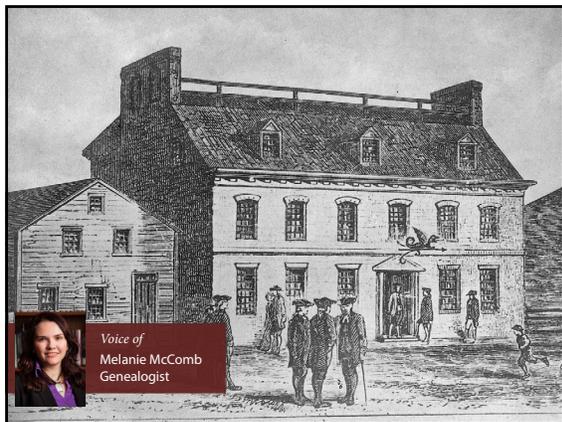




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Overview

-  History
-  Major Record Sets
-  Common Challenges
-  Research Strategies

4

History

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Settlement

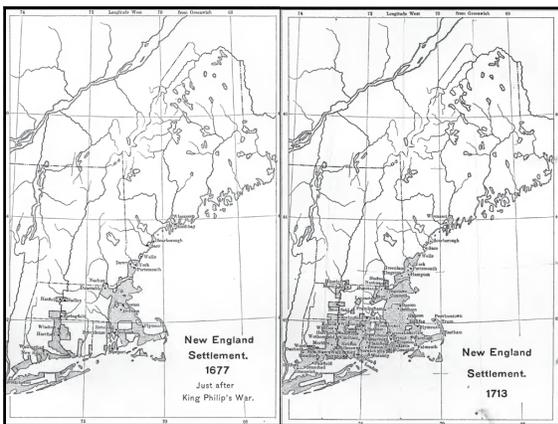
- 1718 – Five or six ships of Scots-Irish settlers arrived in Boston; settling Worcester, Sutton, Dracut, Lowell, Coleraine, and Casco Bay (Maine)
- Between 1742 and 1753, an estimated 1,000 Germans settled in Broad Bay (now Waldoboro, Maine)
- 1750s – A planned community called Germantown was started in Quincy, Massachusetts; the land was to be settled by glassmakers and weavers from Germany

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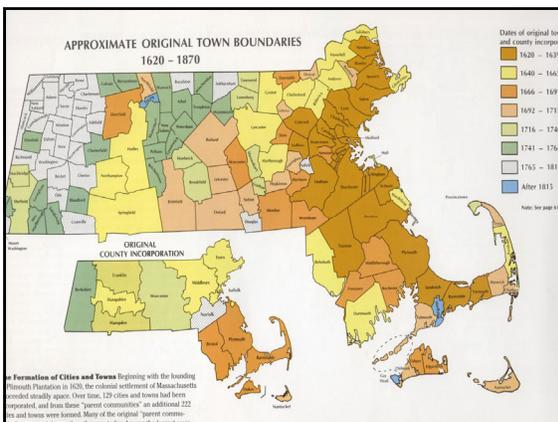
Settlement

- 1763 - French and Indian Wars hamper efforts for interior settlement until conflict ends
- 1775-1783 - After the Revolutionary War Loyalists to Canada, UK & Caribbean

7



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Pre-Revolution

- French and Indian War
- Period of Salutary Neglect
- Boston Tea Party
- Coercive Acts



10

Revolutionary War

- April 19, 1775 – Fighting began in Lexington and Concord, Siege of Boston
- June 17, 1775 - Battle of Bunker Hill
- March 17, 1776 – Evacuation Day
- War ended on September 3, 1783

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Map of the 1775 Battles at Lexington and Concord and Siege of Boston (Library of Congress)

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Revolutionary War Statistics

- In June 1775, out of the 37,363 soldiers who enlisted in the Continental Army, over 16,000 were from Massachusetts.
- In 1777, out of the 68,720 enlisted troops enlisted, nearly 13,000 were from Massachusetts. This number was larger than any other state that contributed.
- In 1782, Massachusetts had over 4,000 men in the field, out of over 18,000 in the Continental Army.
- Source: Spofford, Ainsworth R. *Massachusetts In the American Revolution*. Washington D.C.: District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, 1895

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Post-Revolution



- 1786 and 1787 - Shay's Rebellion
- 1788 - Ratification of the U.S. Constitution

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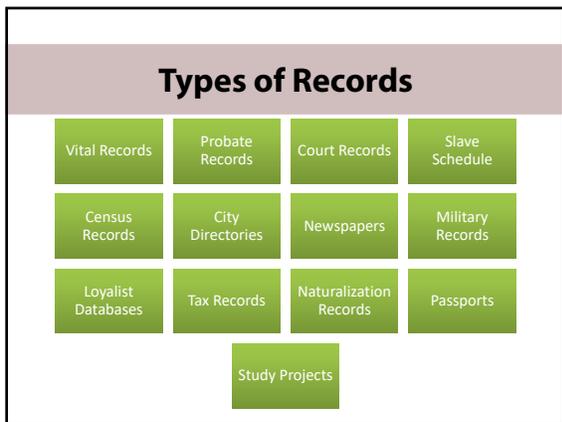
Changing Boundaries

- Norfolk County was founded in 1793 from Suffolk County
- The newly formed county consisted of 21 towns: Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Cohasset, Dedham, Dorchester, District of Dover (part of Dedham), Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Milton, Needham, Quincy, Randolph, Roxbury, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Weymouth, and Wrentham

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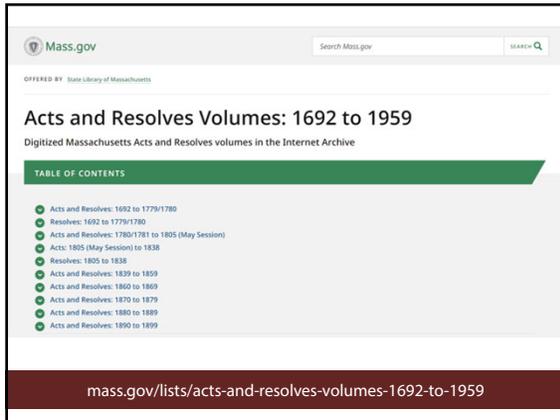


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Vital Record Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

- Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850
- Boston, MA: Births, 1700-1800
- Boston, MA: Marriages, 1700-1809
- Boston, MA: Deaths, 1700-1799
- And other individual towns can be found on AmericanAncestors.org

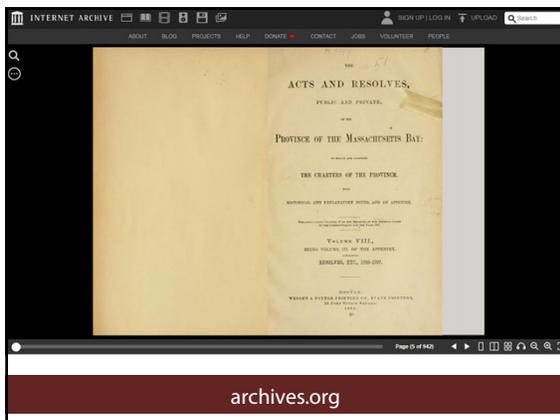
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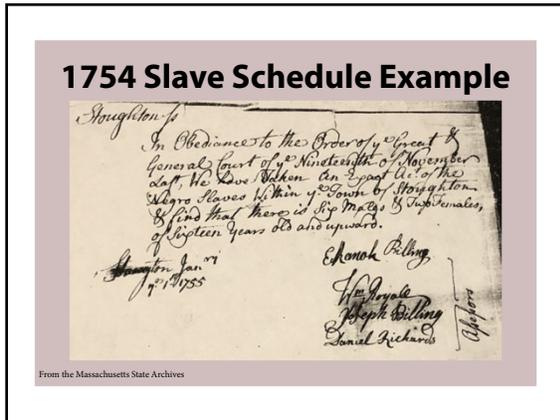
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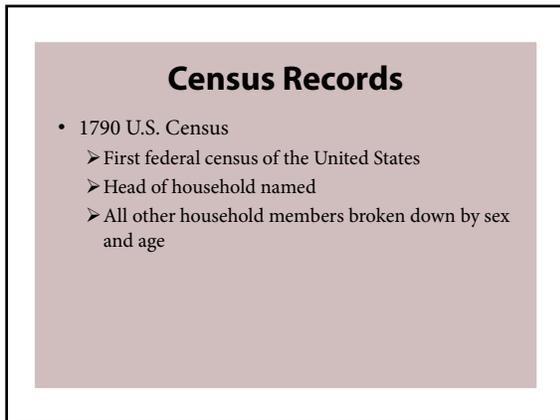
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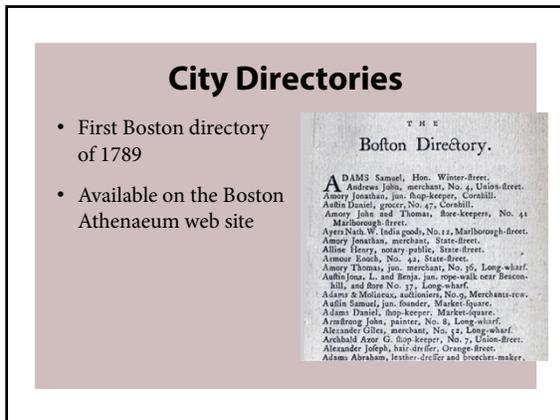
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Newspapers

- The first issue of the *Boston News-Letter* was published on April 24, 1704, by postmaster John Campbell.
 - Published weekly until 1776
- On December 21, 1719, the *Boston Gazette* was published
- Newspaper Indexes:
 - Index of Obituaries in Boston Newspapers, 1704-1800; Boston Athenaeum
 - Index to Deaths in the Massachusetts Centinel and the Columbian Centinel, 1784-1840
 - Index to Marriages in the Massachusetts Centinel and the Columbian Centinel, 1784-1840

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External Databases From Home

World **United States** UK and Ireland Canada

AmericanAncestors.org

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U.S. Newspapers

[19th Century U.S. Newspapers](#)

American Indian Newspapers

Boston Globe

Early American Newspapers, Series 1, 1690-1876

AmericanAncestors.org

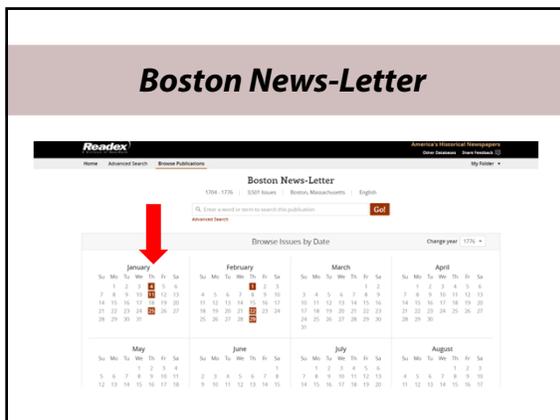
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French and Indian War

- Colonial Soldiers and Officers in New England, 1620-1775 database on AmericanAncestors.org
- Muster Roll Index Cards on FamilySearch
- Massachusetts State Archives Collection, Colonial Period, 1622-1788, on FamilySearch

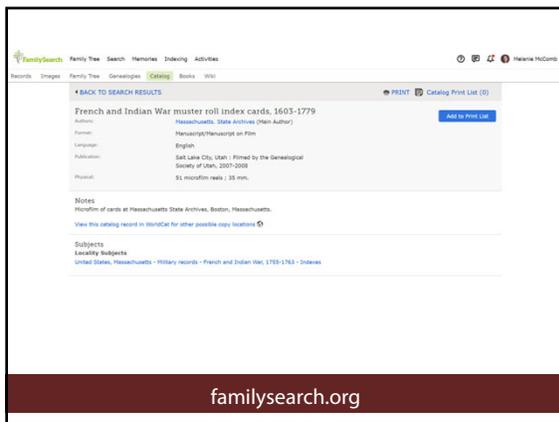
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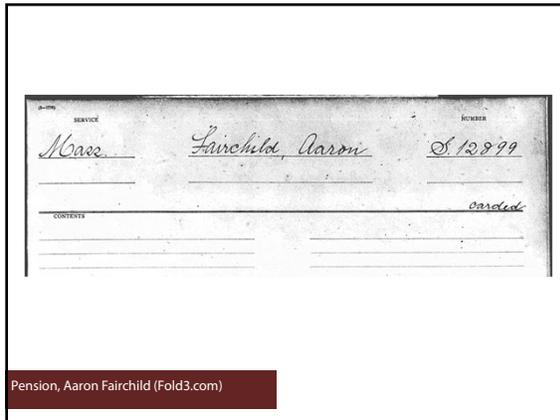


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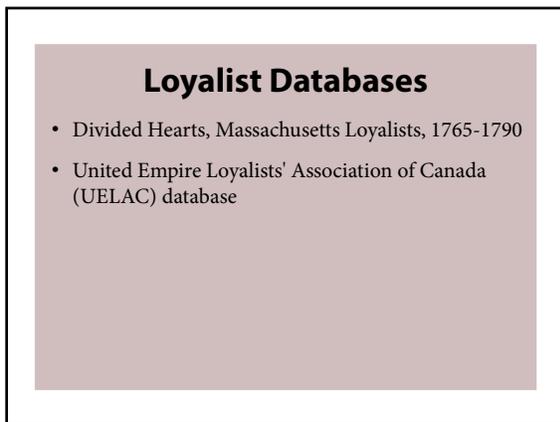


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Naturalization Act of 1795

- Increased period of residence from 2 to 5 years
- Applicants were required to declare publicly their intention to become citizens of the United States and to renounce any allegiance to a foreign prince, monarch, state, or sovereignty 3 years before admission as citizens
- Immigrants who had any hereditary titles or of the nobility class were also required to renounce that status

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FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Indexing Activities

United States, New England Petitions for Naturalization Index, 1791-1906

Description
This is an index to photocopies of naturalization documents filed in courts in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont from 1791 to 1906. The photocopies and the index are in the National Archives-New England Region. The index consists of 3x5 inch cards arranged by state and then under by name of petitioner, arranged according to the soundex system. The index refers to the name and location of the court that granted the certificate of naturalization, and to the volume and page number (or certificate number) of the naturalization record. NARA publication 104; Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791-1906 (NARA H1299).

How to Use this Collection »

Search Collection
Deceased Ancestor's Information
Name | Alternate Name
First Name | Last Name

Search with a life event:
Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death | Naturalization | Any
Anytime | Birth Year (Range) | From | To

Search with a relationship:
Spouse | Father | Mother | Other Person

Restrict records by:
Location | Type | Batch Number | Film Number

familysearch.org

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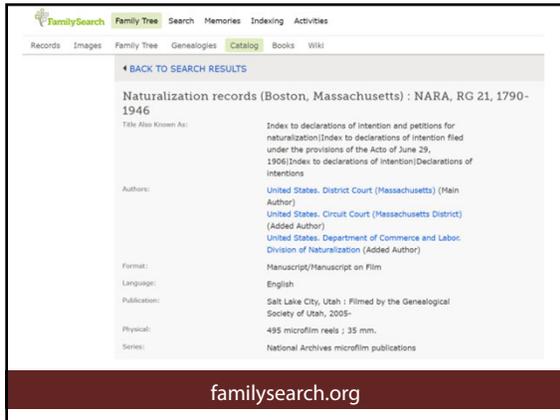
B653

Family name BARNETT	Given name or names WM. REYNOLDS
Address Boston	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) A-18	Title and location of court USDC BOSTON MASS.
Country of birth or allegiance Jamaica	When born (or age)
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization First Tues. Dec. 1796
Names and addresses of witnesses	

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 14-3503

New England Petition for Naturalization
Index Card Example

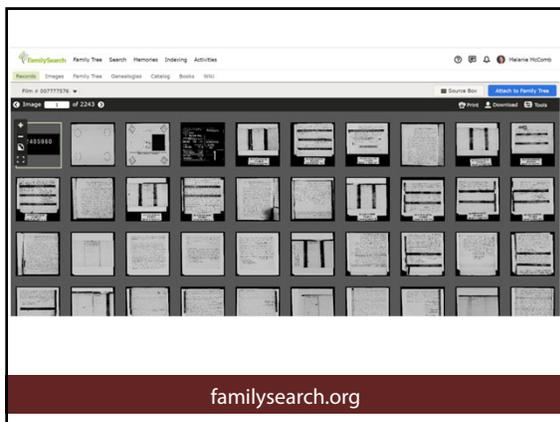
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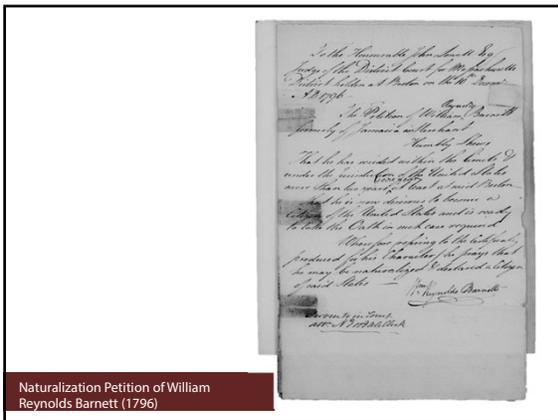
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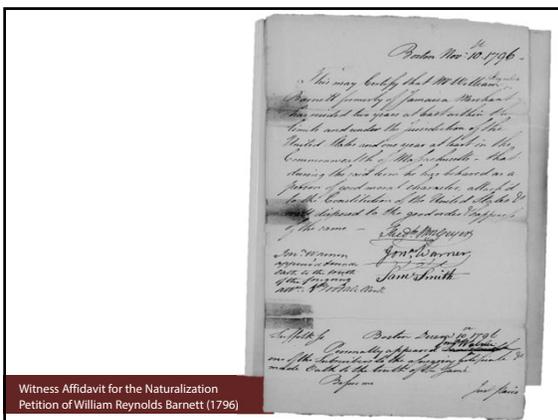
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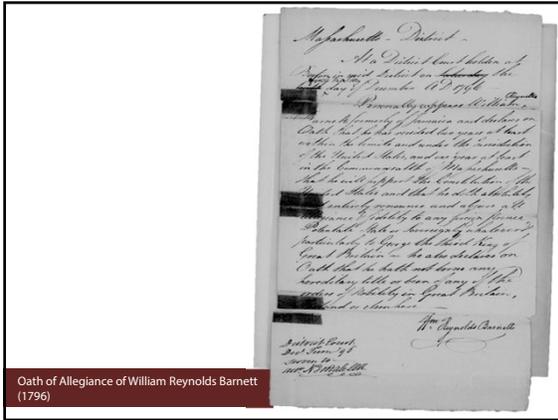
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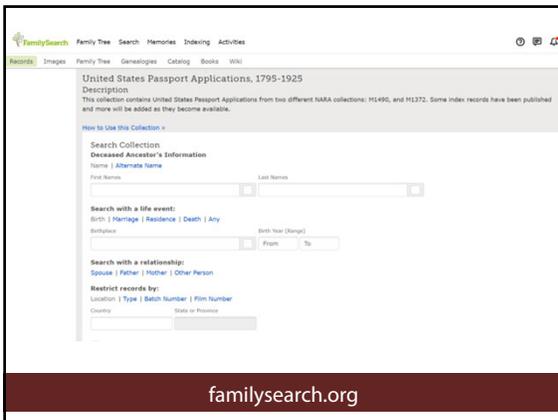
Oath of Allegiance of William Reynolds Barnett (1796)

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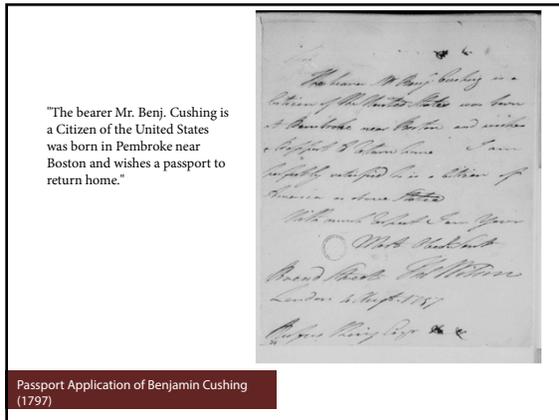
Passport Applications

- Only issued to U.S. born citizens or persons who naturalized
- 18th Century passport applications include name, residence, birthplace, reason for passport.

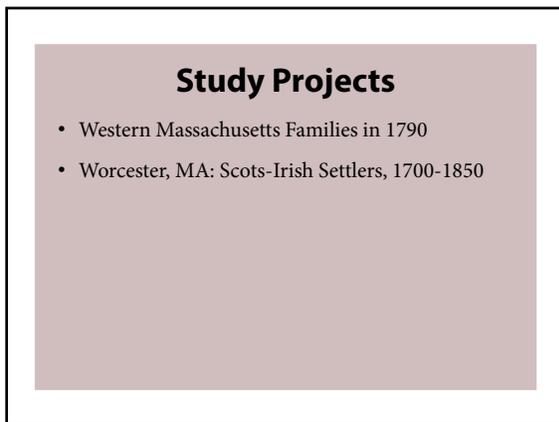
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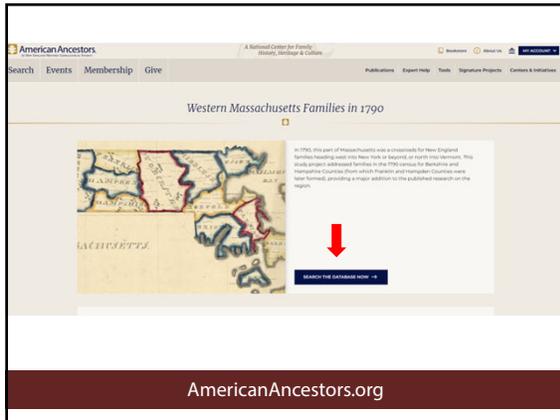
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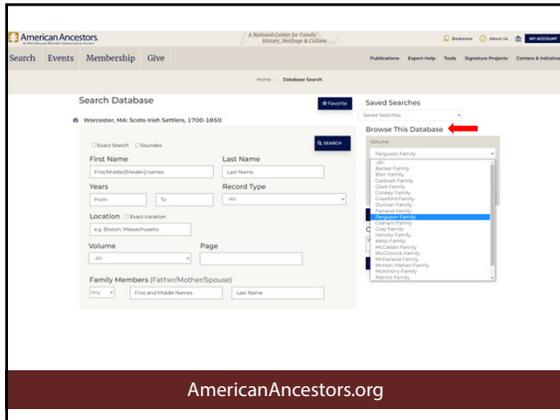
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Common Problems

- Vital Record Registration not mandatory until 1841
 - Huge gaps in record taking for Boston
 - First major census is 1790 and is by head of household only
- Military pension and bounty land warrant applications destroyed by fire at the War Dept in 1800
- Barnstable County Courthouse Fire in 1827
 - Most land registry deed volumes destroyed
- Portland (Maine) City Hall Fire in 1908
 - Cumberland County probate records destroyed

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Vital Record Substitutes

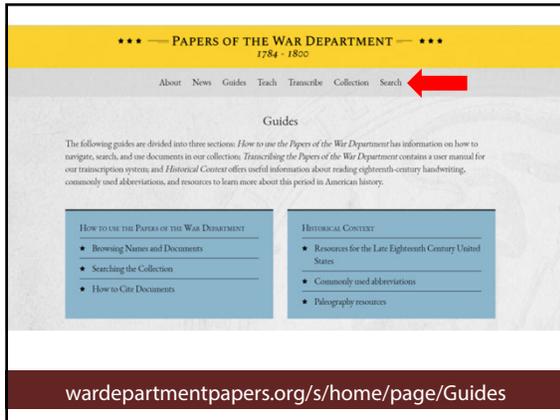
- Church Records
- Land Deeds
- Probate Records
- Court Records
- Tax Records

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**Papers of the War Department
1784-1800**

- On November 8, 1800, there was a fire at the War Department
- Revolutionary War pension applications and bounty land application files were destroyed
- A project was started to rebuild the War Department Papers, led by Ted Crackel; the project team visited more than 200 repositories and about 42,000 documents collected and scanned

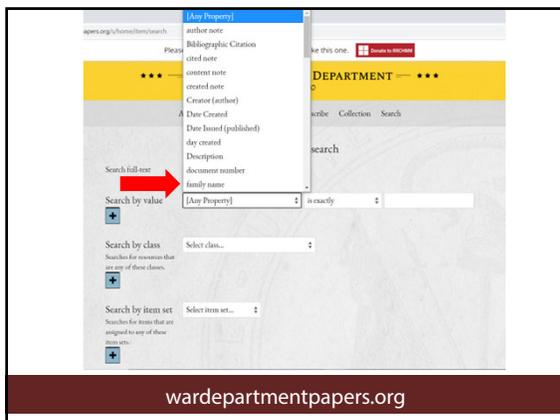
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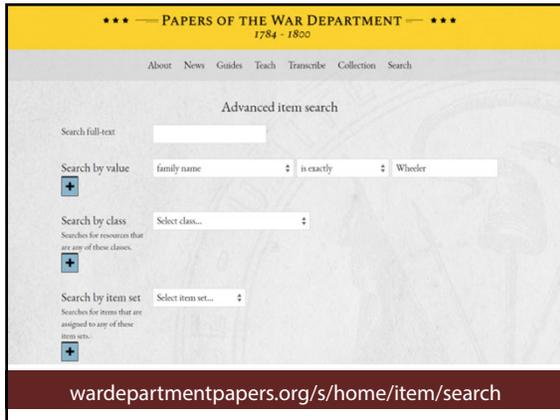
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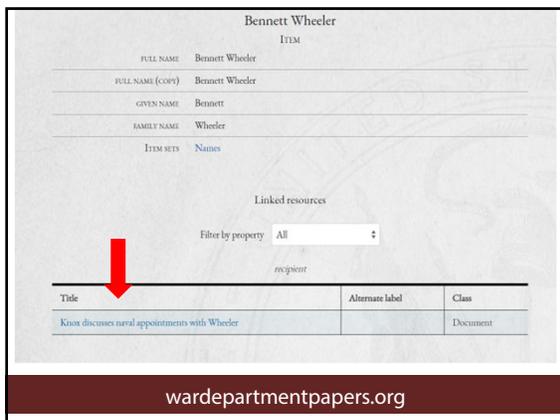
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Payment of Sarah Brooks, nurse at Carlisle Pennsylvania

TYPE	Author's Letterbook Copy
TITLE	Payment of Sarah Brooks, nurse at Carlisle Pennsylvania
DESCRIPTION	Simmons certifies that the sum of \$24 is due to Sarah Brooks for her pay as a nurse at Carlisle, Pennsylvania from August to November 1796.
YEAR CREATED	1795
MONTH CREATED	04
DAY CREATED	18
AUTHOR	William Simmons
SENT FROM LOCATION	Accountant's Office
RECIPIENT	Timothy Pickering
IN COLLECTION	Report Books of the Accountant of the War Department, April 14, 1795-Dec 31, 1817. (RG217)
IN IMAGE	 DMM:01
AUTHOR NOTE	William Simmons
RECIPIENT NOTE	Timothy Pickering
NOTABLE PERSON/GROUP	Timothy Pickering

wardepartmentpapers.org

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Barnstable County

- There was a fire on October 27, 1827, that destroyed the courthouse
- It housed the Registry of Deeds, which had 94 volumes of land records going back to 1783; all but one volume was lost in the fire
- Many deeds were re-recorded, but sadly not all were identified; many owners did not keep the original deed once the property was sold off

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FamilySearch

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies **Catalog** Books Wiki

← BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS

Original deeds left after fire, vol. 61, 1804-1808

Authors: [Barnstable County \(Massachusetts\), Register of Deeds \(Main Author\)](#)
[Barnstable County \(Massachusetts\), Register of Deeds \(Repository\)](#)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1970

Physical: 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm

Notes
Massachusetts Land Records are available online, click here.
 Microfilm of manuscript housed in Yarmouth, Registry Office, Barnstable, Massachusetts.
[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

familysearch.org

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Alternative Records for Barnstable County Deeds

- Court Records
- Probate records
- Town Records
- Valuation records

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Cumberland County, Maine

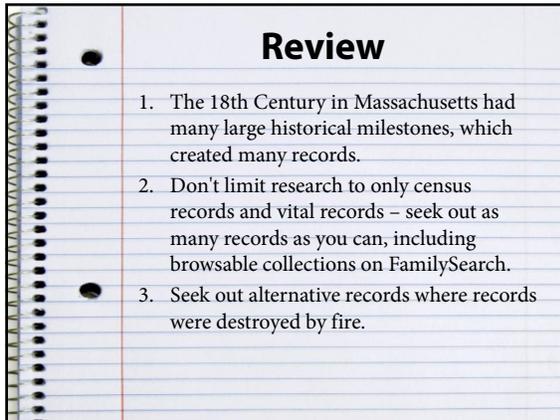
- In July 1866, there was the Great Fire in Portland that destroyed City Hall
- There was another fire on January 24, 1908 at Portland City Hall that destroyed the county records
- These include the county probates that were kept in Portland (county seat). City records were saved from the fire

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Alternative Records for Cumberland County (Maine) Probate Records

- Court Records
- Land Deeds – look for estate sales
- Newspapers – look for obituaries and probate notices
- Town Records
- Valuation records

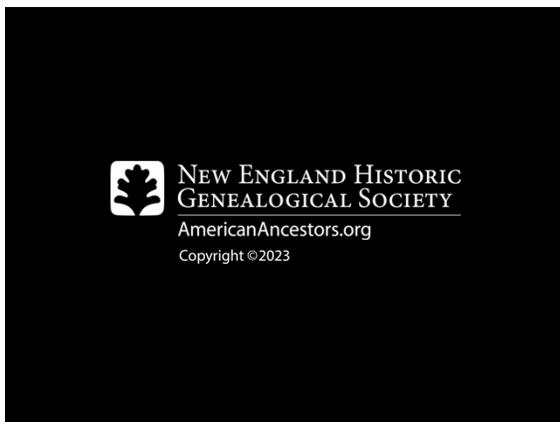
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