

# Unlocking Manuscript Treasures

*Virtual Spring Stay At Home 2023*

Ann G. Lawthers, Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



**American Ancestors<sup>®</sup>**  
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

# Session Roadmap

The world of manuscripts



Manuscripts and genealogical events



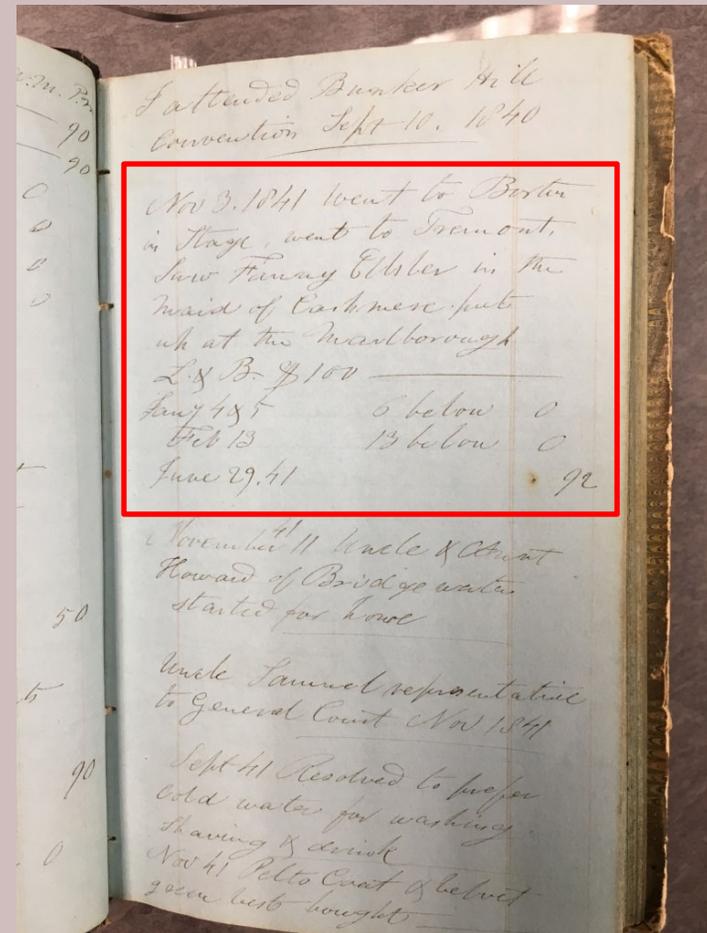
Rounding out your family history



How to find manuscripts

# What is a Manuscript?

- Unpublished primary materials
  - Handwritten
  - Typed
  - No index
- Examples:
  - Journals and diaries
  - Account books
  - Handwritten genealogies
  - Town, church records
  - Collections of papers
  - Autograph albums, portraits, photographs
  - Muster rolls
  - Wills



Robert Allen Hayden Diary, Mss 1557, NEHGS

# Manuscript Terms

- Linear/cubic feet
- Accession
- Provenance
- Record Groups
- Series
- Collections
- Guides/Finding Aids

# Manuscript Etiquette

- Gloves
- Book cradles
- Page weights
- Photo policies



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How to find manuscripts

# Genealogical Clues in Manuscripts

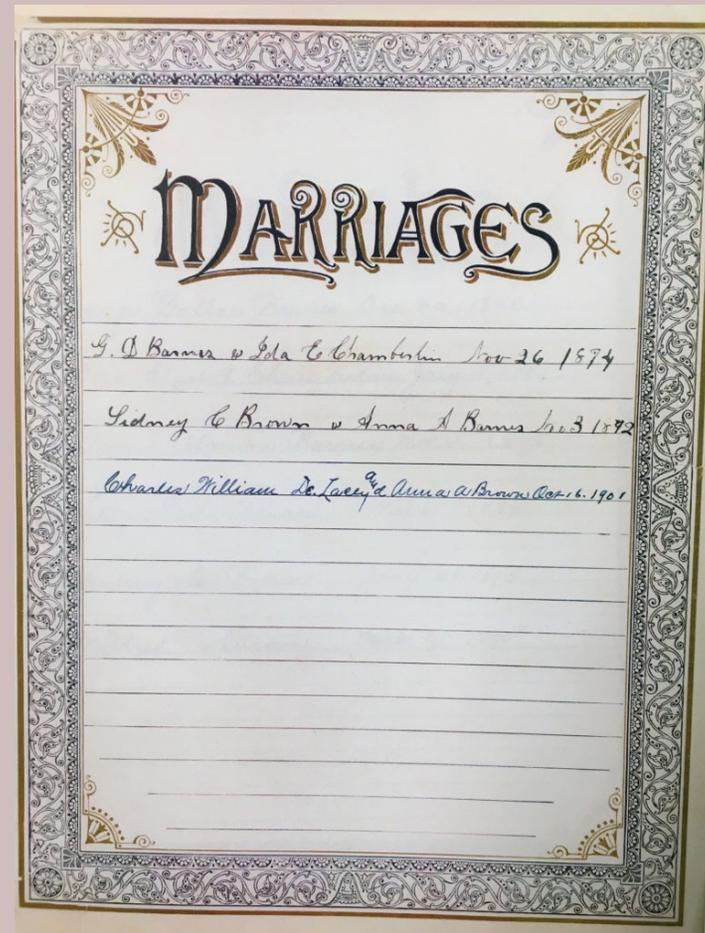
- Events
  - Birth, marriage, death
  - Military service
  - Arrival
- Relationships
  - Kinship (parents, spouse, children)
- Identity
  - Location
  - Occupation
  - Religion
  - Military service

# Finding Genealogical Data in a Manuscript

- Obvious sources
  - Bible records
  - Cemetery records
  - Church or Minister's records
- Less obvious sources
  - Letters (need to have surname to get started)
  - Town records (where did your ancestors live)
  - Collections (genealogist, manor, place)

# Bible Records

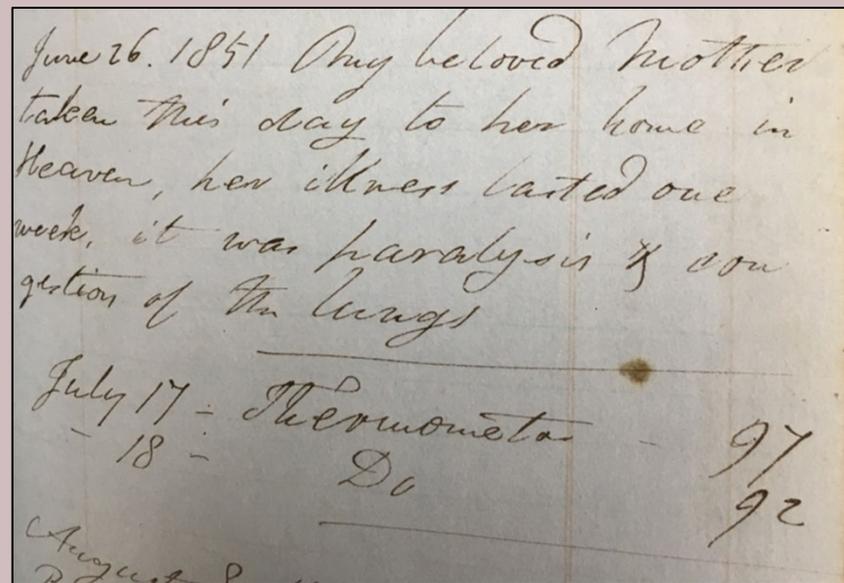
- Over 1200 Bible Records at NEHGS
- Ask:
  - Are recorded dates after the publication date of the Bible?
  - Are the inks and handwriting different?
  - Who owned the Bible?



Barnes Family Bible, Conway, New Hampshire, NEHGS MSS A 6648

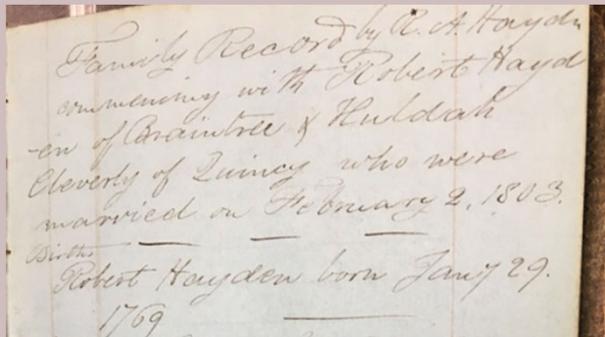
# Family Records

- May be kept in a journal or diary.

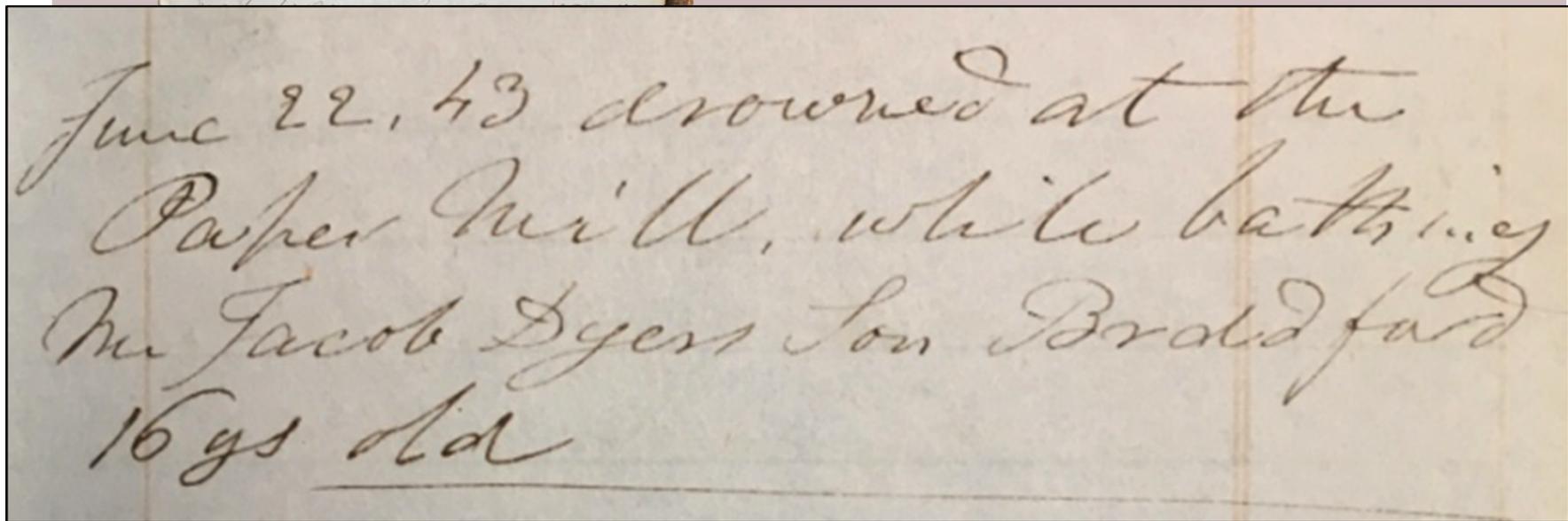


Robert Allen Hayden Diary, NEHGS MSS A 1557

# Family Records – the FAN Club\*



- Often includes vital events of friends and neighbors



\* Term coined by Elizabeth Shown Mills – Family, Associates, Neighbors

# Know Your Ancestor's FAN Club

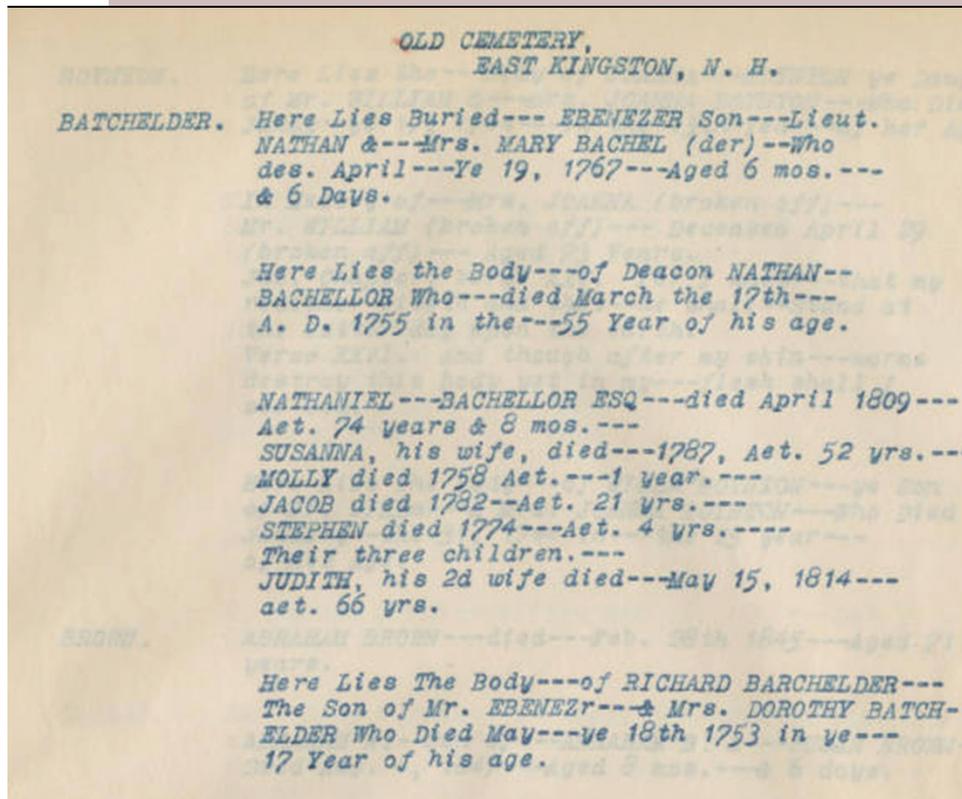
- Family and Friends
- Associates
- Neighbors
- Tools for compiling the FAN Club
  - Census
  - Land records
  - Court and probate

# Finding Mr. Hayden's FAN Club

1840 US Federal Census, Braintree, MA

	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
Josiah French																			
Samuel French					1		1												
Robert Hayden					1	1				1									
Samuel Hayden					1	1													
John French				2			1												
Josiah Hollis		1	1					1											
John A. Hollis								1											
Daniel H. Hill					1														
Thomas L. Hollis	1	1	1					1											

# Cemetery Records



- Check catalogs by location or cemetery name
- If you don't know the name of the cemetery use a guide such as David A. Lambert's cemetery guide
- May find, in addition to date of death, date of birth, maiden name, place of origin

Old Cemetery, East Kingston, NH, Epitaphs

# Church and Minister Records

- Baptisms, marriage, burials
- Check local county histories for the names of the early churches and their clergy
- Search by both town and clergy name

## *History of Barnstable County*

558

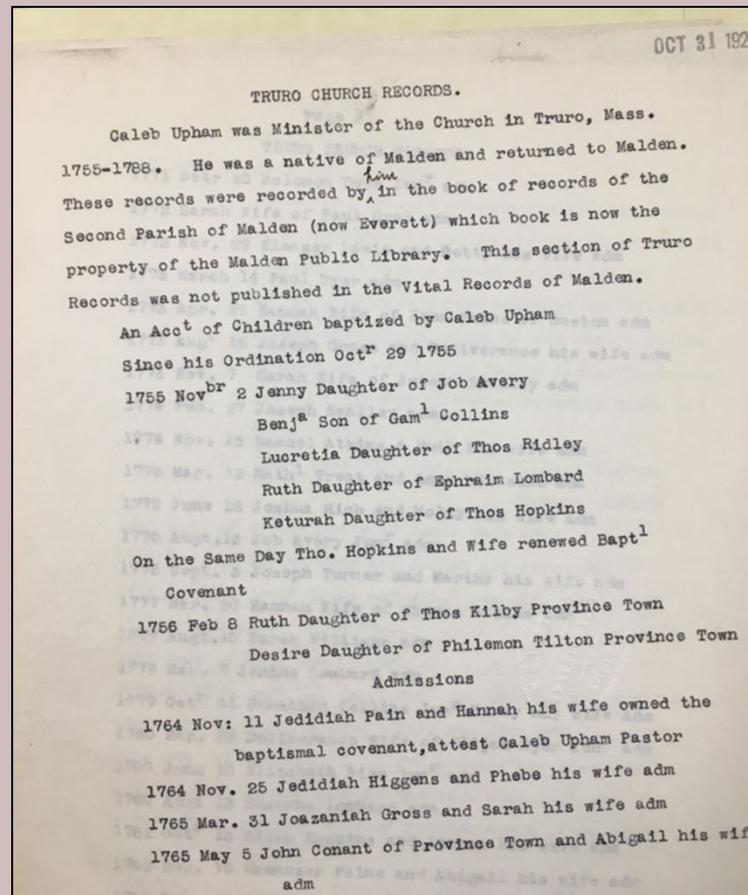
HISTORY OF BARNSTABLE COUNTY.

that he was both physician and pastor. To the day of his decease he was greatly admired and beloved by the people of his charge, — emphatically a good man, — highly esteemed as a physician, and greatly useful as a minister.<sup>1</sup>

After the decease of Mr. Avery, a com. was sent to Rev. Mr. Lewis of Eastham to ask “how he approved of Mr. Caleb Upham.” The com. reported Mr. Lewis replied that “he knew nothing against him, or of him.”

In 1755, Jan. 9, Rev. CALEB UPHAM was called, and a salary of £53. 6. 8. per annum, was voted him, with a settlement of £80 and use of the parsonage. A meeting was held, Feb. 10, to hear and act on Mr. Upham's answer; when it was “voted, that inasmuch as many of the inhabitants are called away from the meeting by news of a whale in the Bay, this meeting be adjourned to Feb. 11, one day.” At the adjourned

# Caleb Upham's Records



Truro, Massachusetts Church Records  
1755-1788, NEHGS, MSS A 7655

# Using Less Obvious Sources

# Letters

- May have to read a lot of prose to find the birth, marriage or death announcement; persistence pays off

Dalton, January 17th. 1846.

Brother Eleazer it has been a long time since I have heard from you. I received a letter from Brother Pechkam on the 15th. of the present month it was from him that I learned where to direct a letter to you. I should long wished that I could hear from you to learn how you get along in this world of trouble. I have been laboring at paper making for the last five years, for three years out of the five I have labored half of the day and half the night, my wages have bin from 6 th 6 1/2 dollars per week. With this compensation I have bin able to feed and clothe myself and family, which consists of three of us, all told except a very large maltiece Cat. The surplus at the years and is rather small. We have enjoyed very good health for some years past which I consider to be an unspeakable blessing. I own a very good House and about one forth of an acre of good land which it stands upon, it is situated in the Town of Stockbridge. I am yet in doubt for it two hundred Dollars. Paper making was never better than at the present time, now Mills are going up all over this part of the country, there is a great call for Millwrights all over the country, a man that is a good workman if he sustains a good character can work all most any where at the present time One word about Easthampton People. Old Mrs. Williston died a few weeks ago, she was rising of eighty years old, the old gentleman is still a living. Samuel Williston and wife have bin on a tour to Europe the past year they returned but a short time since. He is said to be a very rich man, he is undoubtedly worth between one and two hundred thousand dollar Jared Lyman is dead. James Clapp has lost all his property and lives in the house that old Aaron Clapp occupied, the one above ours if you recollect he married the Widow Riny. Parsons Clark is dead, he left a wife and eight children. Chauncey Parsons is dead. Philip Clark is dead. George Lyman is dead. Bela Clark wife is dead, he married her sister Clemence for his second wife. Aunt Wales is dead. Cousin Alanson Clarks wife is dead. Luther Hainey and wife are both dead.

One word about Easthampton People. Old Mrs. Williston died a few weeks ago, she was rising of eighty years old, the old gentleman is still a living. Samuel Williston and wife have bin on a tour to Europe the past year they returned but a short time since. He is said to be a very rich man, he is undoubtedly worth between one and two hundred thousand dollar Jared Lyman is dead. James Clapp has lost all his property and lives in the house that old Aaron Clapp occupied, the one above ours if you recollect he married the Widow Riny. Parsons Clark is dead, he left a

Direct your letter to  
Dalton Berkshire  
County Mass.

Clark Family Letters, NEHGS MSS 1133

# Manuscript Collections

- A body of archival material formed by or around a person, family group, corporate body, or subject.... \*

Family and Personal Papers (NEHGS)

**Recent Additions**

- Receive updates for this collection.

**ABOUT THIS COLLECTION**

[Browse This Collection](#)

Family and personal papers are manuscript collections created by families and individuals in the course of their everyday lives. These collections can contain a wide variety of materials, such as letters, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera, financial records, and legal papers. Although most of these records do not contain genealogical information, they do provide details about the everyday lives of American families in various places and time periods. Sometimes family and personal papers also include material that is directly helpful for genealogical research, like family bible records, research notes, and family charts.

This collection contains selected family and personal papers from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The collection includes:

- Letters to or from Benedict Arnold, Mather Byles, Charles Chauncy, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Mather, Jane (Franklin) Mecom, and John Winthrop
- Letters by Leander Thompson, a missionary in Jerusalem and Beirut in 1841
- Letters by American soldiers who served in World War I
- Relations (conversion testimonies) from the 17th century

Additional manuscripts will be added to this digital collection on a regular basis.

**Popular Genres**

\* Society of American Archivists - <https://www2.archivists.org/glossary/terms/c/collection>

# Selected NEHGS Manuscript Collections

- Nickerson Family – William Emery Nickerson
- Ireland - Riobard Dwyer
- English – Richard Bartelot, Joseph J Howard

# Using a Collection – Finding Aid

## NICKERSON COLLECTION

### REFERENCE MATERIALS

The boxes containing the reference materials consist of records of Nickersons gathered from Vital Records, Cemetery Records, Church Records, Newspapers, Genealogies, Bibles, letters, private papers, etc. All references being materials used in compiling the Nickerson volumes.

#### Box 1 Contents:

- Appendix Genealogical - Notebook, indexed, containing Nickerson records from Genealogies, Vital Records, Cemetery Records, Histories, Letters.
- Data Genealogical - Notebook, indexed, contains mostly Chatham records, and Mrs. Osborn Nickerson's papers.
- Miscellaneous Genealogical Data - Notebook, indexed, containing English Research, Coats of Arms, Private papers of Edmund Smith, letters, cemeteries, etc.
- Loose papers containing carbon copies of the above.
- Folder of Photographs of:
  - Deed May 1782, Elnathan & Dorothy Eldredge to Joshua Nickerson of Chatham.
  - Deed of William Nickerson 26 Feb. 1660 to Busby family.
  - Fairfield Register, Essex, England, family of John Bangs.
  - Baptismal records, St. Peters Permontergate, Norwich, England. (8 small photos)
  - Passenger list 1637, Nicholas Busby, William Nickerson.

# Using the Nickerson Collection – Example 1

- Paul Bunnell's *New Loyalist Index* states that Nathaniel and his twin Nathan were the sons of Nathaniel and Hannah Hamblin of Chatham, Barnstable County, MA but does not provide a reference. What is the documentation for Nathaniel's parents?

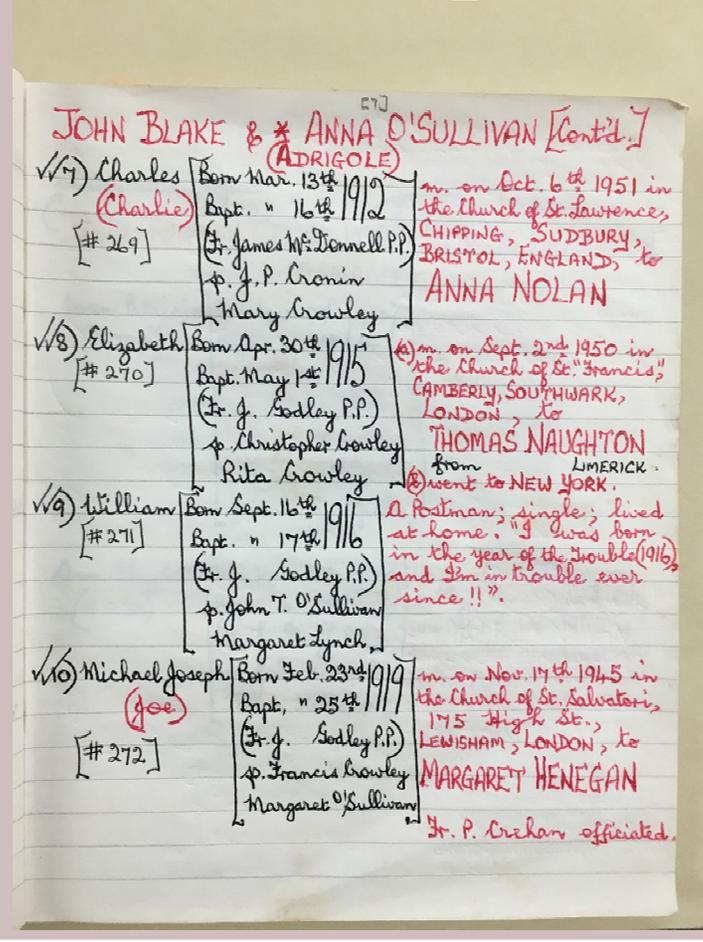
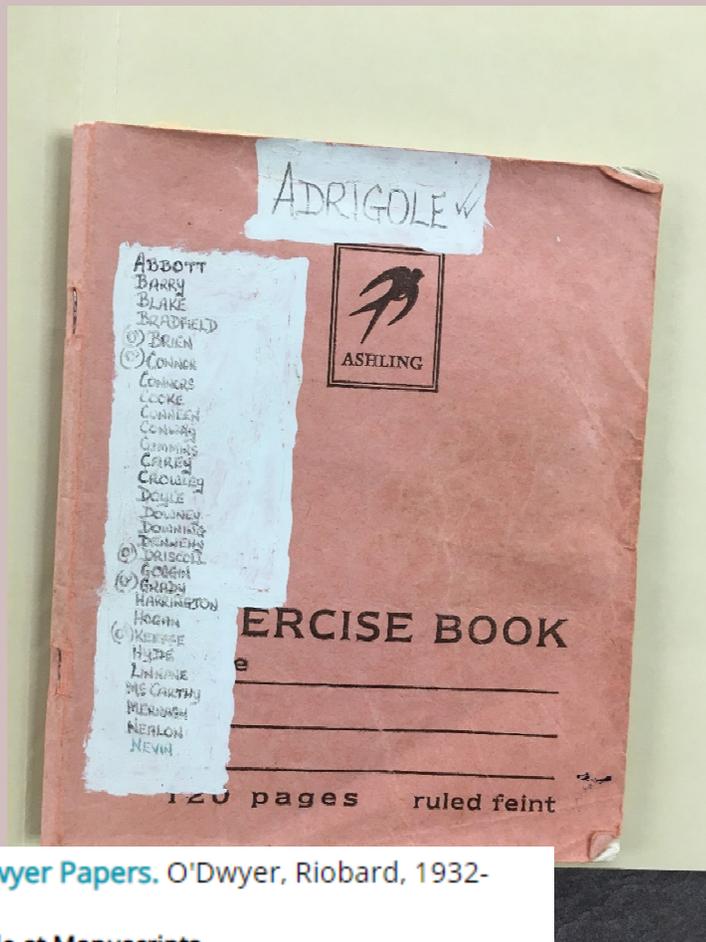
Box 3 Contents: Booklets  
Nickersons from Harwich Town Records  
Nickersons from Dennis Town Records  
Nickersons from Yarmouth Town Records  
Copy from Abstract of Early Deeds of Benjamin H. Doane, Esq.  
Ridgefield & Danbury, Conn. Probate & Land Records  
Nickerson - Chase records of Dr. John B. Chase & W. A. Eardsley  
Nickerson - Rogers connections from Jas. S. Rogers  
Nickerson - Rogers connections from Miss Clara Louise Sands, etc.

## Nickerson Example 2

- Nickerson Genealogy states that Archelaus was born to Uriah and Hannah (Smith) in Chatham but does not provide a reference.

Box 2 Contents:  
Notebook - Chatham, Mass. Vital Records & Cemetery Records  
Nickerson Scrapbook of Newspaper Clippings

# Riobard O'Dwyer – Beara Peninsula – Cork/Kerry



Riobard O'Dwyer Papers. O'Dwyer, Riobard, 1932-

1 copy available at Manuscripts

Location	
Manuscripts	Mss 1097

# Annals of Beara

## **JOHN BLAKE & ANNIE O'SULLIVAN (Adrigole)**

John, son of James Blake & Catherine [or Kit (Nathaniel)] Spencer, Dirreeny, came “cliabhain isteach” to Annie (born in Union City, New Jersey, U.S.A.), daughter of Flor (Con) O’Sullivan & Mary Crowley, Cappanaparka. Children:- 1) Pat (Mar. 1904) was a Garda Sergeant in Bunbeg, Co. Donegal; 2) Mary (Apr. 1905) married Edward Murphy from North Bennington, Vermont, U.S.A., and lived in Vermont; 3) James (Aug. 1906) married in New York to Jessie Elder Presley; 4) John (Feb. 1908) went to New York and married Margaret \_\_\_\_; 5) Catherine (Sept. 1909) married in Staten Island, New York, to James P. Donovan from Skibbereen, Co. Cork; 6) Nan (Dec. 1910) went to New York and married Nelson Hulsizer (of German descent). They lived (A) in Augusta, Georgia, and (B) in Groton, Connecticut; 7) Charlie (Mar. 1912) married in Chipping, Sudbury, Bristol, England, to Anna Nolan; 8) Elizabeth (Apr. 1915) married in Camberly, Southwark, London, to Thomas Naughton from Limerick; later moved to New York; 9) William (Sept. 1916), a Postman, single, lived at home. He was credited with the famous saying: “I was born in the year of the Trouble (1916 Insurrection), and I’m in trouble ever since “ !!; 10) Joe (Feb. 1919) married in, Lewisham, London, to Margaret Hanegan.

**Annals of Beara / Riobard O'Dwyer.** O'Dwyer, Riobard, 1932-  
Statesboro, Georgia : Gold Stag Publications, 2009.

**4 copies available at NEHGS Database and International Collection-1st Floor**

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Rounding out your family history

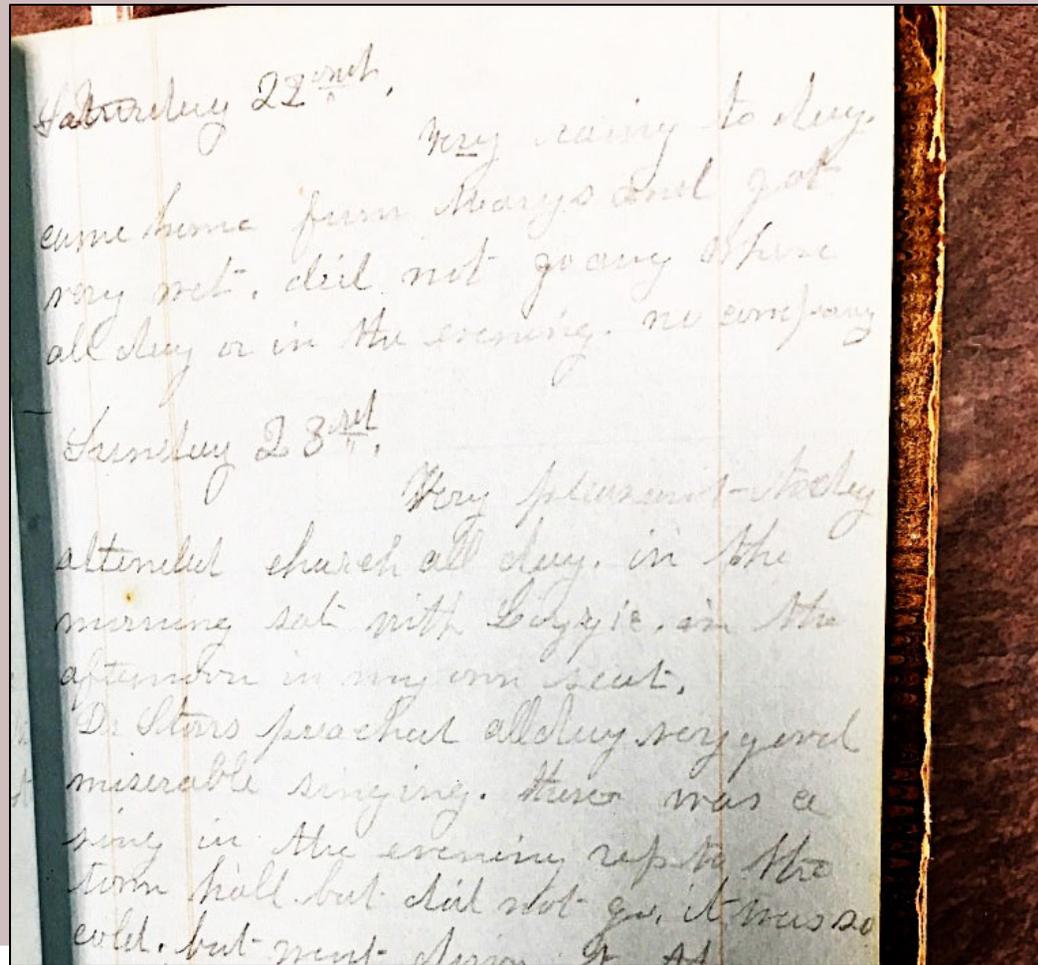


How to find manuscripts

# Manuscript Materials to Round Out Your Family History

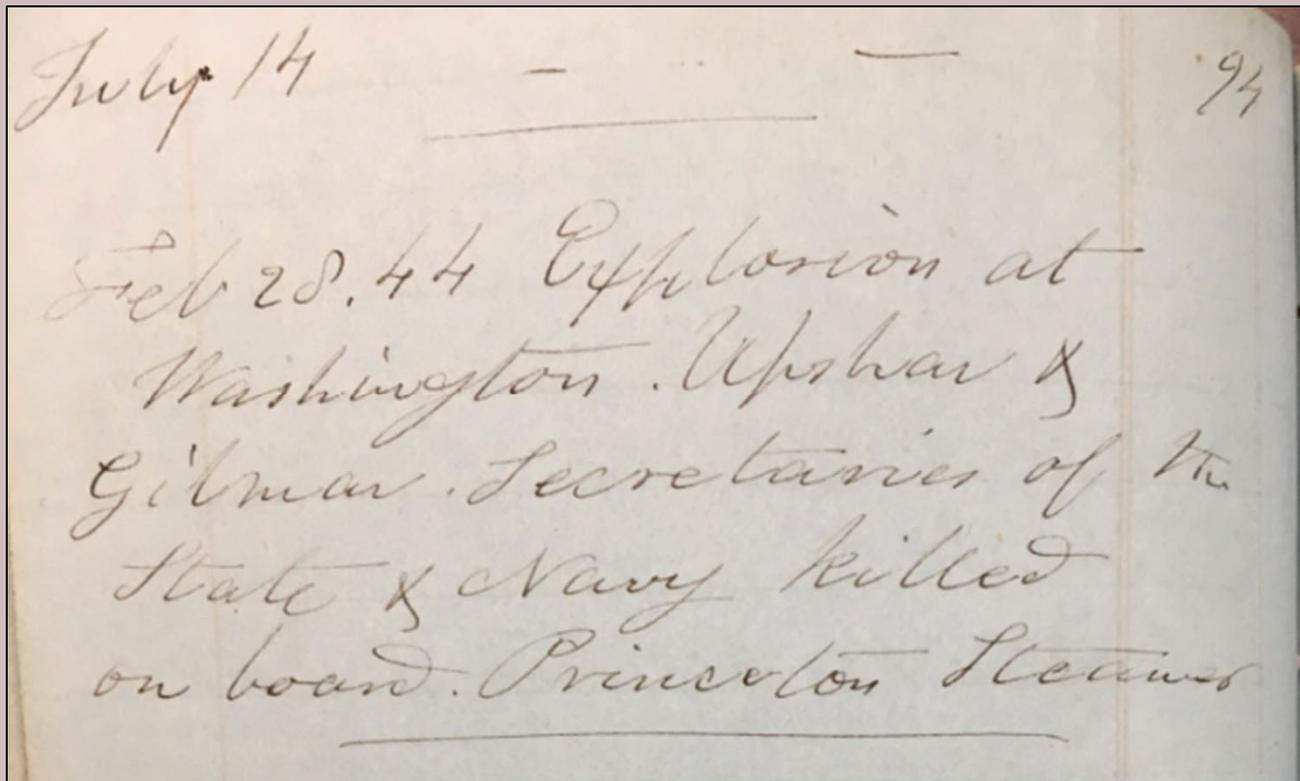
- Diaries
- Memoirs
- Correspondence
- Business Records
- Military Records
- Town Records

# Diaries – Everyday Life



Robert Allen Hayden Diary, NEHGS MSS A 1557

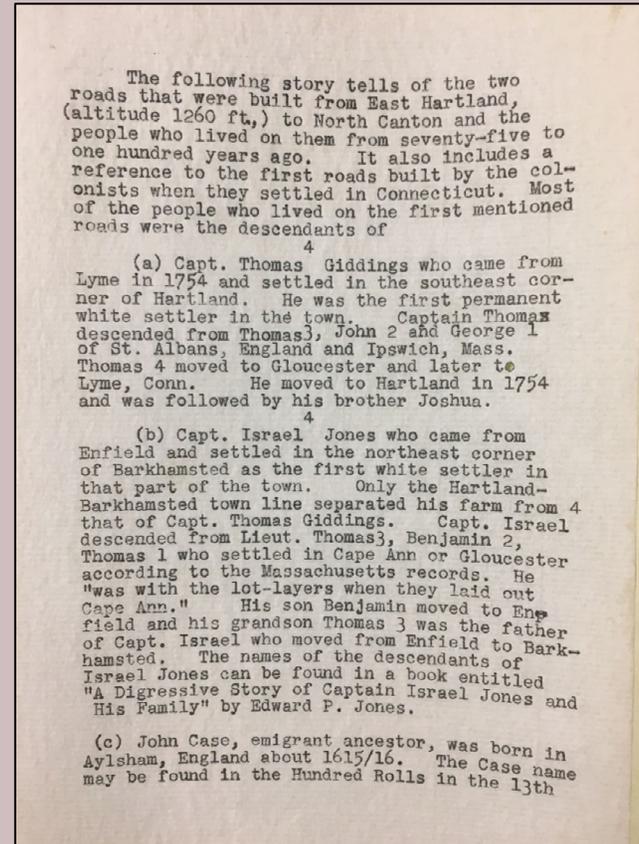
# Diaries - World Events



Robert Allen Hayden Diary, NEHGS MSS A 1557

# Memoirs

- Memoirs select specific events and weave them into a story
- Search for a family
- Look for events in history
- Seek occupational material



Two roads from East Hartland to North Canton, Ct., and the Cases and Jones who lived on them, 1850-1875, NEHGS, Mss A 1047

# Correspondence

Albionbridge, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1851.  
Dearest Cousin,  
Your letter was truly, "an agreeable surprise!" to me. Its reception was well received by us all. It lay in the office 3 or 4 days after its

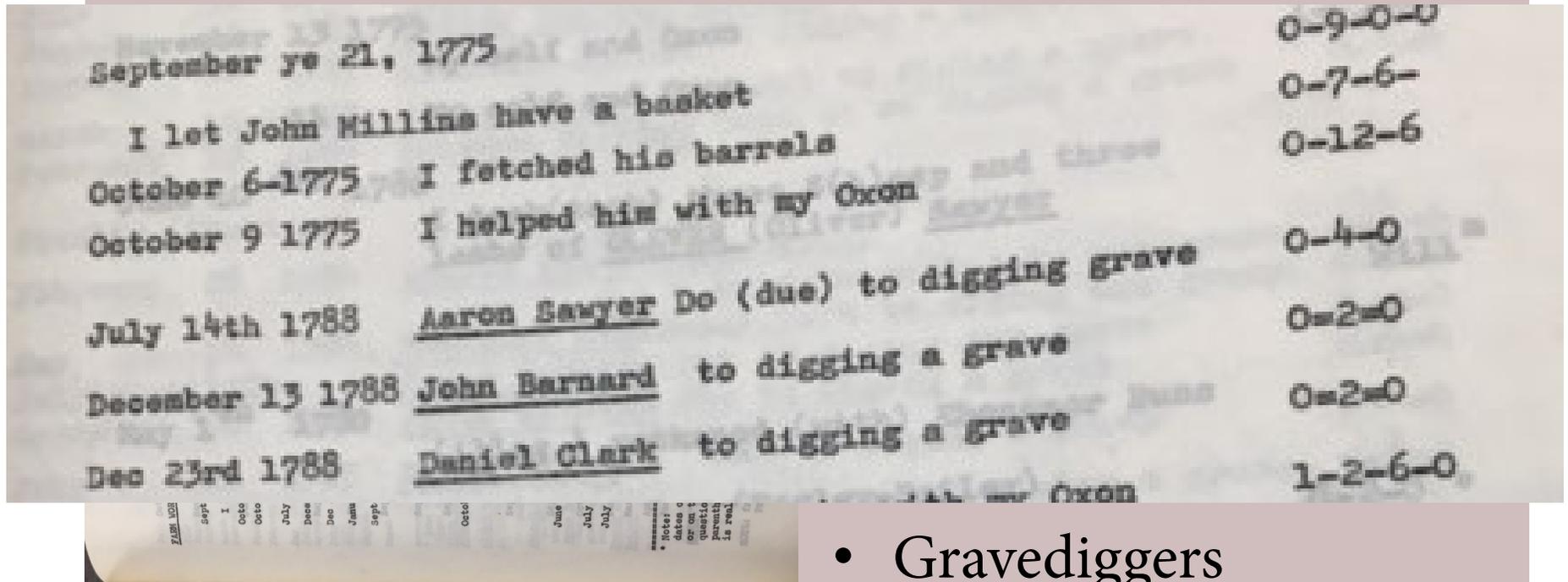
Albionbridge, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1851.  
Dearest Cousin,  
Your letter was truly, "an agreeable surprise!" to me. Its reception was well received by us all. It lay in the office 3 or 4 days after its arrival there, before I received it. And the evening that  
got a very hard cold, and his eyes trouble him very much, and he has got a very bad cold.

Clark Family Letters 1832-1897, NEHGS, Mss A 1133

# Business Records

# Business Records

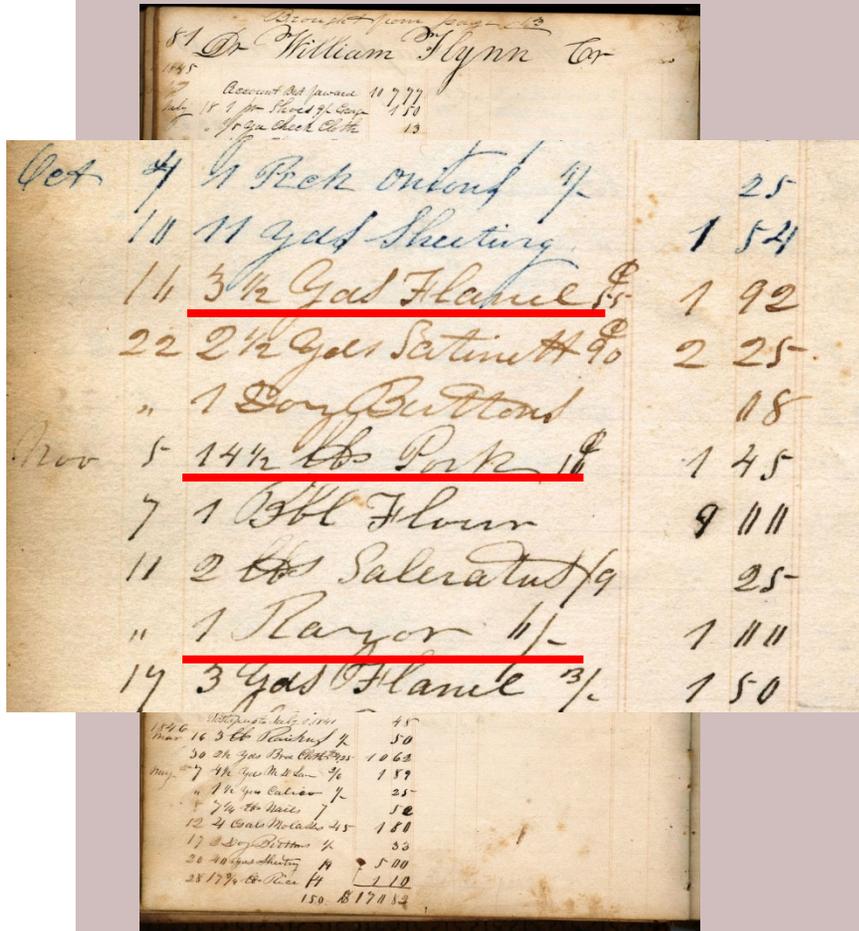
- Farm Account Books



- Gravediggers

William Ross Account Books, NEHGS, Mss A 947

# General Store, Cherryfield, Maine Year 1845



- Account under male names (William Flynn)
- Purchasing household items such as flour, ginger, 3 yds. of flannel, etc.
- Only widows listed separately
- Places ancestor in specific place at specific time

Account book for William Burnham & Sons, 1844-1849, Mss 465

# Physicians

- Surgeon, apothecary, barber
- Look for “Day Books,” “Account Books,” and Diaries
- Diary of Dr. Hill - 1867

Wed., 27 Feb.: Mrs. **Burlingame** fell downstairs at Whetstone. Insensible for three hours. Bruised head and eye, and vomited blood.

Sun., 03 Mar: Went to church.<sup>8</sup> **Randilla Burlingame** died. Seventy one, born in Foster, RI. Fell down stairs.<sup>9</sup>

Tues., 05 Mar: Sing at David **Clark**'s, Putnam.

Wed., 06 Mar: Amputated Alfred **Adams**' toes. Was assisted by Dr. Samuel L. **Hutchins**<sup>10</sup>. William **Oatley** had fit.

Thurs., 07 Mar: Snowed. Went to see Judge Daniel C. **Frost** in connection with Hannah **Lewis**' will.

Marcella Houle Pasay, *The Diaries of Dr. Hill 1851-1896* (Danielson, CT: Killingly Historical Society, 1995), page 10

# Physicians (cont.)

The image shows a handwritten account book page with two sections. The top section is for Charles Tuttle of Ipswich, 1710. The bottom section is for Matthew Whipple of Ipswich weaver, 1710. Both sections list medical services and charges in a tabular format with columns for descriptions and monetary amounts.

Charles Tuttle of Ipswich 1710			
Mar. 12	To Dressing his Son's finger	00	2 00
Apr. 9	To Bleeding his wife	00	1 00
6	To a visit, 6. with a Dose of Pill. coch. for his wife	00	2 00
10	To Medicam. ad Rem. 3. 6. with a large Vial	00	3 00
Ditto	Pillul. and. for his daughter	00	0 09
Aug. 24	To ol. Guai. for himself	00	0 06
14	Ditto	00	0 04
20	Ditto	00	0 09
Ditto	Ditto	00	0 06
Feb. 2.	To a visit to his house and drawing a tooth for him	00	0 10
Matthew Whipple of Ipswich weaver 1710			
Mar. 16	To a visit 6. with an epispastick Empl. for his daughter Dorcas	00	0 10
23	To Aqua Ther. for Ditto	00	0 06
Apr. 2	To anoding pills for Ditto	00	0 09
6	To a visit 6. with Phlebot. 3	00	1 06
7	To Ditto	00	1 06
10	To Rub. ad vomit	00	1 06
Ditto	To a visit 6. with a Med. ad Convul. 4.	00	1 06
14	To Vinum Emet. for his daughter By his wife	00	1 06
18	To a Lig. Medic. for Ditto By my self	00	2 06
Ditto	To Conserv. Emananag. for Ditto By my self	00	2 00
27	To a visit and Ditto 3. with Balsam. Pulegi. 2. 6. a vial 3	00	3 09

- Account book of Rev. Samuel Wigglesworth, 1710-1768 (Mss A 1044)
- Practiced medicine in Ipswich, MA 1710-1712
- Accounts mention treatment of females in household



Boston Female Asylum 1800-1866

# Boston Female Asylum 1800-1866

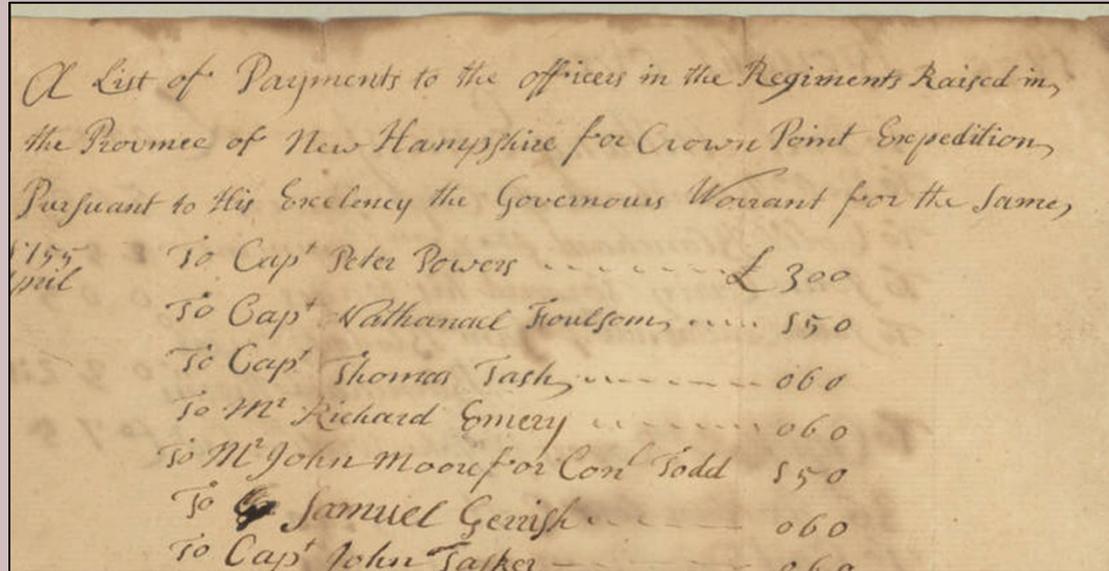
These may certify, that Abigail Lang was born May 27<sup>th</sup> 1796 - her Parents being in very low, indigent circumstances were forced from their Native Shores to try this Climate for her health which was much impaired; having, four Children with them and their Father taken off from his Labour a 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<sup>to</sup> 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

# Military

# Military Records

- Muster Rolls
- Military Supplies
- Orderly Books

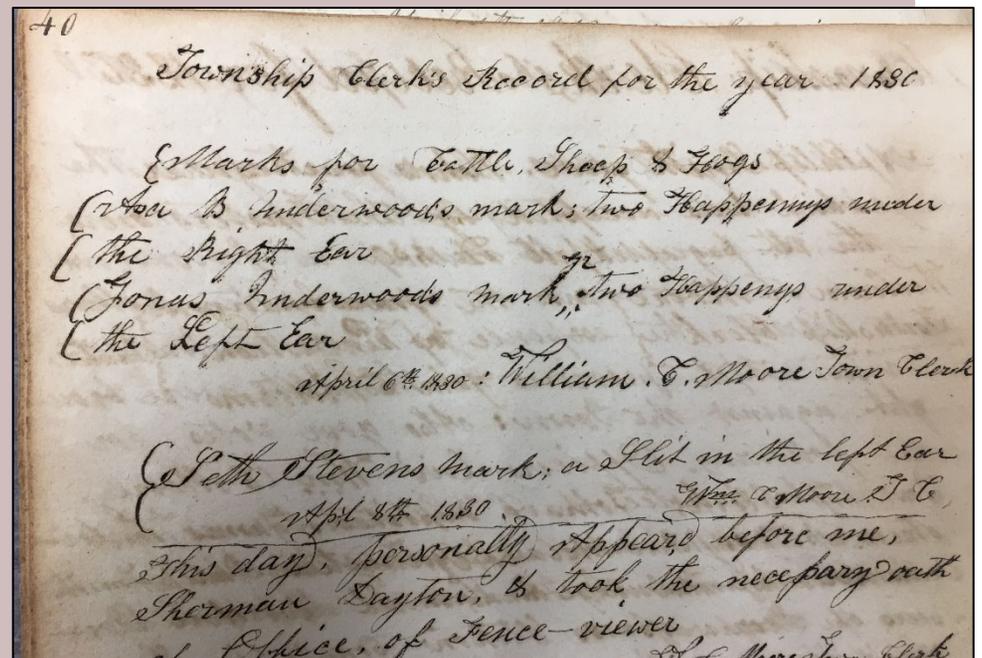


A list of payments to the officers in the regiments raised in the province of New Hampshire for Crown Point expedition, NEHGS, Mss C 2051

# Town Records

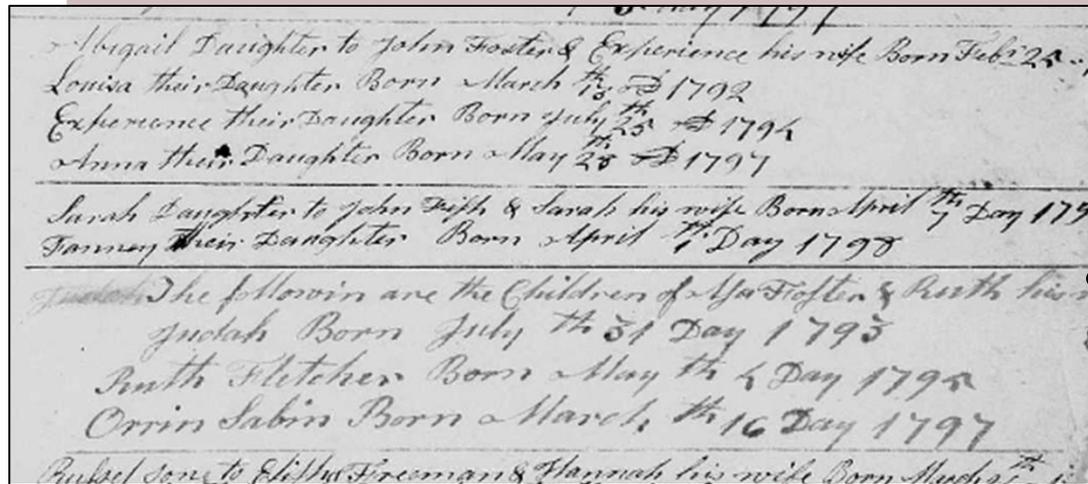
# Town Records

- Vital events
- Town officers
- Cattle marks
- Tax lists
- Fence and road inspectors; hog reavers



Montville, Ohio Town Clerk, NEHGS, Mss 3628

# Town Records



- Original town records in manuscript collections are often found at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)
- Original town records include records of land transactions, minutes of town meetings, as well as vital records

Town Records of Barnard, Vermont, FamilySearch.org

# Warnings Out

Province of New Hampshire  
To Beniaman Kimbal on of The Constables for the  
Town of Plaistow in Said Province Greecaling —  
you are hereby Required in his majesties Name forth  
with to warn mary Kineston if she may Be found in  
our Town. forth with to Depart out of This Town to the  
Town of Kingstown from whence she last came and —  
make due Return of this warrant and of your Doings  
to the Justice of the Peace for the said

with to warn mary Kineston if she may Be found in  
our Town. forth with to Depart out of This Town to the  
Town of Kingstown from whence she last came and —

Daniel Poor (Justice of the Peace)  
for  
Humphrey Noyes Constable  
Plaistow

FamilySearch.org "Town records, 1736-1843," Town of Plaistow, New Hampshire, FHL Film 15281

# Beware Name and Border Changes

## Connecticut Page

## Massachusetts Page

Town (Current Probate District)	Inc.	County	Parent Town(s)	Pre-2011 Probate District (Est.)	Parent Probate District	Notes	VRs	CRs
Newington (7)	1871	Hartford	Wethersfield	Newington (1820)	Hartford			
Newtown (45)	1711	Fairfield		Newtown (1820)	Danbury	Daughter Town: Brookfield	B, N, W	
Norfolk (24)	1758	Litchfield		Norfolk (1779)	Litchfield, Simsbury		B, W, W	
North Branford (35)	1831	New Haven	Branford	North Branford (1937)	Quilford & Wallingford	Alias: North Farms.	B, W	
North Canaan (24)	1858	Litchfield	Canaan	Canaan (1846)	Sharon			
North Haven (36)	1786	New Haven	New Haven	North Haven (1955)	New Haven	Alias: East Farms.	B, W	
North Stonington (30)	1807	New London	Stonington	North Stonington (1835)	Stonington	Alias: Milltown.	B, W	
Norwalk (51)	1651	Fairfield		Norwalk (1802)	Fairfield, Stamford	Daughter Towns: New Canaan, Westport, Wilton	B, W	
Norwich (29)	1662	New London		Norwich (1748)	New London	Settled 1659. Daughter Towns: Bozrah, Franklin, Liabon.	B, P, N, W	
Old Lyme (32)	1855	New London	Lyme	Old Lyme (1830)	New London	Called South Lyme to 1855		
Old Saybrook (33)	1854	Middlesex	Deep River (Saybrook)	Essex (1853)	Saybrook	Established 1852. Name changed 1854. Daughter Town: Essex.		
Orange (40)	1822	New Haven	Milford, New Haven	Orange (1975)	New Haven	Daughter Town: West Haven.	B, W	
Oxford (22)	1798	New Haven	Darby, Southbury	Oxford (1846)	New Haven	Daughter Towns: Beacon Falls, Neugatuck.	B, W	
Plainfield (27)	1699	Windham		Plainfield (1747)	Windham	Called Quinebaug to 1700. Daughter Town: Canterbury	B, W	
Plainville (10)	1869	Hartford	Farmington	Plainville (1909)	Farmington	Alias: Great Plain.		
Plymouth (29)	1795	Litchfield	Watertown	Plymouth (1833)	Waterbury, Thomaston	Daughter Town: Thomaston.		
Pomfret (26)	1713	Windham		Pomfret (1752)	Plainfield, Windham	Daughter Towns: Brooklyn, Hampden, Putnam.	B, W	
Portland (14)	1841	Middlesex	Chatham	Portland (1913)	Chatham		B, W	
Preston (29)	1687	New London		Norwich (1748)	New London	Daughter Town: Griswold.	B, W, W	
Prospect (21)	1827	New London	Cheshire, Waterbury	Cheshire (1829)	Wallingford		B, W	
Putnam (26)	1855	Windham	Killingly, Pomfret, Thompson	Putnam (1856)	Thompson			

Town	Inc.	County	Parent Town(s)	Notes	VRs	CRs
Goenold	1864	Dukes	Chilmark	Settled 1641. Formed from part of Chilmark called Elizabeth Islands.		
Grafton	1735	Worcester	Hassanamisco Plantation, Sutton, Shrewsbury	Settled 1718. Created from Hassanamisco Plantation. Aliases: A "Praying Indian" (Christian) town, Hassanamiscot.	H, S, N	
Granby	1768	Hampshire	South Hadley	Settled 1727.	C, H, N	
Granville	1775	Hampden		Settled 1736. District formed from tract of land called Bedford Plantation 1764. Alias: Mathertown.	H, S, N, T	
Great Barrington	1761	Berkshire	Sheffield, Stockbridge	Daughter Town: Tolland. Settled 1726. Aliases: Hoplands, Upper Housatonic. Daughter Towns: Aford, Lee.	H, S	
Greenfield	1719	Franklin	Deerfield	Settled 1680. District formed from Deerfield 1733. Aliases: Green River, Picoogee. Daughter Towns: Barnardston, Gill.	H, S, N, W	
Groton	1655	Middlesex	Dunstable, Peppercorn	Settled 1655. Formerly called Petapewage. Aliases: Groatan, Petpauket, Sgunnicook, Wabanconsett.	H, S	
Groveland	1850	Essex	Boxford, Bradford	Daughter Towns: Ayer, Dunstable, Harvard, Littleton, Peppercorn, Shirley, Westford.		
Hadley	1661	Hampshire		Settled 1639.		
Halifax	1734	Plymouth	Bridgewater, Middleborough, Pembroke, Plymouth	Settled 1670. Alias: Monponsett. Daughter Town: East Bridgewater.	H, S	
Hamilton	1793	Essex	Ipswich	Settled 1638. Formed from part of Ipswich called Ipswich Hamlet.	H, S	
Hampden	1878	Hampden	Wilbraham	Settled 1741.	H, T	
Hancock	1776	Berkshire	Jericho Plantation	Settled 1767. Originally Jericho Plantation. Daughter Town: New Ashford.	C, H	
Hanover	1727	Plymouth	Ashington, Scituate	Settled 1648.	H, S, K, N	
Hanson	1820	Plymouth	Pembroke	Settled 1632. Alias: Pembroke West Parish.	H, S, N, W	
Hardwick	1739	Worcester	Greenwich, Hardwick Gore, Lambstown Plantation, New Braintree	Settled 1737. Originally Lambstown Plantation. Alias: Hardwick Gore. Daughter Towns: Dana, Greenwich, New Braintree.	H, S	
Harvard	1732	Worcester	Groton, Lancaster, Stow	Settled 1704. Daughter Town: Boxborough.	H, S, N	
Harwich	1694	Barnstable	Brewster	Settled 1670. Called Saucket to 1694. Annexed parts of Brewster 1848. Daughter Towns: Brewster, Eastham.	H, P, N	
Hatfield	1670	Hampshire	Hadley	Settled 1661. Aliases: Hatfields, Norwottuck. Daughter Towns: Whately, Williamsburg.	C	

Rhonda R McClure, *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*(Boston: NEHGS, 2021)

# Other Records

# Photos



Wideman family reunion, St. John, Michigan

Joyce Grubaugh Holbrook Collection, Mss 1230

# Smith College Basketball team



Hinckley family Papers, 1796-1956, Mss 1063

# Session Roadmap

The world of manuscripts



Manuscripts and genealogical events



Rounding out your family history



How to find manuscripts

## Go to Search →

[What content sources can I search?](#)

[A to Z list of all databases](#)

[External databases](#)

[Library Catalog](#)

[Digital Library & Archive](#)

[Jewish Heritage Center](#)



Search 1.4 Billion Names

[LEARN MORE →](#)



New! Search Content by Topic

[LEARN MORE →](#)



[View All News →](#)

# American Ancestor's Digital Library and Archive

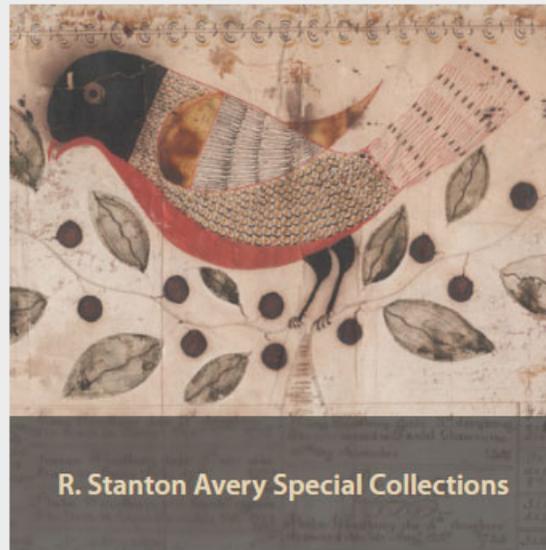
# Digital Library at a Glance

- *Digitized materials from 3 repositories at NEHGS*
  - R. Stanton Avery Special Collections
  - Research Library
  - Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center
- *Over 780,000 Images in 32 DLA Collections*
  - DLA collections may be one large archival collection or several archival collections or books with a shared theme
  - Published & unpublished materials such as letters, photos, newspapers, genealogies, city directories, business records

## About Our Digital Library & Archives

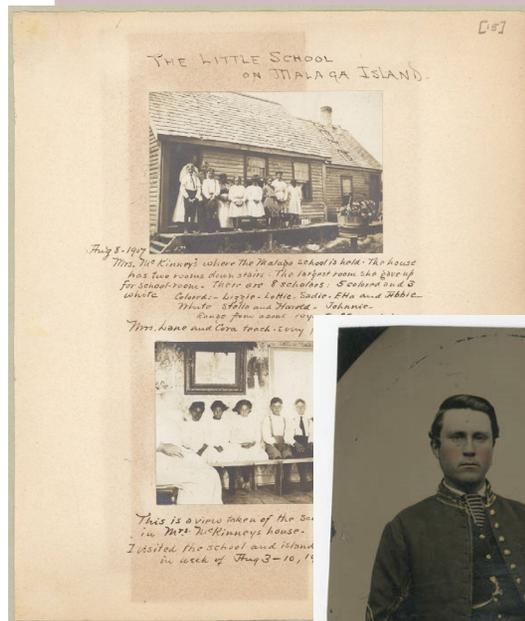
This website contains digitized materials from the three repositories at American Ancestors and [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#). The repositories include the [Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center](#), the [R. Stanton Avery Special Collections](#), and the [Research Library](#). The site features digitized archival and published materials such as letters, diaries, photographs, newspapers, business records, genealogies, city directories, organizational records, and other sources for historians and genealogists. The contents focus on the study of family history in America and on the Jewish community in New England.

New to the site? [Start here](#).



<https://digital.americanancestors.org/>

# Collections from *R. Stanton Avery Special Collections*



## 13 Manuscript Collections on DLA:

- Business Records and Account Books (Special Collections)
- Church Records (Special Collections)
- Civil War Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- Commonplace Books (Special Collections)
- Family and Personal Papers (Special Collections)
- Family History Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- Family Registers and Bible Records (Special Collections)
- Finding Aids for Manuscript Collections (Special Collections)
- French and Indian Wars Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- Local History Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- Revolutionary War Manuscripts (Special Collections)
- Riobard O'Dwyer Papers (Special Collections)
- William Bollen Papers (Special Collections)

# Highlights from Manuscripts

- Family Registers and Bible Records
  - Handwritten and typed Bible records
- Church Records
  - Original church records from Boston and throughout the Northeast
- Family History Manuscripts
  - Handwritten and typed genealogies
  - Research notes



# More Manuscript Highlights



- Collections on American wars
  - French and Indian Wars Manuscripts
  - Revolutionary War Manuscripts
  - Civil War Manuscripts
- Letters and diaries by soldiers
- Military records, such as muster rolls and orderly books

# Manuscript Highlights (cont.)

- Family and Personal Papers
  - Diaries written 1762-1878
  - Letters to and from Benjamin Franklin and his sister, Jane Mecom
  - Letters by American soldiers in WWI
  - Other family letters, photographs, poetry, and more



# Collections from Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

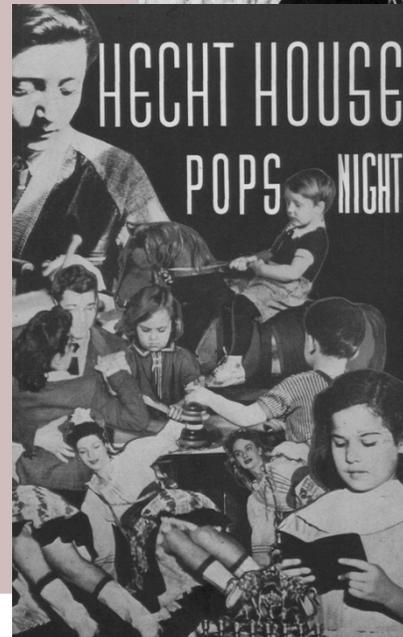


## 18 DLA Collections:

- Abraham Captain Ratshesky Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Bureau of Jewish Education Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Collections of the Jewish Heritage Center of the North Shore (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Community and Social Service Organization Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Dr. Robert Sperber Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Family and Individual Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Boston Port Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Jewish Heritage Center Photographs (Jewish Heritage Center)
- The Jewish Times Collection (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Leo Shapiro Newspaper Collection (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Mary Antin Correspondence to Alfred Seelye Roe (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Rabbinical, Synagogue and Jewish Education Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Spiro Family Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Winer, Kane, Snider Family Papers & Elm Farm Foods Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Wyner Family Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- YMHA & Hecht House Records (Jewish Heritage Center)

# Institutional Records From JHC

- Synagogues
- Jewish Community Centers
- Schools
- Trade Associations
- Cultural Organizations
- Burial Societies
- Businesses
- Zionist organizations



Historical Society- New England Archives

# Personal and Family Papers at JHC

- Families
- Individuals
- Often overlap with institutional records
  - Family businesses
  - Synagogue members
  - Beth Israel Hospital



# Boston Jewish Times

- Covers mid-1945 to 1992
- Open access (does not require a login)
- Organized by date of issue



# Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Boston



- HIAS Boston office assisted Jewish immigrants from Europe, especially Russia and Poland
- Digital collection focuses on case files of immigrants
- Searchable by name, country, language and year

# Searching a Repository

# R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Repository Homepage

**Digital Library & Archives** Search Log in

BROWSE - HOWTO- ABOUT -

Search Special Collections Search Advanced Search Browse All

### R. Stanton Avery Special Collections

Unpublished manuscripts are held by the Library's [R. Stanton Avery Special Collections](#) and include family and personal papers, the records of family associations, the papers of professional and amateur genealogists, military records, town and government records, church records, and unique primary source documents. Select manuscripts from Special Collections have been digitized and are now available online.

#### REPOSITORY COLLECTIONS

- Business Records and Account Books (NEHGS)
- Church Records (NEHGS)
- Civil War Manuscripts (NEHGS)
- Commonplace Books (NEHGS)
- Family and Personal Papers (NEHGS)
- Family History Manuscripts (NEHGS)

#### Useful Links

- [American Ancestors Research Center](#)
- [R. Stanton Avery Special Collections](#)
- [Library Catalog](#)

# Collection Landing Page

**Digital Library & Archives**

Search Logged in

---

BROWSE -                      HOW TO -                      ABOUT -

Search Advanced Search Browse All

## Family and Personal Papers (NEHGS)



### About this collection

Family and personal papers are manuscript collections created by families and individuals in the course of their everyday lives. These collections can contain a wide variety of materials, such as letters, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera, financial records, and legal papers. Although most of these records do not contain genealogical information, they do provide details about the everyday lives of American families in various places and time periods. Sometimes family and personal papers also include material that is directly helpful for genealogical research, like family bible records, research notes, and family charts.

*This collection contains selected family and personal papers from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Highlights of the collection include:*

# Access to Collections

- **Open Access** (*12 collections*)
  - Free & no American Ancestors account required
- **Restricted to Research & Contributing Members** (*7 collections*)
  - Only available to these members & they must login with their American Ancestors account
- **Access by Request** (*15 JHC collections*)
  - Only applicable to people who want to access to JHC materials & they do not have a membership

# Searching One Collection

Grosvenor

## Family and Personal Papers (NEHGS)



### About this collection

Family and personal papers are manuscript collections created by families and individuals in the course of their everyday lives. These collections can contain a variety of documents, such as letters, diaries, photographs, scrapbooks, ephemera, financial records, and legal papers. Although most of these records do not contain genealogical information, they provide a window into the everyday lives of American families in various places and time periods. Sometimes family and personal papers also include material that is directly helpful to genealogical research, like family bible records, research notes, and family charts.

This collection contains selected family and personal papers from the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Highlights of the collection include:

# Searching One Collection

Search this collection

**Collections**

- Select All Collections
- Abraham C. Ratshesky Papers
- Bureau of Jewish Education, Boston, Massachusetts
- Business Records and Account Books (NEHGS)
- Church Records (NEHGS)
- City Directories (NEHGS)

**Subject (Names)**

Cary, Thomas, 1745-1808 -- Diaries (2)

**Subject (Topics)**

Clergy -- Diaries -- 18th century (2)

Searching items in: Family and Personal Papers (NEHGS) Sort by: Relevance   Results per page: 20

**Search Terms:**

Grosvenor

Records 1-2 of 2

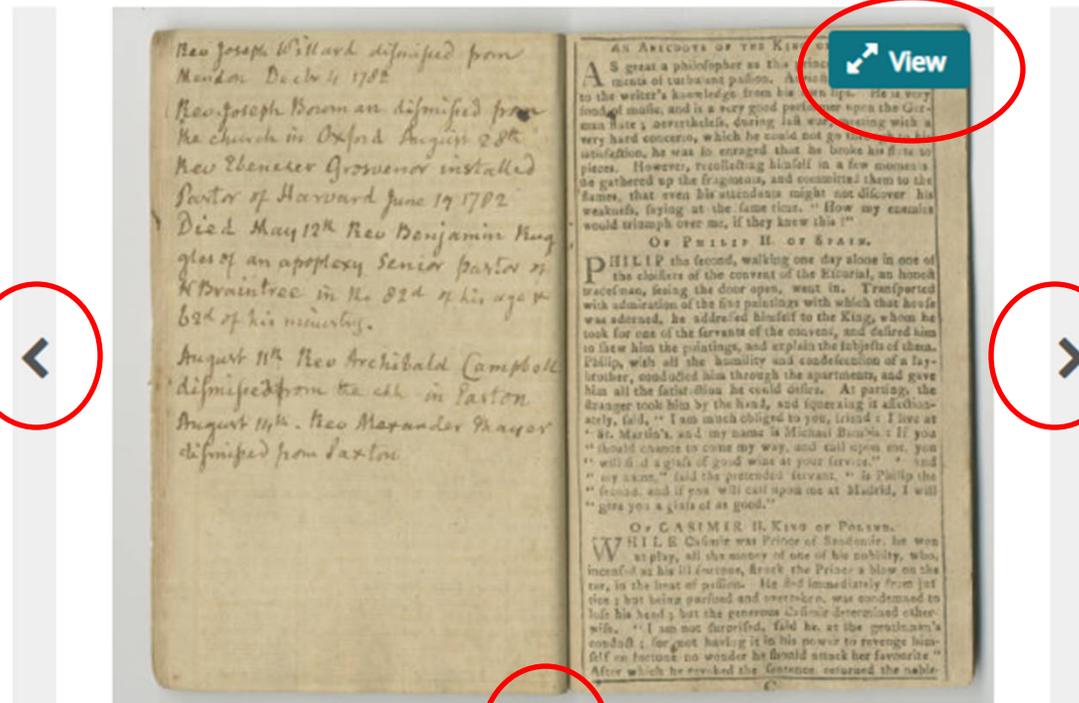
 **Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782**  
Mss 640  
Diary of Rev. Thomas Cary, minister of the First Church of Newburyport, Mass., kept in interleaved almanacs published by Nathaniel Ames (1762-1775 & 1775), Nathaniel Low... Cary, Thomas, 1745-1808 -- Diaries

 **Diary of Thomas Cary, 1774**  
Mss 640  
Diary of Rev. Thomas Cary, minister of the First Church of Newburyport, Mass., kept in interleaved almanacs published by Nathaniel Ames (1762-1774 & 1775), Nathaniel Low... Cary, Thomas, 1745-1808 -- Diaries

Records 1-2 of 2

# Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782

## Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 29-30



View

Download Print

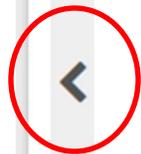
Search this record

Grosvenor

Show All Filtered

1 Result found in:

- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 19-20
- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 21-22
- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 23-24
- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 25-26
- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 27-28
- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 29-30**
- Diary of Thomas Cary, 1782, page 31-32



16 of 20

**Transcript**

Rev. Joseph Willard dismissed from Mendon Decbr 4 1782  
 Rev. Joseph Bowman dismissed from the church in Oxford August 28th  
 Rev. Ebenezer Grosvenor installed Pastor of Harvard June 19 1782  
 Died May 12th Rev. Benjamin Ruggles of an apoplexy Senior pastor of N Braintree in the 82nd of his age & 62 of his ministry  
 August 11th Rev. Archibald Campbell dismissed from the chh in Easton  
 August 14th Rev. Alexander Mayer dismissed from Paxton

**Object Description**

# Downloading and Printing

This screenshot shows a document viewer interface. At the top, there are three buttons: 'Save' (with a star icon), 'Download' (with a download icon and a dropdown arrow), and 'Print' (with a printer icon and a dropdown arrow). The 'Download' dropdown menu is open, showing four options: 'Small (250x250 max)', 'Medium (500x500 max)', 'Large (1000x1000 max)', and 'Full Size'. Below the buttons is a search bar with the text 'Search this record' and a search icon. The main content area shows two document thumbnails. The first thumbnail is titled 'Diary of Thomas Cary, 1775, front cover verso and endpaper'. The second thumbnail is titled 'Diary of Thomas Cary, 1775, endpaper and title page'.

This screenshot shows a search results page. At the top, there are three buttons: 'Saved' (with a star icon), 'Download' (with a download icon and a dropdown arrow), and 'Print' (with a printer icon and a dropdown arrow). The 'Print' dropdown menu is open, showing two options: 'This Item' and 'All'. Below the buttons is a search bar with the text 'Search this record' and a search icon. The search bar contains the text 'Adams family OR Adams family'. Below the search bar are two buttons: 'Show All' and 'Filtered'. Below these buttons, it says '1,968 Results found in:'. The main content area shows two document thumbnails. The first thumbnail is titled 'Page 1' and the second thumbnail is titled 'Page 2'.

**Can't find it at  
NEHGS?**

# In the Beginning, There Was...

- NUCMC (1959) – National Union Catalog Manuscript Collections



# Now We Have ArchiveGrid

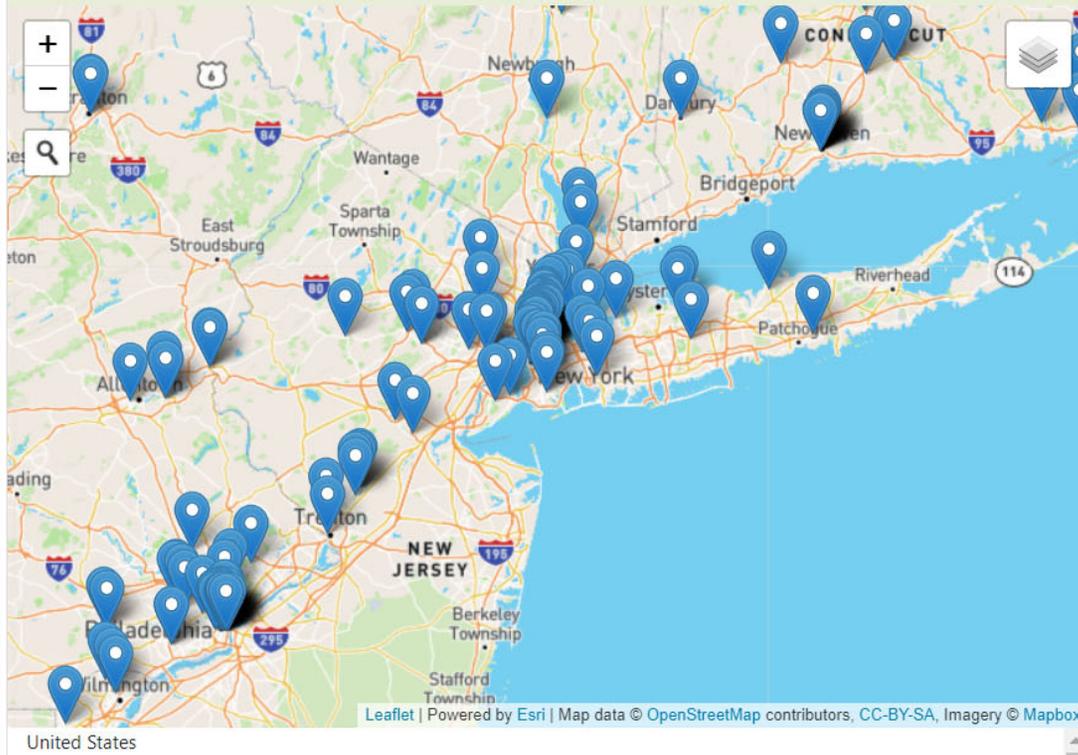
[About ArchiveGrid](#) | [How to Search](#) | [Include Your Collections](#)



Search for people, places, events, and more

Search

## FIND ARCHIVES NEAR YOU



## 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](#)

# What is 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
- Of interest to genealogists
  - Family papers
  - Family records
  - Old documents
  - Original records

# How to Search ArchiveGrid

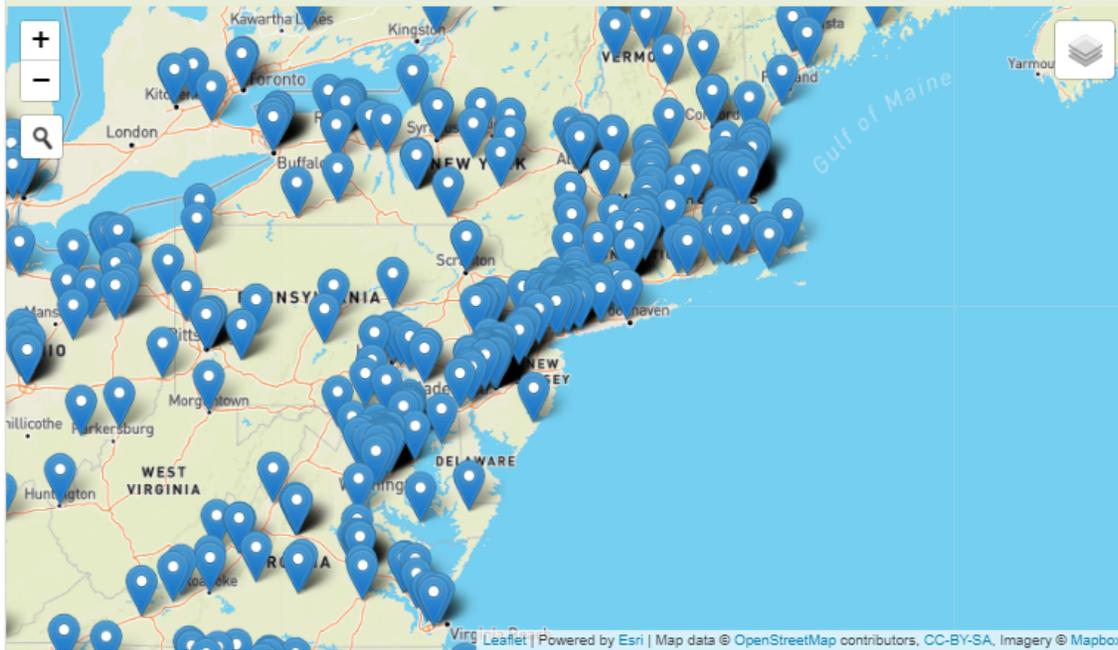
- Search by
  - Location
  - Surname
- Use Boolean search logic to your keywords and terms, using AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses.

# Searching by Archive Location





### FIND ARCHIVES NEAR YOU



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

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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](#)

# Using the Map

### FIND ARCHIVES NEAR YOU

Connecticut State Library

Search the Collections

Contact Information

- Connecticut State Library
- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford
- Kent Memorial Library
- Litchfield Historical Society
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center
- Mystic Seaport Museum
- Primary Source Media
- Trinity College - Watkinson Library
- University of Connecticut - Homer Babbidge Library
- University of Connecticut - Meskill Law Library
- University of Connecticut - Thomas J. Dodd Research Center
- University of Hartford Archives and Special Collections

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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

# Connecticut

2,556 Connecticut State Library

 LIST VIEW

 SUMMARY VIEW

Records 1 to 10 of 2,556 **1** 2 3 4 5 > >> Show: 10 ▾

### A.L. Mills farm, Canton Center, Conn

Connecticut State Library

Farm building under construction in Canton Center

 Contact Information

 View the Catalog Record

### A.L. Mills, Civil War veteran

Connecticut State Library

Inscribed on verso: "A.L. Mills, father Lewis S. Mills in his Civil War uniform."

 Contact Information

 View the Catalog Record

### Account book and journal of Dr. Ezekiel Skinner of Ashford, Conn

Skinner, Ezekiel

Connecticut State Library

 Contact Information

 View the Catalog Record

Account book kept by members of the Swan family of Stonington, Connecticut (probably mostly by Capt. John Swan, 1713-1813) : 1750's - 1813

Connecticut State Library all listings

## Connecticut elects a governor 1819-1894

Maxson, Richard C.

Connecticut State Library

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Catalog Record](#)

## Connecticut governor records, 1630-2004

Connecticut Governor

Connecticut State Library

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Catalog Record](#)

## Connecticut index : gold star record of Massachusetts in the World War / John Elliot Bowman, compiler

Bowman, John Elliot, 1866-1933

Connecticut State Library

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Catalog Record](#)

## Connelly, Conley family : History and Genealogy Unit Special Genealogical File, Connecticut State Library

Connecticut State Library

[Contact Information](#)

[View the Catalog Record](#)

Focusing on a single Collection

# Connecticut governor records, 1630-2004

## Connecticut Governor

### Connecticut State Library

Greater Hartford  
West Hartford  
Hartford  
Downtown Main Street Historic District  
West End North Historic District  
West End South Historic District  
Collins and Townley Streets District  
North Historic District  
Frog Hollow  
Wadsworth Atheneum  
Allen Place-Lincoln Street Historic District  
Coltville Historic District  
Riverview Park  
Pratt & Whitney Stadium  
Tudor Vi

Leaflet | Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA, Imagery © Mapbox

Contact Information View in Google Maps

### Details

2,513 cubic ft

RG 005

Archival material. Not for loan

Finding aid available in Connecticut State Library Family and Genealogy Unit

### Related Resources

Inventory, with links to inventories of individual Governors' records.:

[http://www.cslib.org/archives/Finding\\_Aids/RG005.html](http://www.cslib.org/archives/Finding_Aids/RG005.html)

Rules and Procedures for using archival material: <http://www.cslib.org/arcrules.htm>

View this description in [WorldCat](#).

## Finding Aids and Indexes

### More Like This

Department of Motor Vehicles, 1903-1972  
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles  
Connecticut State Library

Office of the State Comptroller, 1758-1954  
Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller  
Connecticut State Library

Department of Social Services, 1809-1960 (span),  
1893-1953 (bulk)  
Connecticut Department of Social Services  
Connecticut State Library

Department of Environmental Protection, 1909-1998  
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection  
Connecticut State Library

Transportation Department, 1895-1994  
Connecticut Department of Transportation  
Connecticut State Library

### Genres

Records and correspondence

### Organizations

Connecticut Governor

Connecticut Governor Records and correspondence

# Searching by Surname

452 Plowman

LIST VIEW SUMMARY VIEW

Note search options

**PEOPLE**

Name	Count
Bennett, Donald	61
Langland, William, 1330?-1400?	34
McColl, Malcolm	16
Langland, William, 1330?-1400? (C-text)	6
Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932	5
Plowman, Max, 1883-1941	5
Butler, Walter Richmond, 1864-1949	4

**GROUP**

Name	Count
Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library, Special Collections & Archives	16
Harry Ransom The University of Texas at Center, Austin	12
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library	10
Utah State University, Merrill-Cazier Library, Special Collections and Archives Division	7
Houghton Library, Harvard College Library	6
American Philosophical Society	5

**PLACES**

Name	Count
Victoria -- Mount Hotham	21
Victoria	17
Australia	6
United States	6
Cowley   Oxford   Oxfordshire   SP 5404	4
England	3
Hotham, Mount (Vic.)	3

**ARCHIVES**

Name	Count
State Library of Victoria	90
Duke University - David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library	27
Utah State University - Merrill-Cazier Library	25
University of Texas at Austin - Harry Ransom Center	12
University of Oxford	11
Yale University - Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library	10

**ARCHIVE LOCATIONS**

Name	Count
Australia - Victoria - Melbourne	90
United States - North Carolina - Durham	27
United States - Utah - Logan	25
United States - Massachusetts - Cambridge	21
United States - New York - New York	18
United States - District of Columbia - Washington	15
United States - Connecticut - New Haven	14

**TOPICS**

Name	Count
Christian pilgrims and pilgrimages	24
Colleges and Universities	16
Ski lodges -- Design and construction	14
19th century	10
Snow	10
Wireless communications systems	10
Buildings	7

# Summary View

# 452 Plowman

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

PEOPLE	
Name ↓	Count ↓
Plowman, George H., 1850-	1
Plowman, George T.	1
Plowman, George Taylor	1
Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932	5
Plowman, George, 1869-1932	1
Plowman, Gisela	1
Plowman, H.	1

## 5 Plowman » Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932

LIST VIEW

SUMMARY VIEW

### George Taylor Plowman papers, 1886-1946

Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932

University of Oregon

Consists primarily of artwork, mostly etchings, but also includes correspondence, diaries serving primarily as account books, published sources, publicity and reviews, materials concerning his work in the YMCA, photographs, and books

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

### Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932 artist file

Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932

Cleveland Museum of Art - Ingalls Library

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

### Artist file

Plowman, George Taylor, 1869-1932

Brooklyn Museum

Contact Information

View the Catalog Record

## Locating George T. Plowman

# Boolean Searches

- Use Boolean search logic to your keywords and terms, using AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses.
  - Broaden Your Search
    - Put an upper-case OR between your keywords. For example, dust OR bowl retrieves records containing either dust or bowl.
  - Narrow Your Search
    - Use quotes around key words, e.g. “dust bowl”
    - Use upper-case AND
    - Use upper-case NOT between key words to exclude selected results, e.g. “dust bowl” NOT Oklahoma
    - Use ~ and a number between 1 and 4 after exact phrase to look for records within 1 to 4 words of each other, e.g. “dust bowl” ~3

# Summary

- Manuscripts encompass unpublished material
- You can find genealogical clues in Bible Records, cemetery transcriptions, letters, town records
- Use manuscripts to round out the details of your ancestor's life
- Try the Digital Library at NEHGS if a member
- Try ArchiveGrid
- But don't despair. Much material is online.



# THANK YOU!

[AmericanAncestors.org/Education](https://AmericanAncestors.org/Education)