

Basics of Early New England Research

*Class 3: Working in and
Understanding Original Records*

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Vital and Church Records
 - Probate Records
 - Land Records
 - Town Records

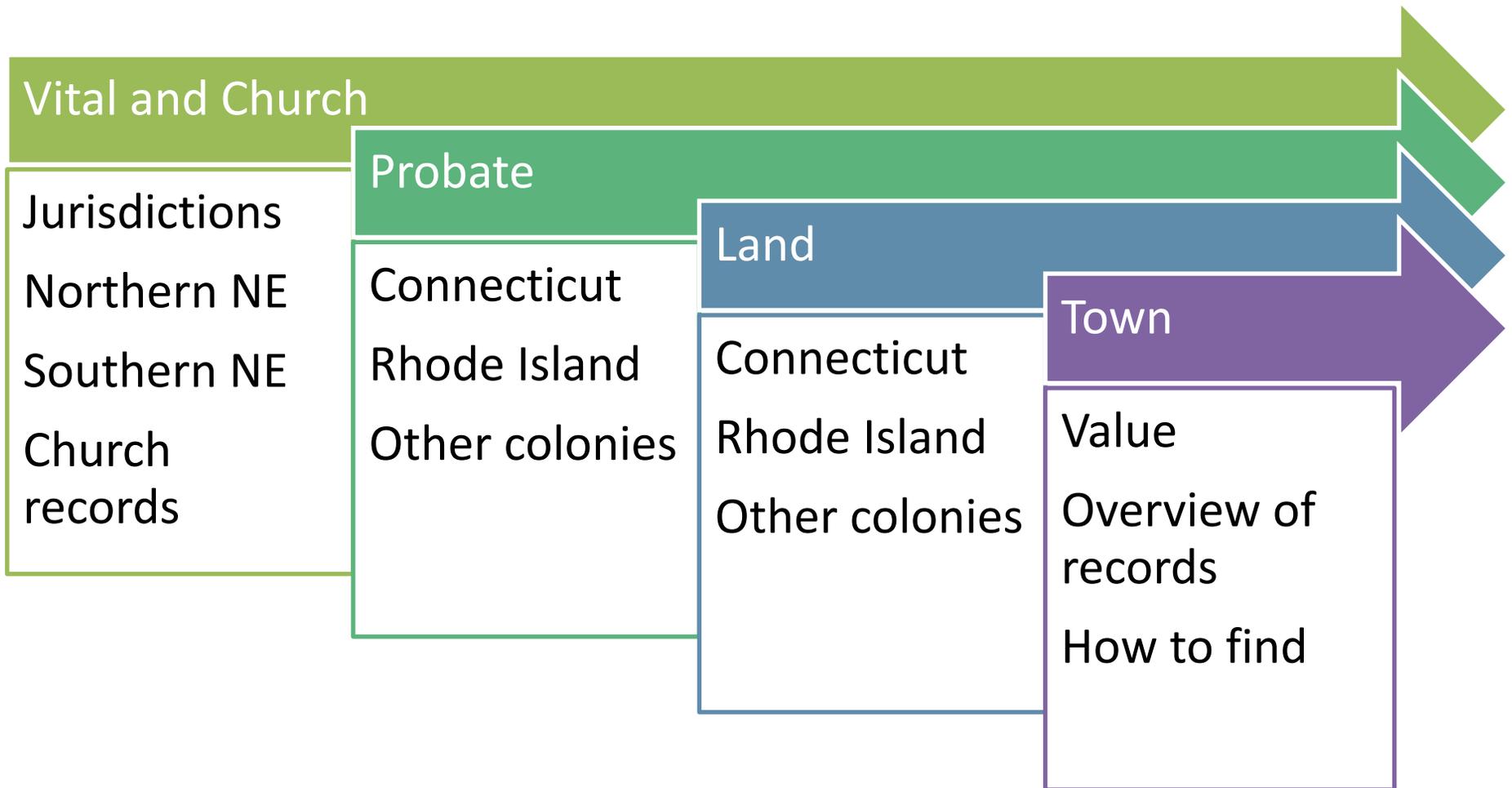
Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist

Session Roadmap



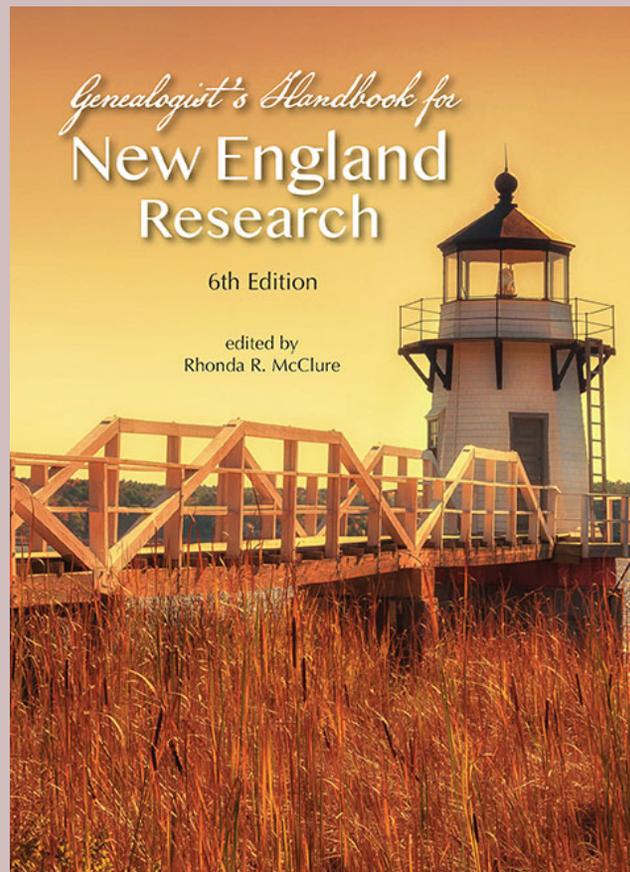
Tip

Before Searching for
Records, Know Your
Jurisdictions

Jurisdictions for Colonial Records

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town	County	County
Massachusetts	Town	County	County
New Hampshire	Town	County	County
Rhode Island	Town	Town	Town
Vermont	Town	It's complicated	It's complicated

***Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* 6th edition**



 NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Vital Records

Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont Vitals

- Pre-printed cards
- Information abstracted from original handwritten town books

Child's Name *Nathaniel Batchelder*
Date of Birth *May 20th 1720*
Place of Birth
Sex *Male* Color
Living or Stillborn
No. of Child, 1st, 2d, etc.
Father's Name *Thomas Batchelder*
" Birthplace
" Color Age
" Residence
" Occupation
Mother's Maiden Name *Sarah*
" Birthplace
" Color Age
" Occupation

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,
I hereby certify that the above birth record is a correct transcript as
required by Chap. 21, Session Laws, 1905.
Horace M. Lane
Clerk of *Hampton, N. H.*
Date *April 6th 1906.*

BIRTH—MALE
Name of Child *Thomas Chandler*
Sex *Male* No. of Child of Mother
Date of Birth *Sept* Month *23rd* Day *1740*
Maiden Name of Mother *Elizabeth Elist*
Father's Birthplace
Mother's Residence
Full Name of Father *Thomas Chandler*
Father's Birthplace
Father's Occupation
Condition of Child as to Live or Still Birth Live Still
If Still Birth the Cause
Name of Informant
Chater Town Clerk

Massachusetts Vital Records

- Massachusetts has the most complete set in the nation
- Kept by towns beginning in 1620s
- Generally well-kept, but not always complete
- Vital Records up to 1850 published for over 200 towns, the majority in eastern Massachusetts
- For the western part of the state, will need to consult special collections such as the Corbin or Shepard Collections



Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850

CAMBRIDGE BIRTHS.

501

MORSE, James, s. of Cyrus and Mary B., Apr. 6, 1820.
 Joanna Page [—], w. of John Crafts, June 19, 1824.
 G.R.3.
 Joey Dunkley [—], w. of Henry Alfonso, May 2, 1836.
 G.R.3.
 John, s. of William, bp. Dec. 16, 1733. C.R.1.
 John, s. of John and Tabitha, Dec. 25, 1734.
 John, s. of Josiah, bp. Apr. 18, 1773. C.R.1.
 John Crafts, Apr. 4, 1818. G.R.3.
 John Quincy Adams, s. of Daniel and —, —, 1824.
 John Torrey, Mar. 27, 1813. G.R.3.
 Josephine Sweetser [—], w. of William H., Oct. 14, 1831.
 G.R.3.
 Josiah, s. of William and Anna, May 4, 1727.
 Josiah, s. of Josiah, bp. Apr. 18, 1773. C.R.1.
 Julia A., d. of Ichabod, b. in Hinsdale, and Rachel, b. in Lancaster, in Boston, Nov. 23, 1846.
 G.R.3.
~~John, s. of William, bp. Dec. 16, 1733. C.R.1.~~
~~John, s. of John and Tabitha, Dec. 25, 1734.~~
~~John, s. of Josiah, bp. Apr. 18, 1773. C.R.1.~~
 John Crafts, Apr. 4, 1818. G.R.3.
 John Quincy Adams, s. of Daniel and —, —, 1824.
 John Torrey, Mar. 27, 1813. G.R.3.
 Josephine Sweetser [—], w. of William H., Oct. 14, 1831.
 G.R.3.
 Josiah, s. of William and Anna, May 4, 1727.
 Josiah, s. of Josiah, bp. Apr. 18, 1773. C.R.1.
 Julia A., d. of Ichabod, b. in Hinsdale, and Rachel, b. in Lancaster, in Boston, Nov. 23, 1846.
 Justin, s. of Josiah and Hannah, bp. Sept. 22, 1793. C.R.1.
 Mason W., Nov. 17, 1813. G.R.3.
 Matilda Ann, d. of Ichabod and Rachel, Feb. 26, 1843.
 Matilda S., d. of Ichabod and Rachel, Mar. 18, 1838.
 Mehitabell, d. of Will[ia]m and Ann, Sept. 14, 1738.
 Mercy, d. of John, bp. Jan. 7, 1732-3. C.R.1.
 Nathan, July 24, 1824. G.R.3.
 Nathaniel, s. of John, bp. July 7, 1745. C.R.1.
 Nathaniel, s. of John, bp. Dec. 24, 1752. C.R.1.
 Persis, d. of John, bp. Aug. 14, 1757. C.R.1.
 Rachel B., d. of Ichabod and Rachel, Mar. 13, 1833.
 Rebeckah, d. of William and Anna, July 5, 1722.

ABBREVIATIONS.

a. — age; aged
abt. — about
b. — born
bp. — baptized
bur. — buried
ch. — child
 C.R.1. — church record, First Congregational, Unitarian
 C.R.2. — church record, Christ Church, Episcopal
 C.R.3. — church record, First Baptist Society, Cambridgeport
 C.R.4. — church record, First Church in Cambridge, or Shepard
 Congregational Society
 C.R.5. — church record, Harvard Street Methodist
 C.R.6. — church record, Old Cambridge Baptist Society
 C.R.7. — church record, St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 C.R.8. — church record, Trinity Methodist Church, East Cambridge
 C.R.9. — church record, Cambridgeport Parish, now united with
 Third Congregational
 C.R.10. — church record, Third Congregational, Unitarian
 C.R.11. — church record, Evangelical Congregational Church,
 East Cambridge, now extinct; records in possession of
 Congregational Library, Boston
 C.R.12. — church record, Second Baptist Church, East Cambridge,
 now extinct; records in possession of City of Cambridge
d. — daughter; died; day
Dea. — deacon
dec. — deceased
dup. — duplicate entry
 G.R.1. — grave record, cemetery at Harvard Square

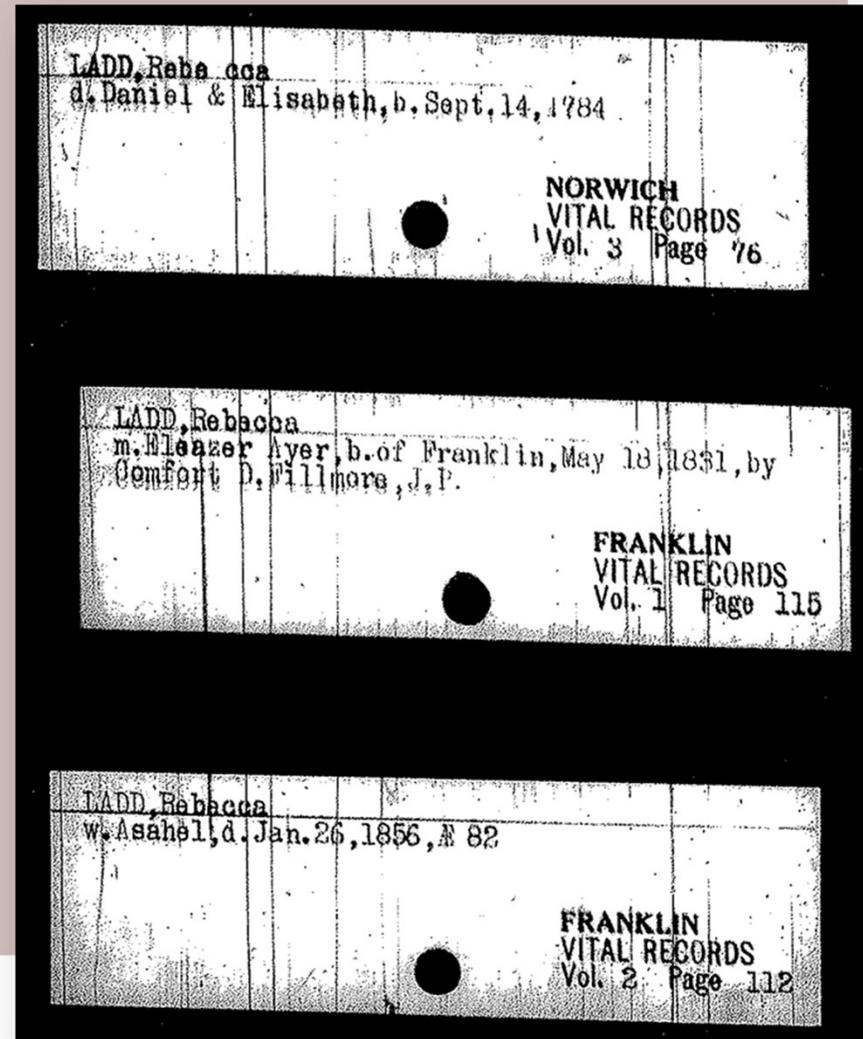
Vital Records – Rhode Island

- Rhode Island – James Arnold
- Vital Records of Rhode Island, 1636-1850, First Series: Births, Marriages and Deaths (see handout)

Vol 1: Kent County	Vol 8: Episcopal and Congregational	Vol 15: Providence Gazette, marriages United States Chronicle, deaths
Vol 2: Providence County (Providence, Cranston, Johnston, North Providence, Glocester, Burrillville)	Vol 9: Seekonk, Pawtucket and Newman Congregational Church	Vol 16: United States Chronicle marriages; American Journal, Impartial Observer, Providence Journal, marriages and deaths; Providence Semiweekly Journal, marriages
Vol 3: Providence County (Glocester, Burrillville, Scituate, Foster, Cumberland, Smithfield)	Vol 10: Town and Church Records	Vol 17: Providence Phenix, Providence Patriot, Columbian Phenix, marriages A-R
Vol 4: Newport County	Vol 11: Church Records	Vol 18: Providence Phenix, Providence Patriot, Columbian Phenix, marriages S-Z, deaths A-M
Vol 5: Washington County	Vol 12: Revolutionary rolls and newspapers, including Providence Journal, deaths A-R	Vol 19: Providence Phenix, Providence Patriot, Columbian Phenix, deaths N-Z; Rhode Island American, marriages A-G
Vol 6: Bristol County	Vol 13: Deaths, Providence Journal and Providence Gazette	Vol 20: Rhode Island American, marriages H-Z, deaths A-B
Vol 7: Friends and ministers	Vol 14: Providence Gazette, deaths and marriages	Vol 21: Rhode Island American. Deaths, C to S

Vital Records - Connecticut

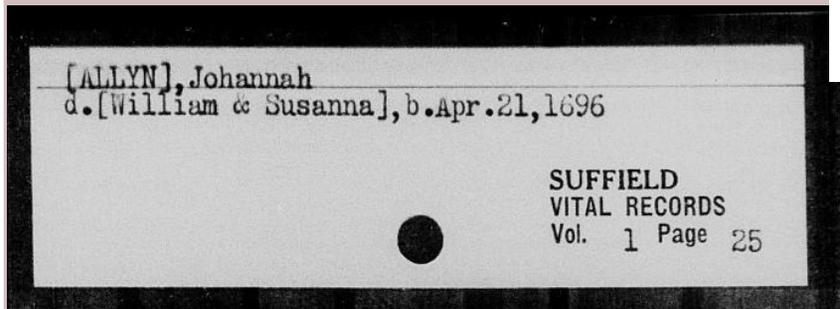
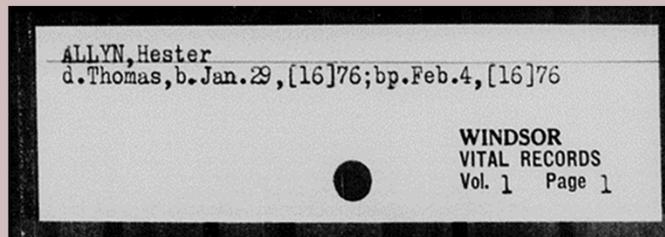
- Barbour Collection to 1850
 - Lucius Barnes Barbour, State Examiner of Public Records from 1911-1934
- Charles R. Hale Collection, Vital Records, 1640-1955



Barbour Collection

Slip Index (FS)

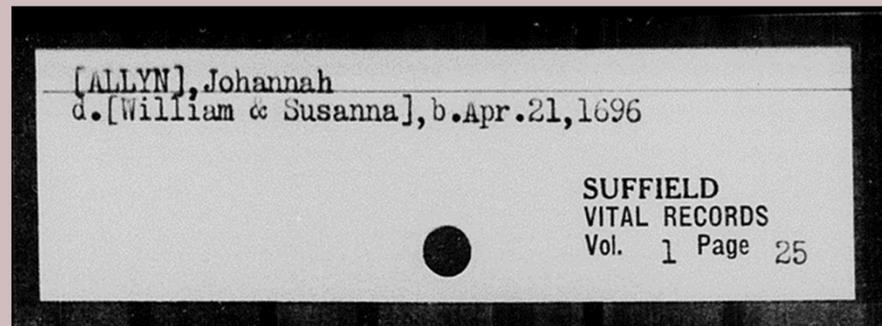
Town Page Windsor (AA)



[7]

Name	Vol.	Page
Allyn, Eunice, d. Thomas & Sarah, b. Apr. 18, 1768	2	584
Eunice s. of Windsor, s. Ralph Wells, of Farmington, Oct. 28, 1823, by John Bartlett	2	212
Eunice Mary Ann, s. Torrio Piper, b. of Windsor, Mar. 28, 1824, by Rev. Augustus Bolles, of Wintonbury	2	192
Fidelis, s. Ira Clark, Oct. 18, 1840, by S. D. Jewett	2	476
George, s. Theophilus & Tryphena, b. July 18, 1736	2	287
Hannah, s. Caleb Both, Jr., b. of Windsor, Jan. 30, 1746/7	2	132
Harriet, s. Joseph Atherton, of Hartford, Dec. 29, 1833, by Henry A. Howland	2	127
Haty, d. Solomon & Abiah, b. Aug. 3, 1764	2	584
Henry, s. Mathew, b. Dec. 16, 1699	2	2
Henry, Lieut., s. Ann Loomis, b. of Windsor, Feb. 22, 1727/8	2	123
Henry, s. Lieut. Henry & Ann, b. Feb. 4, 1728/9	2	281
Henry, Maj., d. June 23, 1753	2	215
Henry, d. May 8, 1804	2	523
Hester, d. Thomas, b. Jan. 29, [16]76; bp. Feb. 4, [16]76	1	584
Jane, d. Thomas & Abigail, b. July 22, [16]76	1	1
Jane, d. Thomas, b. July 22, 1670	1	1
Jane, s. Henry Solcott, Jr., b. of Windsor, Sep. 1, 1696	1	68
Jane, s. Osiiah Loomis, b. of Windsor, Nov. 1, 1739	1	172
Jerusha, d. Felitiah, b. Mar. 3, 1723/4	1	3
Jerusha, s. John Falser, Sr., b. of Windsor, Dec. 3, 1748/9	1	188
Joanna, d. Thomas & Joanna, b. Nov. 29, 1703	1	4
Joanna, wid., s. Samuel Baccraft, b. c. 23, 1709/10	1	128
Henry, Maj., d. June 23, 1753	2	215
Henry, d. May 8, 1804	2	523
Hester, d. Thomas, b. Jan. 29, [16]76; bp. Feb. 4, [16]76	1	1
JAMES, s. THOMAS & SARAH, b. MAR. 25, 1766	2	584
John, s. Thomas, b. June 24, 1660	Col. 1	55
John, s. Thomas, b. June 24, 1665; bp. Feb. 4, 1666	1	1
John, of Windsor, s. Bridget South, of Hatfield, May 8, 1694	1	68
John, s. Alexander, b. July 25, 1697	1	2
John, s. Benjamin, secd., b. July 4, 1713	1	2
John, s. Hannah Chapman, b. of Windsor, Feb. 20, 1723/4	1	123
John, s. Josiah & Sarah, b. Nov. 23, 1729	1	281
John, s. Benjamin & Abigail, b. May 26, 1740	1	288
John, Jr., s. Elizabeth Mather, b. of Windsor, May 2, 1751	1	124
John, s. John, Jr., & Elizabeth, b. Oct. 10, 1751	1	284
John Burham, s. John, 2nd & Ruth, b. Mar. 1, 1762	1	287
Jonah, s. Thomas & Elizabeth, b. Mar. 5, 1735/4	1	282
Jonah, d. Nov. 3, 1739	1	216
Jonathan, s. Mathew & Dorcas, b. Dec. 21, 1742	1	285
Jonathan, s. Jonathan & Eunice, b. Feb. 20, 1772	1	526
Joseph, s. Thomas & Elizabeth, b. June 3, 1737	1	282
Joseph, Jr., s. Lois Burham, b. of Windsor, Jan. 17, 1755	1	124
Joseph, s. Joseph, Jr. & Lois, b. Aug. 22, 1768	1	285
Josiah, s. Mathew, b. Mar. 3, 1695/8	1	2
Josiah, s. Josiah & Sarah, b. Nov. 3, 1727	1	281
Josiah, Jr., s. Ann Allyn, b. of Windsor, Dec. 3, 1751	1	124
Josiah, d. Feb. 1, 1758	1	122
Josiah, s. Sarah Elsworth, b. of Windsor, Feb. 9, 1761	1	122
Josiah, Lieut., d. Jan. 17, 1794	1	216
Laura, of Windsor, s. Addison Moran, of Suffield, July 31, 1820, by James Loomis, J. F.	2	181
Louisa, of Hartford, s. Erastus Hosking, of Bennington, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1833, by Henry A. Howland	2	164
Love, d. Samuel & Elizabeth, d. Sept. 7, 1757	2	215

Suffield Records – FamilySearch.org



(25) William Allyn
William Allyn & Johanna Dibble were Joynd in Marriage
December 4th 1692. William their Son born July 28th 1694.
Johanna his Daughter born April 21st 1696 Sarah his daughter
born April 28th 1699. Samuel his Son born Octo: 9th 1702.
Ebenzer his Son born June 4th 1704. His son John born
January 9th 1706. Their daughter Hephzibah born Octo:
ye 14th 1708 And Deceased April ye 15th 1711. Him self Deceased
November ye 15th 1711. Their son Ephraim born after his
fathers Death April ye 4th 1712

	Vol.	Page
Goodrich, James, s. Ephraim & Hannah, b. Jan. 21, 1717/18	1	45
Jared, s. John & Abigail, b. Mar. 15, 1769	1	112
Jehiel, twin with Jemima, s. William & Rachel, b. Sept. 16, 1741	1	69
Jehiel, s. William, m. Prudence Miller, d. John, Mar. 22, 1764	2	102
Jehiel, s. Jehiel & Prudence, b. July 19, 1772	2	102
Jemima, twin with Jehiel, d. William & Rachel, b. Sept. 16, 1741	1	69
Jemima, w. Jeremiah, d. Feb. 7, 1819	2	172
Jeremiah, s. Col. David, m. Ruth Kimberly, d. Thomas, July 6, 1732	1	84
Jeremiah, s. Jeremiah, of Chatham, m. Jemima Tryon, d. Elizur, Nov. 22, 1801	2	127
Jeremiah, s. Jeremiah, of Chatham, m. Jemima Tryon, d. Elizur & Lucy, Nov. 22, 1801	2	172
Jeremiah, m. Grace Brooks, May 13, 1820	2	172
Jeremiah, m. Jemima Tryon, d. Elizur & Lucy, [	2	78
Jerusha, d. Elisha, m. George Stevens, s. Benjamin, Feb. 6, 1783]	2	91
John, s. David & Sarah, b. June 16, 1730	1	69
John, m. Prudence [June 7, 1752	1	112
John, s. John & Prudence, b. July 3, 1752	1	112
John, s. Ens. David, m. Abigail Deming, d. Daniel, of Weathersfield, Oct. 8, 1761	1	112
John, m. Adeline L. Treat, b. of Glastonbury, Dec. 9, 1835, by Rev. Jacob Allen	3	134
Jonathan, s. Jehiel & Prudence, b. June 20, 1774	2	102
Joseph E., of Chatham, m. Nancy Welles, of Glastonbury, May 14, 1834, by Rev. Samuel H. Riddell	3	127
Catura, d. David & Prudence, b. Apr. 3, 1755 (Keturah)	1	113
Keturah, d. David, m. Elijah House, s. Benoni, Jan. 20, 1780	2	95
[of Chatham, m. Betsey Stevens, of Glastonbury, Aug. 15,	-	-

Barbour Collection – Town of Glastonbury

Charles R. Hale Collection

Connecticut, Deaths and Burials Index

Name:	Sarah Latimer
Birth Date:	abt 1765
Age at Death:	88
Death Date:	26 Apr 1853
Death Place:	New London, Connecticut
Gender:	Female
FHL Film Number:	3246

Colonial New England Divorce Records

- Could be granted for adultery, abandonment, cruelty, bigamy
- A court matter
 - Connecticut – handled by Superior Court, see CSL collections
 - Maine – see Suffolk County, MA records at FamilySearch.org
 - Massachusetts – see county courts files and Massachusetts State Archives records at FamilySearch.org
 - New Hampshire – see “Colonial court records,” at FamilySearch.org
 - Rhode Island – see “Court records, 1671-1879 [Rhode Island],” at FamilySearch.org

Tip

When You Cannot Find
Vital Records . . .

Pursue Vital Record Substitutes

- Church records
- Cemetery records
- Probate records (usually filed within three months of death)

Church and Cemetery Records

Where to Find Church Records

- Many New Englanders were Congregationalists
 - Check County Histories for clues about denominations in your ancestor's town
- Indexed databases
 - *American Ancestors*
 - *Family Search*
 - *Ancestry*
- Unindexed images
 - *Family Search*
- Congregational Church Archives

Indexed at AmericanAncestors.org

The screenshot shows the AmericanAncestors.org website interface. At the top, the logo reads "American Ancestors by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY" and "A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture". The navigation bar includes "Search", "Events", "Membership", "Give", "Publications", and "Expert Help".

On the left, a dark sidebar contains the text "Go to Search" with an arrow pointing to the search bar. Below it, the question "What content sources can I search?" is followed by a red-bordered box containing the text "A to Z list of all databases". Other links in the sidebar include "External databases", "Library Catalog", "Digital Library & Archive", and "Jewish Heritage Center".

The main content area shows a search bar with "Church" entered. Below the search bar, there are filters for "116 databases" and "Reset filters". The "DATABASE" filter is expanded, showing options: "all databases", "only databases with images", "only my favorite databases", and "only free databases". The "LOCATION" filter is also expanded, showing a list of countries and their respective database counts: United States (99), England (4), Barbados (2), Germany (2), Ireland (2), Northern Ireland (2), South Africa (2), United Kingdom (2), Argentina (1), Italy (1), and Netherlands (1).

Below the filters, there are "Results per page" options: 20, 50, and 100. A list of search results is displayed, each with a magnifying glass icon, a camera icon, a star icon, and the record title. The first few results are:

- Attleboro, MA: Church Records of Old Town Church, Attleboro First Church, 1740-1856
- Boston, MA: Church Records, 1630-1895
- Attleboro, MA: Church Records of the Second Congregational Church, 1748-1851
- Killingly, CT: Church Records, 1711-1775
- Preston, CT: First Congregational Church Records, 1698-1898
- Germany: Baden, Church Book Duplicates, 1810-1869
- Italy: Waldensian Evangelical Church Records, 1693-1941
- South Africa: Dutch Reformed Church Registers, 1660-1970
- Hartford, CT: Historical Catalogue of the First Church, 1633-1885
- Millford, CT: Records of the First Church, 1640-1829
- Millford, CT: Records of the Second Church, 1749-1829
- Germany: Prussia, Brandenburg and Posen, Church Book Duplicates, 1794-1874

Indexed at FamilySearch.org

Search Historical Records

Records create a paper trail for your ancestors and can lead you to important details about their life. Enter a name, and we'll look for it in birth certificates, marriage registrations, census records, and other official documents.

[TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SEARCHES](#)



Find a Collection

Your ancestor's record belongs to a collection of similar records. For example, you might find records for Argentina Baptisms, for example, or United States Census records. Searching a specific collection is one way to narrow your search. If you don't know the collection's exact title, start typing to help you.

Collection Title

Connecticut Church

Connecticut, Church Records, 1660-1955

Connecticut, Church Records, 1660-1955

This collection contains Church records from several counties located in Connecticut. The records contained mixed vitals from the years 1660-1955.

[HOW TO USE THIS COLLECTION](#)

First Names

Last Names

Place

City, County, State, Province, or Country

Year

Birth or Death Year

[SEARCH](#)

[MORE OPTIONS](#)

FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

Search by:

Place | Surnames | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Place

United States, Maine, York, Biddeford

Search for:

Call Number | Film/Fiche/Image Group Number (DGS)

Availability

- Any
- Online
- Family History Center

Search

Reset

Unindexed at Family Search – FamilySearch.org

Refine your search

Search by:

Place

United States, Maine, York, E

Surnames

Titles

Author

Subjects

Keywords

Search for:

Call Number

Film/Fiche Number

Availability

Any

Online

Family History Center

Update

Reset

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

[PRINT](#) [Catalog Print List \(0\)](#)

Part of [United States, Maine, York](#)

- ▶ [United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Cemeteries \(2 \)](#)
- ▶ [United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Church history \(1 \)](#)
- ▼ **[United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Church records \(7 \)](#)**

[Manual of the Second Congregational Church, Biddeford, Maine.](#)

Author: Second Congregational Church in Biddeford Maine

[Marriages of St. Andre, Biddeford, Maine \(1899-1978\)](#)

Author: Labonté, Youville, 1925-

[Marriages of St. Joseph, Biddeford, Maine \(1870-1979\)](#)

Author: Labonté, Youville, 1925-

[Marriages, St. Mary's Parish, 1850-1989, Biddeford, Maine](#)

Author: Bergeron, Simonne; Franco-American Genealogical Society of York County, Maine; Catholic Church. St. Mary's Parish (Biddeford, Maine)

[Membership, baptisms, marriages of the 1st Church of Christ in Biddeford, Maine](#)

Author: Lilly, Georgiana H. (Georgiana Hewins), b. 1877; First Church of Christ (Biddeford, Maine); Daughters of the American Revolution. Mary Kelton Dummer Chapter (Hallowell, Maine)

[Parish records, 1742-1872](#)

FamilySearch.org

◀ [BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

Records of first congregational church in Biddeford

Statement of Responsibility:	communicated by A. K. P. Meserve
Format:	Journal Article
Language:	English
Physical:	p. 8-14

Notes



To view a digital version of this article click [here](#).

Church records, including vital dates, with dates ranging 1756-1777.

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Maine, York, Biddeford - Church records](#)

Part of

FamilySearch.org



CHURCH RECORDS

This section contains collections of church records documenting early Congregational church history in New England. These collections describe the founding and operating of these churches, their concerns, difficulties, and triumphs. Church records document the events and concerns of communities, the civil affairs of the town, and the lives of the ministers and the congregants who sat in the pews. They are some of the oldest and most significant primary source materials for understanding colonial and early United States history.

In this section you will find records of church meetings and votes; births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages; church discipline, including admonitions, confessions, censures, and excommunications; and ecclesiastical council minutes. Of particular note are the personal conversion narratives, called relations of faith, found in several of the collections. These documents, prepared by individuals seeking church membership, offer insight into many underrepresented populations, including women, children, Indigenous people, enslaved and free people of African descent, and indentured servants.

Click on the name of the collection to go to its collection page in the digital archive and explore the digitized materials. The collections are arranged by state and then listed alphabetically by town. Collections with transcriptions have been labeled "Transcription Available."

www.congregationallibrary.org/nehh-church-records



Connecticut
Maine
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Vermont

Dover, NH First Parish Church (1639-1857)

TRANSCRIPTION AVAILABLE

Gathered in 1633, the First Parish Church in Dover is the oldest church in New Hampshire. The Rev. Hanserd Knollys organized the First Parish Church as a religious organization in 1638. The church joined the United Church of Christ in 1961. Records include births, marriages, deaths, dismissals, disciplinary cases, meeting minutes, financial records, pew plans, and letters from the Rev. Jeremy Belknap, the Rev. Hubbard Winslow, and the church's clerk, Asa A. Tufts.

www.congregationallibrary.org/nehh-church-records

Browse the First Parish Church records in Dover, New Hampshire

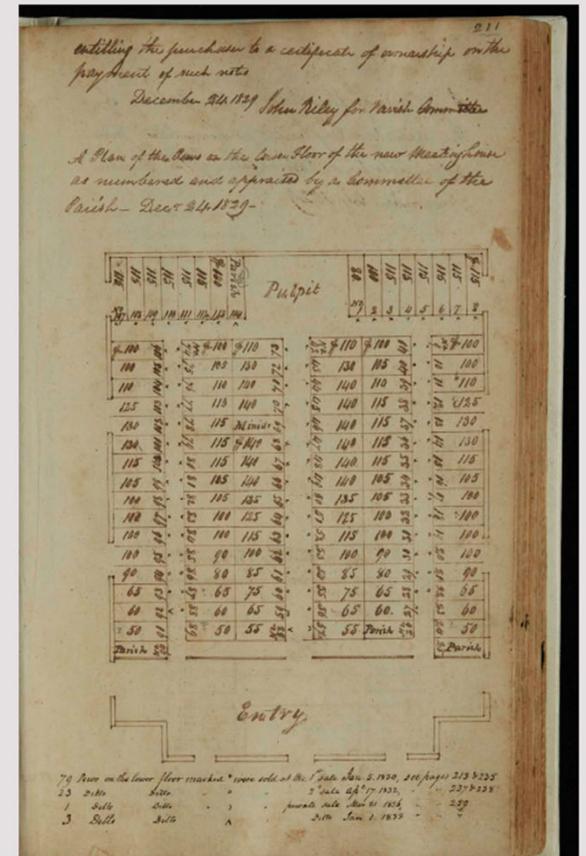
^ Dover, New Hampshire. First Parish Church records, 1639-1857.

Gathered in 1633, the First Parish Church in Dover is the oldest church in New Hampshire. The first permanent settlement in New Hampshire, the lands that would eventually become Dover were initially settled by a pair of fishmongers from London. In 1633, the land was bought by a group of English Puritans. Over the next 150 years, with the arrival of mills and other infrastructure, the small settlement grew in population, size and prosperity.

The settlement's first church services were held on the last Sunday of October 1633 by Rev. Leverich at Dover Point; a year later the first meeting house was built on the same location. Little is known about the first meeting house except that it was made of mud and logs with a thatched roof and that it served the community's purposes until 1658 when a new meeting house was erected on Dover Neck. The third meeting house was located on Pine Hill from 1710-1759. In 1758 the fourth meeting house, built out of wood, was constructed in Tuttle Square. Construction on the fifth, and final, meeting house, a new brick church building, was concluded with its dedication on December 31, 1829.

Rev. William Leverich was the first minister to hold church services in Dover in 1633 and is considered the founder of Mission and Action in Dover. Rev. Hanserd Knollys organized the First Parish Church as a religious organization in 1638. Rev. Jeremy Belknap, who wrote the three volume "History of New Hampshire" and founded the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1791, was the minister at the First Parish from 1769-1786. Rev. David Root was well-known for his opposition to slavery and his anti-slavery sermons, as was his successor Rev. Jeremiah S. Young, who on October 28, 1841 passed a resolution against slavery.

Search Dover, New Hampshire. First Paris...



Dover, NH Records

Browse the First Parish Church records in Dover, New Hampshire

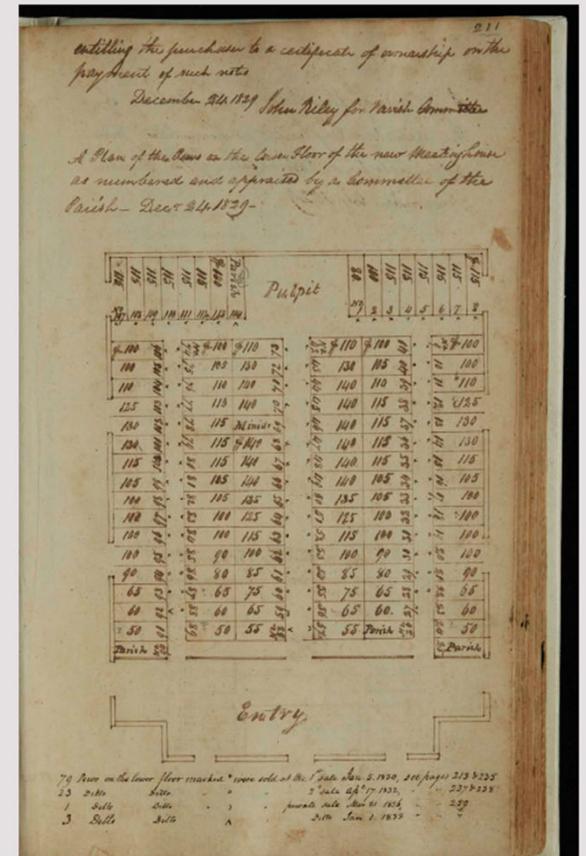
^ Dover, New Hampshire. First Parish Church records, 1639-1857.

Gathered in 1633, the First Parish Church in Dover is the oldest church in New Hampshire. The first permanent settlement in New Hampshire, the lands that would eventually become Dover were initially settled by a pair of fishmongers from London. In 1633, the land was bought by a group of English Puritans. Over the next 150 years, with the arrival of mills and other infrastructure, the small settlement grew in population, size and prosperity.

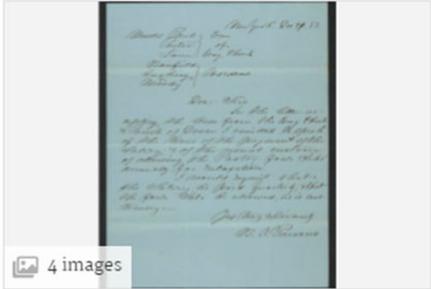
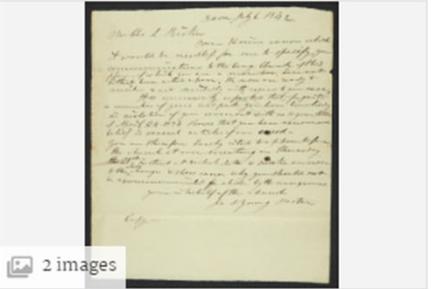
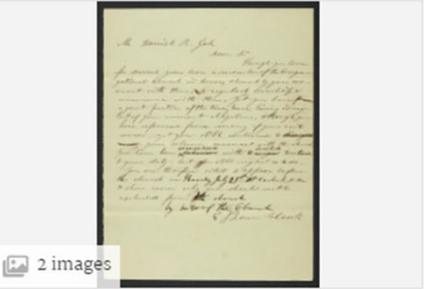
The settlement's first church services were held on the last Sunday of October 1633 by Rev. Leverich at Dover Point; a year later the first meeting house was built on the same location. Little is known about the first meeting house except that it was made of mud and logs with a thatched roof and that it served the community's purposes until 1658 when a new meeting house was erected on Dover Neck. The third meeting house was located on Pine Hill from 1710-1759. In 1758 the fourth meeting house, built out of wood, was constructed in Tuttle Square. Construction on the fifth, and final, meeting house, a new brick church building, was concluded with its dedication on December 31, 1829.

Rev. William Leverich was the first minister to hold church services in Dover in 1633 and is considered the founder of Mission and Action in Dover. Rev. Hanserd Knollys organized the First Parish Church as a religious organization in 1638. Rev. Jeremy Belknap, who wrote the three volume "History of New Hampshire" and founded the Massachusetts Historical Society in 1791, was the minister at the First Parish from 1769-1786. Rev. David Root was well-known for his opposition to slavery and his anti-slavery sermons, as was his successor Rev. Jeremiah S. Young, who on October 28, 1841 passed a resolution against slavery.

Search Dover, New Hampshire. First Paris...



Dover, NH Records

 <p>4 images</p> <p>Benjamin Parsons ministerial call acceptance addendum, 1852 December 29</p> <p>Parsons, Benjamin Franklin, 1820-1896</p>	 <p>2 images</p> <p>Charles Ricker disciplinary summons, 1842 July 6</p> <p>Young, J. S.</p>	 <p>380 images</p> <p>Church records, 1762-1862, First Parish Church in Dover, N.H.</p> <p>First Parish Church (Dover, N.H.)</p>
 <p>204 images</p> <p>Church records, 1766-1829, First Parish Church in Dover, N.H.</p> <p>First Parish Church (Dover, N.H.)</p>	 <p>343 images</p> <p>Church records, 1831-1857, First Parish Church in Dover, N.H.</p> <p>First Parish Church (Dover, N.H.)</p>	 <p>2 images</p> <p>Daniel Gale disciplinary summons, undated</p> <p>First Parish Church (Dover, N.H.)</p>



Dover, NH Records

Church records, 1762-1862, First Parish Church in Dover, N.H.

Dover, New Hampshire. First Parish Church records, 1639-1857.

Search this resource

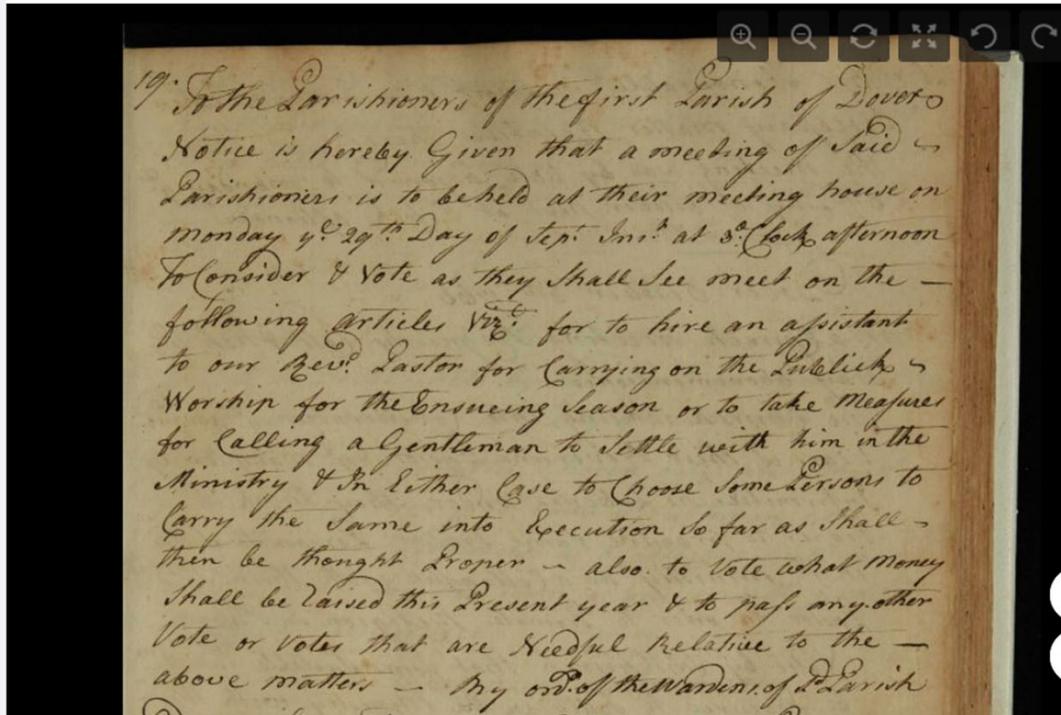


Browse Images



25

of 380



Summary

Title

Church records, 1762-1862, First Parish Church in Dover, N.H.

Creator

First Parish Church (Dover, N.H.)

Geographic Coverage

Dover (N.H.)

Subjects

Church finance Church records and registers

Pews and pew rights

Genre/Form

Records (Documents)



Dover, NH First Parish Church Records, 1762-1862

Indexed at Ancestry.com

Card Catalog

Searchable listing of all record collections

Title

Keyword(s)

Search or Clear All

Only records from current region

Filter By Category

- Birth, Marriage & Death 5
- Directories & Member Lists 13
- Stories, Memories & Histories 11

Filter By Location

- North America 16
- USA 16

Results 1-16 of 16

Sort By Record Count ▾

Title	Category	Records	Activity
Swanton, Franklin county, Vermont, Church Records, 1872-1934: Saint Mary's Church Death Records	Birth, Marriage & Death	1,681	
Swanton, Vermont, Church Records, 1858-1884			
Swanton, Vermont Church Records, 1865-1908			
Irish Famine Immigrants in the State of Vermont Gravestone Inscriptions			
Memorials of a Century: Early history of Bennington, Vermont First Church			
Collections relating to the history and inhabitants of the town of Townshend, Vermont			
St. James' Episcopal Church, Arlington, Vermont : a sketch of and growth of Saint James' Parish, the oldest parish			
Catholic memoirs of Vermont and New Hampshire : with sketches of the lives of Rev. Wm. Henry Hoyt, and Fanny Allen : also with			

Search > [Birth, Marriage & Death](#)

Swanton, Vermont, Church Records

Search Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Year Location
 Birth City, County, State, Country

Lived In City, County, State, Country

Marriage

Any Event City, County, State, Country

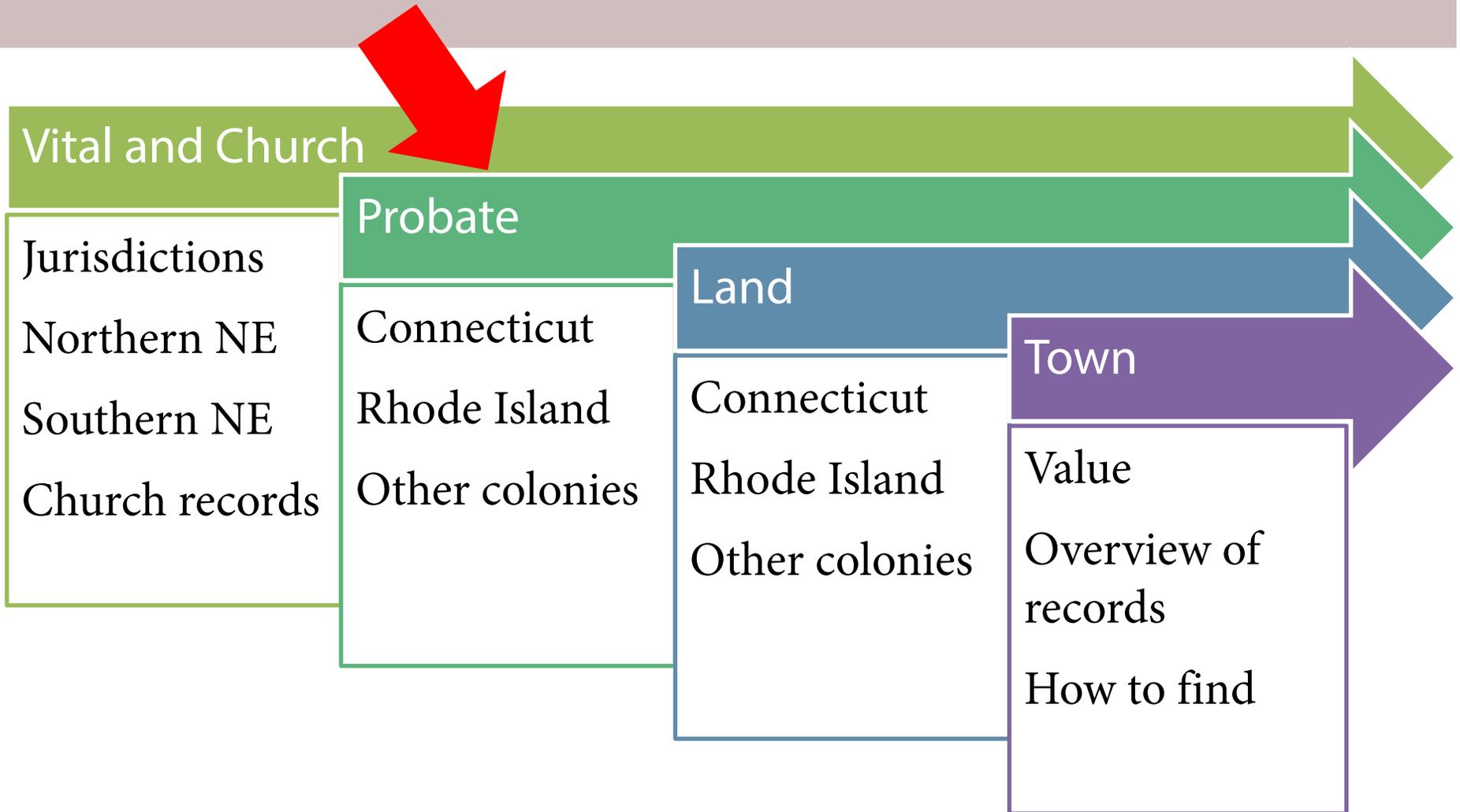
Add family member: [Father](#) [Mother](#) [Spouse](#)

First & Middle Name(s) Last Name
 Father x

Mother x

Spouse x

Session Roadmap



Probate Records

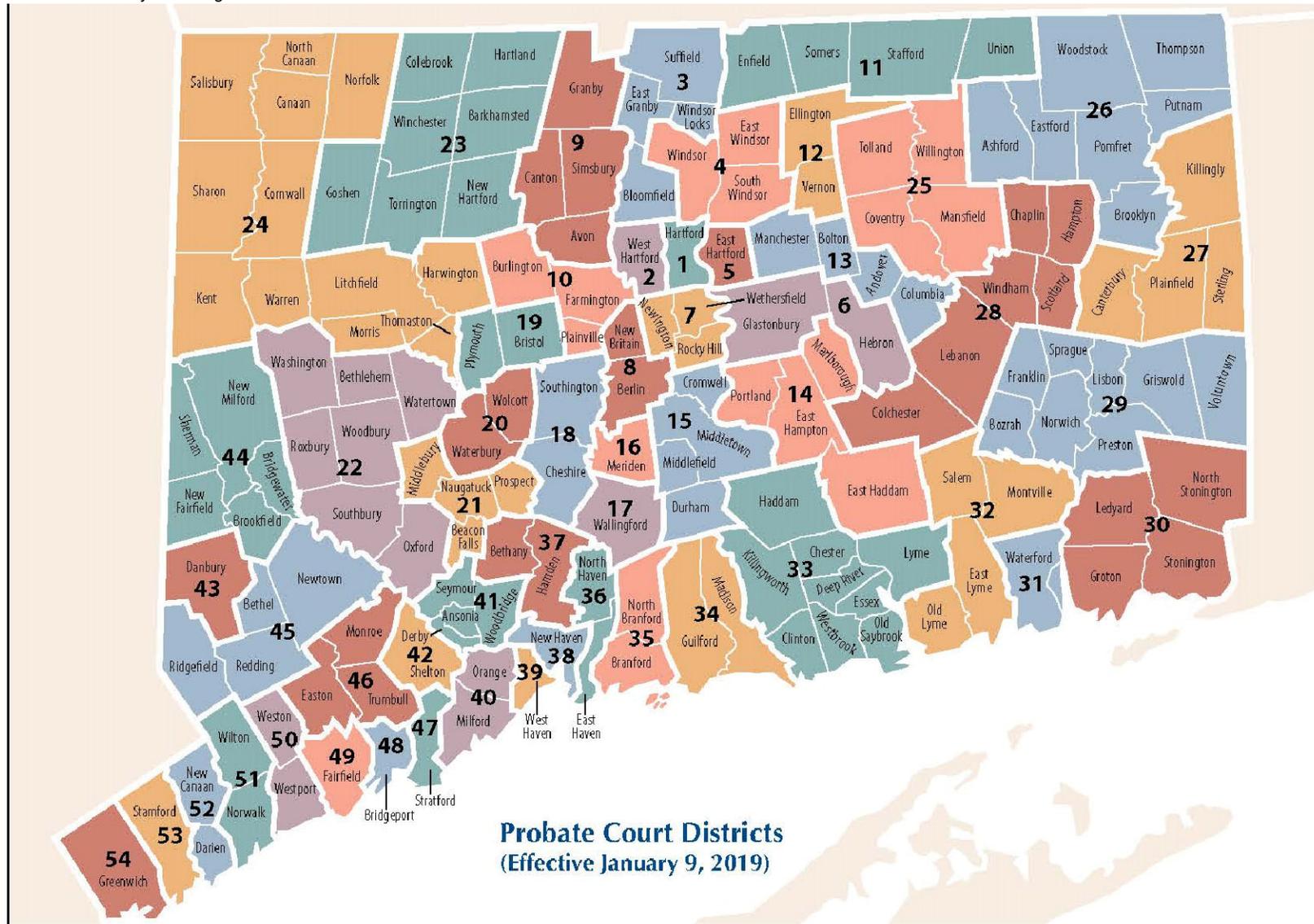
- Probate is the process of settling an estate after death
 - Many steps
 - Generates documents
- Use to:
 - Verify family relationships
 - Substitute when vital records are lacking
 - Approximate death dates
 - Determine when a daughter was married by
 - Determine when a wife was deceased by
 - Trace the origin of family items or property
 - Provide context of ancestor's life

Jurisdictions for Colonial Records

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town	County	County
Massachusetts	Town	County	County
New Hampshire	Town	County	County
Rhode Island	Town	Town	Town
Vermont	Town	It's complicated	It's complicated

Colonial Connecticut Probate

- New Haven Colony (to 1655) – Probate kept at town or colony
- Connecticut Colony
 - Particular Court (1639 - 1665) - Records transcribed and published
 - Court of Assistants (1665- 1711) – An appeals court, records transcribed and published
 - County Courts (1666 - 1855) - Handled probate for four original counties, Hartford, New London, New Haven, and Fairfield until 1698
 - 1698 Probate District system established
 - Original 4 county courts
 - 1719 new districts began to be established.



Estate of	Sears, Joshua	Insolvent	Minor
Attached		Legatee	Trust
Deceased			
Town	Norwalk	District	Fairfield
Date	1754	No.	5501
		Deposited	Dec. 9, 1929
.....	1 Wills and Codicils	.....	Distributions
.....	Bonds	.....	Account of Administration
.....	Applications and Petitions	.....	Receipts
.....	1 Inventories	.....	Miscellaneous
.....	Orders of Court	.....
.....	Returns to Court	.....	2 Total Documents *
Remarks			

DEPOSITED IN THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY—REVISED STATUTES, 1918, SEC. 1086 AND AMENDMENTS

Connecticut Probate Index 1648-1881

Colonial Rhode Island Probate

- *AmericanAncestors.org*: microfilms of town probates for about half of Rhode Island towns
- *AmericanAncestors.org*: Index to Providence probate, 1646-1899
- *FamilySearch.org*: Search BY TOWN for probate records – will need to access through a Family History Center or Affiliate
- *Ancestry.com*: Varied material, years 17th-20th centuries.

Smith } *cont.*
Smyth }

1830	William G. . . .	guardianship	A5276
1811	William Henry . . .	guardianship	A4067
1812	William Henry . . .	administration	A4119
1891	William J. . . .	depend't child	A17711
1899	William J. . . .	administration	5131
1893	William J. B. . . .	administration	1000
1896	William M. . . .	will	A3431
1855	William R. . . .	alien	A18329
1873	William T. . . .	will	A10778
1889	William T. . . .	guardianship	A16288

Smithers

1895	Ann	administration	2476
1895	Mary E. . . .	guardianship	2477

Smyth, see Smith**Snell**

1877	William B. . . .	administration	A11780
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Snelling

1847	Samuel	administration	A6562
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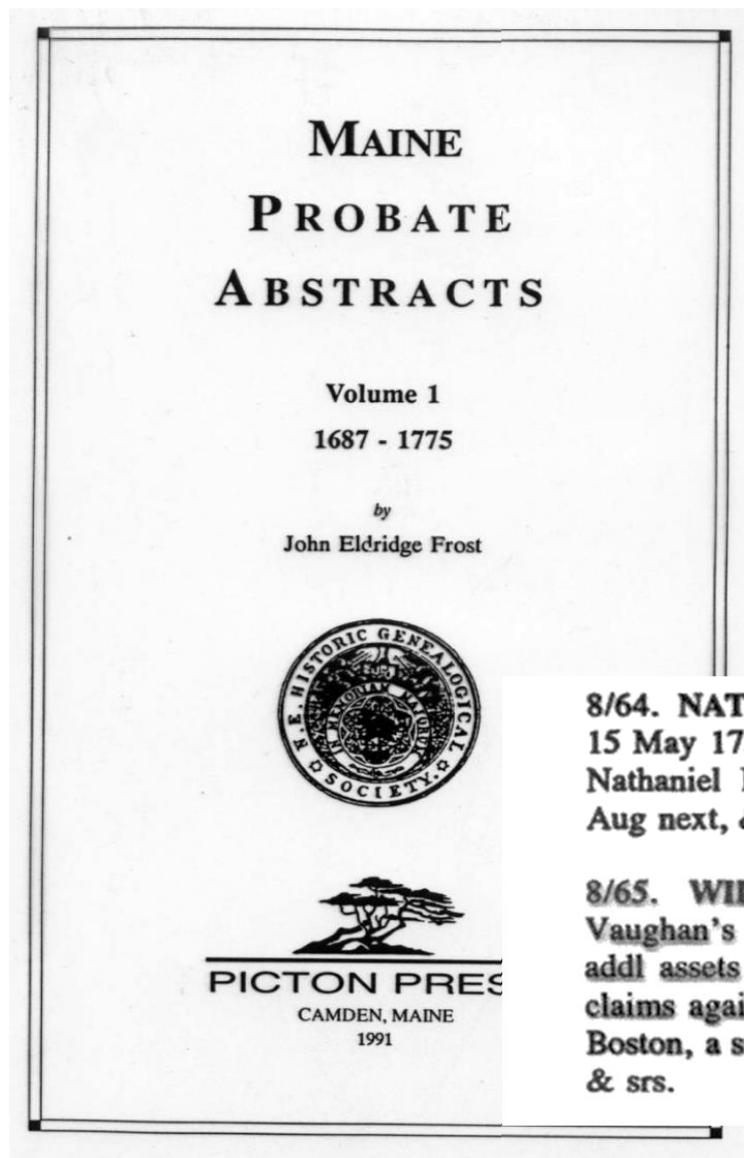
Snively**Snow, cont.**

1872	Edward S. . . .	administration	A10412
1822	Elisha	administration	A4686
1896	Eliza	will	2993
1890	Elizabeth	guardianship	A16834
1869	Florence E. . . .	will	A9653
1890	Florence P. . . .	guardianship	A16746
1822	George	will	A4703
1895	George W. . . .	will	2564
1890	Helen P. . . .	guardianship	A16746
1812	James	administration	A4147
1879	Jeanette M. . . .	real estate .	A18705
1891	J. Lippitt	administration	18
1851	John	administration	A6992
1848	John B. . . .	administration	A6656
1842	John C. . . .	guardianship	A6178
1879	John C. . . .	will	A12401
1852	John E. . . .	guardianship	A18245
1872	John L. . . .	guardianship	A10456
1873	John L. . . .	administration	A10555
1773	Joseph	will	A936
1884	Joseph G. . . .	administration	A13980
1830	Joseph Potang	will	A5298
1801	Josiah	administration	A3558
1813	Josiah	administration	A4158
1888	Julia E. . . .	will	A15922

Colonies with County-Level Probate

Colonial Maine Probate

- Probate kept at COUNTY level
 - Cumberland Co. Probates destroyed by fire in 1907.
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of probate for 1760-1979
- Ancestry.com: All counties varied years 17th-20th Century
- Published Compilations
 - Sargent's *Maine Wills 1640-1760*, on www.AmericanAncestors.org
 - John E. Frost's, *Maine Probate Abstracts 1687-1800* published in 1991 by Picton Press in two volumes



340

MAINE PROBATE ABSTRACTS

Curtis of York, yeoman, their gdn to act in their behalf [esp in their shares of the ests of mr & g fr] during their minorities; all, 27 Apr 1750. Wits: Mark Hunking, Mark Hunking, Jr.

8/60. DOROTHY & SARAH LOVET, of Scarborough. Gdnship (8.38). F12349. Ct appts York, 27 Apr 1750, Thomas Curtis of York, yeoman, gdn to Dorothy & Sarah Lovet, minors & chn of Dorothy Lovet, decd, who was dau of James Tyler, late of Scarborough, decd, to act in their behalf [esp in their shares of the est of mr & g fr] during their minorities.

8/61. JOSEPH MITCHELL, of Kittery. Quietus (8.39). F13276. Whereas John Mitchell of Wells, admor of the est of Joseph Mitchell, late of Kittery, yeoman, decd, has exh an inv & made up his accts, ct acquits & discharges him, York, 4 May 1750.

8/62. JOSEPH HARMON, of York. Accts (8.39). F8596. Mercy Harmon [now Frost]'s acct of costs & disbs as admx of the est of her former husb Joseph Harmon, late of York, mariner, decd: inv est appr £527/16/3 N.T., costs & disbs £154/16/6½. Att by Mercy Harmon Frost, admx, & all. £82/11/6 L.M., being £154/16/6½ N.T.

8/63. JOHN JORDAN, of Falmouth. Accts (8.39). F10548. Deliverance Pollick, wife & late wid's acct of costs & disbs as admx of the est of her former husb John Jordan, late of Falmouth, decd, totalling £532/2/4; admx adds to inv £154/12/0;

8/64. NATHANIEL DRESSER, of Scarborough. LA (8.40). F4699. LA gr York, 15 May 1750, to Elizabeth Dresser of Scarborough, wid, of the est of her husb Nathaniel Dresser, late of Scarborough, decd int, with t&p inv exh at or bef 15 Aug next, & a p&t acct at or bef 15 Dec 1750.

8/65. WILLIAM VAUGHAN, of Damariscotta. Accts (8.41). F19360. Elliot Vaughan's acct of costs & disbs as exor of the will of his br William Vaughan with addl assets of £174/10/0. Inv est appr £84 O.T., costs & disbs £6333/5/2, unpd claims against est £2767/10/5. Acct ment the mill earnings, proving the will in Boston, a suit of mourning for Mrs. Elizabeth Vaughan, & mourning gloves to brs & srs.

late of Scarborough, decd, totalling £200/10/0, all & all, 15 May 1750.

8/67. THOMAS DEARBON, of Biddeford. Inv (8.43). F4214. Inv of the est of Thomas Dearbon, late of Biddeford, appr 14 May 1750, by Daniel Smith, John Smith & Joseph Poak, at £1025/10/0; ext att York, 15 May 1750 by Nathan Swett,

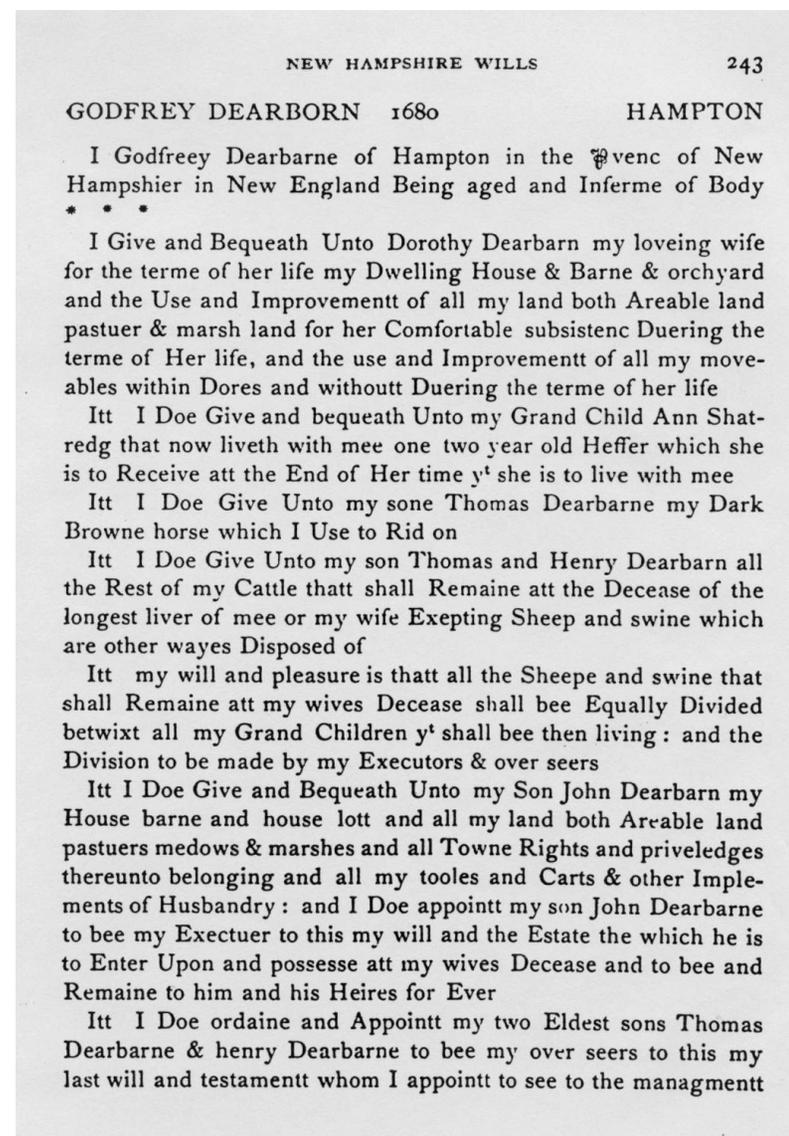
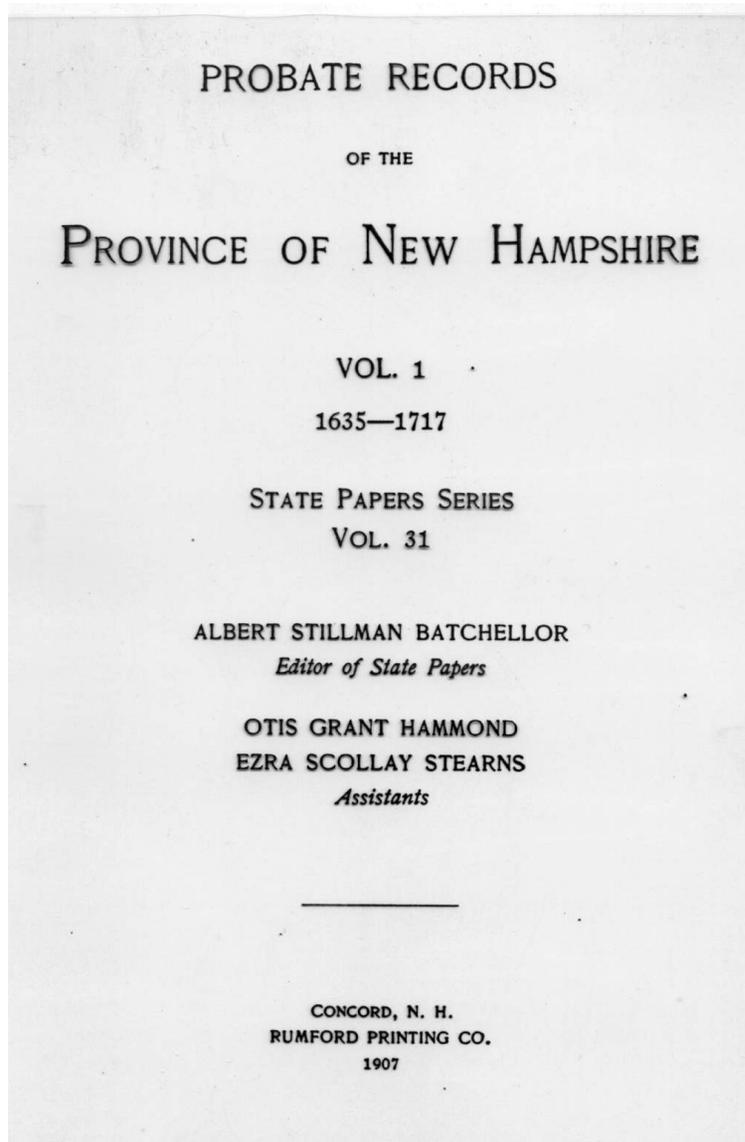
Maine Colonial Probate Abstracts

Colonial Massachusetts Probate

- Probate at COUNTY level
- AmericanAncestors.org
 - Barnstable Abstracts 1685-1789;
 - File papers: Essex 1638-1881;
 - Hampshire 1660-1858;
 - Middlesex 1648-1871;
 - Plymouth 1686-1881;
 - Worcester 1731-1881.
 - And indexes for Norfolk, Suffolk and Worcester counties.
- Ancestry.com: All counties varied years 17th-20th centuries.
- FamilySearch.org: Use the catalog to search for probate records from your ancestor's county of death.

Colonial New Hampshire Probate

- Probate at COUNTY level
- Probates to 1771 are abstracted in the NH State Papers (vols. 31-39) including wills transcribed.
<http://sos.nh.gov/Papers.aspx>
- AmericanAncestors.org has microfilm at it's Boston Research Center for several counties
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of New Hampshire probate records – 1660-1973
- Ancestry.com's collection covers 1643-1982



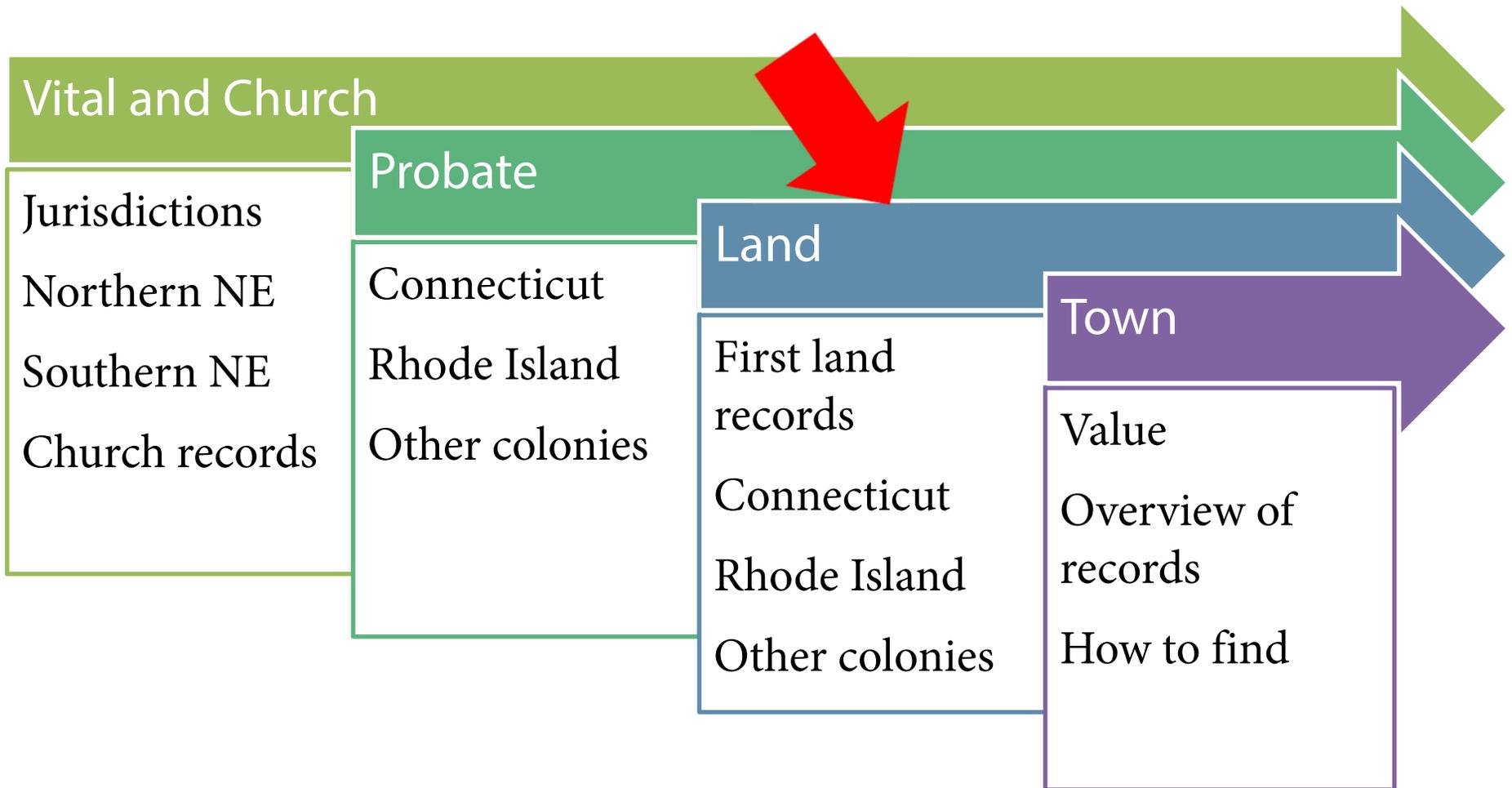
New Hampshire State Papers - Probate

Vermont

Colonial Period Vermont

- No known probate records for Vermont prior to 1777
- May find probate in New York or New Hampshire records
 - From 1749, New Hampshire claimed Vermont
 - From 1764, New York claimed Vermont as part of Albany County
 - Cumberland County from Albany in 1766
 - Gloucester County from Albany in 1770
 - Charlotte County from Albany in 1772

Session Roadmap



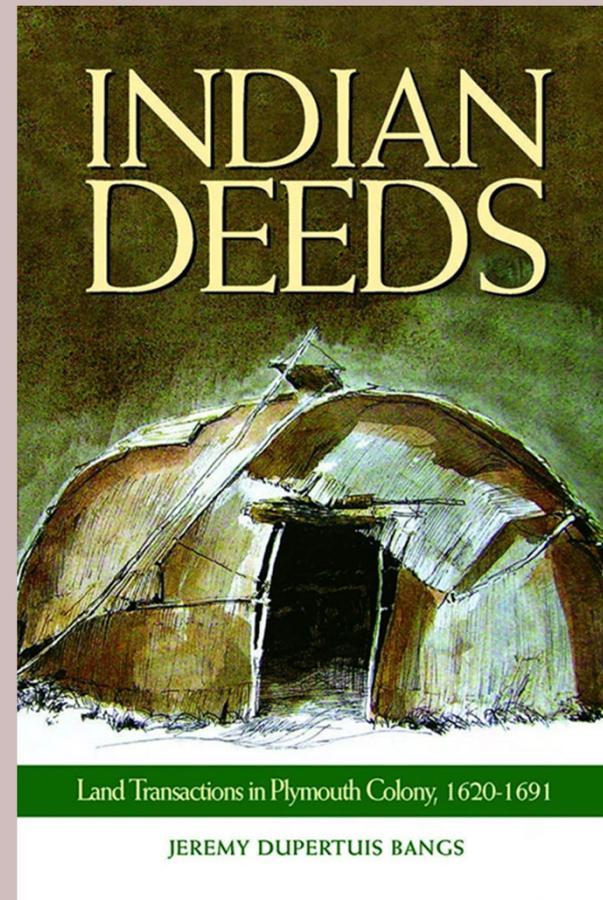
Why Use Land Records

- Grantor can mention how he acquired the land
- Can sign his name with his wife
- Narrows down the chronology
- Land description can be compared to other deeds

To all Christian People to whom these Presents may come greeting know ye of
Abner Huston of Exeter in the County of New Hampshire in New England for & in Consideration of a Sum of Thirty Pounds Current Money of New England or to the Value thereof to be paid by Moses Huston of Stratham in the County of Strafford Husbandman of the County of Strafford & my self therewith fully Satisfied Contented & Free I have & do by these Presents freely fully & Absolutely Give & Assign & Remender up the whole & full Right & Title unto Twenty Acres of Land w^{ch} was allowed me by a Committee of the said Province of New Hampshire of seven Land in Exeter unto him w^{ch} Moses Huston his Heirs & Assigns forever & if w^{ch} Moses Huston his Heirs & Assigns shall & may from time to time & at all times forever hereafter Have Hold Use Occupy Possess & Enjoy of the said Twenty Acres of Land w^{ch} all the Privileges & Appurtenances to the same belonging or any ways thereto appertaining without of least Let Hindrance or Interruption of me w^{ch} Abner Huston my Heirs or Assigns or any Person or Persons whatsoever Laying any legal Claim to the same by or under me In Testimony whereof I w^{ch} Abner Huston have set to my hand & Seal this Eighteenth day of September in the Year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred & Forty four
Signed sealed & Del^d in the presence of us
Nathan Pillsbury } John Hutchinson }
Abner Huston (Seal)
Provinc

First New England Land Records

- Transfer from Crown to Colony via:
 - Council (e.g. Council of New England)
 - Proprietors (e.g. Mason and Gorges)
 - “After the fact” Charter (e.g. Connecticut, Rhode Island)
- Purchase from indigenous tribes



First Charters/Grants/Patents

Colony	Year	Grant / Charter / Patent / Other	From
Connecticut	1639	Other: Fundamental Orders	Towns of Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield
	1643	Other: Governement of New Haven Colony	Towns of New Haven and Milford
	1662	Charter: Connecticut Colony	King Charles II
Maine	1622	Grant: Mason and Gorges	King James and Council of New England
Massachusetts	1629	Charter: Massachusetts Bay	King Charles I and Council of New England
	1619	Other: Mayflower Compact	Pilgrims
	1691	Charter: Massachusetts Colony	King and Queen William and Mary
New Hampshire	1622	Grant: Mason and Gorges	King James and Council of New England
	1629	Grant: Mason	King Charles I
Rhode Island	1636	Sale: Providence lands	Narragansett Tribes
	1643	Patent: Providence Plantations	King Charles I and Robert Warwick

Yale Law School, “Colonial Charters, Grants and Related Documents,”
https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/statech.asp

Colony-Specific Subsequent Land Transfers

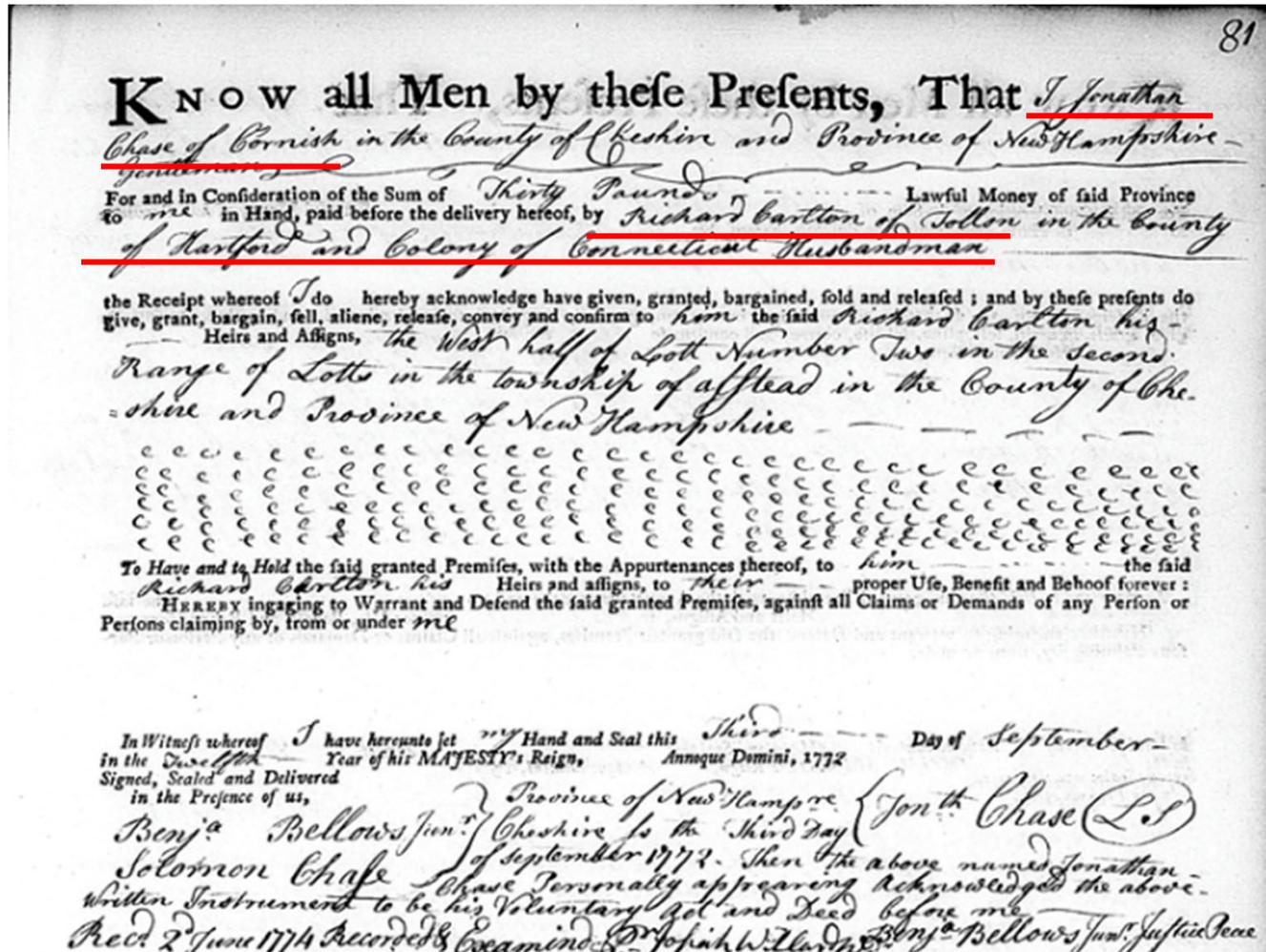
Deeds in Colonial Connecticut and Rhode Island

- Organized by TOWN
- Beware of changing town boundaries
- Use the FamilySearch.org catalog to find Connecticut and Rhode Island records at the town level.

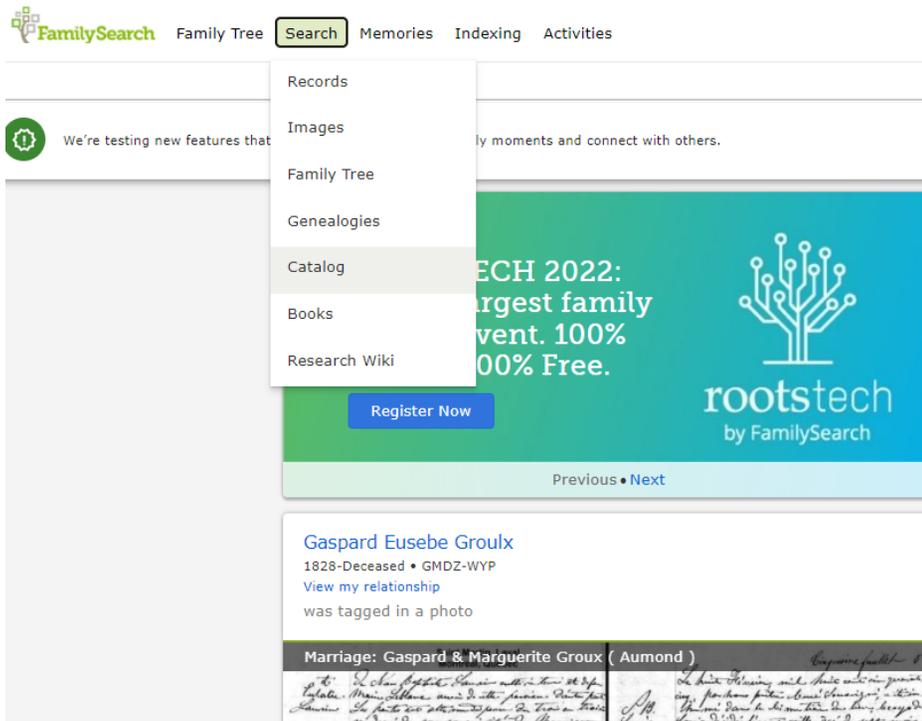
Deeds in Colonial Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts

- Organized by COUNTY
- Be aware of changing county boundaries
- Some early Maine deeds at the Massachusetts State Archives
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of Massachusetts land records
- Maine and New Hampshire records are not indexed. Use the FamilySearch.org catalog to find at the county level.

Cheshire County, NH Deeds



Using the FamilySearch.org Catalog



FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch online and in libraries and centers worldwide.

[Learn more about the catalog and how to access materials.](#)

Search by:

[Place](#) | [Surnames](#) | [Titles](#) | [Author](#) | [Subjects](#) | [Keywords](#)

Place

United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham

Search for:

[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche/Image Group Number \(DGS\)](#)

Availability

- Any
- Online
- Family History Center

Search

Reset

Refine your search ▼

Search by:
Place
United States, New Hampshi

Surnames
Titles
Author
Subjects
Keywords

Search for:
Call Number
Film/Fiche/Image Group
Number (DGS)

Availability
 Any
 Online
 FamilySearch center

Update **Reset**

Search Results for FamilySearch Catalog

PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Notes ▼

Created 1771, original county
Part of [United States, New Hampshire](#)

[Places within United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham](#) ▶

- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Biography](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Business records and commerce](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Cemeteries](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Census](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Census - 1800](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Church records](#) (3)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Church records - Indexes](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Correctional institutions](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Correctional institutions - Indexes](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Court records](#) (4)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Description and travel](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Directories](#) (4)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Genealogy](#) (8)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Genealogy - Periodicals](#) (1)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Guardianship](#) (2)
- ▶ [United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - History](#) (15)
- ▼ **[United States, New Hampshire, Rockingham - Land and property](#) (4)**

[Print List](#)

[Births, marriages, deaths, marriage intentions, earmarks, strays, 1670-1747](#)

[Add](#)

Author: Massachusetts. County Court (Norfolk County); Massachusetts. County Court (Essex County)

[Deeds, 1770-1852; indexes to deeds, 1643-1882](#)

[Add](#)

Author: Rockingham County (New Hampshire). Register of Deeds

[Moore family documents in Londondery, Grafton, Rockingham, and Hillsborough Counties, New Hampshire](#)

[Add](#)

[Records of the county of Norfolk, in the colony of Massachusetts](#)

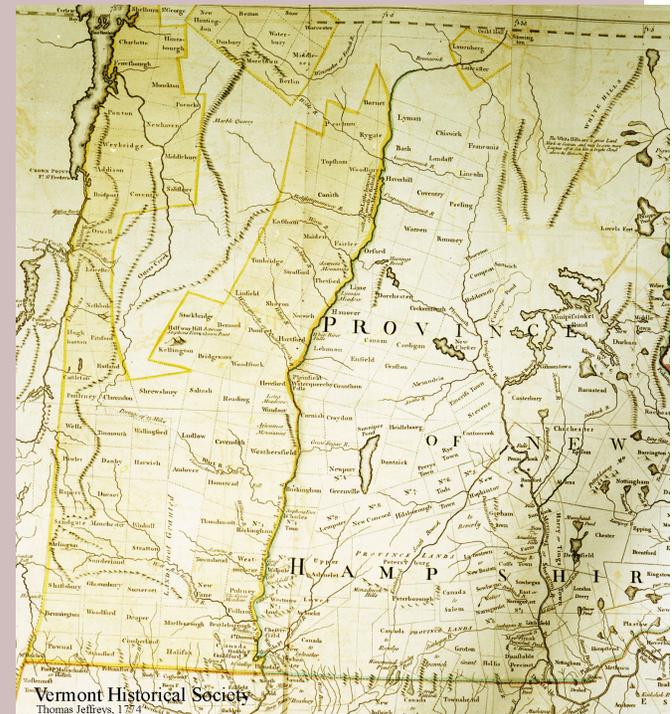
[Add](#)

Author: Pulsifer, David, 1802-1894

Results Pages Rockingham County

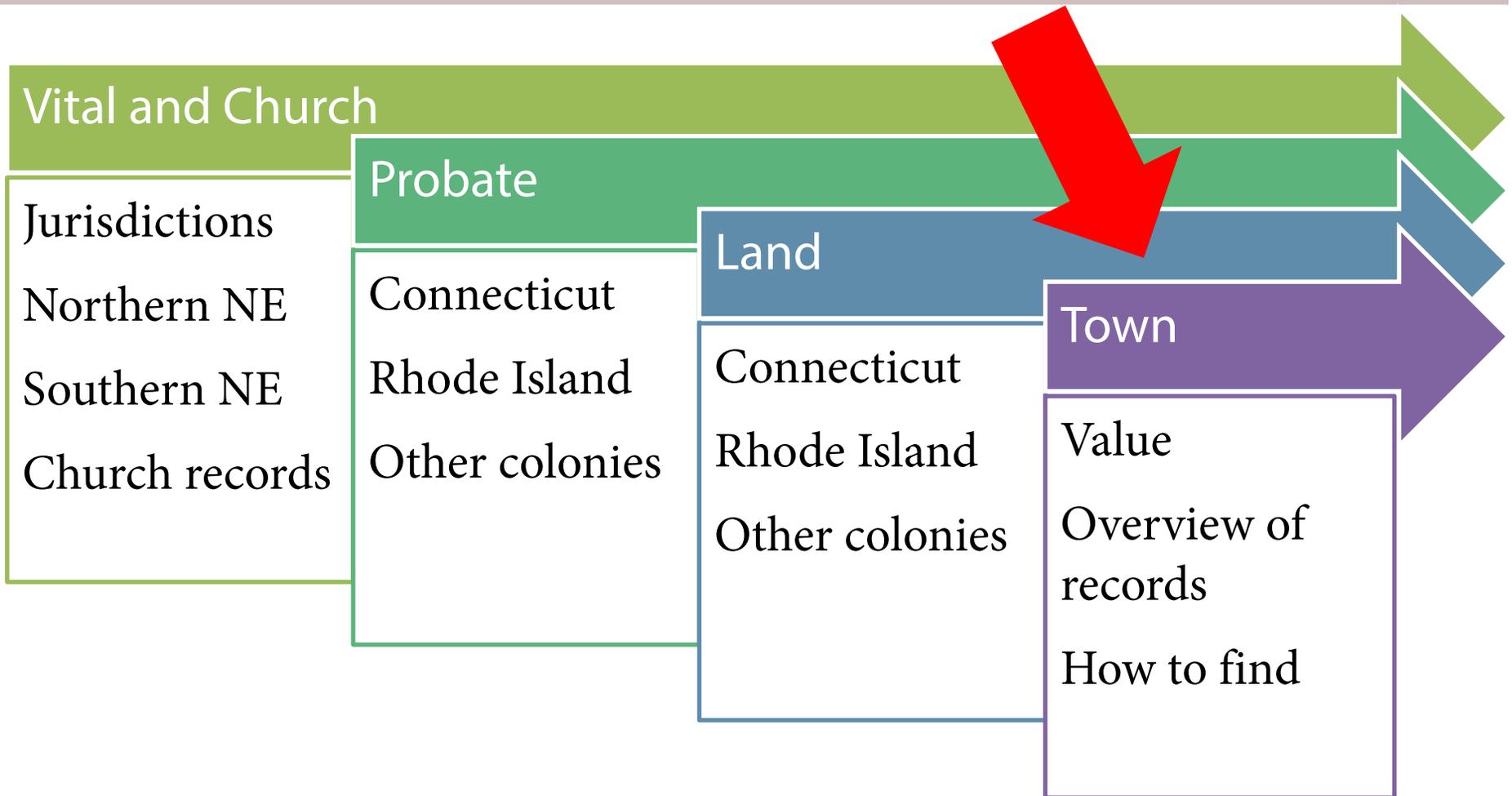
Pre-Republic Transfers in Vermont

- New Hampshire Land Grants 1749-1764 - New Hampshire Provincial & State Papers, Volume 26
- New York Land Patents 1688-1786 – State Papers of Vermont, v. 7
- Post colonial records are at the town level



Vermont Historical Society, Map of New Hampshire Land Grants,
1774

Session Roadmap



New England's Unique Resource: Town Records

- Kept by Town Clerks
- Catalog of town activities
 - Births, marriages and deaths
 - Land transfers
 - Cattle ownership
 - Taxes
 - Other
- Even if your ancestor does not appear in the Town Vital Records, their presence in the community may be elsewhere in the books

Town Meeting Minutes, 1755

441A At a Publick Town meeting Legally Warned & held at the meeting house the 31st Day of March 1755

Joseph Hanson Esq. Town Clerk	William Hill	} Field Drivers
Thos. Millet Esq. Select Men	John Russell	
Joseph Hanson jun. Esq. Select Men	Lyab. Bunker	
John Leighton Esq. Select Men	Thos. Hanson	} Hog Reves
John Jackson Esq. Select Men	James Wesley	
Thos. W. Wadsworth Esq. Comifer	James Varney	
Ep. Hanson Esq. Comifer	Ebenezer Garland	} Callers of Names
Timothy Moses Constables	John Kendal	
William Hufny Constables	Wm. Stuck Drive	
Edward Davis Constables	Samuel Alley	} Surveyors of Highway
Moses Varney Constables	Nathaniel Sammes	
Jehad Cannon Constables	2 ^d Lt. Moses Winget	
Daniel Kame Constables	Moses Varney	} Overseers of the Poor
Cap. Wm. Shackford Constables	13 Ephraim Hanson	
Job Clements Constables	14 Jonathan Kirkford	
Thomas Varney Constables	Jonathan Pinkham	} Overseers of the Poor
Thos. Millet Esq. Constables	15 John Kirkford jun.	
John Truckins Constables	Thomas Tuttle	} Overseers of the Poor
Joseph Hanson jun. Constables	16 with respect to the Towns being at the	
Joshua Winget Constables	Expence of hiring three school maisters as	} Overseers of the Poor
	mentioned in the notification was debated	

17 That as to the several bridges as inserted in the notification being not acted only parts to vote & part in the negative

Then the meeting being adjourned till the fifth Day of may next at two of the clock in the afternoon

Special Town Meeting, 1755

442 At a Special Town Meeting Legally Warned & held at the meeting house the 10th Day of May 1755

17th Voted that John Church be Constable in the Room of William Hufny who was chosen at the Annual March Meeting and Requested to serve

also Voted that Benjamin Tuttle be Constable in the Room of Timothy Moses who was chosen at the annual Meeting and Requested to serve

442^{1/2} The Freholders and Inhabitants of the Town of Dover This is to Give notice that there is a Publick Town meeting to be held at the meeting house at Cochecho in Dover on the 9th Day of May 1755

First to hear the Petition of sundry of the Inhabitants of the westerly part of the Town called Madbury requesting to be set off a Parish by themselves and to contribute as the Town shall think most proper also to see if the Town will be at the Expence of having more school maisters than they are obliged to hire by Law

Dover April 9th 26th 1755 By order of the select men Jos. Hanson Town Clerk

At a Publick Town Meeting Legally Warned and held at the meeting house at Cochecho in Dover on the 10th Day of May 1755

Voted That Thomas Millet Esq. be the moderator for said meeting also Voted That Cap. Thomas Westbrook Wadson and Thomas Millet Esq. be appointed together or separate in the name and behalf of the Town of Dover to attend the next Court on the third Day of their next Sessions or on any other Day of their Session in order to make answer to a Petition preferred to said Court by a number of the westerly part of the Town called Madbury requesting to be set off a Parish by themselves which agents are hereby empowered to act as they shall think most proper for the benefit of the Town in General with respect to said Petition

also Voted That there be three schoolmaisters of good Repute by the select men Whereof one of them a Grammar Schooler and to be stated in divers parts of the Town where the whole of the People may be accommodated and the charge thereof to be paid out of the Publick Town stock

Land Record, 1735

Dover September 1735

Now Laid out to Joseph Lebellet jun^r twenty acres of Land up at a place called black water the being part of his fathers right in the Division of J. Comans in Dover which was given July the eight 1731 beginning as followeth about two Rods South of Instream Island Now E. Corner it being a pitch pine tree then turning East by sou. by y^e road Eighty Rod then 110 by East forty Rod to a Norway pine then Eighty Rod to by no. to said Islands Land then by said Land to the first bounds - Laid out by us

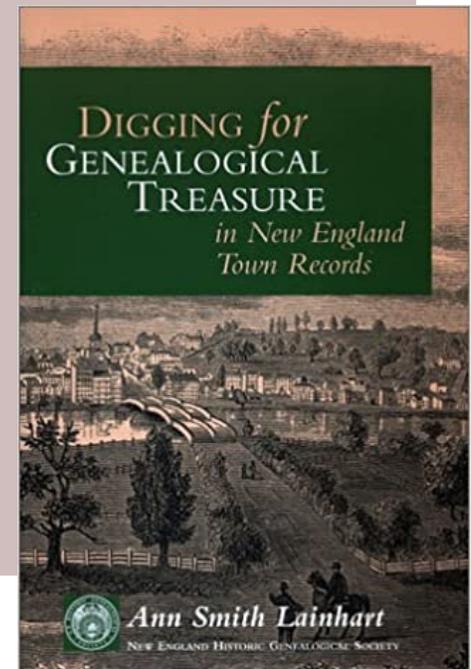
Thos. Millet
Robert Green
John Truckins

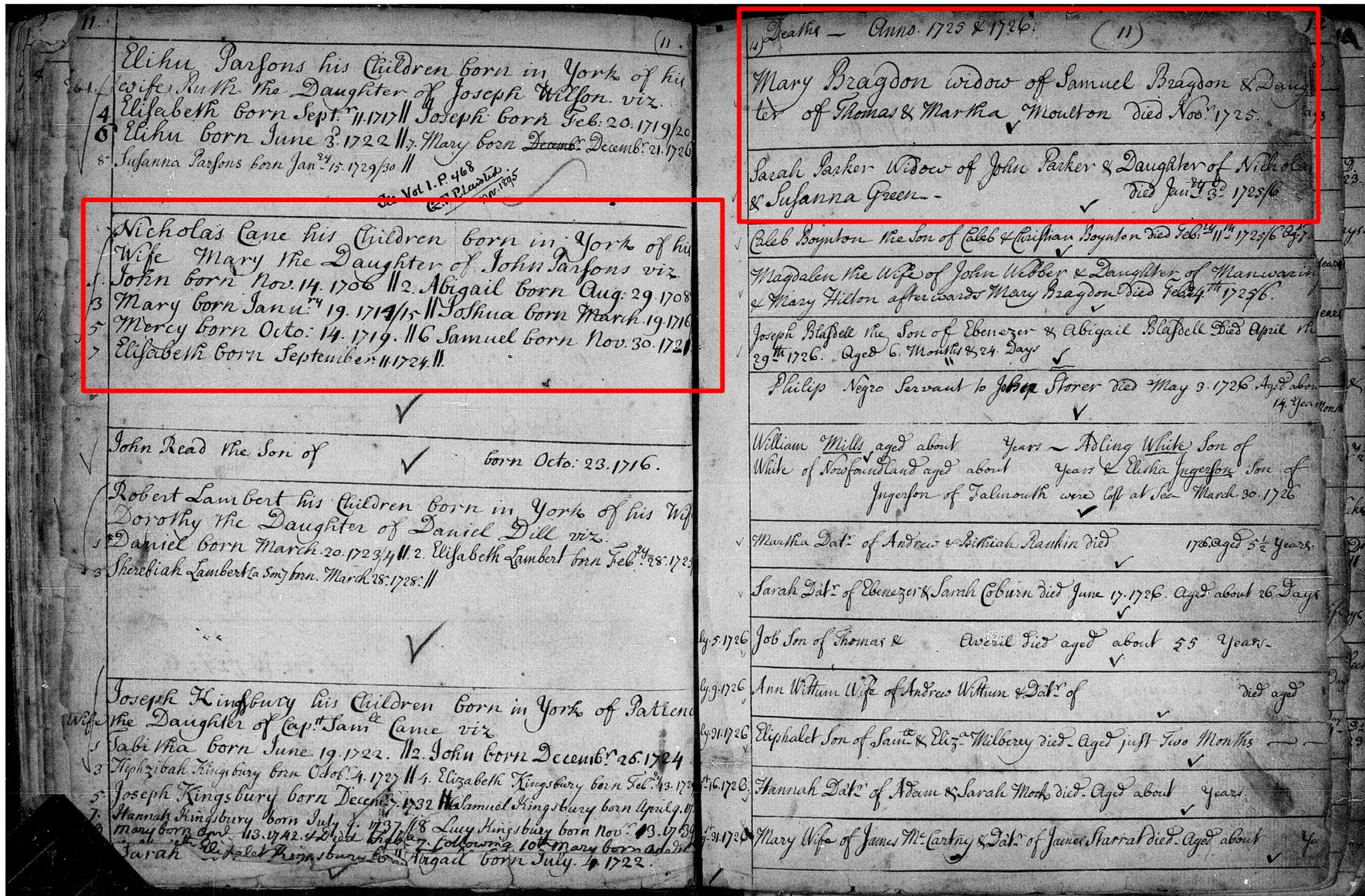
Committee

Town Records

Examples of Town Records

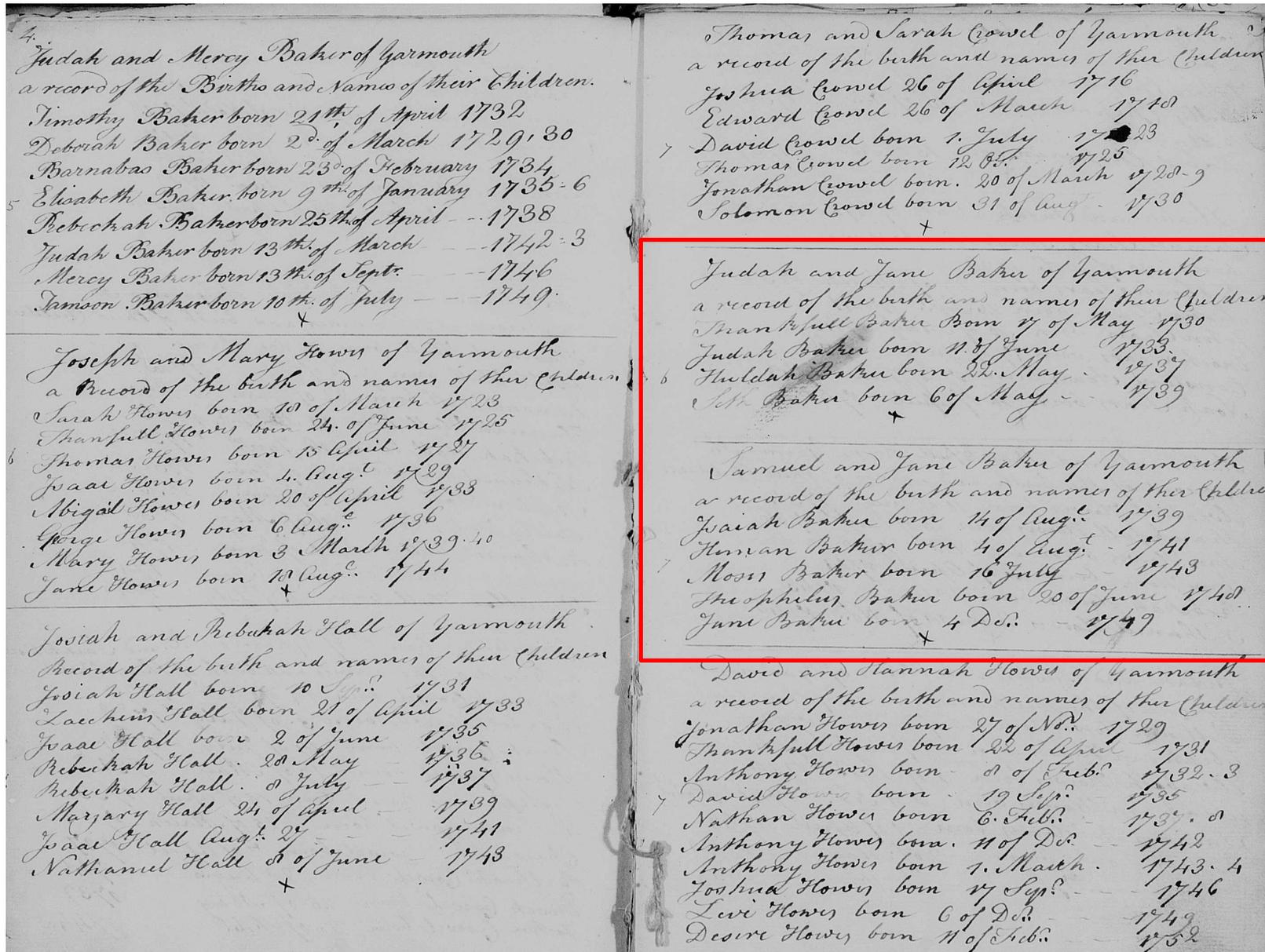
- Lists of Officers
- Meetings
- Vitals – birth, marriage, and death
- Land Transactions
- Ear marks
- Military
- Treasurer's records
- Tax records
- Warnings out
- Pew deeds
- Licenses





York Maine Colonial Vital Records

FHL Film 7596957, image



Dennis, MA Family Vital Records 1720-1750

Major Offices (Who's Who in Town)

Town Clerk

- Keeper of vital records
- Documented votes, resolutions, and orders
- Recorded the meeting proceedings
- Administered oaths and affidavits
- Certified licenses

Selectmen

- Generally elected to a one-year term
- Managed the affairs of the town
- Performed many tasks
 - Created slate of jurors
 - Divided town lands
 - Judged offenses against town laws and orders

Constable

- Posted notice for town meetings
- “Policeman” of the town
 - Conduct
 - Illegal activity
- Acted as tax collector if specific position did not exist
- Warned out strangers

Treasurer

- Managed town's finances
- Presided over reimbursements
 - Military service
 - Care of poor
 - Services by townspeople (constructing and repairing roads, building schoolhouse, etc.)

Other Town Offices

- Town Clerk
- Selectmen
- Constable
- Treasurer
- Fence Viewers
- Hog Reeves
- Listers and Collectors
- Surveyor of Highways
- Jurors

9 at the meeting
to meet house in the west part on Thursday
the 22 day of this Instant April
at at twelve of Clock in the day
in order to Chuse officers for the
year In suing may more fully appear
By the Charter this is the order
of his Excellency the governor
dated at Springfield April y^e 16 day 1756
Ebene: Stevens Cal said meeting.

At Leagal meeting held By the Inhabitance
of Sandown on Thursday the twenty Second
of this Instant April 1756

- 1 Capt Jethro Sanborn was Chosen moddrator for 1st meeting.
- 2 Capt Jethro Sanborn Chosen Parish Clark
- 3 Israel Huse was Chosen Constable for the Present year.
- 4 Ruben Clough theophilus Eaton Leute Samuel Sleeper was Chosen Sectect men for the yea In suing
- 5 Capt tucker Joseph grealy was Chosen Sesore
- 6 David Sleeper and Jacob wels Chosen thithing men.
- 7 Jonathan Colbey Ezekel Eaton mores Blake Strains
- 8 Glandow Colbey mores tucker howards
- 9 Benjamin Shaw David Straw Lemmens
- 10 Mr mores Blake Selar of Leather
- 11 Mr Steven Raschelder nathanel Lad a Comity to Examin the Sectect mens account

noted that Mr. Israel Huse Junior is
Elected as hired Constable In the Town
of his father.

At Leagal meeting held By the Inhabitance
of Sandown on Thursday the twenty Second
of this Instant April 1756

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Inuse a Comity to agree and Sure
aminutor for Sum Preaching and
make Return of these same with

Town Meeting Record, Sandown, NH, 1756

9th Voted that Twelve Pounds be raised for mending
 the Great Bridge the year past.
 10th Voted That Forty Pounds be raised to defray
 Town charges the present year.
 11th Voted That that part of the money assest
 last year to mend High ways and not committed, be
 this year appropriated to mend the High Ways.
 12th Voted that the Select men sell the Pest House
 for what it will fetch.
 13th Article dismissed.
 Recorded Pr. Step n. Longfellow Town Clerk

Falmouth Feb ry. 20th 1753.

By the desire of the Selectmen of Falmouth
 I, the Subscriber have measured and laid out Roads in
 Falmouth aforesaid as follows -
 Begin at Henry McKennys westerly corner at Cape
 Elizabeth thence
 North 35 Degrees West 19 Rod on the top of the Sea
 Wall to Hanscoms Point thence
 North 59 Degrees East 9 Rod thence
 North 32 Degrees West 34 Rod on the top of the sea
 Wall to Capt. Wm. Wentworths Land thence
 South 88 Degrees West 7 1/2 Rod thence
 North 9 Degrees West 11 Rod thence
 North 47 Degrees East 6 Rod thence
 North 9 Degrees East 12 Rod thence
 North 21 Degrees West 19 Rod thence
 North 12 Degrees East 30 Rod thence
 North 31 Degrees West 16 Rod thence

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 North 9 Degrees West 11 Rod thence
 North 47 Degrees East 6 Rod thence
 North 9 Degrees East 12 Rod thence
 North 21 Degrees West 19 Rod thence
 North 12 Degrees East 30 Rod thence
 North 31 Degrees West 16 Rod thence

North 90 Rod between

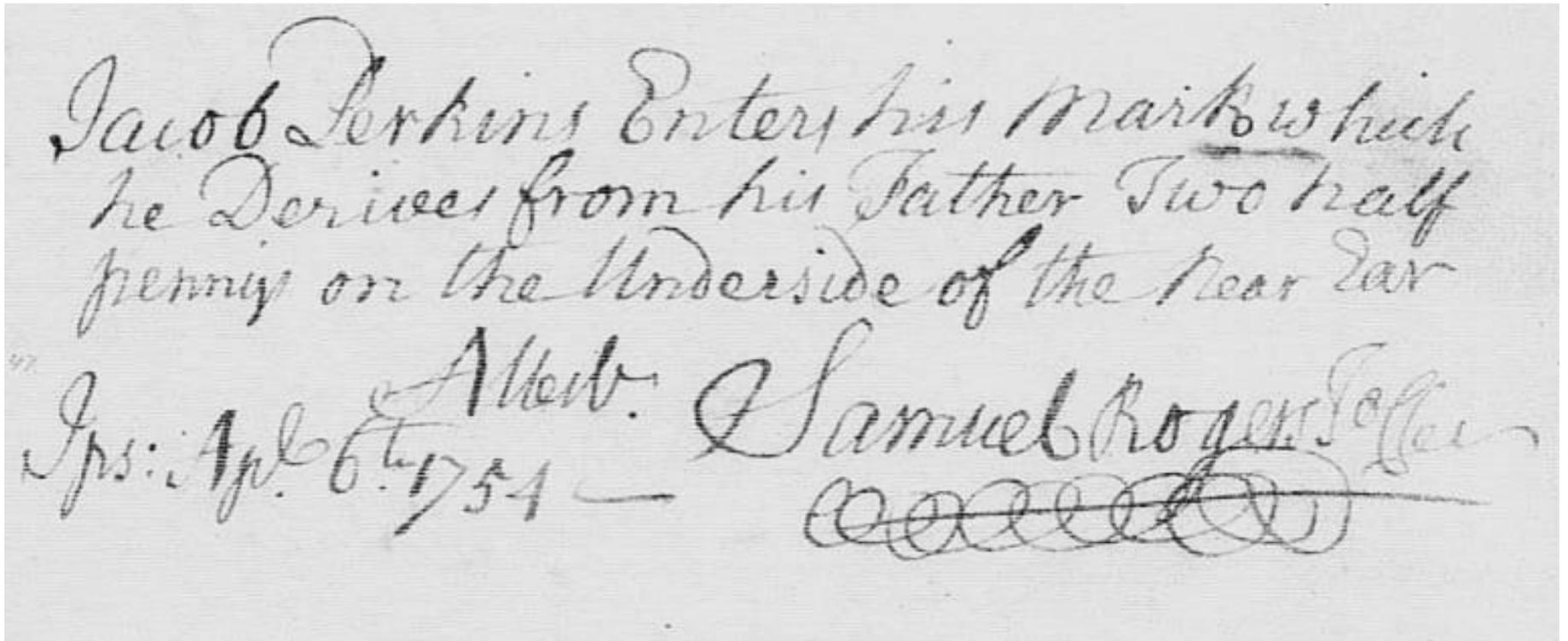
own field in the Road that is now trod then
 South 53 Degrees West 56 Rod then
 South 88 Degrees West 29 Rod then
 North 57 Degrees West 30 Rod, which goes about 7 Rod
 to the Northward of John Jordans Barn, then
 South 82 Degrees West 9 1/2 Rod near the swamp to the
 Northward of Richard Jordans Barn, thence
 South 63 Degrees West 50 Rod to a small red oak tree
 standing about 2 Rod to the Southward of James Jordans
 Barn thence
 South 83 Degrees West 28 Rod then
 North 41 Degrees West 16 Rod which leads into the
 former Road over the long causeway to Clement Jordans
 The Road to be Two Rod in width, and to be extended
 one Rod each way, from these courses.

Falmouth, Maine 1753 Road Survey

Ear Marks

- Cattle and sheep were grazed on common lands
- Important that each animal had identifying mark
- Marks recorded by town clerk
 - Transfer of ear marks from person to person can prove parentage or relationships

Ear Marks



Ear Mark - Ipswich, Mass.

Finding Colonial Town Records

Class 3: Basics of Early New England Research

Volume 1 contains: vol. A & B (transcript of A) town records and land grants 1647-1753. Volume 2 contains: vol. C fragments of leaves, lot layouts 1656-1675, tax lists 1675-1677; vol. D town records 1661- 1670; vol. E rate book 1662-1672; vol. G town records 1722 and 1758; vol. I highway layouts 1686-1730; vol. J highway layouts 1711; vol. K highway layouts 1733-1805; vol. Y scraps of records; vol. M vital statistics 1684-1838. Volume 3 contains: vol. F town records and lot layouts 1693-1757; vol. X index. Volume 4 contains: vol. H town records and land grants 1736-1807; vol. W index. Volume 5 contains: vol. L surveyor of highway records 1812-1825; vol. Q inventories 1794-1812. Volume 6 contains: vol. R inventory list 1820; vol. S inventory list 1821; vol. T inventory list 1822; vol. U inventory lists 1822-1828; vol. V inventory list 1823. Volume 7 contains: vol. O town accounts 1741-1786; vol. P town accounts 1816-1832.

Includes indexes.

Also includes births 1674-1838, marriages 1704-1822 and deaths 1703- 1834.

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#) 

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, New Hampshire, Strafford, Dover - Vital records](#)

[United States, New Hampshire, Strafford, Dover - Town records](#)

[United States, New Hampshire, Strafford, Dover - Land and property](#)

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Town records vol. 1 1647-1753; vol. 2 1693-1838	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	15118	5510598	
Town records vol. 3 1693-1757	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	15119	5510599	
Town records vol. 4 1736-1807	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	15120	5510600	
Town records vol. 5 1794-1825; vol. 6 1820-1828	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	15121	5510601	
Town records vol. 7 1741-1832	Family History Library	United States & Canada 2nd Floor Film	15122	8619658	

Town Records for Dover, NH

Summary

- Colonial-era resources are often in book format.
- Vital records in New England began at the town level when a town was formed or incorporated.
- Land and probate records may be kept at the town, county, or other jurisdictional level.
- Study and know the location where your ancestor lived: location is key to New England research!



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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