



1



2



3

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

7

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 1816.
Suffolk,	2	411	53,844
Essex,	20	1281	66,026
Middlesex,	18	562	25,493
Plymouth,	9	221	13,365
Bristol,	11	228	24,283
Barnstable, } Nantucket, &c. }	18	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. Paupers in Towns making returns, 4340	Popul'n in Towns making returns according to Census of 1816, 237,437

1821 Quincy Report Table – Paupers in Massachusetts

8

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

9

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, had 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

10

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

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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

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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

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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

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Change in Attitudes (Simplified)

Colonial	Early 19th Century
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: Poverty a fact of life • Solution: Communities responsible for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: Poverty a problem of bad behavior and choices • Solution: Moral education of individual poor

15

Immigration

16

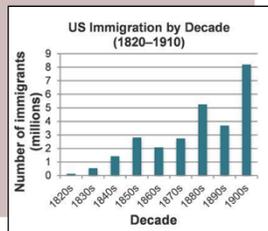
Major Ports of Entry

- 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

17

19th Century Immigration

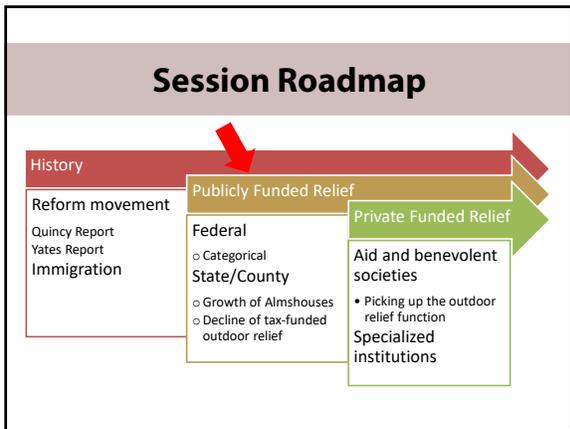
- Initially, continuation of colonial patterns: German speaking, protestant Irish, and British Commonwealth
- As industrial revolution created jobs in America and famine and war pushed people out of Ireland and Germany, bump in immigration



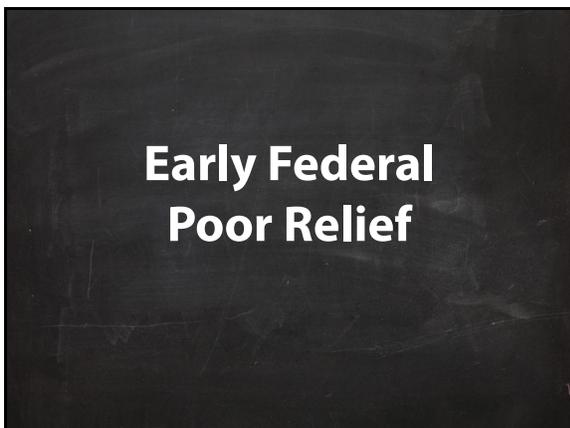
18



19



20



21

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

22

Mass. Harris, Benjamin \$ 38816

8700 White Island Benjamin Harris II

Benjamin Harris II of White Island in the state of Rhode Island who was a Revolutionary War Pensioner in the request submitted by his son in the form of 2 pages in 1870 described on the Roll of White Island at the rate of \$ 5 Dollars per month, to commence on the 24th of August 1818

Benjamin Harris II

Admitted to roll of White Island in 1818 for \$ 5.00 per month

Received on 24th Aug 1818

127-33

Continued

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

Pension File - RI

23

NAME	RANK	MONTH	DATE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
Harris, Benjamin	Private	1	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	2	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	3	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	4	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	5	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	6	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	7	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	8	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	9	24 Aug 1818	5.00	
Harris, Benjamin	Private	10	24 Aug 1818	5.00	

Ancestry.com: U.S. Revolutionary War Pensioners, 1801-1815, 1818-1872

24

Relief for Indigenous People

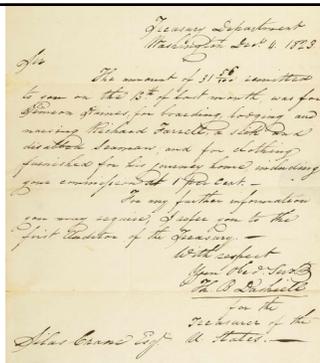
- 1800 – Congress appropriated funds for rations, annuities, medical care, agricultural tools and instructors for tribes
- Support renewed each year
- 1835 – Jackson in State of Union address notes that funds to “Indian poor” amounted to about \$30 per person annually

25

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

26



Federal Merchant Seamen relief

FHL Film 106231840, Image 2

27

State & County Poor Relief

28

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)

29

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

30

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

31

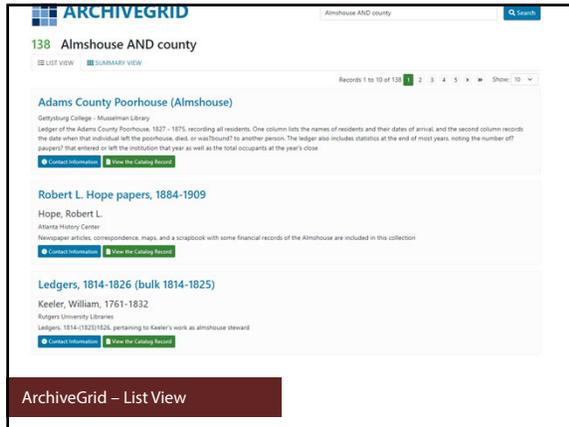
How to Search ArchiveGrid

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

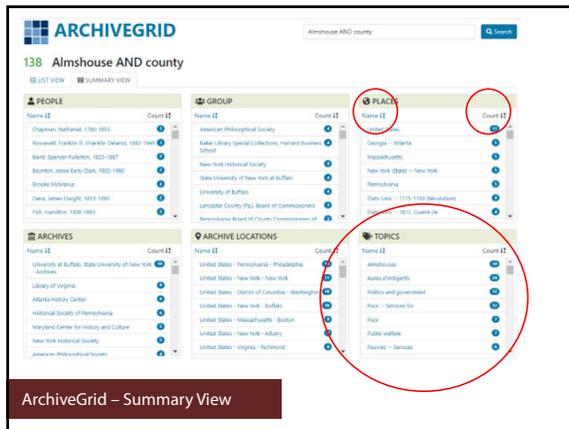
32

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

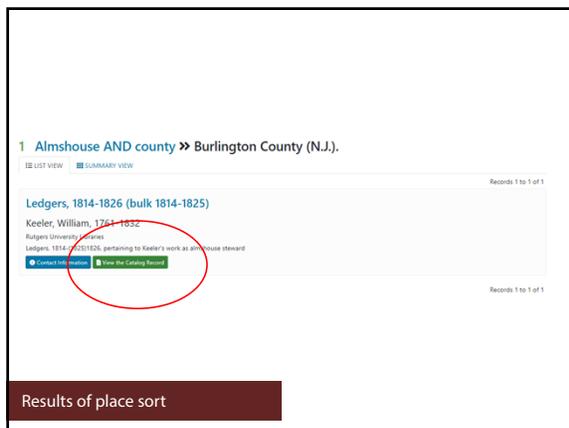
33



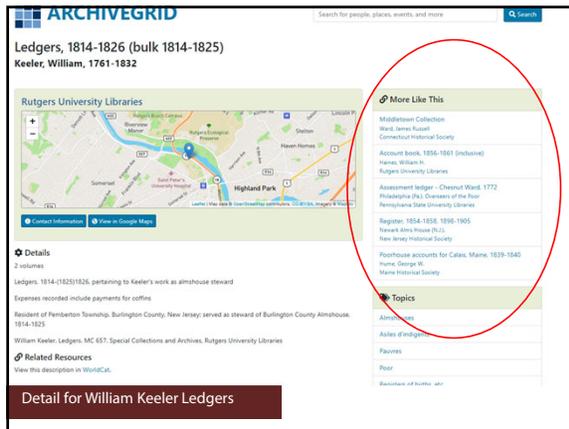
34



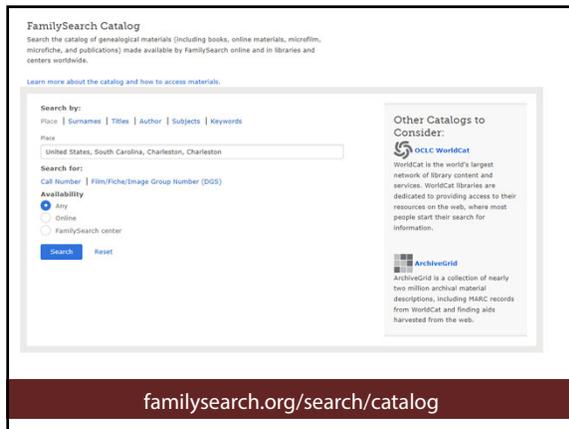
35



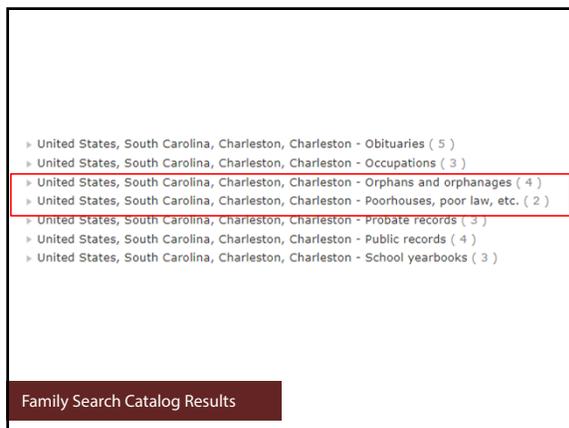
36



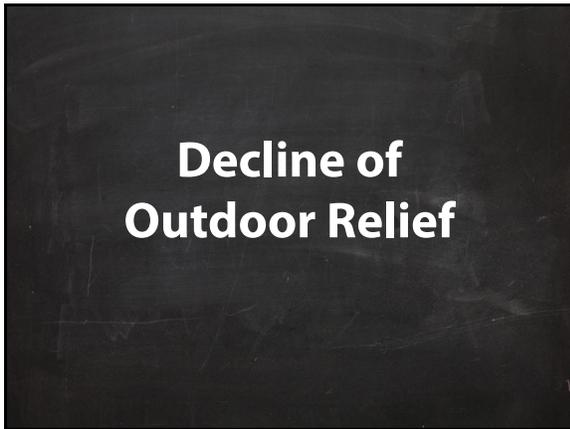
37



38



39



46

Outdoor Relief in the Early 19th Century

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

47

Lancaster County, PA 1856

FHL Film 8718947, image 350

48

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

49

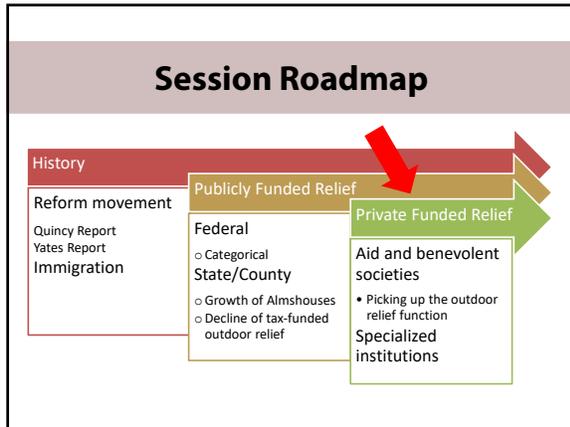
PAUPER EXPENSES OTHER THAN ALMSHOUSE.	
Relief to Mrs. Leland,	14 52
Relief and funeral expenses, to Swasey,	15 66
Relief to Tans's family,	5 50
Relief to Foot's family,	35 40
Relief and funeral expenses, J. Blanchard	11 79
Relief and expenses, J. Smith,	7 63
Relief to Mrs. Ruggs,	2 00
Relief to William 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
	\$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. Lunden,	8 00
Allowance of accounts, professional services,	8 00
	\$90 93

HathiTrust.org 19th century Records Nashua, NH , Reports of the selectmen, 1841

50

QUESTIONS?

51



52



53

By Permission of the Commandant,
TICKETS of a LOTTERY.
 FOR the beneficial purpose of giving comfort to the distressed at this rigorous season, are now for sale at Captain V. P. Adfield's, at No. 497, Smith Street; Mr. Lough, No. 140, Queen-Street; and Mr. D. Grim, No. 437, William-Street, who are appointed managers. All 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

54

BOSTON SEAMAN'S AID SOCIETY.
Extract from the Third Annual Report.
 Connecticut Courant, 1836

It is three years, this day, since our Society was formed. It was first proposed by our present Treasurer (Mrs. Wm. Griggs) 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

The usual annual Collections for the Fund of the Churches will be made in the United Churches of Christ Church and St. Peter's 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

For The Society for the relief of Free Wc. Am. with their Children, are required to send a gratification at the Temple City Hall, on Wednesday the 18th inst. at three o'clock. L. BIRD, Secy.

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

Newspaper Clippings

55

Types of Aid Societies

56

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

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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

58

The screenshot shows the ArchiveGrid search results for 'Hibernian Society'. It lists two records: 'Hibernian Society records' from the Maryland Center for History and Culture, and 'Minute book, 1827-1847' from the University of South Carolina. Red circles highlight the 'View the Finding Aid' and 'View the Catalog Record' buttons for each record. A dark red banner at the bottom of the screenshot reads 'Search for Hibernian Society'.

59

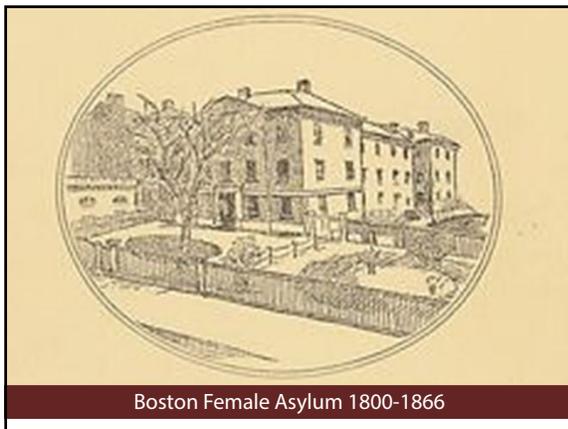
The screenshot shows the finding aid for 'Hibernian Society records'. It includes sections for 'Abstract', 'Dates' (1814-1978), 'Creator' (Hibernian Society of Baltimore), 'Conditions Governing Access' (open for research use), 'Conditions Governing Use' (copyright restrictions), and 'Historical Note' (organization founded in 1803). A dark red banner at the bottom of the screenshot reads 'Finding Aid for Maryland Records'.

60

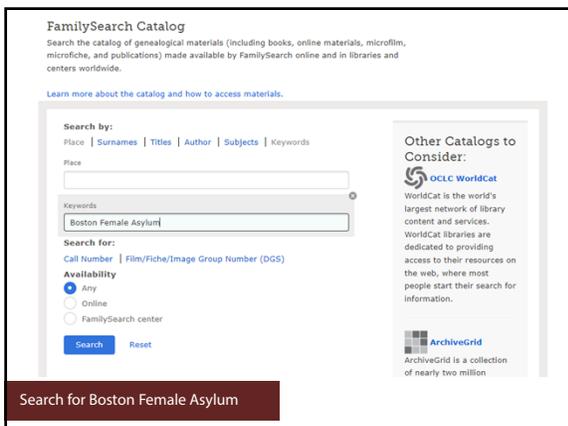
Benevolent Societies

- 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)

61



62



63

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch search results page for 'Boston Female Asylum'. On the left, there is a sidebar with filters for 'Refine your search' (Place, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects), 'Search for:' (Call Number, Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)), and 'Availability' (Online, FamilySearch center). The main content area shows search results for 'Boston society for the care of girls : asylum records, 1800-1866'. A table lists various records with columns for 'Note', 'Location', 'Collection/Shelf', 'Film', 'Image Group Number (DGS)', and 'Format'. A red circle highlights the 'Format' column, which contains icons for document types like PDF, image, and audio.

64

The screenshot shows a document titled 'Boston Female Asylum 1800-1866'. It features a header with the title and a large block of handwritten text in cursive. The text appears to be minutes from a meeting, discussing the care of girls and the operations of the asylum. The document is presented as a film strip image.

65

The screenshot shows a document titled 'Immigrant Aid Societies'. It contains a bulleted list of three organizations: 'Irish Emigrant Aid Society (1841 - New York)', 'German Immigrant Aid Society (New Orleans - 1847)', and 'Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (NYC - 1881)'. The text is presented on a light-colored background with a dark header.

66

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

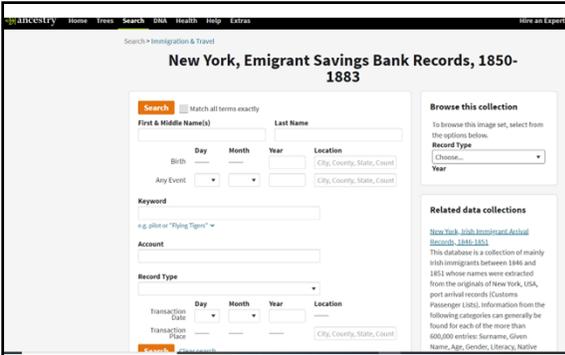
67

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



68



Ancestry.com

69

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



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FamilySearch.org

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society card file 1-96, 1882-1929

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: United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Waltham - Jewish history; United States, Massachusetts - Emigration and immigration; Library of Congress Subjects: Jews - Massachusetts

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (IG#)	Format
Aronowitz, Julius	Granite Mountain	United States &		231839	7824191
Botkowitz, Jacob	Record Vault	Canada Film			

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Form E, No. 33, 3-24-14

PORT OF BOSTON
HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY

Cable _____ Steerage Yes (1) (2) Name Grud Berta (3) Apr 10 (4) Jan. Jernade (5) Single (6) None (7) no (8) Poland (9) Mass (10) Chelsea (11) no (12) no (13) 9th St. Israel Grud, No. 287 Washington St. (14) Poland (15) some (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30)

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

75

Charity Organization Societies

76

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)

77

Private Institutions

78

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

79

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

80

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 1903 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](#)

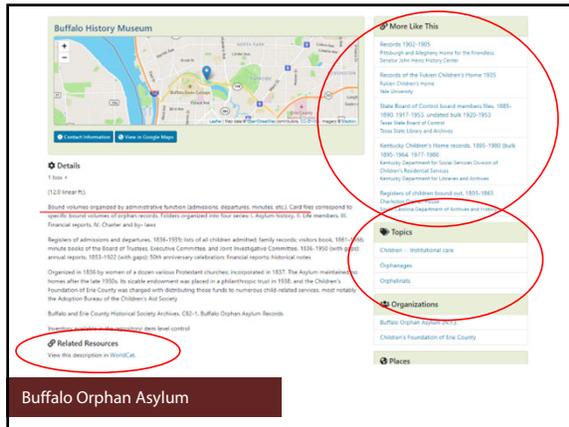
Hillcrest Children's Center (Washington, D.C.) Records 1815-1966 (bulk 1880-1960) 1815-1966

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 1826. Unofficially renamed Hillcrest Children's Village (1927-1950) and Hillcrest Children's Center (1950-). Provided for the care and protection of homeless youths until 1953 and otherwise 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

81



82

Institutions for the Insane

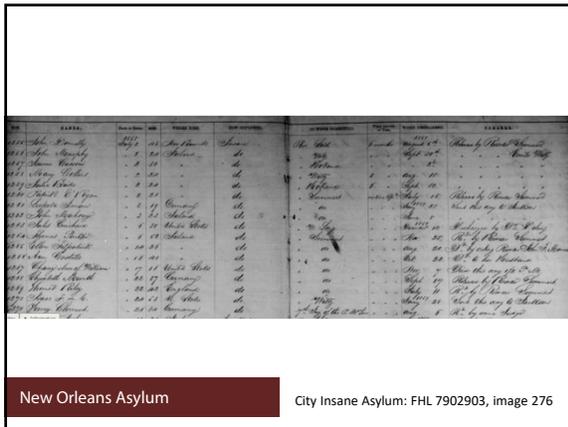
- Privately funded
 - McLean Hospital Asylum for the Insane (1811) Belmont, MA
 - Friends Asylum (1815) Philadelphia
 - Bloomingdale Insane Asylum (1816) New York
 - “Moral” model of treatment emphasizing character and spiritual development
- County or state funded
 - More common after 1850

83

Finding Records

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

84



85

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

86

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

87



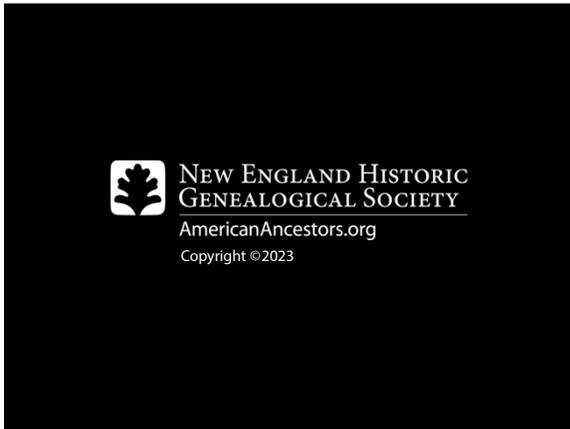
88



89



90



91