are	1000
6 do.	200	1200
15 do.	100	1500
40 do.	50	2000
110 do.	20	2200
265 do.	10	2650
1075 do.	6	6450

---

1514 Prizes,  
 4486 Blanks.

---

6000 Tickets, at 3 Dollars each, are 18,000 Dollars.

Subject to a Deduction of 15 per cent.  
 The profits arising from the Lottery, will be paid to the Treasurer of the Overseers of the **Poor**.

New York Gazette, 1780

“Early American Newspapers” at AmericanAncestors.org

**BOSTON SEAMAN'S AID SOCIETY**  
*Extract from the Third Annual Report.*

It is three years, this day, since our Society was formed. It was first proposed by our present Treasurer (Mrs. Wm. Grigg) who, in conjunction with a few other ladies, agreed to form an association, in order to co-operate with the Boston Port Society, in the effort to improve the condition and character of seamen and their families. The ladies were moved to do this, in consequence of the distressed situation of a number of seamen's families, then almost entirely dependent on charity. The Rev. Mr. Taylor, pastor of the Seamen's

Connecticut Courant, 1836

The usual annual Collections for the **Poor** of the Churches will be made in the United Churches of Christ Church and St. Peters to-morrow, forenoon and afternoon.

A Sermon in behalf of the Female Domestic Missionary Society, will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Janeway, on Sunday evening next, (to-morrow,) in the Sixth Presbyterian Church, in Spruce street. Service will commence at 7 o'clock. Interesting Extracts from the Journals of the Missionaries will be read, and a collection taken to aid the **Society's** Fund.

By divine permission, the New Presbyterian

The Philadelphia Inquirer  
12 Dec 1829, Sat · Page 2

The society for the relief of **Poor** Widows with small Children, are requested to attend a general meeting at the Tontine City Hotel, on Wednesday the 12th instant, at eleven o'clock. L. BIRD, Sec. April 6

Mercantile Advertiser (New York, New York) | April 12, 1803

## Newspaper Clippings

# Types of Aid Societies

# Mutual Aid Societies

- Social insurance for specific groups
  - Hibernian (NYC 1836)
  - German Friendly (Savannah 1837)
  - Hebrew Benevolent Society (Charleston 1784)
  - African Union Society (Newport RI 1780)
- Activities
  - Services for poor and sick
  - Monetary assistance to members
  - Cooperative banking

# Finding Records

- Use Keyword searches on FamilySearch and Ancestry
- Then try manuscript collections
  - Using your ancestor's location, look for historical societies
  - Try ArchiveGrid at [researchworks.oclc.org](https://researchworks.oclc.org)

The screenshot shows the ArchiveGrid search results for 'Hibernian Society'. At the top left is the ArchiveGrid logo. A search bar at the top right contains the text 'Hibernian Society' and a blue 'Search' button. Below the search bar, the results are displayed in 'SUMMARY VIEW'. The first result is titled '239 Hibernian Society' and is from the 'Maryland Center for History and Culture'. The description states: 'This collection contains the records of the Hibernian Society, an organization founded in 1803 to provide charitable relief to Irish emigrants arriving in Baltimore. Included are minutes, correspondence, membership applications, and financial records.' Below the description are two buttons: 'Contact Information' and 'View the Finding Aid'. The second result is titled 'Minute book, 1827-1847' and is from the 'University of South Carolina'. The description states: 'Minute book, 1827-1847, for the Hibernian Society of Charleston, South Carolina, includes information on officer elections and financial matters.' Below the description are two buttons: 'Contact Information' and 'View the Catalog Record'. Both buttons in both results are circled in red. A pagination bar at the top right shows 'Records 1 to 10 of 239' with page numbers 1 through 5, and a 'Show: 10' dropdown menu.

## Search for Hibernian Society

## Abstract

This collection contains the records of the Hibernian Society, an organization founded in 1803 to provide charitable relief to Irish emigrants arriving in Baltimore. Included are minutes, correspondence, membership applications, and financial records.

## Dates

1816-1978

## Creator

- [Hibernian Society of Baltimore](#) (Organization)

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

## Conditions Governing Use

The reproduction of materials in this collection may be subject to copyright restrictions. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine and satisfy copyright clearances or other case restrictions when publishing or otherwise distributing materials found in the collections. For more information visit the MCHC's [Rights and Permissions page](#).

## Historical Note

The Hibernian Society of Baltimore was organized in 1803 and incorporated in 1818 "to do all such...as shall be necessary, for the purpose of affording charitable assistance and advice to such emigrants from, or natives of Ireland arriving at, or residing in any part of the State of Maryland, as may be in want and deemed worthy."

Finding Aid for Maryland Records

# Benevolent Societies

- Almost exclusively female-managed
- Wealthy women used connections to raise funds
- Focused on children and widows
- Examples:
  - Society for the Relief of Poor Widows and Small Children (New York – 1797)
  - Boston Female Asylum (Boston – 1800)
  - Female Humane Association (1800)



## Boston Female Asylum 1800-1866

## FamilySearch Catalog

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.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

**Search by:**  
Place | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

Keywords ✕

**Search for:**  
[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

**Availability**  
 Any  
 Online  
 FamilySearch center

[Reset](#)

**Other Catalogs to Consider:**

 **OCLC WorldCat**  
WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to their resources on the web, where most people start their search for information.

 **ArchiveGrid**  
ArchiveGrid is a collection of nearly two million

Search for Boston Female Asylum



**Refine your search** ▼

**Search by:**

- Place
- Surnames
- Titles
- Author
- Subjects
- Keywords

**Search for:**

- Call Number
- Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)

**Availability**

- Any
- Online
- FamilySearch center

## Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

1-1 of 1 results

[Print List](#)

**Boston society for the care of girls : asylum records, 1800-1866**

[Add](#)

**Notes**  
Microreproduction of original at the Statehouse in Boston, Massachusetts.

Contains minutes of board meetings, names of orphans entering and leaving asylum, finance records, some baptisms, deaths, and a list of subscribers to the asylum.

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

**Subjects**  
**Locality Subjects**

- [United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston - Orphans and orphanages](#)
- [United States, Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston - Vital records](#)

**Film/Digital Notes**

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Minutes of meetings, lists of orphans, finance records and baptisms, vols. 1-4 1800-1866	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	954449	7943176	
Subscribers to the asylum, vols. 1-2 1801-1865	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	954450	7943177	
Register of the "orphan children" admitted into "the Boston Female Asylum" vol. 1-2 1800-1854	<a href="#">Family History Library</a>	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	954451	7943178	

# Results for Boston Female Asylum

# Boston Female Asylum 1800-1866

These may certify, that Abigail Lang was born May 27<sup>th</sup> 1796 - her Parents being in very low, indigent circumstances were forced from their Native Shores to try this Climate for her health which was much impaired; having, four Children with them and their Father taken off from his Labour a great part of his time, this soon reduced them to poverty, having spent the little they brought with them - in 1799 they had another Child which left the Mother in a weak state of health, from which she never recovered - The Father not getting his health thought best to return to New found land and in August 1800 set sail leaving his family, almost destitute of every comfort or convenience depending on Charity for support from Day to Day - in the Situation the Mother was taken sick of the yellow fever in Septem

ber and on the eight Day died, much concerned for the future welfare of her Children, who I promised her to do the best for I could - I have accordingly

# Immigrant Aid Societies

- Irish Emigrant Aid Society (1841 – New York)
- German Immigrant Aid Society  
(New Orleans - 1847)
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (NYC - 1881)

# Irish Emigrant Aid Society

- Founded in 1841 by Archbishop Hughes
- Went to docks where Irish immigrants landed and distributed materials on housing and employment
- Opened an employment bureau in 1842 and placed 1,200 people into jobs
- Sent notices to Irish newspapers warning possible immigrants of the hardships of America that awaited them

# Emigrant Savings Bank

- Established in 1850 by members of Irish Emigrant Society
- Served thousands of Irish immigrants who came to America following The Great Hunger



Search > Immigration & Travel

# New York, Emigrant Savings Bank Records, 1850-1883

**Search**  Match all terms exactly

**First & Middle Name(s)**  **Last Name**

**Birth** Day  Month  Year  **Location**

**Any Event**

**Keyword**   
e.g. pilot or "Flying Tigers" ▾

**Account**

**Record Type**

**Transaction Date** Day  Month  Year  **Location**

**Transaction Place**

**Search** [Clear search](#)

**Browse this collection**

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

**Record Type**

**Year**

**Related data collections**

[New York, Irish Immigrant Arrival Records, 1846-1851](#)

This database is a collection of mainly Irish immigrants between 1846 and 1851 whose names were extracted from the originals of New York, USA, port arrival records (Customs Passenger Lists). Information from the following categories can generally be found for each of the more than 600,000 entries: Surname, Given Name, Age, Gender, Literacy, Native



DATE	NUMBER	OR SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION	Year Was Born	WHERE BORN	RELATIONS &c	REMARKS	DATE
1865 Nov 27	808	Samuel Kelly	17	Prinns St Bklyn	Trainer	1837	Co Roscommon	arr 1848 Single	His wife Mrs Ann Thomas	
	809	John W. Braid	202	8-15 St	Housekeeper	1820	Co. Louth	arr 1846 per	His Mother Same as	
Amundson 20/65	810	Arthur Kelly - a father	277	Brooklyn	Painter	1796	arr 1848 Co Monaghan	arr 1848	arr 1848	arr 1848
	810	Robert Kelly	19	Prinns St	Domestic	1830	Co. Louth	arr 1853 per	Co. Louth Single Mrs Rose Kendon	
28	812	Samuel B. Braid	211	W. 21 St	Housekeeper	1805	Co. Louth	arr 1837 per	Co. Louth Single Mrs Ann Thomas	
	813	John Kelly	215	Co. 6 St	Printer	1844	Co. Louth	arr 1863 per	Single Mrs Ann Thomas	

Test Book (1865), Emigrant Savings Bank via Ancestry.com

## Emigrant Savings Bank records

1841-1945 [bulk 1841-1923] 

- OVERVIEW DETAILED DESCRIPTION PRINTABLE (PDF) VERSION CONTACT THE DIVISION

**Collection Overview**

- Biographical/historical information
- Scope and arrangement
- Administrative information
- Key terms
- Using the collection

 Portions of this collection are digitized.

- Additional Resources:
- [A User's Guide to the Emigrant Savings Bank Records \(PDF\)](#)
  - [Emigrant City](#)  
An experimental resource for searching over 9,000 transcribed records from the mortgage and bond ledgers of the Emigrant Savings Bank.

**Repository** Manuscripts and Archives Division

**Access to materials** Advance notice required. [Request access to this collection.](#)

**Portions of this collection have been digitized and are available online.**

The Emigrant Savings Bank was established in New York City in 1850 by the Irish Emigrant Society which was founded in 1841 for the protection of immigrants from Ireland. The bank offered a safe place to keep the immigrants' money and a way to send money home to destitute relatives. The society's officers also served as officers of the bank, and the society sent remittances overseas through the agency of the bank. The official business of the society, still extant although inactive, is conducted by the bank. Collection consists of selected records of the Emigrant Savings Bank, particularly records pertaining to the Irish Emigrant Society and data about the bank's depositors and borrowers. Irish Emigrant Society records, 1841-1933, include minutes of the board of trustees and finance committee, and an account ledger. Bank records contain information about deposit accounts, real estate, buildings, and investments. Society and bank records document the social history of Irish immigrants on either side of the Atlantic, with occasional references to German and French immigrants. Deposit accounts often contain detailed personal and genealogical information about individual depositors.

### BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Emigrant Savings Bank was founded by officers of the Irish Emigrant Society as an outgrowth of the society's concern for the welfare of Irish immigrants. The bank's opening in 1850 coincided with the waves of immigration that followed in the wake of the Irish Famine. The President of the Society, Gregory Dillon, was also the Bank's first president, and for decades there were members of the society's Board of Trustees serving on the bank's Board of Directors. From the start the bank's business was very closely related to the work of the Society. As a result many of the volumes in the collection are personal and family chronicles as well as records of banking transactions. Collectively these



## Emigrant Savings Bank records

1841-1945 [bulk 1841-1923]

- OVERVIEW
- DETAILED DESCRIPTION**
- PRINTABLE (PDF) VERSION
- CONTACT THE DIVISION

Filter

Filter by keyword or year

- r. 20 Deposit Account Ledger 6 (15,001 to 18,000)
- r. 21 Depositors (1 to 19,807)
- r. 22 By-Laws and Signatures Book 1 (1 to 17,000)
- r. 23 Society Accounts 1922-1927
- r. 24 Signature Book 2 (5,251 to 12,999)
- r. 25 Bond and Mortgage Record Book 1 (1 to 1,555)
- r. 26 Bond and Mortgage Record Book 2 (1,556 to 2, 721)
- r. 27 Bond and Mortgage Record Book 3 (2,722 to 3,699)
- r. 28 Bond and Mortgage Record Book 4 (3,700 to 4,499)
- r. 29 Bond and Mortgage Record Book 5 (4,500 to 5,499)
- r. 30 Bond and Mortgage Record Book 6 (5,500 to 6,403)
- r. 31 Bond and Mortgage Ledger (1 to 1,304)
- r. 32 Bond and Mortgage Ledger (50 to 2,891)
- r. 33 Bond and Mortgage Ledger (3,001 to 5,000)
- r. 34 Bond and Mortgage Ledger (5,001 to 6,220)
- r. 35 Real Estate Loans No. 9

# Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

- 1881 – Founded in response to Jews fleeing the pogroms in Russia and Eastern Europe
- 1904 – Established a bureau on Ellis Island
- 1911 – Kosher kitchen installed on Ellis Island



[◀ BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

 PRINT
 Catalog Print List (0)

---

## Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society card file I-96, 1882-1929

Add to Print List

**Authors:** [American Jewish Historical Society](#) (Added Author)

**Format:** Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

**Language:** English

**Publication:** Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 2002

**Physical:** 9 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

---

### Notes

Microreproduction of records at American Jewish Historical Society, New York, New York.

Includes indexes.

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

---

### Subjects

**Locality Subjects**

[United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Waltham - Jewish history](#)

[United States, Massachusetts - Emigration and immigration](#)

**Library of Congress Subjects**

[Jews - Massachusetts](#)

---

### Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Aaronowitz, Julius -- Botkewitz, Jacob	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Film	2318189	7834191	



Form E. No. 53, 3-26-14 5M

PORT OF BOSTON  
**HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY**

Cabin ..... Steamer Rotterdam

Steerage Yes ..... Date of Arrival 2/21/21

(2) Name Gud Berta ..... (3) Age 10 ..... (4) Sex female ..... (5) M. or S. single

(6) Occupation None ..... (7) Read no ..... Write no ..... (10) Last Permanent Residence—Russia, Austria, Roumania—  
Turkey-Europe, Turkey-Asia Poland

(12) Final Destination—State Mass ..... City or Town Chelsea ..... (16) Money Brought None

(17) Ever before in U. S.? no ..... (18) Addressed to Relationship (Name) father Isreal Gud ..... (Street No.) 287 Washington Av

(29) Place of Birth—Russia, Austria, Roumania, Turkey-Europe, Turkey-Asia, Poland

---

**After investigation return this card to Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America, 229-231 E. Broadway, N. Y.**

Sample card

# Charity Organization Societies

# What is a Charity Organization Society?

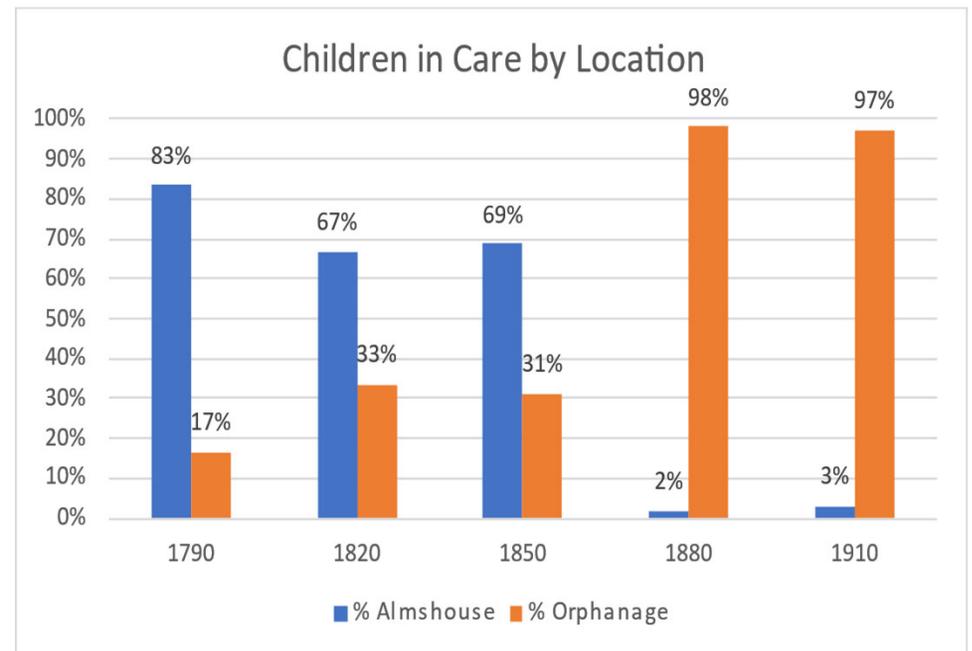
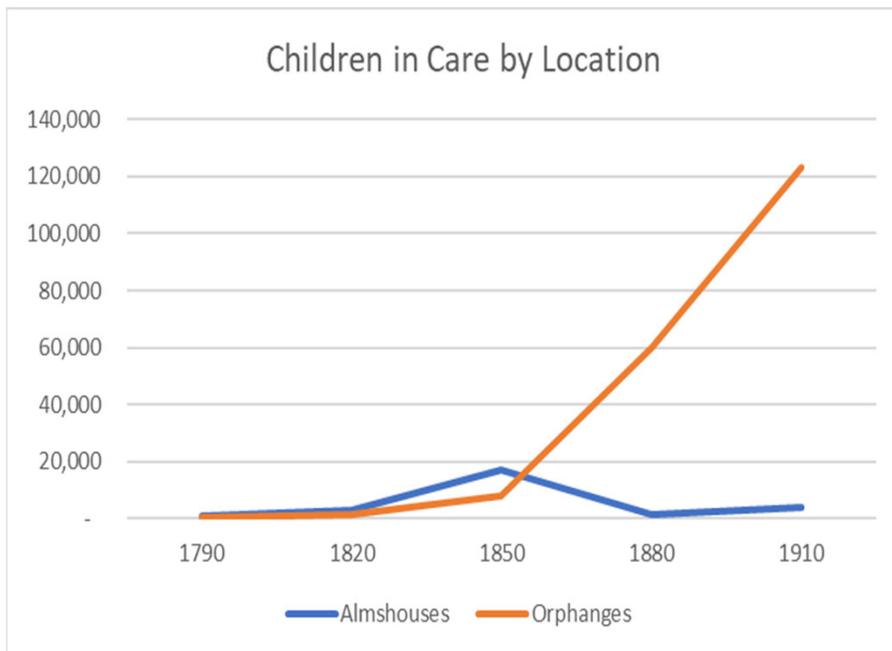
- Think “United Way”
- Growth of mutual aid, benevolent societies, and other charitable organizations made it hard to keep track of who was receiving what
- First formed in 1870 to inventory regional charity
- Advocated supplementing volunteer efforts with trained individuals (predecessor of the social worker)

# Private Institutions

# First Orphanages

- Established with private funding
  - Seven orphan asylums on east coast by 1801
  - 30+ by 1830
    - 21 established by Protestant churches
    - 10 by Catholic churches
- Goals:
  - Food, clothing, and a place to sleep
  - Discharge to apprenticeship
- Cared for non-orphaned children as well
  - One or two years
  - Discharge back to family

# Growth in Orphanages



Susan Whitelaw Downs, Michael W. Sherraden, "The Orphan Asylum in the Nineteenth Century Social Service Review," Vol. 57, No. 2 (Jun., 1983), p. 273

## New York Juvenile Asylum records (Children's Village), 1853-1954

Columbia University - Rare Book and Manuscript Library

The collection is composed primarily of ledgers used in the operation of the New York Juvenile Asylum, a reception center, home, and placement agency for orphaned, abandoned, and impoverished children. The Asylum operated in Manhattan from 1853 until 1905 when it moved to a rural campus in Dobbs Ferry, New York. In 1920 the Asylum was renamed Children's Village. The collection provides copious information about the experience of poor and orphaned children, children sent West on "orphan trains," social work, and the home life and living arrangements of poor and immigrant New Yorkers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Finding Aid](#)

## Records, 1836-1954

### Buffalo Orphan Asylum (N.Y.).

Buffalo History Museum

Registers of admissions and departures, 1836-1939; lists of all children admitted; family records; visitors book, 1861-1866; minute books of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and Joint Investigative Committee, 1836-1950 (with gaps); annual reports, 1853-1922 (with gaps); 50th anniversary celebration; financial reports; historical notes

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Catalog Record](#)

## Hillcrest Children's Center (Washington, D.C.) Records 1815-1966 (bulk 1880-1960) 1815-1966

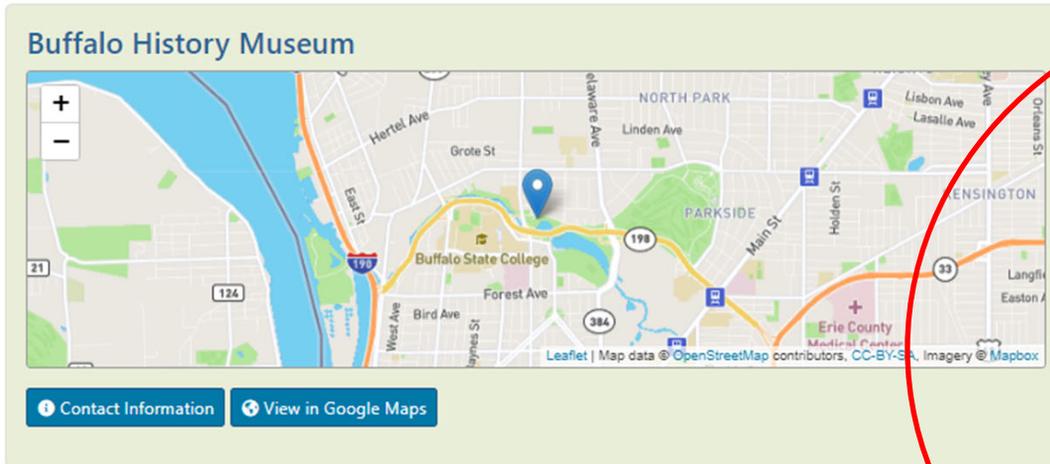
Library of Congress - Research and Reference Services

Founded in 1815 as the Washington Female Orphan Asylum to care for girls left homeless by the British invasion of Washington, D.C., during the War of 1812. Official name changed to Washington City Orphan Asylum in 1828. Unofficially renamed Hillcrest Children's Village (1927-1953) and Hillcrest Children's Center (1953-). Provided for the care and protection of homeless youths until 1953 and afterward for the treatment of emotionally disturbed children. Correspondence, minutes of meetings, committee and staff reports, admittance and application records, journals, ledgers, financial statements, deeds, mortgages, bank checks, budget estimates, index cards, and miscellaneous material reflecting the financial and managerial techniques of the center.

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Finding Aid](#)

# Orphan Asylum Records



### Details

1 box +

(12.0 linear ft.).

Bound volumes organized by administrative function (admissions, departures, minutes, etc.). Card files correspond to specific bound volumes of orphan records. Folders organized into four series: I. Asylum history. II. Life members. III. Financial reports. IV. Charter and by-laws

Registers of admissions and departures, 1836-1939; lists of all children admitted; family records; visitors book, 1861-1866; minute books of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and Joint Investigative Committee, 1836-1950 (with gaps); annual reports, 1853-1922 (with gaps); 50th anniversary celebration; financial reports; historical notes

Organized in 1836 by women of a dozen various Protestant churches; incorporated in 1837. The Asylum maintained no homes after the late 1930s. Its sizable endowment was placed in a philanthropic trust in 1938, and the Children's Foundation of Erie County was charged with distributing those funds to numerous child-related services, most notably the Adoption Bureau of the Children's Aid Society

Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society Archives, C82-1, Buffalo Orphan Asylum Records

Inventory available in the repository: item level control

### Related Resources

[View this description in WorldCat.](#)

### More Like This

Records 1902-1905  
Pittsburgh and Allegheny Home for the Friendless  
Senator John Heinz History Center

Records of the Fukien Children's Home 1935  
Fukien Children's Home  
Yale University

State Board of Control board members files, 1885-1890, 1917-1953, undated bulk 1920-1953  
Texas State Board of Control  
Texas State Library and Archives

Kentucky Children's Home records, 1895-1980 (bulk 1895-1964, 1977-1980)  
Kentucky Department for Social Services Division of Children's Residential Services  
Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives

Registers of children bound out, 1803-1863  
Charleston Orphan House  
South Carolina Department of Archives and History

### Topics

[Children -- Institutional care](#)

[Orphanages](#)

[Orphanages](#)

### Organizations

[Buffalo Orphan Asylum \(N.Y.\)](#)

[Children's Foundation of Erie County](#)

### Places

# Buffalo Orphan Asylum

# Institutions for the Insane

- Privately funded
  - McLean Hospital Asylum for the Insane (1811)  
Belmont, MA
  - Friends Asylum (1815) Philadelphia
  - Bloomingdale Insane Asylum (1816) New York
  - “Moral” model of treatment emphasizing character and spiritual development
- County or state funded
  - More common after 1850

# Finding Records

- For privately funded institutions start with ArchiveGrid
- For county or state funded may find



# Summary of Places to Try for Records

- FamilySearch.org – Catalog > State > County
- FamilySearch.org – Research Wiki
- Ancestry Catalog
- ArchiveGrid.org
- State and local historical societies

# Summary

- Reformers attempted to address the variability in poor relief by advocating centralizing care in institutions
- Growth in state and county funded almshouses
- Outdoor relief continued under private auspices
- Private funding also created
  - Orphanages
  - Insane asylums

# QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**

*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**

*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*



Search

Events

Membership

Give

Publications

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Tools

Signature Projects

Centers & Initiatives

# Researching Impoverished Ancestors 2023

Thank you for registering for the online course, *Researching Impoverished Ancestors in North America!*

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

### June 14 - Class 1: A Community Responsibility: Taking Care of the Poor

Presented by Ann Lawthers

Our colonial ancestors considered it their duty to take care of their less fortunate neighbors. In this session learn how attitudes toward poverty and misfortune were shaped by English laws and customs and carried to North America. Learn how colonial communities adapted care giving systems to suit their circumstances and find out what records may have the name of your poor ancestor.

### June 21 - Class 2: Cries for Reform: Quincy and Yates Reports

Presented by Ann Lawthers

[AmericanAncestors.org/researching-impoverished-ancestors-2023](https://AmericanAncestors.org/researching-impoverished-ancestors-2023)



# THANK YOU!

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