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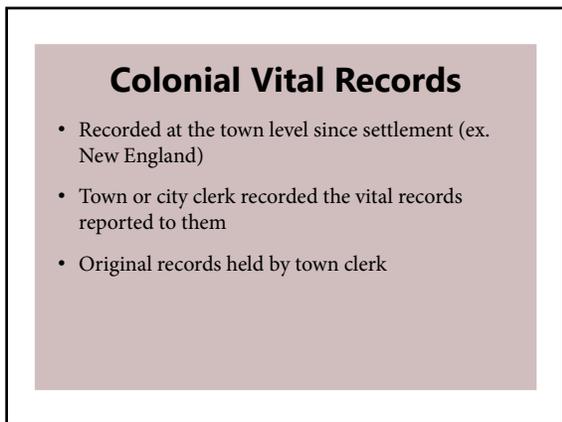
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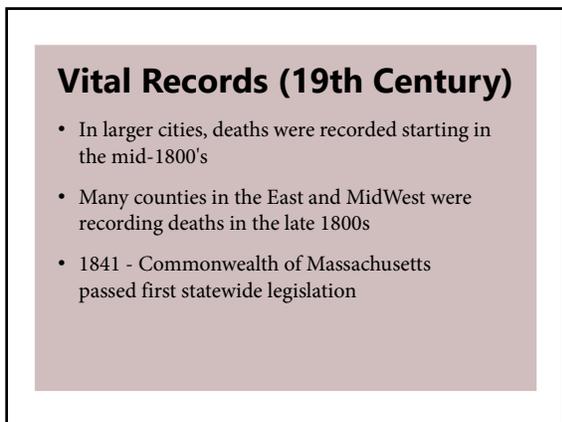
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Vital Records (20th Century)

- Most states start requiring vital records to be recorded in the early 1900's
- Compliance may occur as long as 20 years after the law was passed in the state
 - Expect to find gaps

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Death Record Formats

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Family Group Records

- Originated in New England
- Deaths were appended to the list of births in town vital records
- When families were moving from one town to another, these records often came from Bible records.
- These records are very helpful in understanding the entire family unit (parents and siblings)

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Death Registers

- Recorded the deaths within a city or town over the year
- Contain the following:
 - Name of deceased
 - Date of death
 - Age
 - Place of death
 - Cause of death
 - Sex
 - Place of birth
 - Parents' names

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AmericanAncestors.org

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DATE OF DEATH	NAME AND RESIDENCE OF THE DECEASED	AGE	SEX	PLACE OF BIRTH	CAUSE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH	NAME OF CLERGYMAN
1	Jan'y 19 th Mary J. Little	25	Female	Warrington	Heart	Warrington	Rev. J. P. ...
2	" 27 th Mary J. Stone	17	Female	Warrington	Heart	Warrington	Rev. J. P. ...
3	May 15 th Alfred P. Stone	23	Male	Warrington	Heart	Warrington	Rev. J. P. ...
4	June 28 th ...	16	Female	Warrington	Heart	Warrington	Rev. J. P. ...
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Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910, Vol. 113 (Amended), AmericanAncestors.org

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Death Certificates

- A legal document that confirms someone has died
- Created during 20th century
- Can be filed in two places:
 - Place where person died
 - State where person is buried

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What's on a Death Certificate?

Name of deceased person	Sex	Race	Age
Date of death	Place of death	Date of birth (sometimes estimated)	Place of birth
Residence of deceased	Occupation	Parents' names and birthplace	Cause of death
Informant	Funeral home/undertaker	Place of interment	Veteran Status

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Standardized Forms

- Prior to 1989, each state had their own version of a death certificate
- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) issued a standard death certificate form in 1989
- It was revised again in 2003

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The Informant

- The person who gives information about the person that died
- This person may or may not be present at their death
- Supplied answers about the deceased (ex. age, residence, birthplace, parents' names, etc.)
- The informant's street address or city may be noted

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Hospitals/Institutions

- When someone is admitted to a hospital or other institution, information is often collected upfront
- The informant may be a staff member at one of these facilities
- The information on the death record may be self-reported by the deceased before they passed

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Parents' Names/Birthplaces

- Not always reported by informant
- Birthplace may give a big clue for immigrant origins/migration path
- Consider if the informant knew the deceased long enough to know their parents
 - Siblings are more reliable informants than children and spouses

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Veteran Status

- 20th century certificates may note if the deceased was a military veteran.
- If so, consider the date of birth of the deceased and what possible military conflicts they may have participated in.
- Seek out military records on sites like Fold3.com.

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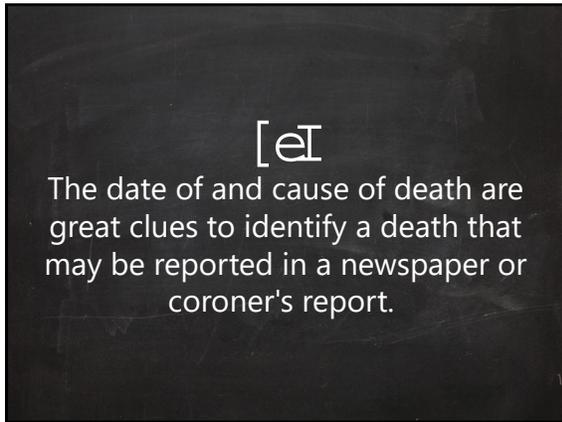
[eI
The informant is often
a close relative or
friend of the deceased

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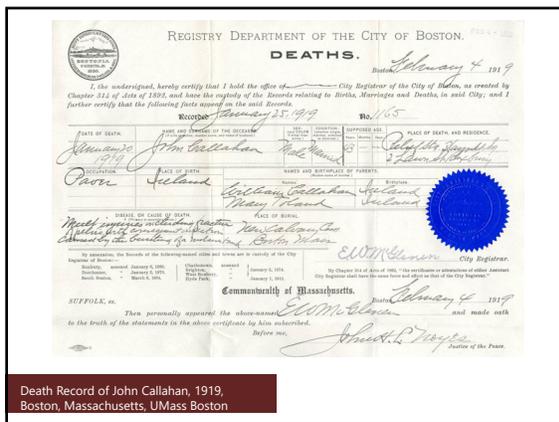
Cause Of Death

- Important for public health statistics and reporting
- Determined by the attending physician and sometimes a coroner (if applicable)
- May include outdated terminology
 - Medical glossaries can be helpful resources

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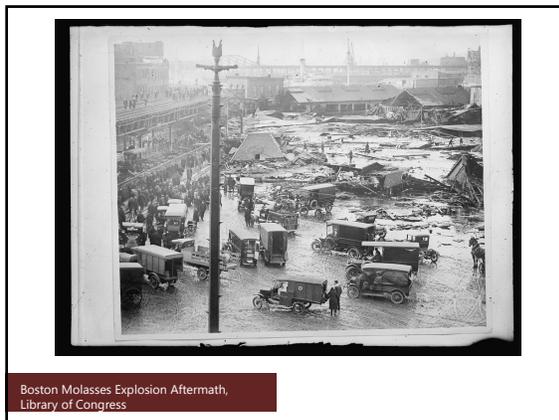


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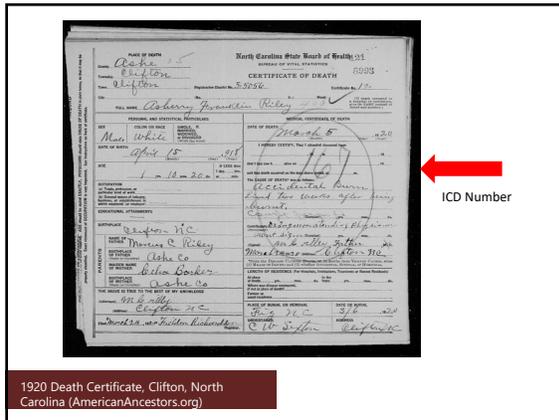
Death Record of John Callahan, 1919, Boston, Massachusetts, UMass Boston

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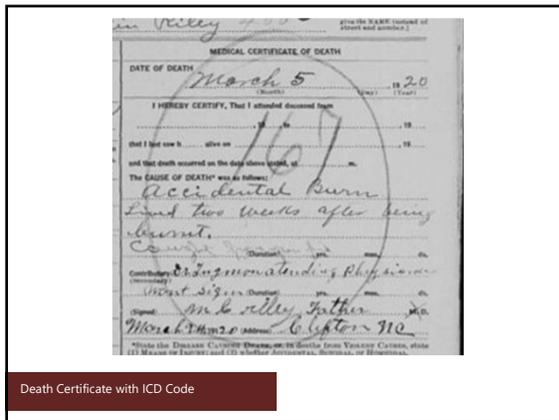
Boston Molasses Explosion Aftermath, Library of Congress

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1920 Death Certificate, Clifton, North Carolina (AmericanAncestors.org)

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Death Certificate with ICD Code

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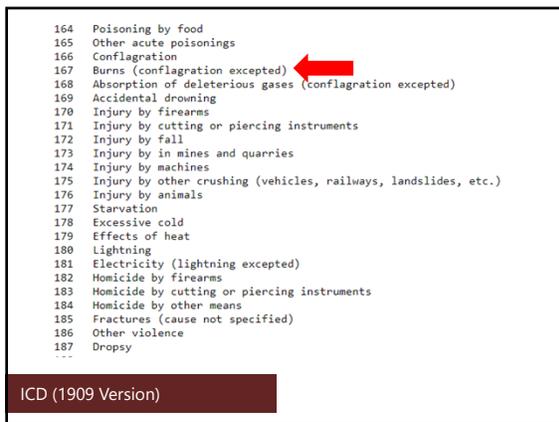
ICD

- ICD = International Classification of Diseases
- First published in 1893
- Codes can help you determine cause of death when it's illegible
- Multiple versions have been produced. Refer to the one that was in place at the time of death.

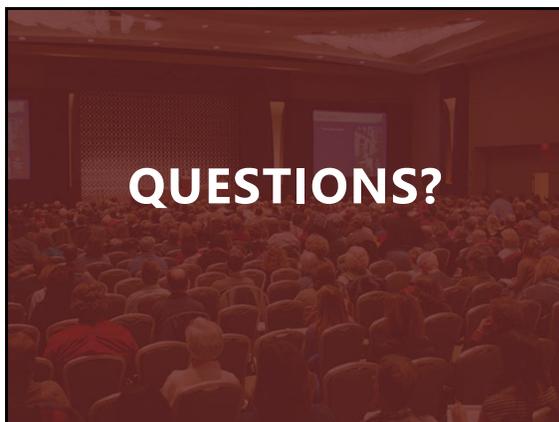
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Privacy Restrictions

- Vary from state to state
- Generally, death records over 50 years old are usually available to the public and may be digitized.
- Different repositories:
 - State vital statistics office
 - County/town clerk's office
 - State Archives
 - National Archives and State Department
 - U.S. citizens who died overseas

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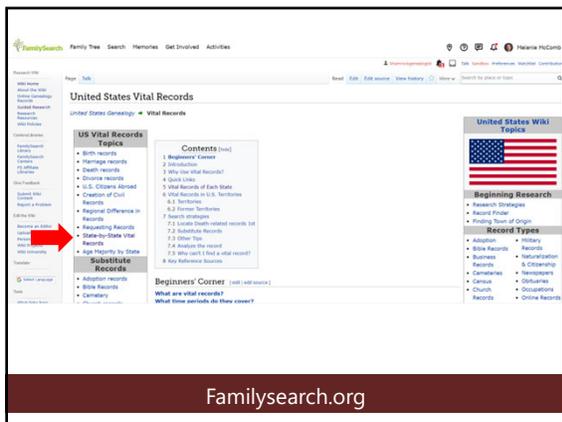
State Indexes

- Each state has a vital record index for births, deaths, and marriages.
- Many indexes available online:
 - American Ancestors
 - FamilySearch Wiki
 - FamilySearch Catalogue
 - Ancestry.com
 - State Archive Web Sites
 - State/County Genealogical Society Web Sites
- Information on index:
 - Name of deceased
 - Year of death (sometimes date)
 - County/town of death

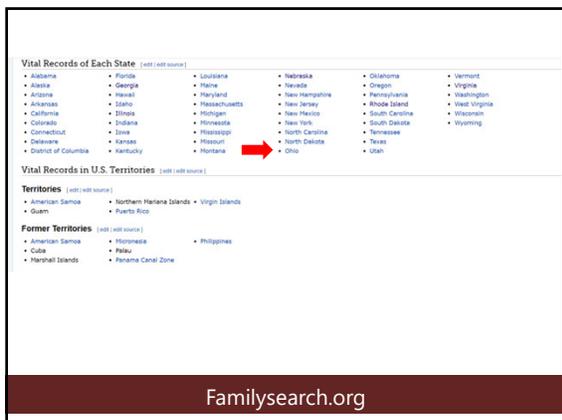
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Locating and Using the State Death Record Indexes on FamilySearch

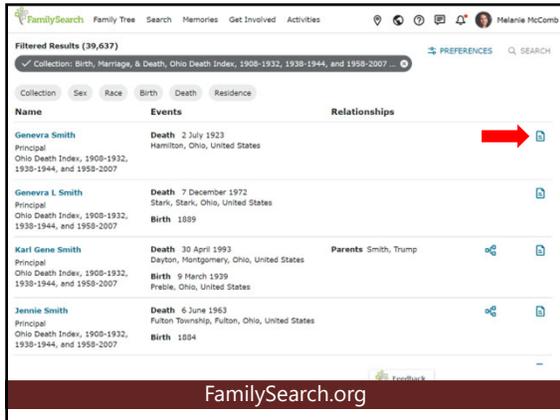
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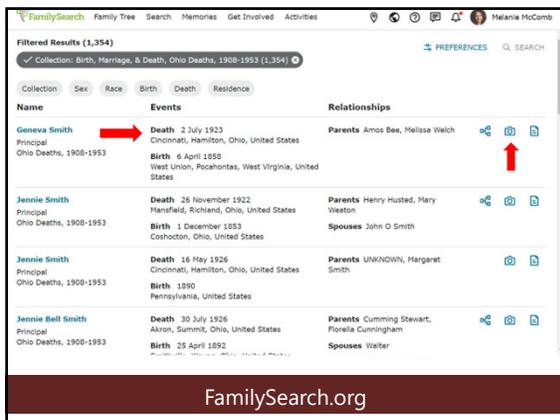
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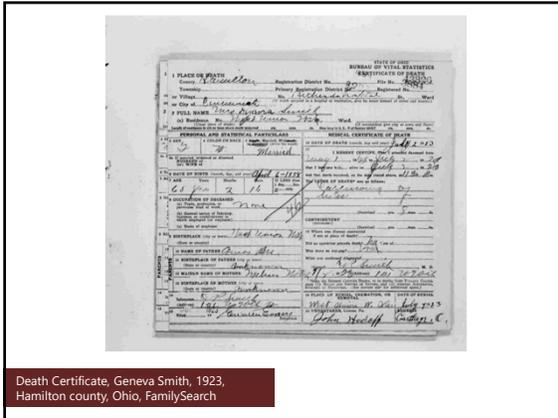
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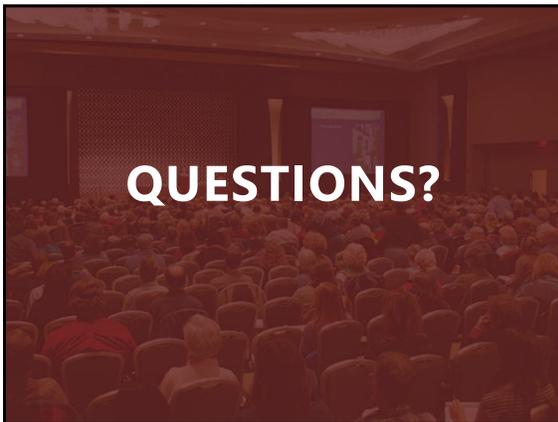
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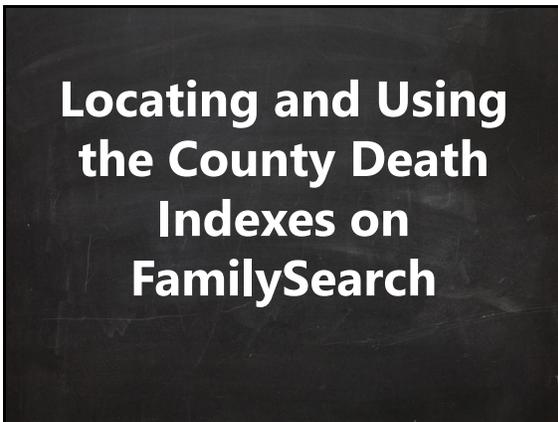
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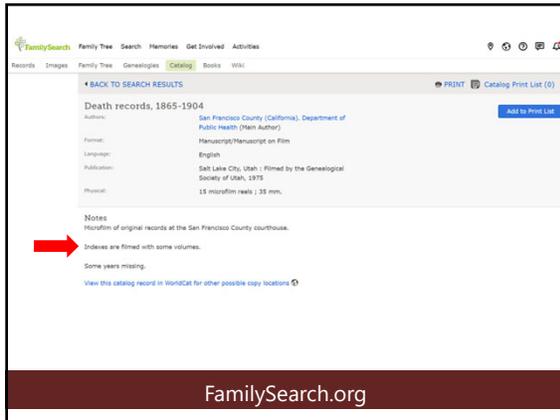
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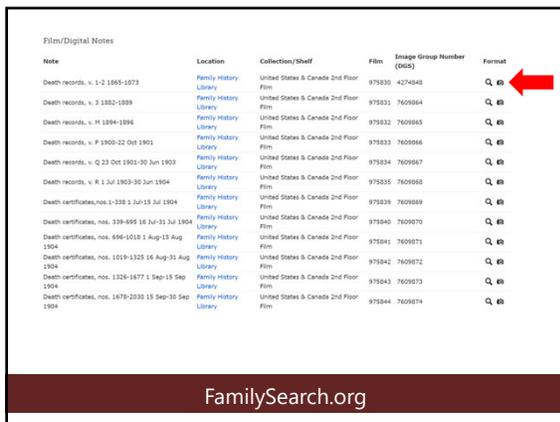
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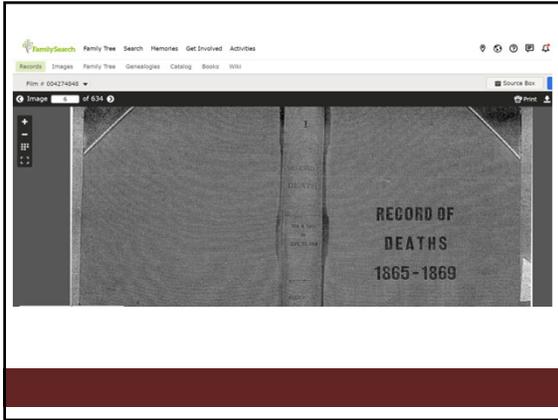
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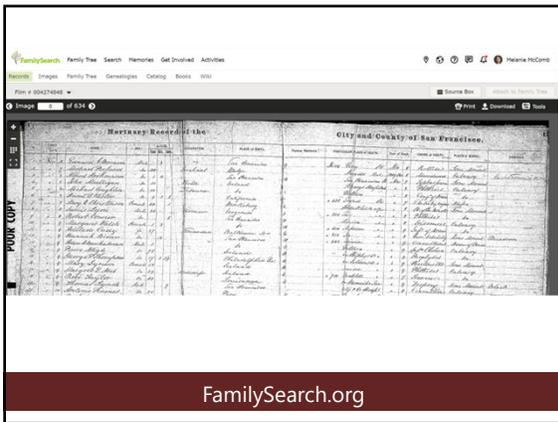
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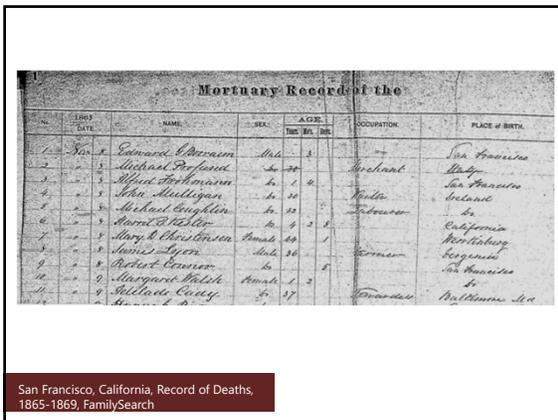
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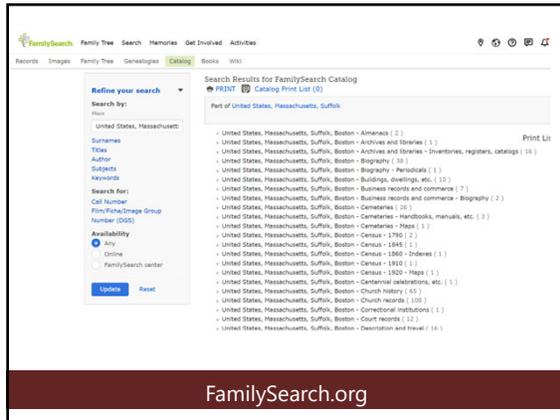
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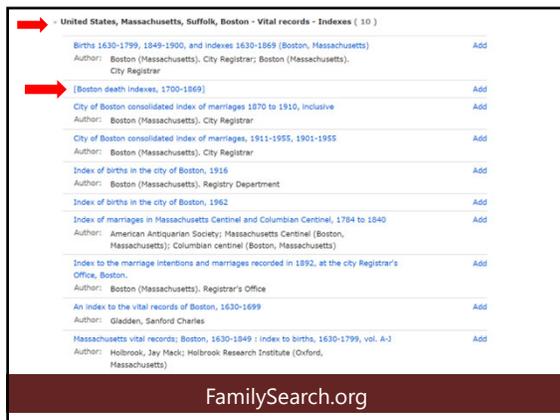
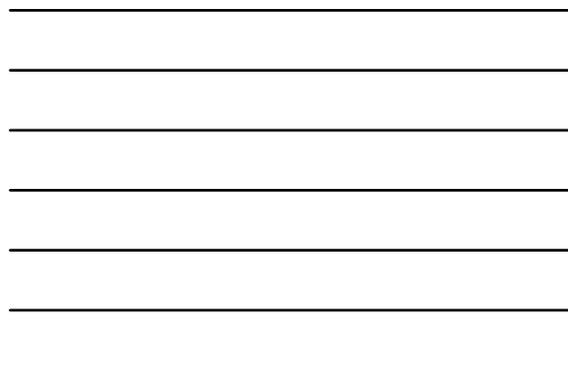
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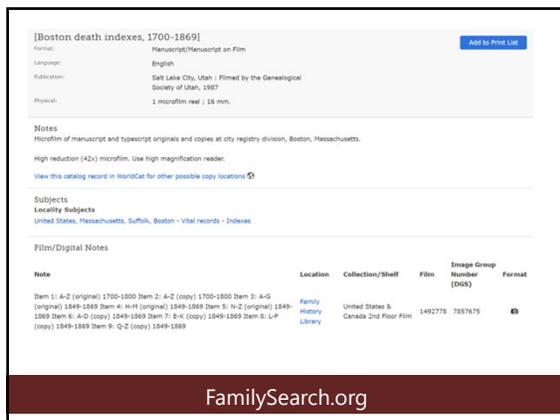
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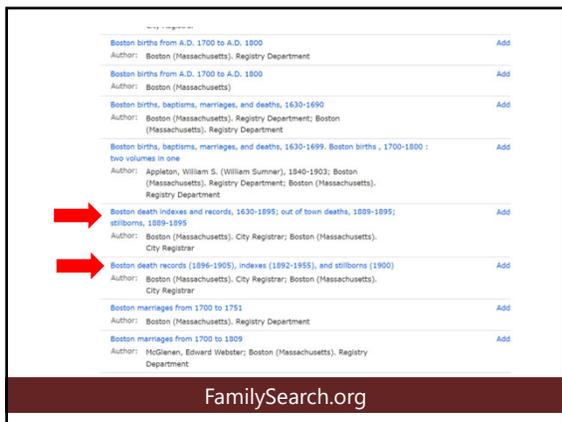


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 Check other
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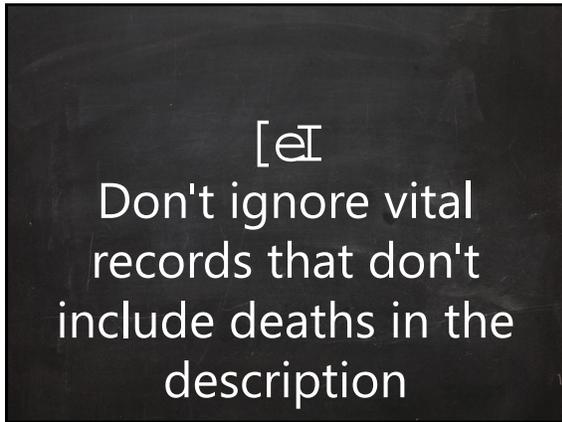
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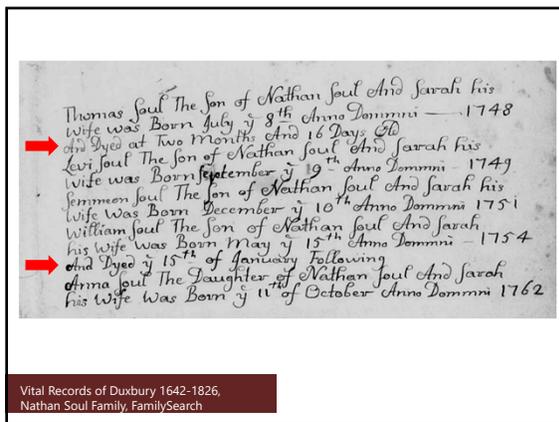
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 There may be multiple death
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 FamilySearch catalogue.

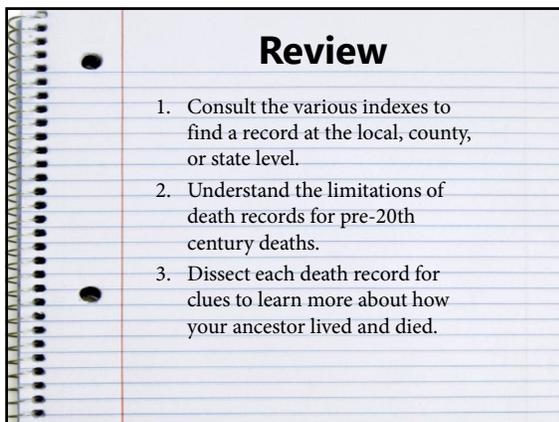
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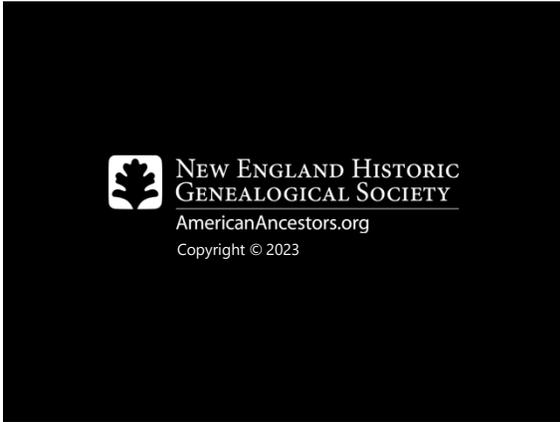
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