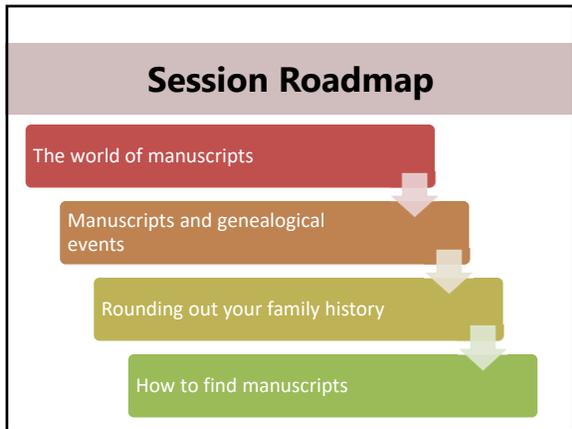




1



2

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- Unpublished primary materials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

3

Manuscript Terms

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

4

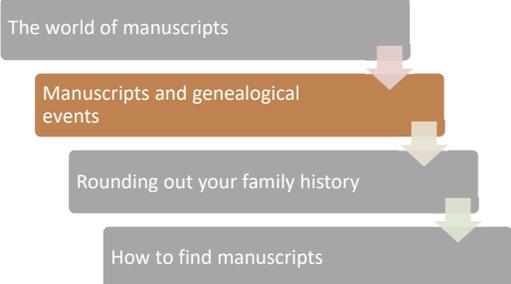
Manuscript Etiquette

- Gloves
- Book cradles
- Page weights
- Photo policies



5

Session Roadmap



```
graph TD; A[The world of manuscripts] --> B[Manuscripts and genealogical events]; B --> C[Rounding out your family history]; C --> D[How to find manuscripts];
```

6

Genealogical Clues in Manuscripts

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

7

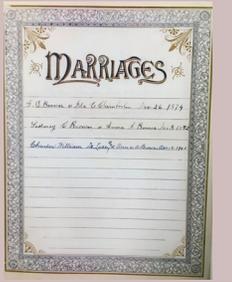
Finding Genealogical Data in a Manuscript

- 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)

8

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?

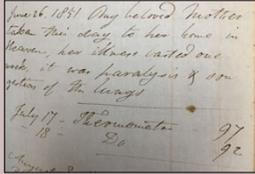


Barnes Family Bible, Conway, New Hampshire, NEHGS MSS A 6648

9

Family Records

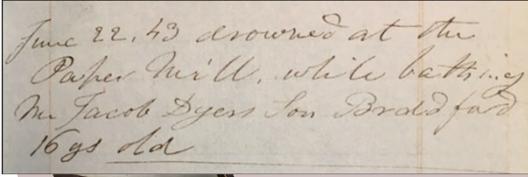
- May be kept in a journal or diary.



Robert Allen Hayden Diary, NEHGS MSS A 1557

10

Family Records – the FAN Club*



- Often includes vital events of friends and neighbors

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

11

Know Your Ancestor's FAN Club

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

12

Finding Mr. Hayden's FAN Club

1840 US Federal Census, Braintree, MA

13

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

14

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!

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, JAC. G. Rev. CALEB UPHAM was called, and a salary of £200 & 8 per annum was voted him, with a settlement of £20 and one 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

15

Caleb Upham's Records

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

16

Using Less Obvious Sources

17

Letters

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

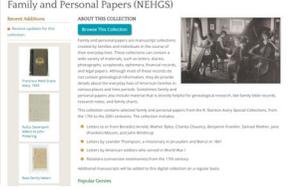
One word about Southampton people. Old Mrs. Williston died a few weeks ago, she was rising of eighty years old, she old gentleman is still a living. Samuel Williston and wife have bin on a tour to Europe the past year they returned but a short time since. He is said to be a very rich man, he is undoubtedly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

Clark Family Letters, NEHGS MSS 1133

18

Manuscript Collections

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



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

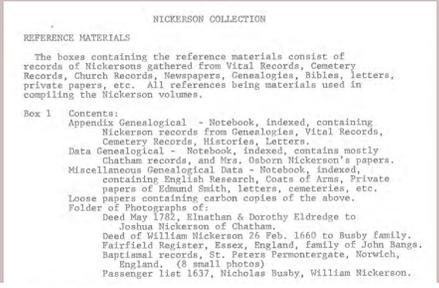
19

Selected NEHGS Manuscript Collections

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

20

Using a Collection – Finding Aid



21

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
 from Abstract of Early Deeds of Benjamin H. Stone, Esq.
 Middlefield & Humbery, Conn. Probate & Land Records
 Nickerson - Chase records of Dr. John B. Chase, M.D., A. Earlsley
 Nickerson - Roger's connections from Jas. G. Rogers

22

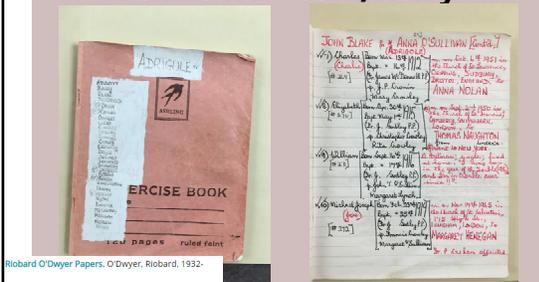
Nickerson Example 2

- 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

23

Riobard O'Dwyer – Beara Peninsula – Cork/Kerry



24

Annals of Beara

JOHN BLAKE & ANNIE O'SULLIVAN
(Adrigole)

John, son of James Blake & Catherine [or Kit (Nathaniel)] Spencer, Dirreeny, came "cúiamhain 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 / Richard O'Dwyer, O'Dwyer, Richard, 1932-
Statesboro, Georgia : Gold Stag Publications, 2009.
4 copies available at NEHGS Database and International Collection-1st Floor.

25

Session Roadmap

The world of manuscripts

Manuscripts and genealogical events

Rounding out your family history

How to find manuscripts

26

Manuscript Materials to Round Out Your Family History

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

27

Diaries – Everyday Life

Robert Allen Hayden Diary, NEHGS MSS A 1557

28

Diaries - World Events

Robert Allen Hayden Diary, NEHGS MSS A 1557

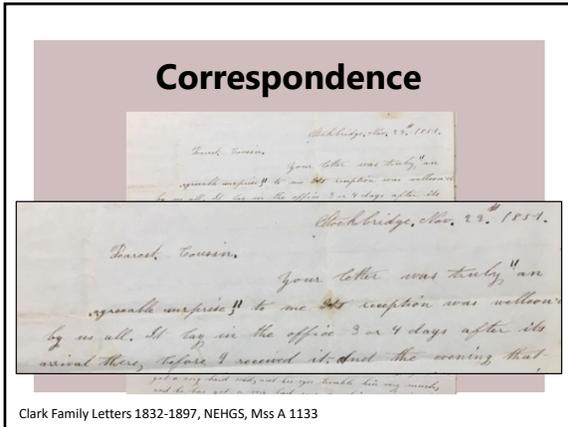
29

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

30

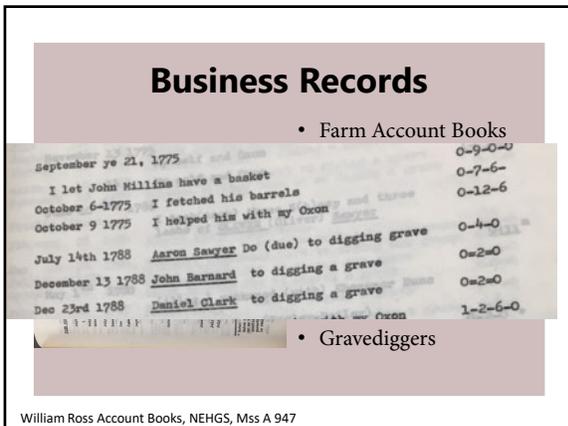


Clark Family Letters 1832-1897, NEHGS, Mss A 1133

31



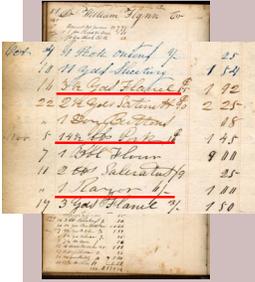
32



William Ross Account Books, NEHGS, Mss A 947

33

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

34

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.³ Randilla Burlingame died. Seventy one, born in Foster, RI. Fell down stairs.

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

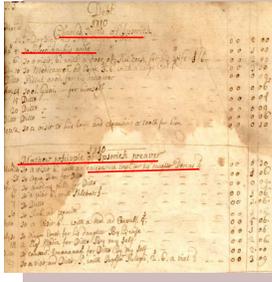
Wed., 06 Mar: Amputated Alfred Adams' toes. Was assisted by Dr. Samuel L. Hutchins¹⁰. William Outley had fit.

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

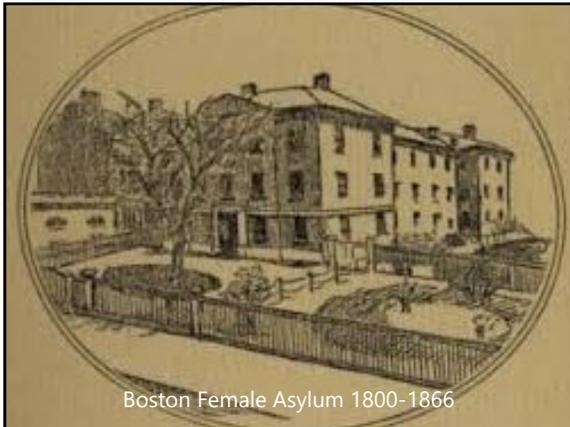
35

Physicians (cont.)



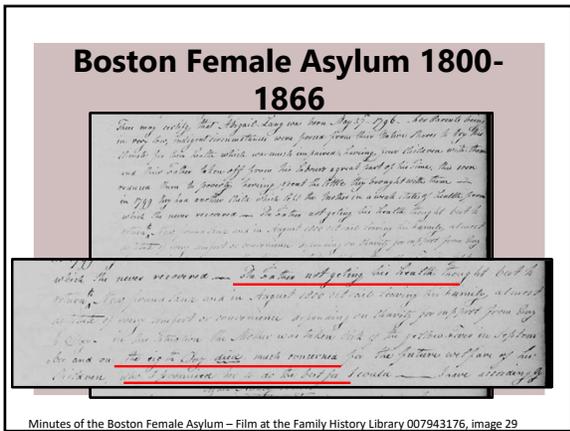
- Account book of Rev. Samuel Wigglesworth, 1710-1768 (Mss A 1044)
- Practiced medicine in Ipswich, MA 1710-1712
- Accounts mention treatment of females in household

36



Boston Female Asylum 1800-1866

37



Minutes of the Boston Female Asylum – Film at the Family History Library 007943176, image 29

38



39

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

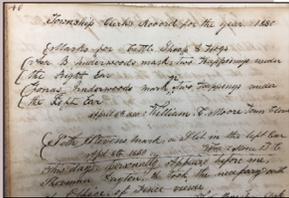
40

Town Records

41

Town Records

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



Montville, Ohio Town Clerk, NEHGS, Mss 3628

42

Town Records

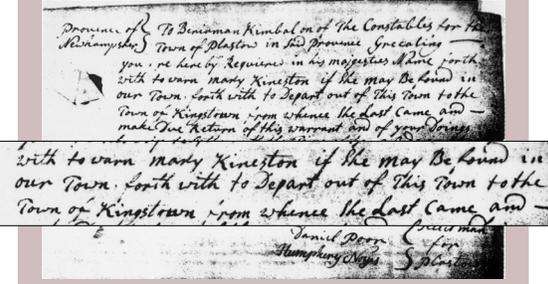
- Original town records in manuscript collections are often found at FamilySearch.org
- Original town records include records of land transactions, minutes of town meetings, as well as vital records



Town Records of Barnard, Vermont, FamilySearch.org

43

Warnings Out

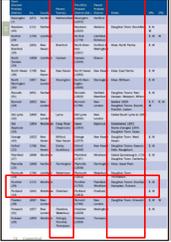


FamilySearch.org "Town records, 1736-1843," Town of Plaistow, New Hampshire, FHL Film 15281

44

Beware Name and Border Changes

Connecticut Page



Massachusetts Page

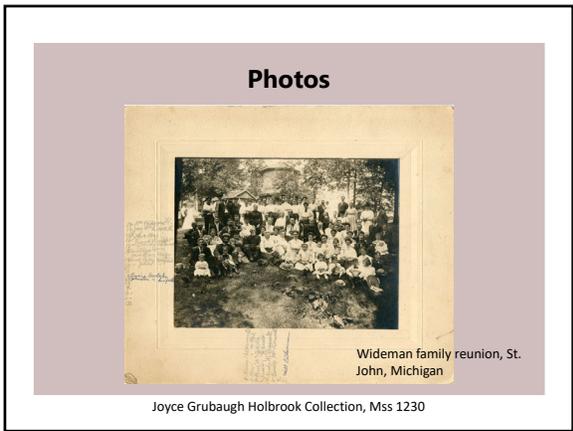


Rhonda R McClure, Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research 6th Edition (Boston: NEHGS, 2021)

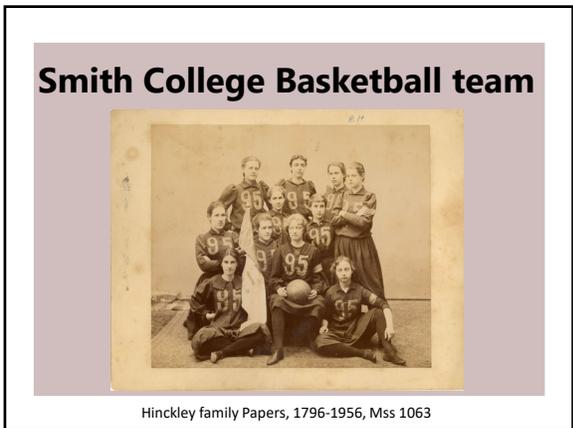
45



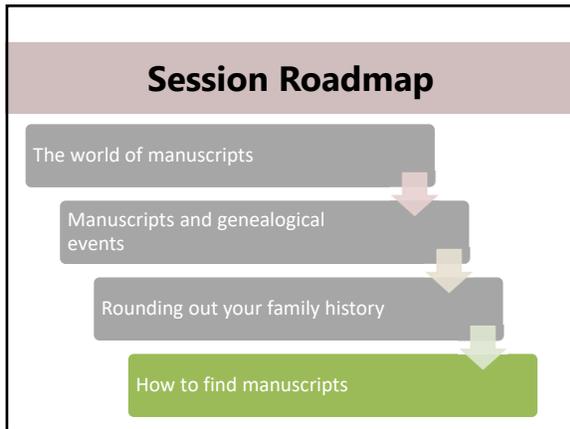
46



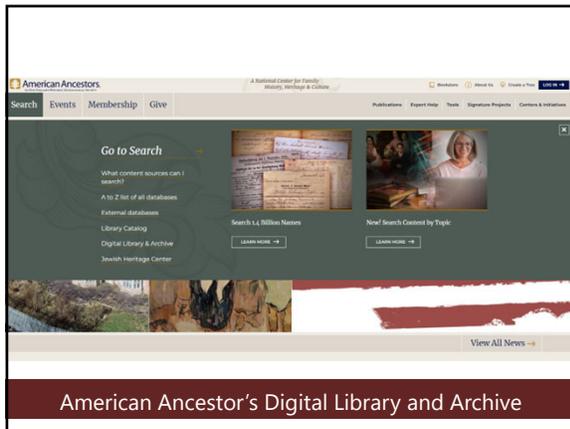
47



48



49



50

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

51

About Our Digital Library & Archives

This website contains digitized materials from the three repositories at AmericanAncestors 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/>

52

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 Bolland Papers (Special Collections)

53

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



54

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

55

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



56

Collections from Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center



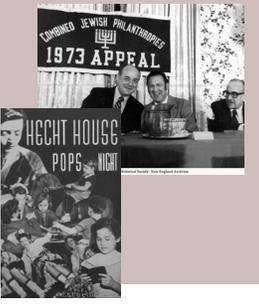
18 DLA Collections:

- Abraham Captain Rabinovitch 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 Spertzer 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, Seider Family Papers & Elm Farm Foods Records (Jewish Heritage Center)
- Wyner Family Papers (Jewish Heritage Center)
- YMHA & Hecht House Records (Jewish Heritage Center)

57

Institutional Records From JHC

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



58

Personal and Family Papers at JHC

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



59

Boston Jewish Times

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



60

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) Boston



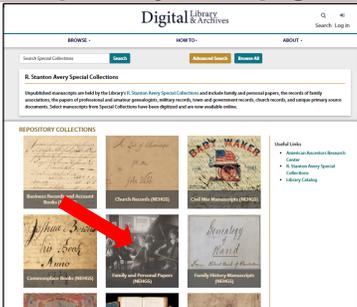
- HIAS Boston office assisted Jewish immigrants from Europe, especially Russia and Poland
- Digital collection focuses on case files of immigrants
- Searchable by name, country, language and year

61



62

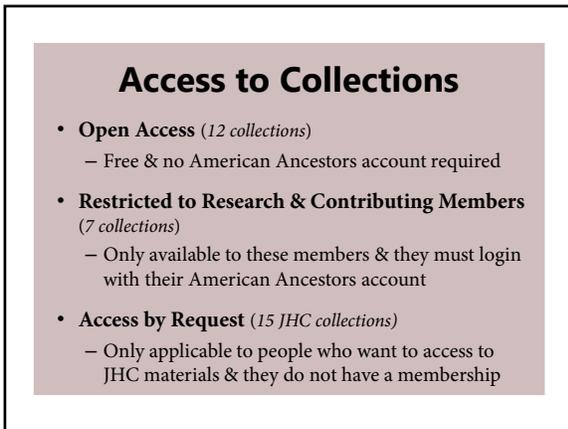
R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Repository Homepage



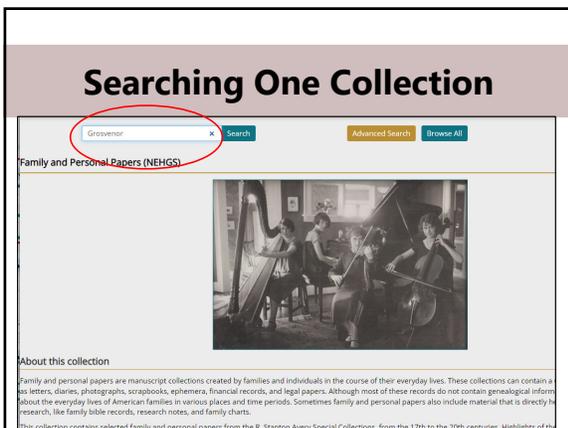
63



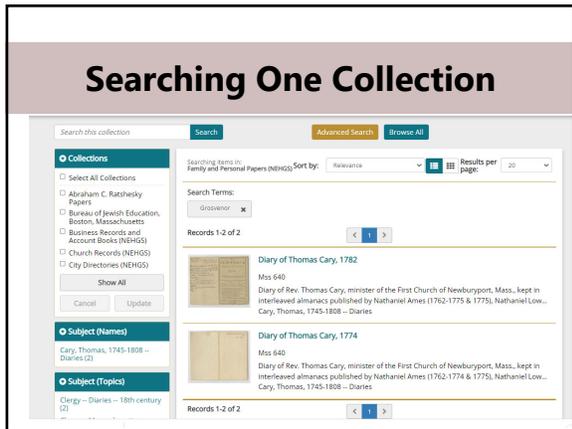
64



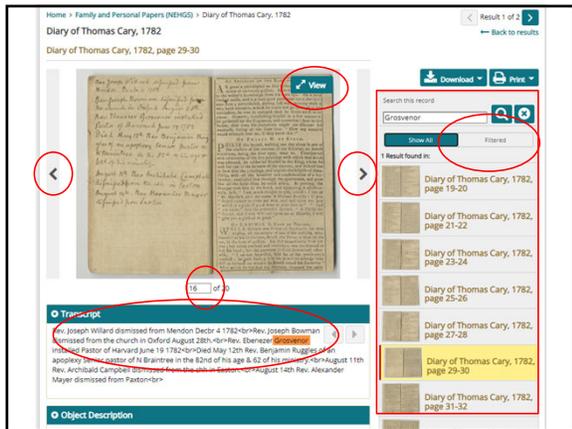
65



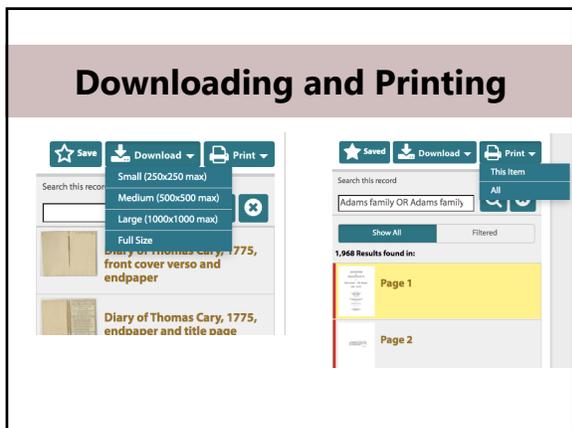
66



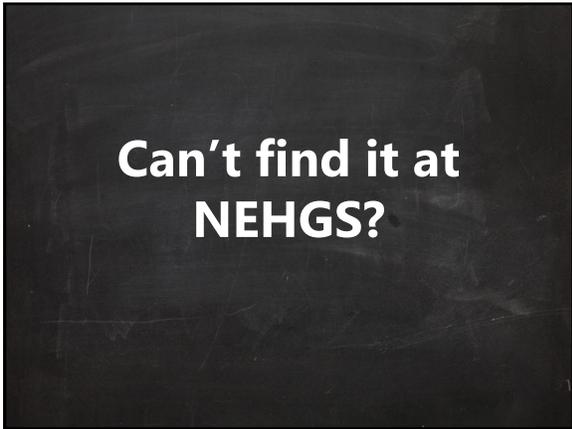
67



68



69



70

In the Beginning, There Was...

- NUCMC (1959) – National Union Catalog Manuscript Collections

71

Now We Have ArchiveGrid

ARCHIVEGRID

Search for people, places, events, and more

Search

FIND ARCHIVES NEAR YOU

ABOUT ARCHIVEGRID

ArchiveGrid includes over 7 million records describing archived 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 find the libraries, libraries, manuscripts 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:link" to your search.

72

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

73

How to Search ArchiveGrid

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

74

Searching by Archive Location

75

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

79

Connecticut governor records, 1630-2004
Connecticut Governor

Connecticut State Library

West Hartford Hartford

Contact Information View on Google Maps

Details
2.513 cubic ft
RG 005
Archival material. Not for loan
Finding aid available in Connecticut State Library and Genealogy Unit

Related Resources
Inventory, with links to inventories of individual Governors' records:
http://www.cslib.org/archives/finding_aids/0005.html
Rules and Procedures for using archival material: <http://www.cslib.org/archives.htm>
View this description in WorldCat.

More Like This
Department of Motor Vehicles, 1903-1972
Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles
Connecticut State Library
Office of the State Comptroller, 1738-1954
Connecticut Office of the State Comptroller
Connecticut State Library
Department of Social Services, 1809-1960 (part), 1953-1953 (bulk)
Connecticut Department of Social Services
Connecticut State Library
Department of Environmental Protection, 1909-1990
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
Connecticut State Library
Transportation Department, 1890-1994
Connecticut Department of Transportation
Connecticut State Library

Genres
Records and correspondence

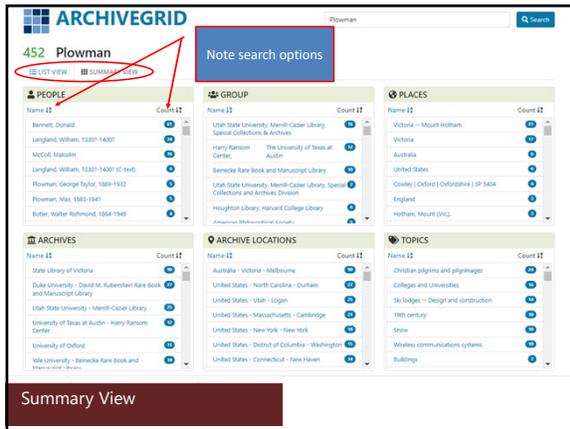
Organizations
Connecticut Governor
Connecticut Governor Records and correspondence

Finding Aids and Indexes

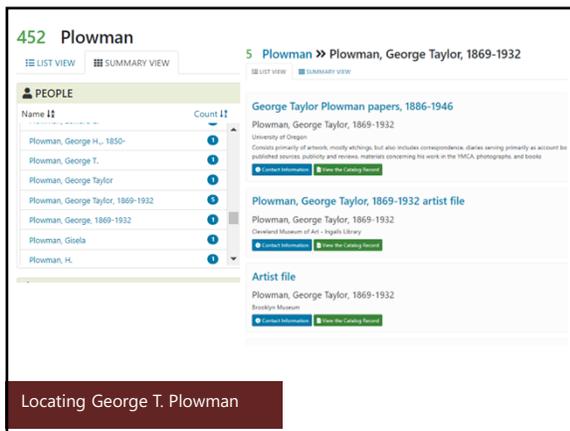
80

Searching by Surname

81



82



83

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

84

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.

85

THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org/Education

86