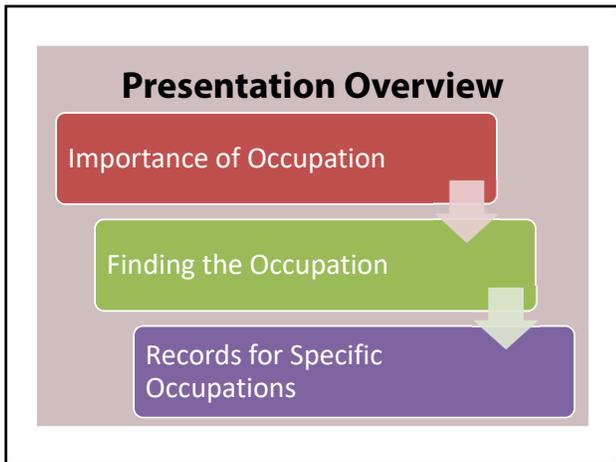




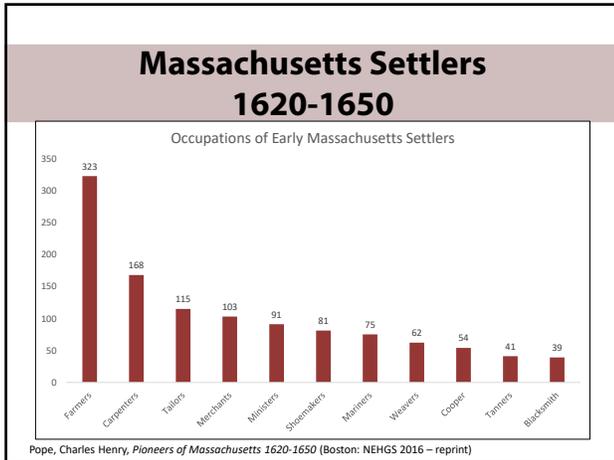
1



2

- Everyone is Unique**
- Establishing identity
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Places lived
 - Spouse and children
 - Siblings
 - **Occupation**

3



4

Location Clues Provided by Occupation

Farm and Village	Town and City
• Farmer	• Textile mill worker
• Blacksmith	• Shoemaker
• Cooper	• Tailor
• Wheelwright	

5

Associate Clues

- Know your ancestor's FAN club – friends and family, associates, neighbors
- Some occupations can be clustered
 - Grocers, wholesalers, shipping agents
 - Blacksmith, cooper, wheelwright, harness maker
 - Mariner, sailmaker, ship builder, ropemaker
 - Engineer, fire tender, conductor (railroads)
 - Miller, baker

6

Migration Clues

- Miner from Ireland seeks mining locations in America
- Weaver from Yorkshire seeks settled areas or mill towns
- Baker from Germany looks for towns



7

Presentation Overview

Importance of Occupation

Finding the Occupation

Records for Specific Occupations

8

Source of Occupation Information

- Census
- City Directories
- Vital Records
- Passenger Lists
- Passport Applications



9

Newspapers

- Obituaries from the late 19th century forward may include occupation

Mr. Thomas A. Robbins, who died in Salem Sunday, was born in Danvers in 1817. He conducted an extensive livery business for many years, and was one of the crew of the famous old Salem ship George, from Salem to Calcutta in 1856.

Mrs. Marie Elizabeth Lalahan, ex-Superior of the order of Sisters of Mercy, died in New York Sunday, at the age of 73. She founded the convent of St. Ann, at Worcester, Mass. Monseur Elizabeth was a native of Ireland.

Mr. Terrence J. Smith, a well-known business man at 80 Harbor street, Salem, died on Sunday from heart failure. He was taken ill on Thursday. Mr. Smith was 55 years of age.

Mr. Peter Pray, aged about 65 years, a citizen of Portsmouth, N. H., died very suddenly Sunday morning. He had cleaned a high fall of snow from his sidewalk, and upon entering the house sat down in a chair and expired. For many years he was a member of the police force. He is survived by his widow and two children.

19

Newspaper Advertisement

- Newspapers are also a source of advertisements for tradespeople who need to advertise their wares.

Copartnership Notice.

THE undersigned have formed a copartnership under the firm of Ring & Thaxter, and occupy the premises No 11 Temple street, where may be found a general assortment of

HARNESSES, TRUNKS, VALISES, TRAVELING BAGS, &c.

JOSEPH RING. J. B. THAXTER.

N. B.—Carrriage Trimming and repairing done at short notice.

Portland, May 19, 1863. Swood & w

20

Passport Application

Sold by W. S. Weaver, Secretary, Publishers of the Standard-Law Station, 60 Washington Street, Boston, Mass.

No. 19908 Issued APR 6 1900 at NEW YORK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

STATE OF Massachusetts at Worcester

I, George I. Lawrence, a NATIVE AND LOYAL CITIZEN of the United States, do hereby apply to the Department of State at Washington for a passport for myself ~~and wife and my minor children, or fellows~~

In support of the above application, I do solemnly swear that I was born at Leicester, in the State of Mass., on or about the 17 day of Dec., 1837; that my father is a naturalized citizen of the United States; that I am domiciled in the United States, my permanent residence being at Worcester, in the State of Mass. where I follow the occupation of mechanical engineer; that I am about to go abroad temporarily; and that I intend to return to the United States within two years with the purpose of residing and performing the duties of citizenship therein.

DATE OF ALLEGIANCE

21

Less Well Known Source of Occupation Information

The first physicians who practiced in Sharon were Drs. Elijah Flower and John Mitcheltree. Flower lived in Brookfield, and Mitcheltree on a farm about three miles south of town. The latter was the brother-in-law of Dr. J. M. Irvine, who subsequently became one of the prominent business men of Sharon, and whose sketch will be found in the Medical Chapter.

22

Tip You May Have to Decode the Occupation

23

Decoding the Occupation

Occupation	Description
Cooper	One who makes or repairs vessels made of staves & hoops, such as casks, barrels, tubs, etc
Cordwainer	Shoemaker, originally any leather worker using leather from Cordova/Cordoba in Spain
Costermonger	Peddler of fruits and vegetables
Crocker	Potter
Crowner	Coroner
Farrier	Specialized blacksmith, one who shoes horses
Fuller	One who fulls cloth; one who shrinks and thickens woolen cloth by moistening, heating and pressing; one who cleans and finishes cloth

24

More Old Occupations

Occupation	Description
Grinder	Maintained carding machine at a textile mill
Hooker	Reaper
Joiner	Skilled carpenter
Journeyman	One who had served his apprenticeship and mastered his craft, but hired by the day.
Mason	Bricklayer
Pigman	Crockery dealer

25

Decoding the Occupation

- Books
 - Twining, Andrew and Twining, Sandra *Dictionary of old trades and occupations*. (Kogarah, NSW, 1993).
 - Schlebecker, John T. *The many names of country people: an historical dictionary from the twelfth century onwards* (New York: Greenwood Press, 1989).
- Online
 - Cyndi's List - Occupations
 - Roots Web
 - Your favorite search engine

26

Presentation Overview

Importance of Occupation

Finding the Occupation

Records for Specific Occupations

27

Occupations with Records

- Railroad Workers
- Apprentices
- Craftsmen
- Physicians
- Tavern Keepers
- Merchants
- Sailors
- Clergy
- Farmers

28

Railroad Records

- Which railroad did he or she work for?
 - Note year and location
- Specific railway companies may have online digital images
 - Milwaukee Public Library



29

Records at the California Railroad Museum

- Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway
- Central Pacific/Southern Pacific Railroads
- Southern Pacific Railroad

30

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Everything Archives.gov Presidential Libraries Images

47 results

"atchison, topeka and santa fe" 🔍

Robert Anderson Papers
<https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/docroot/library/guides/findingaid/whcfnf.asp>
 American Railroads Box 120 Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Co. Atiyeh, Victor

Railroad Maps in the Cartographic Research Room | National Archives
<https://www.archives.gov/research/cartographic/railroad-maps>
 ...system indexes for the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad: <https://catalog>

Records Relating to Railroads in the Cartographic Section
<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/railroads/reference-info-paper.pdf>
 Records Relating to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (ARC 16R2800)...reports relating to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. Dates ...

Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA]
<https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/075.html>
 ...certificates issued to the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Co., 1869, and

Robert Anderson Papers
<https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/guides/findingaid/whcfnf.asp>

National Archives

34

More Railroads

- *Biographical Directory of Railway Officials of America* issued between 1885 and 1922 - gave a listing of mid to senior employees in the railroad industry
- Followed by *Who's Who in Railroading* which continues today



35

Apprenticeship Records

- American Apprenticeship system
 - Boy aged 12-15 although orphans were apprenticed at younger ages
 - Based on English system but lacked guild structure so was a local institution
 - Indentures – a contract between master and apprentice, often including room and board and possibly clothing for apprentice. Parent or guardian transferred legal authority for child to master.
- Records of indentures
 - Books
 - Manuscripts

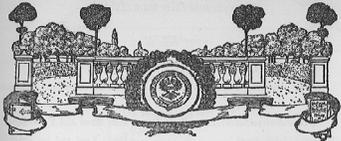


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Apprentice Lists at NEHGS

State	Time Period
Maryland, Carroll County	1837-1927
Illinois, Madison County	1813-1817
Pennsylvania, Philadelphia	1771-1773
Maryland, Harford County	1801-1830
Virginia	1623-1800
Connecticut	1637-1900
New York, New York	1800-1899
Tennessee	1821-1889 (west), 1784-1902 (middle), 1778-1911 (east)
Canada (from Britain)	1869-1924
Quebec	1660-1815

37



BOUND OUT AS APPRENTICES, SERVANTS, ETC.

RESIDENCE	OCCUPATION	TERM	AMOUNT
Salsberg twp., Northampton co.	Servant	2 yrs. 6 mo.	\$9.16
Monska twp., York co.	Servant	5 yrs. 6 mo.	\$5.
Philadelphia	Servant	3 yrs.	\$7.
Philadelphia	Servant	3 yrs. 6 mo.	\$8.
Philadelphia	Servant, to be taught the baker's trade, to read and write.	6 yrs.	\$14.12
Mason twp., Lancaster co.	Servant	4 yrs.	\$21.12
West Kerlin twp., Lancaster co.	Servant	3 yrs.	\$10.
Philadelphia	Servant	The remaining part of a term of 4 years commencing 22 May last.	\$—
Philadelphia	Servant	6 yrs.	\$25.
Philadelphia	Servant	8 yrs.	\$20.
Philadelphia	Servant, to be taught the art and mystery of a mariner and navigation.	4 yrs.	\$20.
Philadelphia	Servant	4 yrs. from 22d Aug.	\$14.
Philadelphia	Servant, to be taught the art, trade and mystery of a spinning wheel maker, and have three quarters schooling and be taught	4 yrs. 8 mo.	

38

Craftsmen

- Typically “graduated” from an apprenticeship
 - a skilled worker
- Crafts:
 - Blacksmith
 - Wheelwright
 - Cooper
 - Carpenter
 - Cordwainer/shoemaker
 - Weaver



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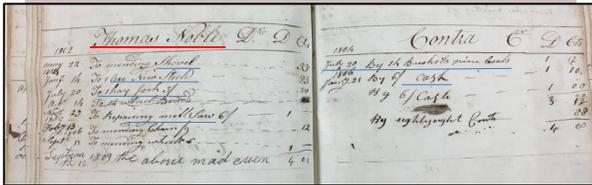
Records Left by Craftsmen

- Account books
 - Search by surname or by location
- Diaries, journals and letters
 - Search by surname, location, or occupation
 - You may have to read a lot of prose to find the information you seek

40

Elijah Fox, Blacksmith

- Accounting of what he made and for whom



Account Book Elijah Fox, 1802-1807, Mss C 4861, NEHGS

41

Finding Manuscripts

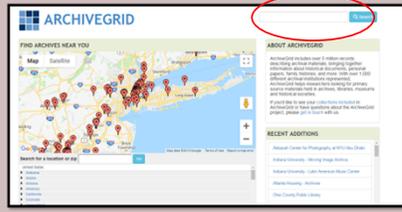
- In the beginning, there was NUCMC (1959) – National Union Catalog Manuscript Collections



42

Finding Manuscripts (cont.)

- Local Historical Societies
- <https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>



43

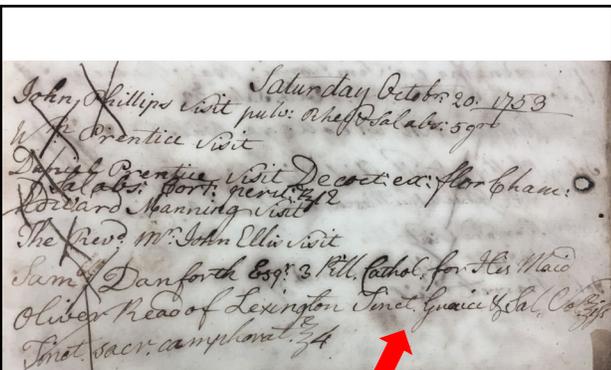
Physicians

- 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. **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. **Hutchins**.
 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

44



Account Book of William Brattle, Cambridge, Massachusetts

45

Tavern and Inn Keepers

- Also known at the ordinary
- Often located near the town church or meeting house
- 1646

By both howses. James Penne hath license graunted him to drawe wyne, so long as he keepes entertainment for y^e Courte in Boston, either at y^e howse where y^e Courte now sitts, or where they shall sitt hereafter.

M. Powell to keep an ordinary. Att the request of the toune of Dedham, Michael Powell is graunted licence to keepe an ordinary, & sell wyne there. By both.

46

Post Revolutionary War Demand for Taverns

- Turnpikes
- National Road
- Canals



47

Tavern Keeper Records

- One of the earliest regulated industries
 - Selectmen determined men of good character
 - In addition to providing liquor... provided suitable entertainment, e.g. traveling shows
 - Accommodations for man and horse
 - No gambling
- FamilySearch.org
 - Keyword search – [Tavern License](#) or [Ordinary License](#)
- Books
 - Trader and Ordinary Licenses 1830-1832 for Baltimore County, Maryland (GPC)

48

Merchant Marines

- Seamen assigned to vessels that transport cargo and passengers during peacetime
- During wartime they may become an auxiliary to the United States Navy and serve military functions
- Pre-1967 Merchant Marine Licensing Files at St. Louis Archive
- 1930 U.S. Federal Census – Special Schedule – Merchant Seamen

55

Logbooks of United States Merchant Vessels

- Official logbooks held by the National Archives
 - Vessel name, homeport, official number
 - Master's name
 - Names and ratings of the crew
 - Inclusive dates and voyage destinations
 - Accounts of births, deaths, and marriages
 - Infractions of the rules during the voyage
 - Illnesses
- Logbooks from 1872-1941 are found in the Records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation (Record Group 41) located at the National Archives in Washington, DC

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NARA Record Groups with Logbooks

- Logbooks are arranged by port, then either chronologically, then by name of vessel, or a combination of both.
- Logbooks from 1872-1941 at Records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation (Record Group 41)
- Logbooks beginning in 1939 to the late 20th century are at Records of the United States Coast Guard (RG 26) (locally held)
- Merchant Marine Ship's logs 1918 to 1941 at Records of the U.S. Maritime Commission (RG 178, NC-5 Entry 115).

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Virtual Spring Stay at Home 2023

Historic American Merchant Marine Survey Papers, 1912-1937

Historic American Merchant Marine Survey
 Peabody Essex Museum - Phillips Library
 Collection consists of papers issued by the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey, a project created by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Items include two "Preliminary List of Surveys," reflecting an inventory of materials held by the group pertaining to individual ships; an inventory titled "Essex County Items" that lists ships built in Essex County; and a book titled Catalogue of Ship Drawings and Photographs produced by the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey, Works Progress Administration, Federal Project No. 6, 6, for the Watercraft Collection of the Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum

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

Historic American Merchant Marine Survey Records 1936-1937.

Smithsonian Institution - National Museum of American History
 This collection is comprised of over 18 cubic feet of material generated during the course of the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey. The bulk of the collection consists of survey books and measured drawings. Other records include administrative papers relating to the project, an index and catalogue, and a listing of the names of vessels surveyed.

[Contact Information](#) [View the Finding Aid](#)

ArchiveGrid Merchant Marine

58

Smithsonian Institution
Smithsonian Online Virtual Archives

About Tutorial

Search Again
Collections (1) All (1) Digital (1)

Only records with digital assets

Query: 1

Historic American Merchant Marine Survey Records

Creators: United States, Works Progress Administration
Dates: 1936-1937
Size: 18.5 Cubic feet (79 volumes, 10 rolls)
Collection ID: NMAH.AC.0249
Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History

This collection is comprised of over 18 cubic feet of material generated during the course of the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey. The bulk of the collection consists of survey books and measured drawings. Other records include administrative papers relating to the project, an index and catalogue, and a listing of ...

[Digital Content Available](#)

Smithsonian Merchant Marine Records

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Clergy

- Educated
- Determine denomination and college
- 17th century – Harvard, Yale, Princeton

60

Records from Colleges and Universities

- Sibley's Harvard Graduates
- Dexter's Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College
- Princetonians : a Biographical Dictionary

NEWTON HERVEY BELL,

Son of Peter Burner and Harriet (Houston) Bell, was born April 22, 1841, in Kosuth, Iowa. He made a public profession of his faith in the First Congregational Church of Burlington, Ia., at the age of eleven. His preparatory studies were pursued in the Yellow Springs Academy and the Denmark Academy, Ia., and he graduated from Amherst College in 1866. Entering the Seminary at Princeton the same year, he remained almost a year and then was obliged to leave on account of illness. He subsequently spent parts of two years in the Theological Seminary at Bangor, Me. He was licensed by the Penobscot, Me., Congregational Association, July 30, 1868, and ordained by the Tolland Congregational Association, Conn., Aug. 5, 1868, being at the same time installed pastor of the Congregational Church at Bangor, Me.

Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary, Necrological Report (Princeton, NJ: Alumni Association, 1903)

61

Records From Diaries

Sept 3 The burial of John Dickey. Also Oct 18, the infant child of John Philbrick of Allentown.

Sept 31 at Lyndon Centre, the wedding of Simeon L. Strant of Conway, NH and Mary E. Woodruff of Lyndon, VT.

Oct 13 Wm Yeaton and Caroline A. Griffith of E.

The 23. Attended the burial of Alfred Green a young man of 27. May spiritual life spring from this sudden and unexpected death.

the 27th Funeral of Mary E. daughter of Bro. Wiggins, aged 9 months.

The 31 Preached the funeral sermon of Hamah J. Dickey aged 18.

Nov 11 Thanksgiving Day wedding of Josiah D. Langley Elma J. Louk both of this town.

Dec 12 Interment of Mehitable Barton aged 92.

The 24th Marriage of John D. Eaton of Pittfield and Huldah Ann Dow of Seabrook.

1853

Jan 1, 1853 Wedding of Joseph Packard of Canterbury Lucy M. Towle of this town.

Feb. 12. Death is still doing his fearful work. Funeral of sister Jemina Roby of Chichester.

Moses Quimby, His Diary, 1821-1885, Mss C 4671

62

Farmers

- Probate – goods left behind
- Agricultural Census
- Land records
- Tenant farmer records

63

Summary

- Knowing your ancestor's occupation gives you clues to his or her uniqueness, FAN club, location, and maybe even migration pattern
- You may find occupation on the census, city directories, vital records, passenger lists and passport applications.
- Before the Revolutionary War, sources such as freeman lists, town records or county histories may provide clues

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Summary (cont.)

- Some early occupations are unknown today so you may need to decode the job
- Occupations that generated records included:
 - Railroad worker
 - Apprentice
 - Farmer
 - Store Keeper
 - And others

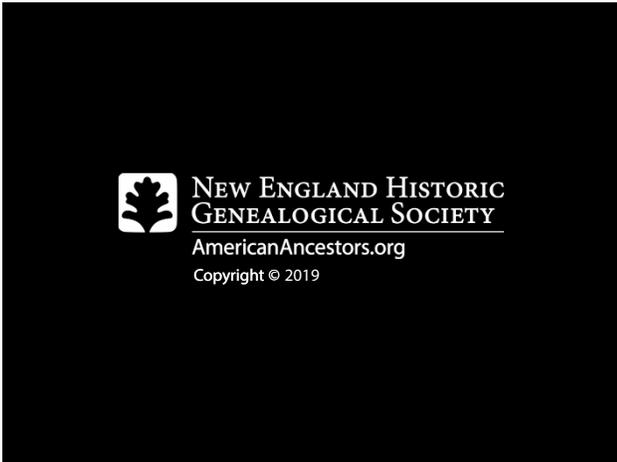
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QUESTIONS?

69



70



71
