

Massachusetts Research

Class 4: 20th-Century Massachusetts Research

Danielle Cournoyer, Researcher

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



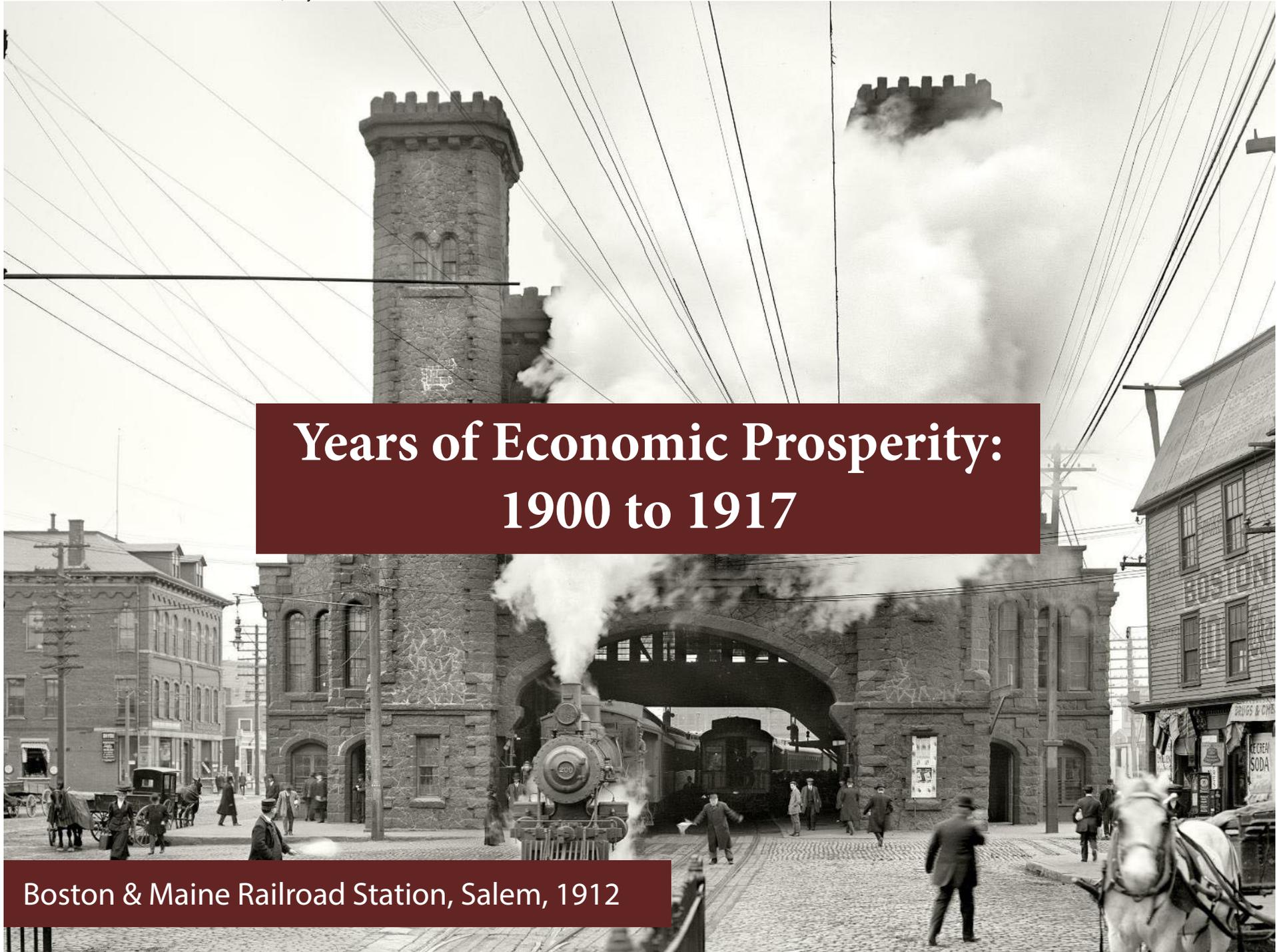
Danielle Cournoyer
Senior Researcher

Brattle Street, Boston, 1920



Voice of
Danielle Cournoyer
Senior Researcher

Historical Context: Massachusetts in the 20th Century



**Years of Economic Prosperity:
1900 to 1917**

Boston & Maine Railroad Station, Salem, 1912

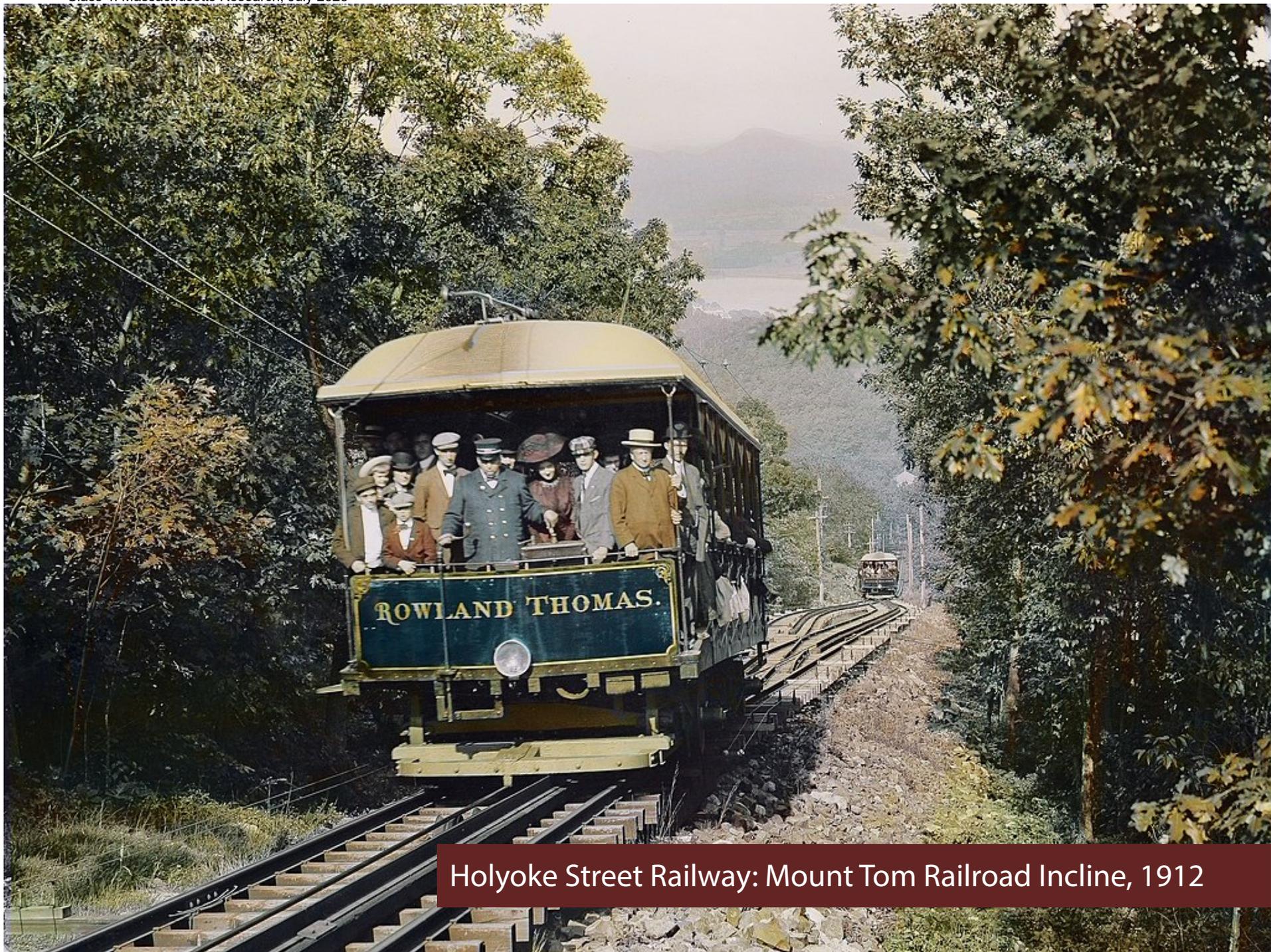


Boston Harbor Bird's Eye View, 1905

Mill District, Lawrence, 1910



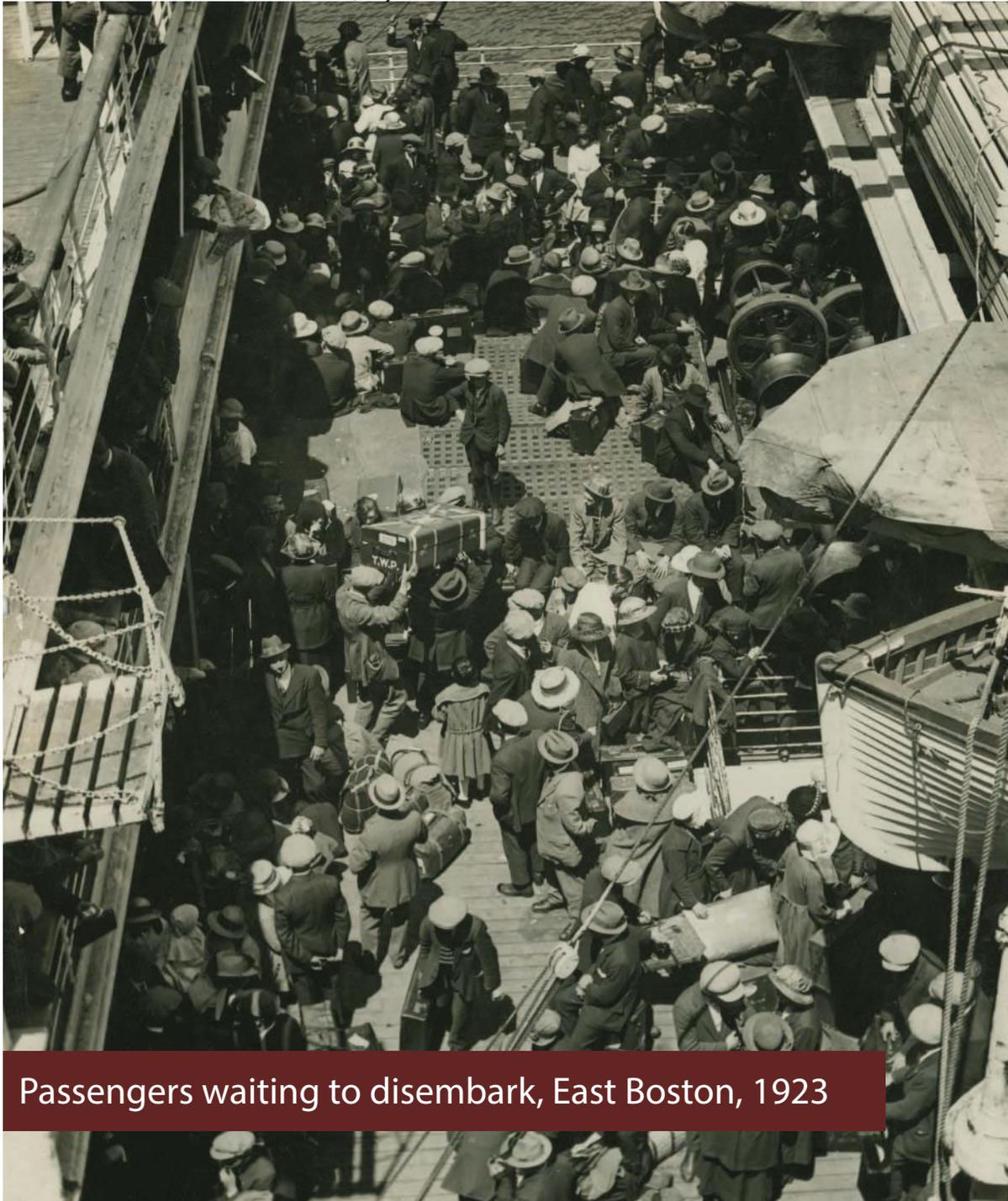
Durgin Shoe Co., Haverhill, 1912



Holyoke Street Railway: Mount Tom Railroad Incline, 1912

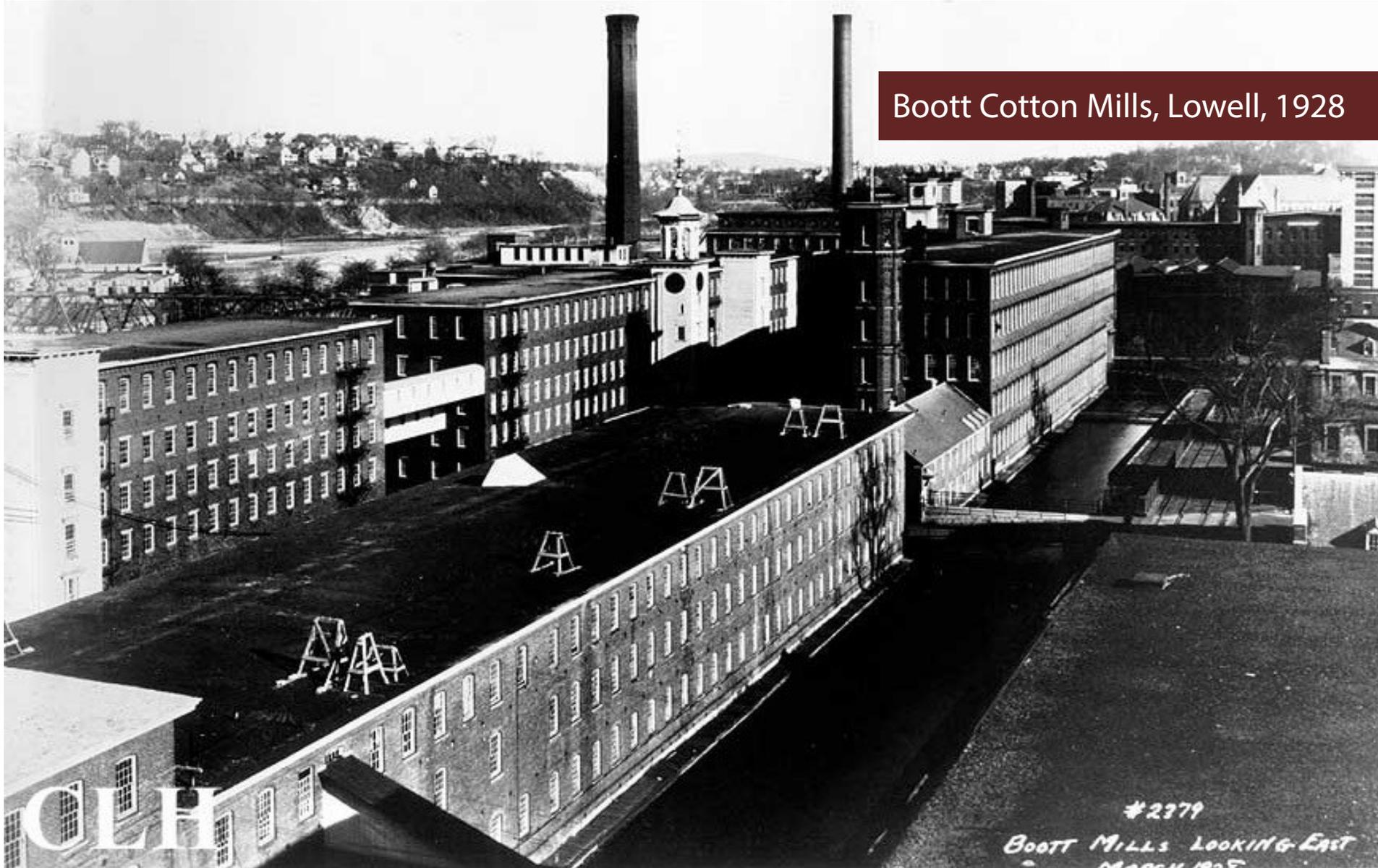


"Bread and Roses Strike," Lawrence, 1912



New Era of Immigration Restriction & Industrial Decline: 1918 to 1929

Passengers waiting to disembark, East Boston, 1923



Great Depression & WWII: 1929 to 1945



Millbury Savings Bank, Millbury, 1929

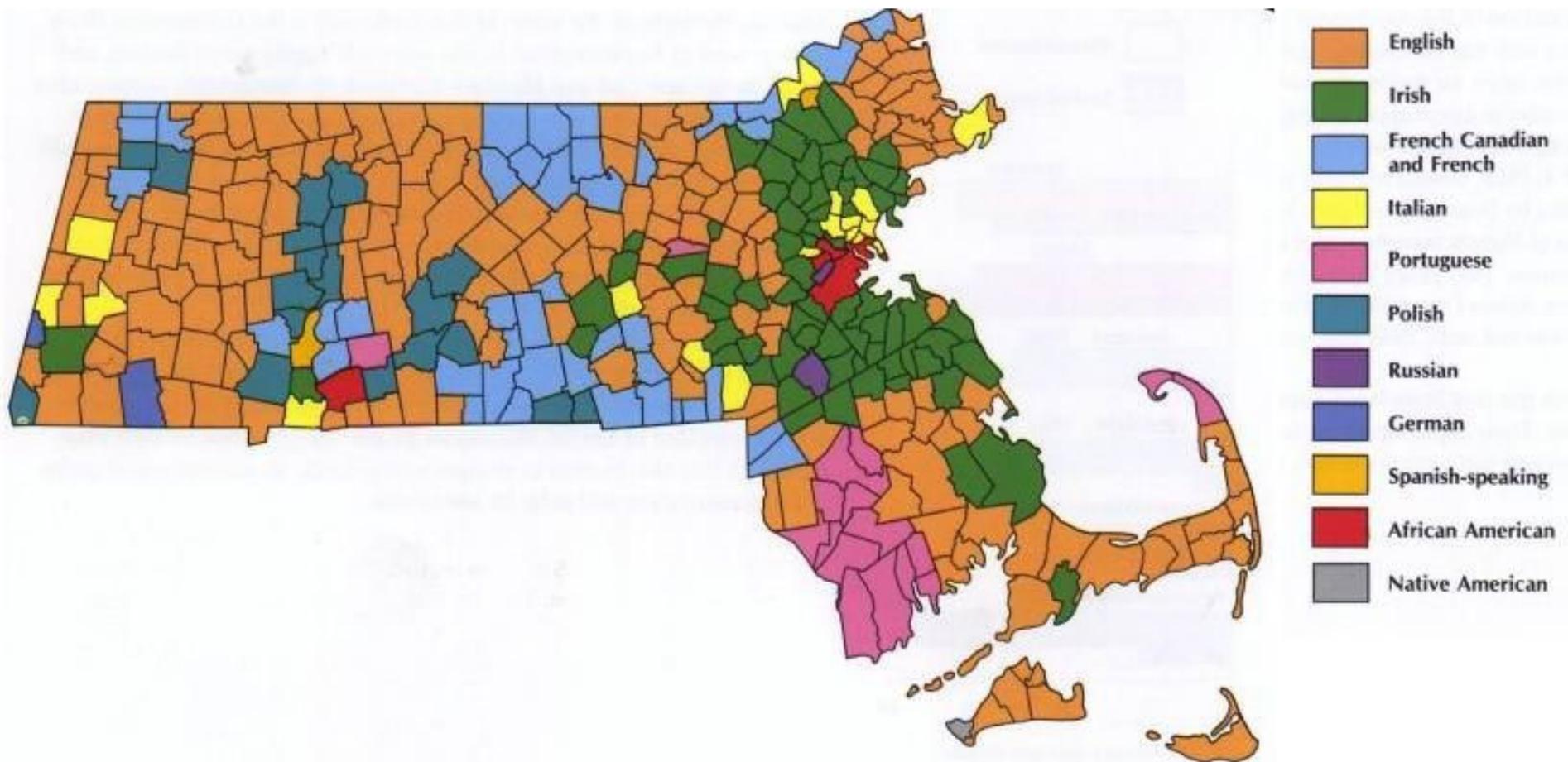


American Steam Automobile Co., Newton, 1942

Springfield Armory 1777 to 1965



Post-War Massachusetts Challenges & Reinvention



Polled: Largest Ancestry Groups in Massachusetts by Town, 2000

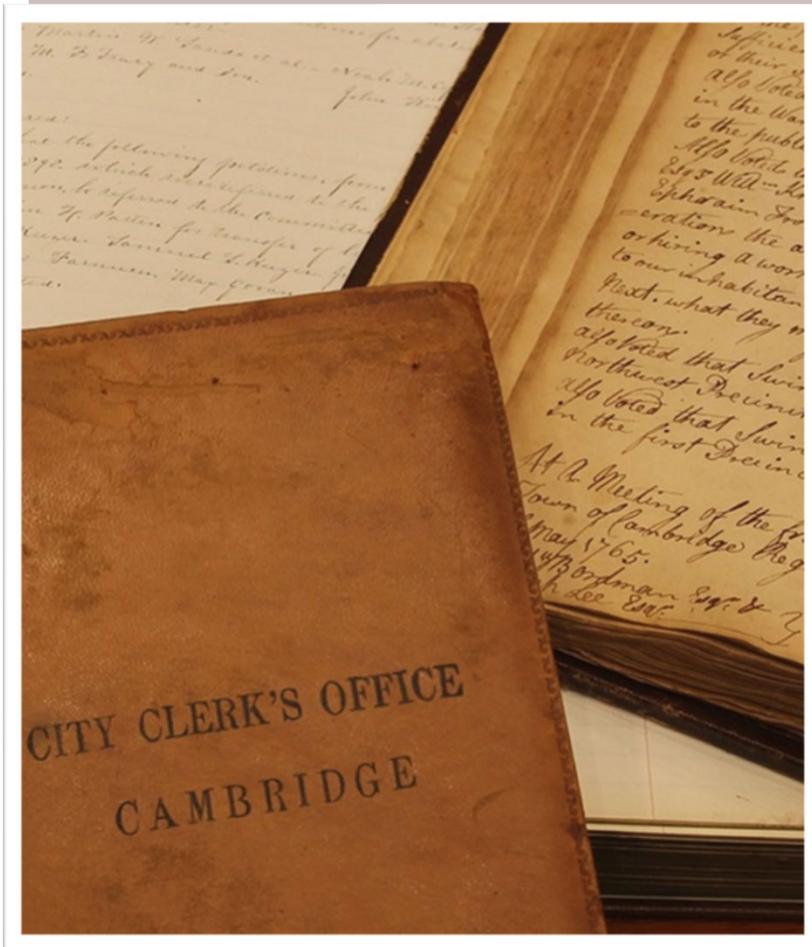
Accessing Massachusetts Civic Records

Massachusetts Civic Records

- Civic (government) records – including vital & probate records – act as the foundation in our research
- Often there are levels of bureaucracy to navigate
- Confidentiality rules limit accessed & can require court intervention
- Who created the original record?
 - Local, State, or Federal Government?



Massachusetts Vital Records



- No time or legal restrictions for obtaining vital records for events that occurred in the State (exceptions for amended records)
- 20th century Mass Vital Records are maintained at two levels:
 - By the town clerk where the event occurred
 - Reported to the State where a second return is kept

Vital Records at the Massachusetts Archives

Digital Records at the Massachusetts Archives

Vital Records, 1841 to 1930

Index to Births, Marriages, & Deaths, 1841 to 1971

Amended Vital Records, 1841 to 1920

Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1841 to 1925

Application for Certified Vital Records, 1841-1930 (PDF)

Births, 1921-1925

Search for Vital Record Citations, 1841 to 1910

Marriages, 1921-1925

Deaths, 1921-1925

- Original manuscripts of State vital records for 1841 to 1930
- Most of these records are digitized and available online at FamilySearch
- Quick reference links available on Archives website:
www.sec.state.ma.us/arc
- Request certified copies for \$3
 - Online form submitted via mail or email:
archives@sec.state.ma.us

Vital Records for 1921 to 1925*

browsable as three separate collections:

Births:

www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2859768

Marriages:

www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3010705

Deaths:

www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3010706

***exception:
1920 to 1930
Boston**

Massachusetts, marriage records, 1921-1924 [Add to Print List](#)

Authors: [Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth](#) (Main Author)
[Massachusetts. State Archives](#) (Repository)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2018

Physical: 67 digital folders

Notes
Digital capture of original records at the Massachusetts State Archives.

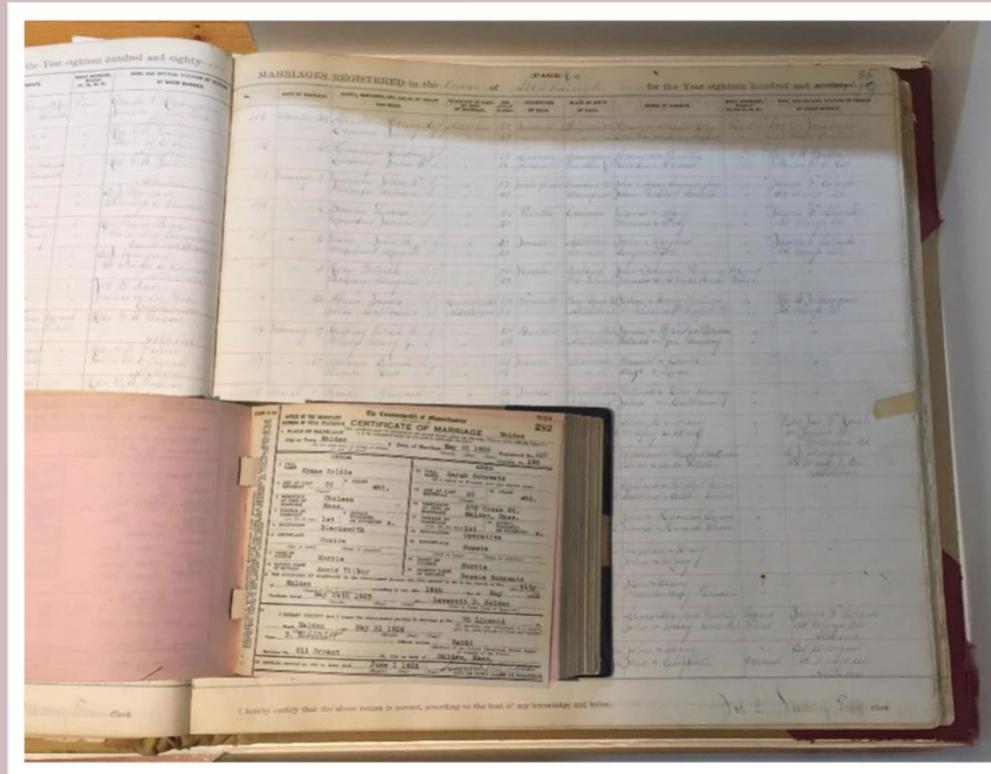
Subjects
Locality Subjects
[United States, Massachusetts - Vital records](#)

< Page 1 of 3 >

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Marriages small short volumes state, Vol 001 Abington to Andover, 1924	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital		107324035	
Marriages small short volumes state, Vol 001 Abington-Amherst, 1923	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Digital		106462053	

Shift from *Registers* to *Certificates*



Before 1903 all births, deaths, & marriages in Massachusetts were recorded in register format only

Introduction of Certificates

(all towns except Boston)

- May 1903: Death Certificates
- January 1818: Birth & Marriage Certificates

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

164

1 PLACE OF MARRIAGE *Uxbridge* (City or town) (Do not enter name of village or section of city or town)

2 Date of Marriage *May 1 1922* Registered No. *21* (Month) (Day) (Year)

3 FULL NAME *Philip Leon Barron*

4 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY *24* (Years)

5 COLOR *White*

6 RESIDENCE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE *Uxbridge*

7 NUMBER OF MARRIAGE (1st, 2d, 3d, etc.) *1st*

8 SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED *Single*

9 OCCUPATION *Tinsmith*

10 BIRTHPLACE *Mainville, R. I.* (City or town) (State or country)

11 NAME OF FATHER *Odilon*

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Margaret Degardin*

13 FULL NAME *Aloma Alice Darcy* (If a widow or divorced, give also maiden name)

14 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY *19* (Years)

15 COLOR *White*

16 RESIDENCE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE *Uxbridge*

17 NUMBER OF MARRIAGE (1st, 2d, 3d, etc.) *1st*

18 SINGLE, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED *Single*

19 OCCUPATION *Clerk*

20 BIRTHPLACE *Uxbridge* (City or town) (State or country)

21 NAME OF FATHER *Wilfred A.*

22 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Georgianna Rondeau*

23 THE INTENTION OF MARRIAGE by the above-named persons was duly entered by me in the records of the Town *Uxbridge* of *Uxbridge* according to law, this *24* day of *April* *1922* Certificate issued *Apr. 29, 1922* by *George T. Hobbs, T. C.* (Month) (Day) (Year) (City or town Clerk or Registrar)

24 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I joined the above-named persons in marriage at No. *The Good Shepherd* St. (If marriage was solemnized in a church, give its NAME instead of street and number) Ward *Uxbridge* on *May 1, 1922* Name *G. Fontaine* Official station *Priest* (Minister of the Gospel, Clergyman, Priest, Rabbi, or Justice of the Peace) Residence No. *Church St.* St., City or town of *Linwood*

25 Certificate received by city or town clerk *May 2 1922* (Month) (Day) (Year)

DEATHS REGISTERED in the City of *Northampton, Mass.* for the Year Nineteen Hundred and *one.*

USE TWO LINES WHERE NECESSARY. ALL NAMES TO BE GIVEN IN FULL.

No.	DATE OF DEATH.	FULL NAME OF THE DECEASED. (If a married or divorced woman or a widow, give also maiden name and name of husband.)	SEX. Males and color of hair, females and color of hair, widow or divorced.	AGE. Years. Months. Days.	DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH. (Primary and immediate cause.)	1. Residence.			PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES AND BIRTHPLACES OF PARENTS OF DECEASED. (Give full name of father and maiden name of mother.) (Birthplace.)		DATE OF RECORD.
						2. Place of Death.	3. Place of Burial.	OCCUPATION.		(Father)	(Mother)	
208		<i>Augusta Dennis Kenchey</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>Paralysis (general)</i>	<i>12-23 Granite St.</i>	<i>Laborer</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Thomas Kenchey</i>	<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Feb. 1860</i>	
209		<i>Lancelotti Harriet Merritt</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>Apoplexy, Paralysis</i>	<i>39-1/2 Maple Ave.</i>		<i>Whately</i>	<i>Mary Kennebec</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>1850</i>	
210		<i>William George Lawrence</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>Stroke, Hemiparesis</i>	<i>3 West Whately</i>		<i>Huntington</i>	<i>Almira Bennett</i>	<i>Whately</i>	<i>1850</i>	
211		<i>Edw. Edward Harris Phelps</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>1-2-17 Maple Ave.</i>		<i>Huntington</i>	<i>Samuel H. Gove</i>	<i>Huntington</i>	<i>1850</i>	
						<i>3 Hillside Ave.</i>		<i>Northampton</i>	<i>Sarah L. Ladd</i>	<i>Huntington</i>	<i>1850</i>	
						<i>1-2-3 Center St.</i>	<i>Plumber</i>	<i>Northampton</i>	<i>Spencer Phelps</i>	<i>Huntington</i>	<i>1850</i>	
						<i>3 Bridge St. S.W.</i>		<i>Huntington</i>	<i>Anna Harris</i>	<i>Huntington</i>	<i>1850</i>	

Boston Vital Records

1904 to 1930

- After 1904, Boston Vital Records inconsistently recorded in both Register and Certificate formats
- Boston Death Records
 - Before 1904: Register
 - 1904 to 1914: Certificate
 - 1915 to 1918: Register
 - 1919 to 1920: Certificate
 - 1921 to 1930: Register (Not Digitized)
- Boston Birth & Marriage Records
 - Before 1918: Register
 - 1919: Certificate
 - 1920: Register
 - 1921 to 1930: Register (Not Digitized)



Yet to be digitized: **Vital Records 1926 to 1930**

- Every 5 years vital records over 90 years old transferred from the *Registry of Vital Records & Statistics* to the *State Archives*
- Two different branches of State government:
 - Registry under the Department of Health
 - Archives under the Secretary of Commonwealth's Office
- In late-2022 (delayed by the pandemic) records for 1926 to 1930 were moved to the Archives
- The process of digitation (just completed for 1921 to 1925 in 2021) will begin again for this new batch of records

Registry of Vital Records & Statistics

- Maintains State Vital Records for 1931 to present
- Offers only certified copies of records for purchase:
 - In person: \$20
 - By mail: \$32
 - Online/Phone: \$51
- Visit the research room to view and transcribe records (photos prohibited)
 - Appointment needed



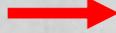
Office located:
150 Mt. Vernon St.
Dorchester, MA

Amended Records

- A “*” in the Vital Record Index indicates an amended or corrected record
 - Corresponding citation is for the amended volume
- All records amended after 1931 are held at the Registry of Vital Records & Statistics
- Records amended before 1931 (vols. 1 to 86) are open and can be accessed at the Massachusetts Archives
- Common amendments for birth certificates:
 - Adding a father's information
 - Spelling corrections
 - Adoptions

INDEX TO BIRTHS IN MASSACHUSETTS 1941-1945

	NAME	TOWN	YEAR	VOL.	PAGE
Cushman	Albert	Boston	1942	25	195
	Anne Adams	"	1944	33	415
	" Harriette	"	1941	12	64
	Arline	"	1941	9	89
	Arthur Lawrence	Lynn	1941	76	206
	Bertil Russell	Clinton	1941	48	545
	Bonnie Lee	Melrose	1944	93	130
	*Carl Herbert	Boston	1942	424	406
	Cherrie	Wareham	1943	145	335
	Corinne Ann	Westfield	1943	147	77
	Daniel Albert	Boston	1942	18	91
	David Alan	Plymouth	1942	121	82



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

RETURN OF A BIRTH

County of Worcester Registered No. 85

City or Town of Worcester No. St Vincent Hospital St. Ward
(If birth occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Mary F Lynch { If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed

3. Sex of Child <u>Female</u>	4. Twin, triplet, or other? (To be answered only in event of plural births)	4a. Number in order of birth	5. Born alive or stillborn <u>Alive</u>	6. Date of birth <u>Jan 5 1918</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)
-------------------------------	---	------------------------------	---	--

7. FULL NAME FATHER <u>Thos. J Lynch</u>	8. FULL MAIDEN NAME MOTHER <u>Mary F Hennessey</u>
--	--

9. RESIDENCE No. 454 Chandler St. Worcester

10. RESIDENCE No. 454 Chandler St. Worcester

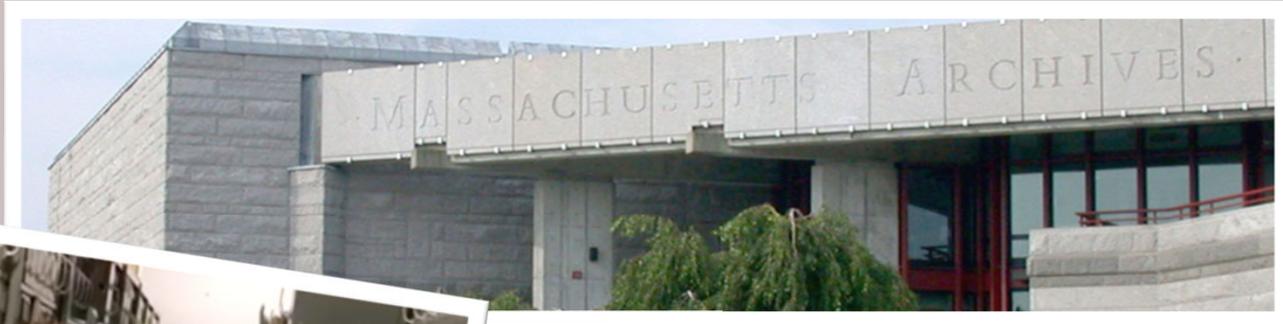
Corrected 11/14/43

Reminder: the original copy of a record created *after* 1925 which was later amended - is *restricted*

Only those named on the record can access it without a court order

Massachusetts State Archives

*Located:
220 Morrissey Blvd,
Dorchester, MA*



- Collects 20th century materials produced by state agencies
 - State prisons
 - Mental health facilities
 - Public hospitals
- Massachusetts law restrict these records to preserve privacy

Medical Examiner Records 1885 – 1960

- Noted on a death certificate if an individual was seen by the Medical Examiner after their death
- May provide information as to circumstances of a person's life and death
- Provide death record to the Reference Archivist and they will send you the Medical Examiner's corresponding return



202

Worcester (County)  The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Woburn (City or Town) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 No. East Road St., Ward DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
 Registered No. 100
 MEDICAL EXAMINER'S
 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

NAME Herbert Eugene Harrington
 (If deceased is a married, widowed or divorced woman, give also maiden name.)

Residence No. East Road St., Ward
 (If nonresident, give city or town and state.)

Age at death in city or town where death occurred 70 yrs. 3 mos. days. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. days.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
4 COLOR OR RACE White	5 SINGLE MARRIED (write the word) MARRIED Married WIDOWED or DIVORCED	18 DATE OF DEATH June 11, 1960 (Month) (Day) (Year)	19 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have investigated the death of the person above-named and that the CAUSE AND MANNER thereof are as follows: (If an injury was involved, state fully) Organic heart disease type undetermined
2. widowed, or divorced 3. Reason (Give maiden name of wife in full) (Husband's name in full) 4. enter that fact here. Years 3 Months Days If less than 1 day Hours Minutes		(See reverse side for description for unknown person)	
6. profession, or particular work done, as spider, farmer, bookkeeper, etc. Farmer			

State Prison Records

- Prison information is open upon an individual's death, but medical & mental health info is redacted
- Request a prison inmate case file by providing proof of death
- Case files often contain in-depth family histories
- The years available depend on the prison. Examples:
 - State Prison at Charlestown (1910-1941)
 - Men's Reformatory at Concord (1884-1939)
 - Prison for Women at Framingham (1913-1973)
 - State Prison Colony at Norfolk (1927-1955)



State Hospital Records

- The Massachusetts Archives maintains records of State facilities that are no longer in operation
- Many State Hospitals opened in the 1800s & did not close until the 1990s
- The regulations ruling the access of Hospital records—no matter their age—are tight
- To learn more about process of unsealing records, contact the Reference Archivist



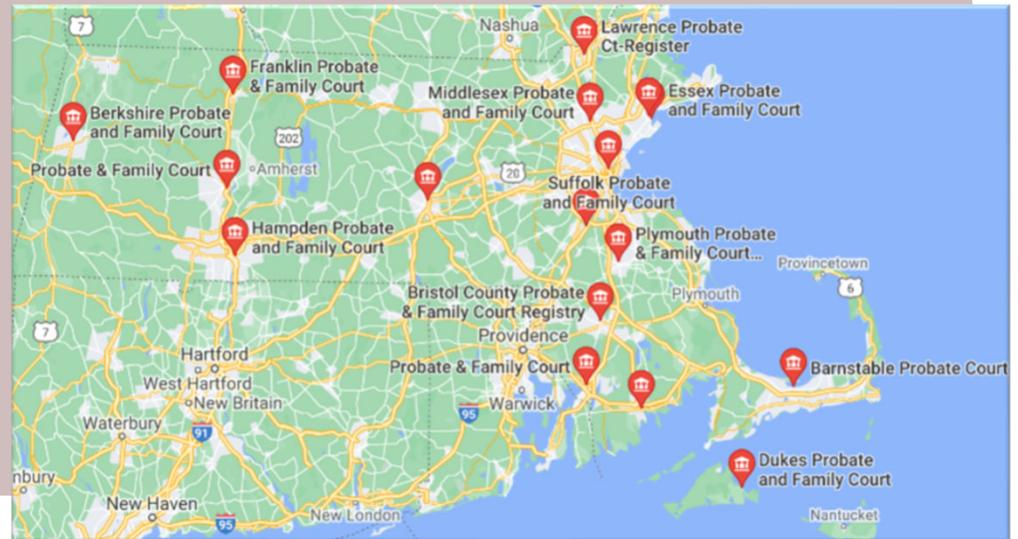
Have questions?
Contact the knowledgeable
Mass State Archive
reference team!

archives@sec.state.ma.us

Massachusetts Court Records

Divorce Records

- 1887 to 1922: Divorces overseen by Mass. Superior Court
- After 1922, Probate & Family Courts also granted jurisdiction— have since heard most divorces in the state
- Probate & Family Courts are broken up into 14 divisions
- Each division keeps own Divorce index:
 - Statewide index (1952 to today) available at *Registry of Vital Records and Statistics*
 - Which Court & Docket Number
- Contact courthouse where divorce occurred to request copies



Probate Records

- Where to look for 20th century MA probate records varies from county to county
- Depending on the record's age, probate may be at the Supreme Judicial Court Archives or still at Probate & Family Court where originally filed



Online Search Tools:

How to find historic court records

QUESTION

What kind of record are you looking for?

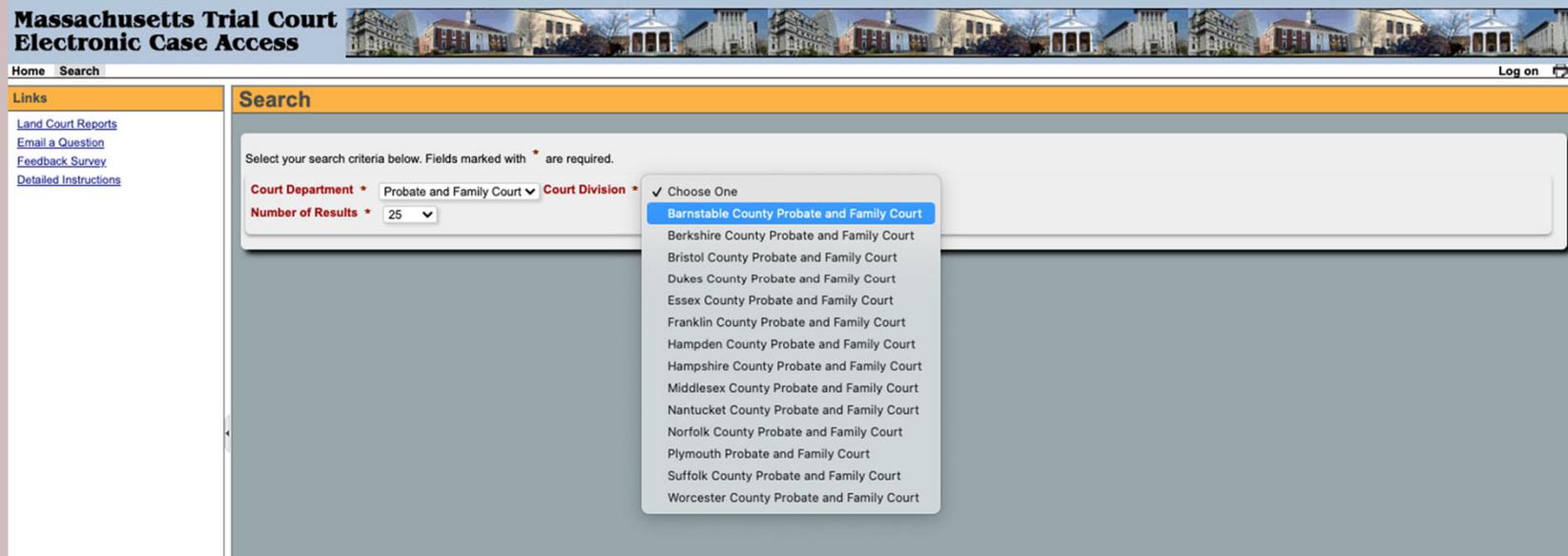
- **Naturalization** is the process through which citizens of foreign countries become citizens of the United States.
- **Probate** is the process of transferring property and ownership after someone has died.
- A **will** is the document in which someone states their final requests and wishes.

NATURALIZATION RECORD PROBATE RECORD COPY OF A WILL

ANOTHER TYPE OF RECORD

1) Mass.gov – historic court record “decision tree”
www.mass.gov/decision-tree/how-to-find-historic-court-records

Online Search Tools:



2) Massachusetts Trial Court Electronic Case Look-Up

www.masscourts.org

Naturalization Records at the Supreme Judicial Court Archives

- Naturalizations records for anyone naturalized in State Superior Courts after 26 September 1906
- Majority of Superior Court naturalizations for 1906–1945 available on FamilySearch
 - Not text searchable, use indexes to locate petitions
 - Does not include Suffolk or Dukes counties



Naturalization Records at the Supreme Judicial Court Archives

- Naturalization records filed after 1945 have not been digitized
 - Use online index to locate petition number
 - Contact Judicial Archivist to get full record
- Declaration of Intent & Petition for Naturalization may include:
 - Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth of the applicant
 - Information regarding arrival in the US
 - Marital status & names of children, with their dates and places of birth
- Prior to 1922, married women were included on their husband's petition
- No statewide index to naturalization records at the Judicial Archives
 - Each court was responsible for indexing its own records

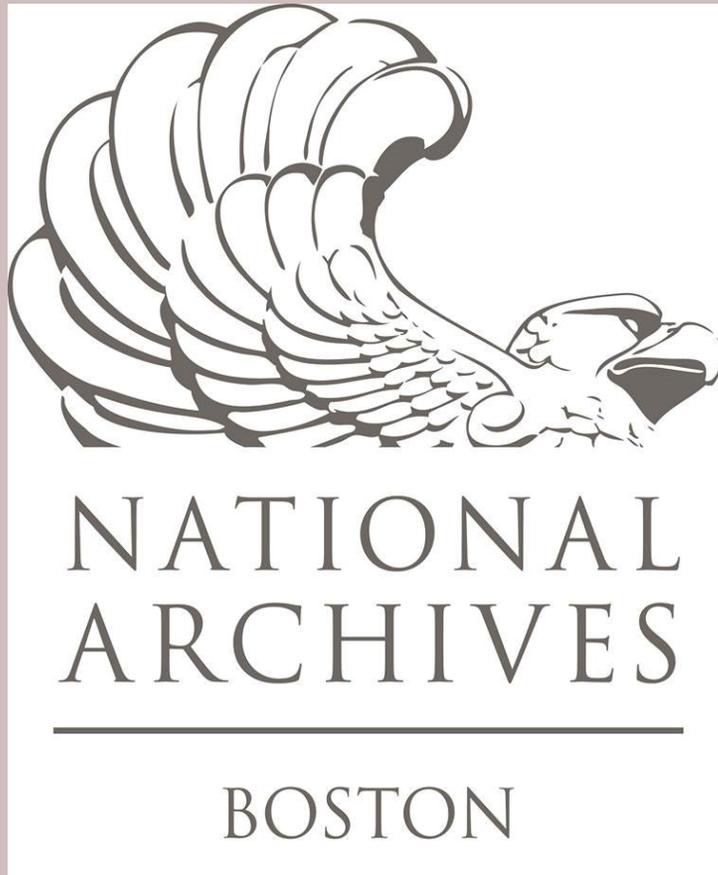
Mass.gov quick links to FamilySearch naturalizations:

www.mass.gov/info-details/find-out-which-historic-naturalization-records-are-available-online

The screenshot shows the Mass.gov website interface. At the top left is the Mass.gov logo. To the right is a search bar with the text 'Search Mass.gov' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, it says 'PART OF Accessing Court Archives' and 'OFFERED BY Massachusetts Court System Show 1 more'. The main heading is 'Find out which historic naturalization records are available online'. Below this is a paragraph: 'You can access post-1906 state Superior Court naturalization record holdings by county on FamilySearch.org. If the historic naturalization record you're looking for isn't here, please see the links in the sidebar for more information on how to get other records from the judicial archives.' Below the paragraph is a green bar with the text 'TABLE OF CONTENTS'. Underneath this bar is a list of counties, each with a green checkmark icon to its left: Barnstable County, Berkshire County, Bristol County, Essex County, Franklin County, Hampden County, Hampshire County, Middlesex County, Nantucket County, Norfolk County, Plymouth County, and Worcester County.

Need more help finding a record?
Contact the Supreme Judicial
Court Archivist:
archives@jud.state.ma.us

Naturalization Records at the National Archives

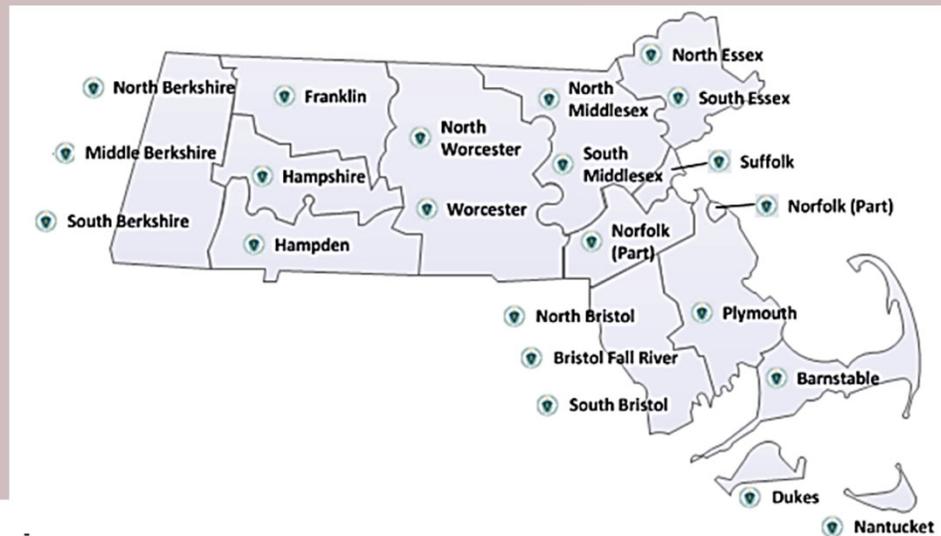


- 27 September 1906: All US naturalizations transferred from State to Federal Courts
- *The Northeast Regional Branch of the National Archives in Waltham* houses naturalization filed at Massachusetts Federal Courts
 - U.S. District Court (1790-1991)
 - U.S. Circuit Court (1845-1911)
- boston.archives@nara.gov

Massachusetts Land Records

- Maintained at local level – 21 registry districts
- Registries of Deeds record & maintain every land transaction in each county/district
- Access most 20th-century land records online!

masslandrecords.com



Massachusetts Land Records

Search Home **Search Criteria** Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com
Worcester District Recorded/Registered Land

* Business/Last Name First Name: Party Type: Both Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Name Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1961-Current)

Registry of Deeds

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Registry Home | Select Another Registry | Contact Us | Refinance Calculator

Worcester - Kathryn A. Toomey, Register

90 Front Street
Tel: (508) 798-7987
Fax: (508) 798-7987
Sullivan, Rec. Sec.
Office Hours for
Monday-Friday
9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

Recorded Land	Registered Land (Land Court)
Name Search	Name Search
Book Search	Book Search
Document Search	Certificate Search
Property Search	Document Search
Recorded Date Search	Property Search
Unindexed Property Search	Recorded Date Search
Pre-1960 Grantor Index	
Pre-1960 Grantee Index	

Plans	Registered Land Plans
Name Search	Name Search
Book (Year) Search	Book Search
Document Search	Court Case Number Search
Property Search	Document Search
Recorded Date Search	Property Search
Unindexed Property Search	Recorded Date Search

Search Home Search Criteria Search Options Search Help&Support FAQ Basket

masslandrecords.com
Worcester District Recorded/Registered Land

* Book: 2045 Page Number: 200 Search Reset Advanced

Recorded Land Unindexed Property Search Book: 2045 Page Number: 200 (Total: 1.69 seconds, 1 rows)

Select All Invert Selection Deselect All Print Search Result View: 20/Page 50/Page 100/Page

Type Desc.	Book	Page
<input type="checkbox"/>	02045	200

View Details **View Images**

Type Desc.	Book	Page
	02045	200

1 of 1 Add to Basket Print Document

200 2045

second day of January A. D. 1914.
Signed and sealed in presence of
Athol Co-operative Bank (seal)
Thomas J. O'Connell Vice President
A. Foster Hamilton Treasurer
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester ss. January 2, 1914. Then personally appeared the above-named A. Foster Hamilton and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of the Athol Co-operative Bank, before me -
Hermert E. Deane, Justice of the Peace.
Rec'd Jan. 9, 1914, at Sh. 30w. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

* * * * *

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS,
Fitburg Co-op Bank that the Fitburg Co-operative Bank, the mortgage named in a certain mortgage given by Sylvester D. Crimmins dated Nov. 20, 1913 and recorded with Worcester District Deeds, Lib. 2045, Folio 237, hereby acknowledges that it has received full payment and satisfaction of the debt thereby secured, and in consideration thereof it hereby cancels and **D I S C A N T S** said mortgage.
I **W I T N E S S** **S E E C P** the said Fitburg Co-operative Bank has caused its corporate seal to be here to affixed and these presents to be signed, acknowledged, and delivered in its name and behalf by Warner M. Allen, its Treasurer, this eighth day of January, A. D. 1914.
Signed and sealed in the presence of
Fitburg Co-operative Bank, (seal)
By Warner M. Allen Treasurer.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester, ss. Jan. 8 1914. Then personally appeared the above-named Warner M. Allen, Treasurer, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of the Fitburg Co-operative Bank, before me -
Foster Bailey, Justice of the Peace.
Rec'd Jan. 9, 1914, at Sh. 30w. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

* * * * *

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS
Fiske that I, Amanda Fiske of Mt Vernon in State of New York mortgages in a certain mortgage given by Samuel Fisk & Leonard Cotton to me dated August 27 A. D. 1913, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2003 Page 243, do hereby acknowledge that I have received full payment and satisfaction of the same, and in consideration thereof I do hereby cancel and **D I S C A N T S** said mortgage.
I **W I T N E S S** **S E E C P** I hereto set my hand and seal this 6th day of January A. D. 1914.
Signed and sealed in the presence of
Ester N. Fiske Amanda Fiske (seal)
Aloise C. Loewenstein
State of New York
County of Westchester ss. January 6th 1914. Then personally appeared the above-named Amanda Fiske and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed, before me -
Aloise C. Loewenstein Notary Public (seal)
Westchester Co. N.Y.
Rec'd Jan. 6, 1914, at 10h. 7w. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

* * * * *

Richardson I, Emma F. Richardson holder of a mortgage from John W. Hill to me dated March 16th 1887 recorded with Worcester District Deeds Book 1200, Page 270, acknowledge **S A T I S F A C T I O N** of the above **W I T N E S S** my hand and seal this fifth day of January 1914.
Emma F. Richardson (seal)
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Worcester ss. January 6th 1914. Then personally appeared the above named Emma F. Richardson and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed, before me -
Thatcher B. Dunn Justice of the Peace
Rec'd Jan. 10, 1914, at Sh. 30w. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

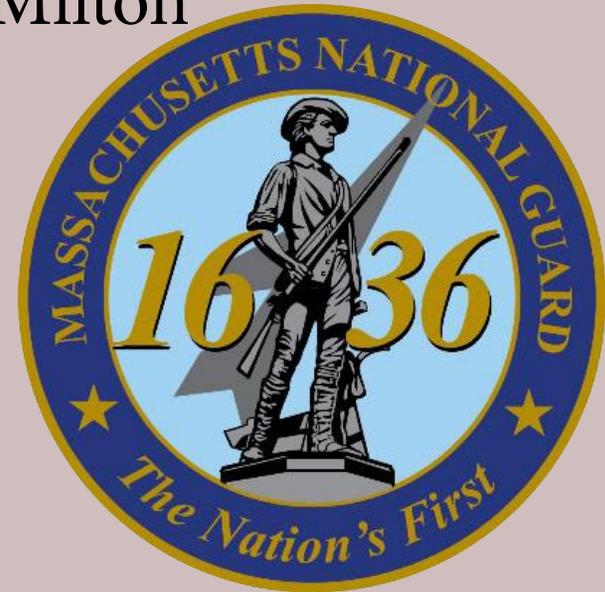
* * * * *

Click on
“view images” tab
to see an image of
the deed

Massachusetts Military Records

Massachusetts National Guard

- Massachusetts Archives
 - Service records of all Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard personnel discharged *before 1940*
 - Contact the Reference Archivist: archives@sec.state.ma.us
- The Military Records Branch in Milton
 - Service records of all discharged Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard personnel
(*1947 to present*)
 - www.massnationalguard.org
 - phone: (508) 422-1993
 - email: military.records@mass.gov

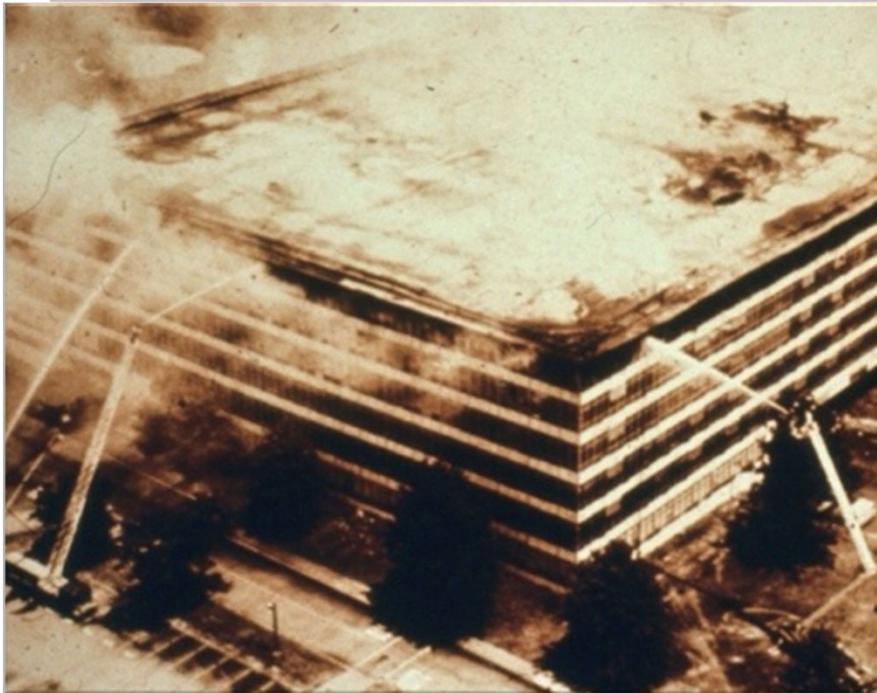


National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)

- Repository of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased 20th century veterans from all services
- Records from Spanish American War to 2000
- Submit record requests online: vetrecs.archives.gov



National Personnel Records Center Fire 12 July 1973



- Destroyed 1/3 of its 52 million military personnel files
- There were no duplicate copies of destroyed records and they had not been microfilmed
- Difficult to determine what records were lost
 - No index of records made prior to the fire & many records were on loan to the VA

National Personnel Records Center Fire 12 July 1973

- Losses to Federal military records collection included:
 - Army: 80% record loss for personnel discharged 1 November 1912 to 1 January 1960
 - Air Force: 75% record loss for personnel discharged 25 September 1947 to 1 January 1964
 - names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.
 - U.S. Army Reserve personnel: some late 1950s to 1964



Useful Resources:

Finding your Ancestors at Home

Massachusetts Newspapers

- Newspapers offer a wealth of information about your Massachusetts ancestors & their community
- About 4,500 newspaper titles have been published in Massachusetts over the last 300 years
- Advancements in printing & communication technologies in late 19th century led to a boom of local newspapers being published daily in Massachusetts





Massachusetts Newspapers

- 20th century Massachusetts newspapers can include genealogical details such as:
 - Birth, Death, & Marriage Announcements
 - School announcements
 - Probate & Court proceedings
 - Town Meeting Minutes
 - Property Sales
 - Military enlistments & news
 - Everyday comings & goings



Where to Find 20th-Century Mass. Newspapers

- Many historic Massachusetts newspapers digitized & available online
- No central online repository for searching Massachusetts newspapers
- Check with your local library for microfilms of smaller local newspapers
- Popular large national databases:
 - Newspapers.com
 - Genealogybank.com
 - Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov



- Useful summary of Massachusetts newspapers accessible online available at: theancestorhunt.com/blog/massachusetts-online-historical-newspapers-summary

Massachusetts City Directories

- Pin your ancestor to an exact place & time
- Follow an ancestor from year to year, filling in the gaps between censuses
- Gained more widespread popularity in the late 19th century & were being published as late as the 1980s

Where to find them online:

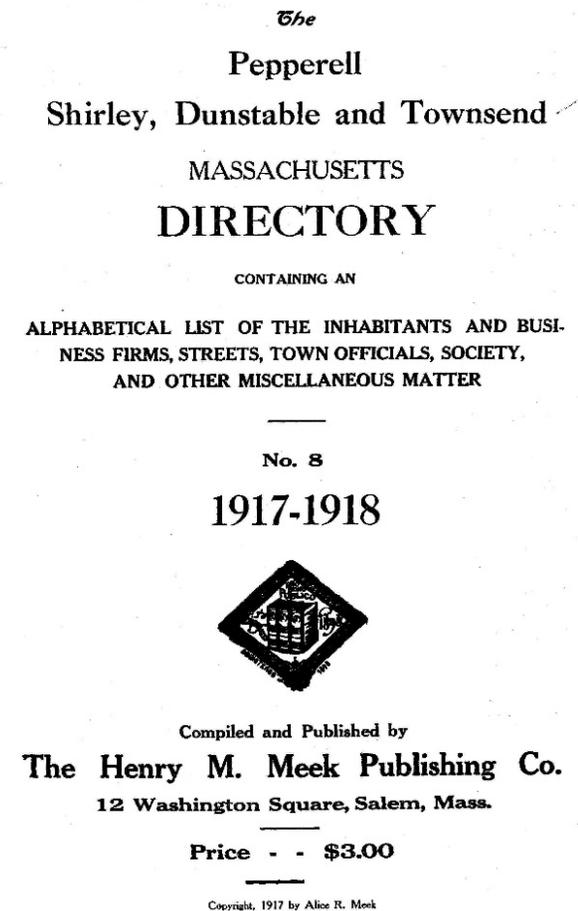
- Ancestry (www.ancestry.com)
- Fold3 (www.fold3.com)
- Google Books (www.books.google.com)
- Internet Archive (www.archive.org)

Where to find them in person:

- Libraries - Local History Rooms
- Universities (often also online)
- Massachusetts State Library

Massachusetts City Directories

- Published semi-annually
- Served functional purpose:
How people found each other
- Include lists of churches, hospitals, schools & government offices – Point you to other family records
- Provide year-to-year local history & information on prominent citizens

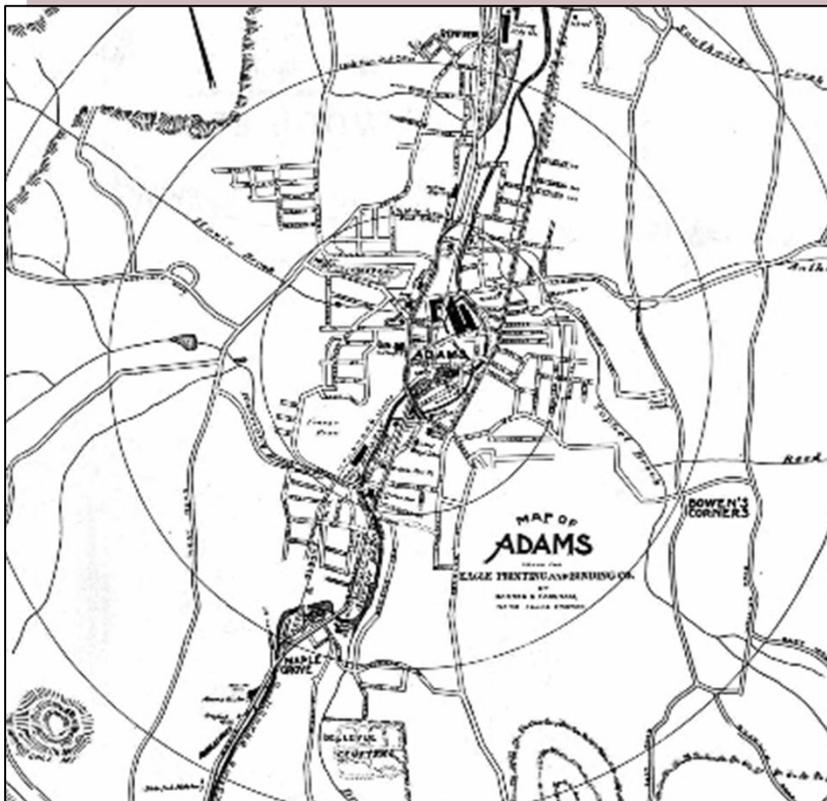


- Alphabetically list an individual with their occupation, work address, and/or home address
- Wives named in parentheses after husband
- Reveal dates of marriage and death or if someone has moved out of town
- Type and amount information provided evolved over the decades.
 - Early directories focused on men with occupations; would not always include domestic servants, women, or the unemployed
 - Later, more people were included such as: students and unmarried women

GARDNER DIRECTORY—1957 151

Bidne Sigurd (Alphild) emp H-WCo h Riverside
Parker
Bielak Stanley Paul (Sophie) emp 38 Sand h 25 Mis-
sion
Billie's Diner (Mrs Billie M Viefield) 240 Main
Billings Arthur G (Martha E) mach H-WCo h 87
Pearl
—Bertha B tel opr TelCo r rear 202 S Main
—May J wid John W h rear 202 S Main
—Roger emp N&SCo r 38 Parker
Bilodeau Albert J (Eva) ins agt 2d fl 21 Pleasant h
37 Oriole
—Alma housewkr h 120 Monadnock
—Edmond S (Ernestine M) assembler FSSCo h 178
Nichols
—Ernestine M emp 158 Main r 178 Nichols
—Lorraine T finisher FSSCo r 178 Nichols
—Paul S emp OWSCo r 178 Nichols
—Rene R (Marianne I) foreman H-WCo h 198 Ash
Bilson Taimi L Mrs typist (29) 31 Parker h at West-
minster
Binnall Edward P (Eleanor M) h 180 Greenwood
—James E (Jacqueline) rem to Baldwinville
—Melvin R (Shirley M) trk driver Westminster h 49
Reservoir
—Richard J (Blanche J) pressman 18 Travers h off
Airport rd
—Thomas H (Anna C) rem to Portland Conn
—Thomas H (Christine) business agt 52 Main h 180
Greenwood
—William died Nov 9 1955 age 63
Birge Jennie E wid C Arthur h 148 Vernon
Biron Alfred J (Laura A) serviceman WCElecCo h
186 Chestnut
—Geraldine D clk H-WCo r 186 Chestnut
—Henry A (Gertrude F) h 40 Birch
—Irene F married James Gettens
Birt James W Jr (Pauline T) clk 86 Parker h 89
Richmond
—Harriet E Mrs adtd GSH r do
—William E (Harriet E) ins (20) 14 Main h 232
Waterford
Bishop Charlotte M asst cashier The First National
Bank r 70 Edgell
**BISHOP ENOS R (Ethel B) pres The First National
Bank 25 Pleasant h 70 Edgell—See p 32**
—Joseph W Sr (Mabel M) foreman H-WCo h 171
Oak
—Joseph W Jr (Virginia) tchr 62 Waterford h 171
Oak
—Lorraine Mrs emp N&SCo h (1) rear 266A Pleas-
ant
—see Levesque

Don't always skip
straight to name list!
City Directories provide a
wealth of other information.



WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

“The Heart of The Commonwealth”

(Courtesy Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce)

Population in 1960—186,559.

Native born population is 84 per cent. The predominating nationalities of the city are of English, Irish, Swedish, Italian, French Canadian and Canadian origin.

Area—38.41 square miles and elevation is 492 feet above sea level.
There are twenty-five Parks, twenty-one Playgrounds and seven Bathing Beaches, containing approximately 1,300 acres, valued at \$9,436,280.

The bonded debt of the city as of June 30, 1960 is \$25,570,000. Authorized and unissued as of June 30, 1960, \$2,200,000. Total authorized and issued, \$27,770,000. There are two National Banks and two trust companies with total assets of \$251,746,594.31 as of December 31, 1959. There are eight savings institutions with total deposits as of December 31, 1959 of \$518,809,863.65.

Post Office receipts for calendar year ending December 31, 1959 were \$4,238,813. There were 260,894 money orders issued, equalling \$3,978,184.

Church buildings number 130.

Number of building permits, 1959-1,022. Value of building permits in 1959 was \$4,103,249 for new buildings and \$2,754,715 for alterations and additions. Number of real estate deeds registered in the Worcester Court House in 1959 was 11,567. An unusually high percentage of the homes are owner occupied.

Early History

Steady wholesome development with neither boom nor set back has been characteristic of Worcester from the time of its first permanent settlement in 1713.

In 1696, a committee of the General Court decided that the tract of land lying on the west shore of “Quinsigamond” and near the outlet of “Nipnap” might possibly support from 30 to 60 families. Twice (1674 and 1683) was settlement attempted. Twice (1675 and 1702) were the settlers driven out by the Indians, and in 1718 there were probably not over 200 inhabitants in this territory which included not only the present Worcester but also the towns of Holden and Auburn.

Detailed local histories

Maps or lists of ward, district, and precincts boundaries can come in useful when doing census research.

- Pay attention to the table of contents or general index.
- Offer lists of local churches, banks, hospitals, schools, railways, newspapers, and government offices.
- Advertisements show what was important in a community or vital in the local economy.

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

"The Heart of The Commonwealth"
 (Courtesy Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce)
 Population in 1960—186,559.

Native born population is 84 per cent. The remainder is of Swedish, Italian, French Canadian and C...

Area—38.41 square miles and elevation 100 feet. There are twenty-five Parks, twenty-eight playgrounds and approximately 1,300 acres, valued at \$9,436,280.

The bonded debt of the city as of June 30, 1960, \$2,200,000. Total authorized and outstanding bonds \$2,200,000. Total assets of \$251,746,500. Total liabilities with total deposits as of December 31, 1959, \$1,948,000.

Post Office receipts for calendar year 1959, \$3,978,100. Money orders issued, equalling \$3,978,100. Church buildings number 130.

Number of building permits, 1959—1,000. Total value of buildings \$2,754,715 for alterations and additions. Worcester Court House in 1959 was 11,567.

Steady wholesome development with a population of 186,559 in 1960 from the time of its first permanent settlement in 1674. In 1696, a committee of the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, "Quinsigamond" and near the outlet of the river. (1674 and 1683) was settlement attempted by the Puritans, and in 1718 there were probably the present Worcester but also the towns of...

18 LOTHROP'S BRAINTREE DIRECTORY

Idealized Funeral Service

WE believe that our complete modern Showrooms at South Weymouth contribute more to the convenience and comfort of bereaved families than mere words can ever tell.



C.C. SHEPHERD
funeral director
WEYMOUTH - MASS.

Services of Lady Assistant
Always Available

CONTENTS

Abbreviations	29
Braintree General Directory	29
Business Directory	248
Cemeteries	26
Churches	286
Clubs	292
Fire Department	262
Fire Alarm Boxes	262
Halls, Blocks, Etc.	28
Index to Advertisers	19
Labor Organizations	290
Miscellaneous Department	281
Miscellaneous Organizations	290
Police Department	282
Post Offices	285
Schools	284
Secret and Benevolent Organizations	288
Street Directory	20
Thayer Public Library	288
Town Officers	281

Clues found in a City Directory may point you in the right direction.

PAGE 4 J
MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the City of *Salem* for the Year Nineteen Hundred and *four*.

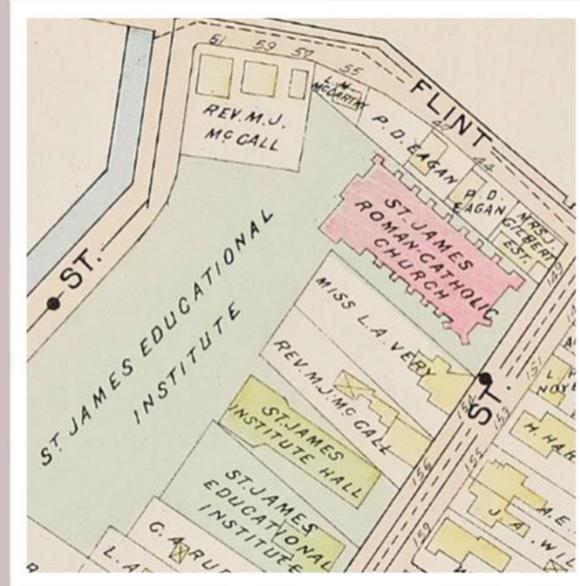
ALL NAMES TO BE GIVEN IN FULL.

DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE.	FULL NAMES OF GROOM AND BRIDE. <small>Color, if other than white. (If the bride is a widow or divorced, give maiden name also.)</small>	AGE of Each in Years.	What Marriage, 1st, 2d, 3d, &c. And if widowed or divorced.	RESIDENCE OF EACH AT TIME OF MARRIAGE.	OCCUPATION OF EACH.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH.	NAMES OF PARENTS OF EACH.		NAME, RESIDENCE AND OFFICIAL STATION OF PERSON BY WHOM MARRIED.
							Full Name of Father.	Maiden Name of Mother.	
<i>1904</i> February 16 <i>Salem</i>	<i>Thomas C. Brennan</i> <i>Margaret E. Mitchell</i>	<i>25</i> <i>21</i>	<i>First</i> <i>First</i>	<i>Salem</i> <i>Medford</i>	<i>Manufacturer</i> <i>At home</i>	<i>Salem</i> <i>Medford</i>	<i>Thomas F. Brennan</i> <i>Thomas Mitchell</i>	<i>Ridgett Collins</i> <i>Mary Kennedy</i>	<i>M. J. McCall</i> <i>Salem, Cath. Clergyman</i>

Clergymen.

Bedinger Henry (Epis.), 2 Forrester
 Bent Gilbert R. 9 Dearborn
 Brodie James F. (Cong.), 136 Federal
 Bronson Dillon (M. E.), 349 Lafayette
 Buckham John W. (Cong.), 3 Winter
 Carey Robert H. (Bap.), 8 Brown
 Clark DeWitt S. (Cong.), 2 Oliver
 Davis James W. (Adv. Ch.), 10 Cushing
 Farnham Edwin P. (Bap.), 15 Beckford
 Franks James P. (Epis.), 6 Hamilton
 Gadoury Joseph O. (Fr. C.), 139 Lafayette
 Gordon Benjamin, 28 Peabody
 Haley George W. (R. C.), 161 Federal
 Hayes John A. (Swed.), 39 Northey
 Hill James L. 225 Lafayette
 Hinkley Elmer N. (Advent), 25 Nursery
 Knight Frederick H. (M. E.), 121 Federal
 Lamb Frank M. (Bap.), 13 Cedar
 Larkin E. T. Miss (Friends), res. at Peabody
 Latimer George D. (Unit.), 28 Pleasant
 Levesque Joseph L. M. (Fr. C.), 139 Lafayette
 → **McCall Michael J. (R. C.), 161 Federal**
 McCall Peter F. (R. C.), 161 Federal
 McGrath John J. (R. C.), 161 Federal
 Manchester Alfred (Unit.), 3 Cedar

Example:
 If you ancestor was married by a minister, finding their church may lead to other records.



→ **McCall Michael J. pastor, St. James Cath. church, h. 161 Federal**
 Peter F. 1st asst. pastor, St. James Cath. church, h. 161 Federal

Reverse Directories or Street Guides

- Sometimes appear within the larger City Directory; consult the table of contents
- Lists individuals by street address instead of alphabetically
- Name of the homeowner or head of household at each address

POLK'S SAUGUS

Directory of Householders, Occupants of Office Buildings and Other Business Places, Including a Complete Street and Avenue Guide 1946-47

Copyright, 1947, by R. L. Polk & Co.

In the following list the streets are arranged in alphabetical order, the intersecting streets being shown. The number of each building on the street is given in numerical order, and opposite the number is placed the name of the occupants or houseowner or tenant. In the business blocks containing offices the occupants are shown by room numbers where practicable, in apartment homes the number denotes the number of the apartment. In all streets both sides of the street are included in one list. The profession or business of individuals of firms is given only at their respective place of business; to find occupation of others refer to Alphabetical List of Names.

Numerical Streets are compiled in with Named Streets in their regular Alphabetical Order.

The symbol © following a householder's name indicates that we have received information during the canvass that the house is owned by some member of the family, but as the publisher cannot and does not guarantee the correctness of the information furnished, nor the complete absence of mistakes no responsibility for errors can be or is assumed, nor can the publisher furnish further information than that shown.

The symbol Δ preceding names denotes householders and places of business having telephones.

<p>ABERDEEN AVENUE from 86 Basswood av to 65 Saugus av, precinct 2</p> <p>Althea av begins</p> <p>11Δ Spinney Chas</p> <p>12Δ Edgecomb Stanley ©</p> <p>15 McWilliam Harry T ©</p> <p>18 Paridon Ellen Mrs ©</p> <p>Alaric av begins</p> <p>31 Meader Fred M ©</p> <p>37 Yurchus Albert</p> <p>39 Vacant</p>	<p>ACADIA AVENUE fr 96 Basswood av east to a dead end, precinct 2</p> <p>5 Wright Lillian R Mrs</p> <p>23 Yeo Frank H ©</p> <p>28 Blake Herbert L</p> <p>29 LePelley Wm C</p> <p>50 Crossman Jas O ©</p> <p>ADAMS AVENUE (PH) fr 393 Central west to 106 Vine, precincts 4-8</p>
---	--

Saugus 1946-47 "Directory of Householders"

ARLINGTON DIRECTORY. 155

OAKLAND AVENUE, A. II.
From Appleton to Claremont Avenue.

<p>4 Mr. & Mrs. Luther F. Fleming</p> <p>18 Nathaniel Swett</p> <p>Miss Susan Hartley Swett</p> <p>Miss Sophie Swett</p> <p>22 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Ober</p> <p>132 Mr. & Mrs. George M. Bacon</p> <p>178 Mrs. Leander Peirce</p>	<p>5 Mr. & Mrs. Stevens Lawrence</p> <p>21 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund W. Byram</p> <p>23 Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Bartlett</p> <p>77 Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Burns</p> <p>83 Mr. & Mrs. Nixon Waterman</p>
---	---

ORCHARD PLACE.
From 1020 Massachusetts Avenue.

24 Mr. & Mrs. John Dreselly

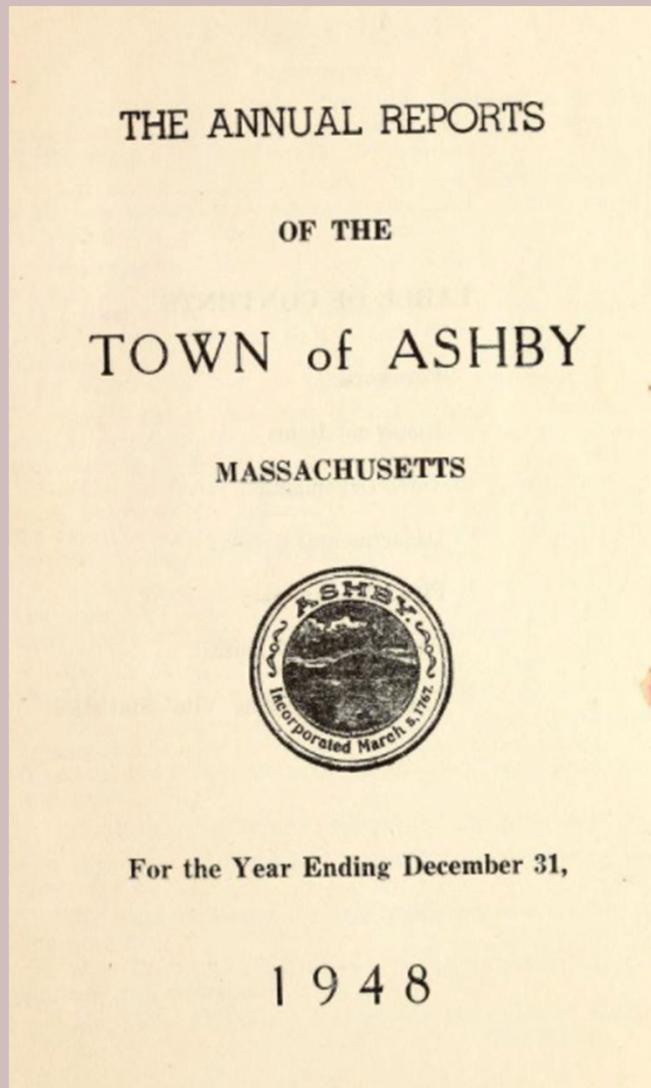
PALMER STREET.
From 361 Massachusetts Avenue to Broadway.

<p>12 Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Bowen</p> <p>14 Mrs. Elizabeth R. Filfield</p> <p>Wallace A. Filfield</p> <p>16 Mrs. Hamlin Harding</p> <p>Theodore Harding</p> <p>18 Mr. & Mrs. William A. McCabe</p>	<p>7 Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. O'Hara</p> <p>9 Mrs. Granville Peirce</p> <p>13 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur A. Lawson</p> <p>17 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Rhoades</p>
---	--

Arlington 1904-5 "Street Guide"

Massachusetts City & Town Annual Reports

- Contain statistics & data for a one-year period
- Published by Massachusetts law by the town or city government
- Small town directories often list births, marriages, & deaths
- Large collection of directories at the Massachusetts State Library
- Check your Local Library's Local History Room



DEATHS

RECORDED IN THE TOWN OF ASHBY FOR
THE YEAR 1948

DATE	NAME	BIRTHPLACE	AGE		
			Yrs.	Mos.	Dys
January:					
11	Jacob Waaramaa	Finland	70	5	29
February:					
19	Jesse L. Cutting	Ashby	75	0	23
23	Charles V. White	Marlboro, N. H.	52	6	19
23	Lauri K. Inki	Finland	51	9	6
March:					
3	James C. Allen	Ashby	75	10	4
22	Fannie Louise Joyce Jenkins	Ashby	84	11	23
April:					
4	Nellie M. Aldrich	New Ipswich, N. H.	86	1	15
8	Henry B. Houghton	Stow	86	8	20
27	Willis E. Wright	Ashby	69	11	24
29	Arthur G. Gustafson	Fitchburg	49	7	9
June:					
23	Fernando A. Farnsworth	Brookline, N. H.	89	8	8
27	William Rajala	Fitchburg	47	6	2
July:					
31	Toivo Lybeck	Maynard	40		
August:					
1	Paul Koivula, Mason, N.H.	Mason, N. H.	23	1	26
23	John M. Enright	Troy, N. H.	54	3	29
23	Hilma Lydia (Helenius) Salminen	Finland	65	7	9
27	Minnie (Helein) Jackson	Finland	73	7	3
September:					
18	Mary Louise Kincaid	Ashby	36	2	19
18	Rita Joan Kincaid	Fitchburg	1	0	19
20	Martha W. Foster	Springfield	62	0	15
21	Silja E. (Sallila) Somppi	Finland	54	1	29
25	Alexis Arapoff	Russia	43	9	19
29	Baby Foresman	Fitchburg	—	—	—
October:					
23	Harold A. White	Kennedy, N. Y.	63	0	18
November:					
15	Elizabeth J. Leighton	Nova Scotia	79	5	29

(This listing serves as a portion of the Town Clerk's Report)

Many towns have made historic reports available on the Internet Archive. (www.archive.org)

Annual Reports give insight into functioning of the city or town your ancestors lived in:

- Budget Information
- Details on the local schools
- Cemetery Reports
- Vital Statistics & Trends
- Road & Public Works
- Other town related data

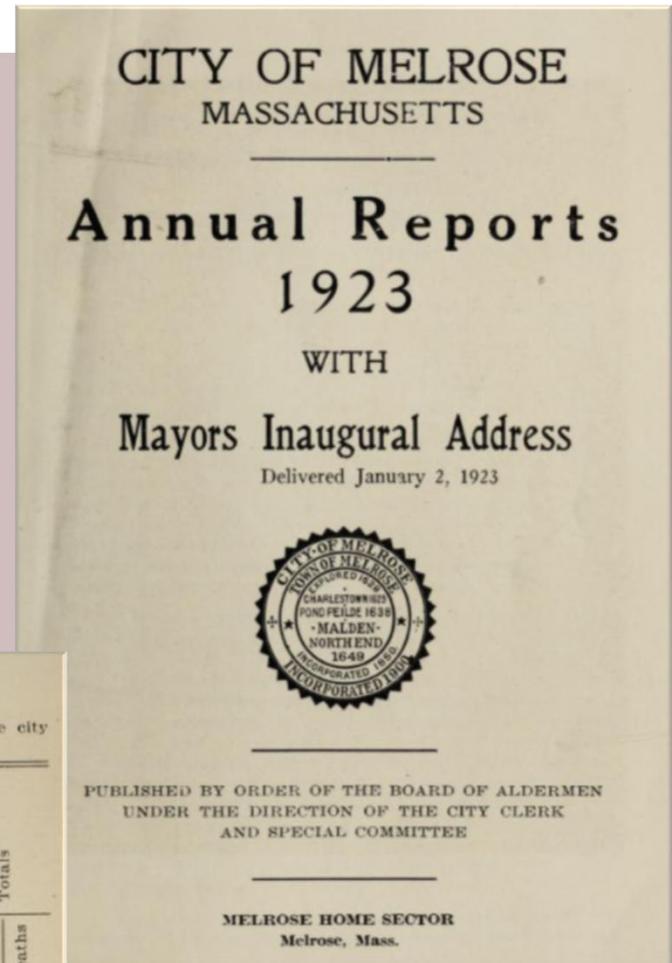


Table 1
CASES AND DEATHS OF DISEASES DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, BY MONTHS

This table includes all cases (with their deaths) irrespective of whether cases were transported into the city from elsewhere, or were contracted outside of the city; also all deaths of Melrose cases dying in hospitals out of town.

Months	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever		Measles		Whooping Cough		Smallpox		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Poliomyelitis		Tuberculosis				Totals						
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths					
																							Pulmonary and Millary	Meningeal	Other Forms		
January	12	..	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..	
February	1	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..
March	1	1	9	..	..	..	12	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	1
April	..	..	11	..	..	..	25	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	1
May	..	..	11	..	1	..	47	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	77	..
June	..	..	4	1	1	..	40	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	1
July	1	..	3	..	..	..	25	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	1
August	..	..	3	..	..	..	4	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	1
September	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1
October	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
November	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..
December	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..
Totals	14	1	90	1	3	0	156	0	67	1	0	0	0	0	24	3	357	6

Summary



- Pay attention to historical context
- Look beyond vital records
- Ask: Who created the record?
- Look offline
- Ask for help



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

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