

### **17th Century Massachusetts Research**

**What are accurate books about the Salem witch trials and the circumstances that lead to the hysteria?**

- *The Salem witchcraft papers: verbatim transcripts of the legal documents of the Salem witchcraft outbreak of 1692* <https://library.nehgs.org/record=b1090114>
- <https://salem.lib.virginia.edu/home.html>
- Archived Webinar: Verifying Descent from Salem's Accused Witches  
<https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/verifying-descent-salems-accused-witches>

### **18th Century Massachusetts Research**

**What were the earliest MA newspapers (name, location)?**

- "Public Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick" - 1690, Boston (single issue)
- Boston "News-Letter" - 1704, Boston
- Boston Gazette - 1719, Boston
- The first newspaper outside of Boston, the "[American Weekly Mercury](#)", began in Philadelphia on Dec. 22, 1719, just one day after the "[Boston Gazette](#)".
- New-England Courant - 1721, Boston (shut down in 1726)
  - Benjamin Franklin gained his apprenticeship as a printer. He would then move to Philadelphia, buy the Pennsylvania Gazette, and the rest is, well, history.
- Earliest paper outside of Boston was the Essex Gazette - 1768 - out of Salem
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Essex\\_Gazette](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Essex_Gazette)
- <https://newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/the-oldest-newspaper-in-each-new-england-state/>

**Are there any specific resources for the mentioned German settlers brought to Broad Bay / Waldoboro? Maybe Old German Church records?**

- Old Broad Bay Family History Association has a list of families who settled Old Broad Bay - <https://www.obbfha.org/families.html> - links to people researching those families
  - Newsletter mentions church records - <https://www.obbfha.org/Newsletters/vol3n1.pdf>
- Old German Meeting House and Cemetery - <https://meandermaine.com/place/old-german-meeting-house-cemetery/>
- Old Record Books - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/339177>
- *Broad Bay, (Waldoboro, Maine) : historical research documents : German parish research* by Gary Horlacher - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2448446> - available at FamilySearch center
- *Broad Bay Pioneers: 18<sup>th</sup> Century German-Speaking Settlers of Present-Day Waldoboro, Maine* by Wilford W. Whitaker and Gary T. Horlacher - at our library and through other libraries  
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/815960>

**Do you have any suggestions for understanding post-revolution migrations in New England?**

- *The Expansion of New England The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620–1865* - <https://shop.americanancestors.org/products/the-expansion-of-new-england-the-spread-of-new-england-settlement-and-institutions-to-the-mississippi-river-16201865?pass-through=true>
- Map guide to American migration routes, 1735-1815 / William Dollarhide - <https://library.nehgs.org/record=b1027087>
- [https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United States Migration Patterns 1784 to 1839 - International Institute](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Migration_Patterns_1784_to_1839_-_International_Institute)

**Where can you find POW records for British held by the American during the Revolutionary War?**

- <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/military/american-revolution/prisoners-1776-1783.pdf>
- <https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/pennsylvania-list-of-british-prisoners-in-the-american-war-of-independence>
- *Escape in America: The British Convention Prisoners, 1777-1783* by Richard Sampson - [https://books.google.com/books/about/Escape\\_in\\_America.html?id=GIl2AAAAMAAJ&source=kp\\_book\\_description](https://books.google.com/books/about/Escape_in_America.html?id=GIl2AAAAMAAJ&source=kp_book_description)

**What are the databases on the New England Planters to Nova Scotia?**

- New Englanders in Nova Scotia database - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/398/new-englanders-in-nova-scotia>

**What is a planter?**

- Archived Webinar: Researching New England Planters to Nova Scotia - <https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/new-england-planters-nova-scotia>
- Syllabus: <https://www.americanancestors.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/New%20England%20Planters%20to%20Nova%20Scotia%20Syllabus.pdf>

**How/where do you find court records for this period?**

- Start with county in the colony/state you're interested in
- Various court records on AmericanAncestors.org
- Resource: *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians* by Diane Rapaport

**There were several expeditions into Canada before the French and Indian War, are their resources that would detail participants from New England?**

- Soldiers in the Expedition to Canada in 1690 - [https://archive.org/details/cihm\\_25428](https://archive.org/details/cihm_25428)
- Additional resources may be available at Library and Archives Canada

**Where can I find information on MA 8th Regiment in Louisbourg Expedition in 1745?**

- The Louisbourg Expedition of 1745 - [https://archive.org/details/cihm\\_35026](https://archive.org/details/cihm_35026)
- Loiusbourg Papers - <https://loyalist.lib.unb.ca/node/4544> (microfilmed at Massachusetts Historical Society)
- Louisbourg Siege Collection - <https://findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-wcl-M-4858lou>
- Peter Warren's papers are at the University of Michigan. He was the admiral of the 8th Massachusetts regiment - <https://findingaids.lib.umich.edu/catalog/umich-wcl-M-341war#background>

**19<sup>th</sup> Century Massachusetts**

**What resources do you turn to learn more about immigrant communities in MA in the late 19th c?**

- Global Boston: Ethnic Groups - <https://globalboston.bc.edu/index.php/home/ethnic-groups/>

**In the 1820s many Massachusetts and Connecticut folks went to the Hudson Valley, what was the draw for that area?**

- Archived webinar: Migrations, From New England To and Through New York: <https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/migrations-new-england-and-through-new-york>

**How do you evaluate whether unsourced local histories and genealogies are reliable?**

- Vita Brevis: Perfect 10 - <https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/2018/01/perfect-10/>
- Webinar: Using and Evaluating Published Genealogies - <https://www.americanancestors.org/video-library/using-and-evaluating-published-genealogies>

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Massachusetts**

**How do I find if employment records exist?**

- Labor Collections at Harvard Libraries: <https://guides.library.harvard.edu/laborcollections>

**Are there photography collections you recommend?**

- Boston City Archives Flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofbostonarchives/>
- Example of a local photography collection, Salem Public Library: <https://digitalheritage.noblenet.org/s/salem/item-set>

## **General Q&A**

### **What is Salutory Neglect?**

- <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/salutory-neglect/#:~:text=Salutory%20neglect%20was%20Britain's%20unofficial,early%20in%20the%20eighteenth%20centuries>

### **Are there genealogy software options for tracing community that display similarly to a family tree?**

- Yes – Storied - <https://storied.com/> - it's cloud based but you have multiple options

### **Best sources for info on loyalist ships taken by rebel privateers during the revolution?**

- Coggins, Jack. **Ships and Seamen of the American Revolution.**
- <http://www.usmm.org/revolution.html>
- Massachusetts State Archives collection – FamilySearch
- Early American Newspaper Series (external database)

### **Is there a good source for what happened to ships sailing from Massachusetts to other countries?**

- Seaman's Protection Certificates - <https://research.mysticseaport.org/item/1006405/1006405-c041/>
- PEM/Phillips Library - <https://www.pem.org/visit/library>

### **Are there ship arrivals/departures in newspapers for 1844 in Boston in particular? If so, names of newspapers?**

- U.S. Newspaper Directory - <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

### **Is anyone else using the GRAMPS desktop application?**

- <https://gramps-project.org/blog/>