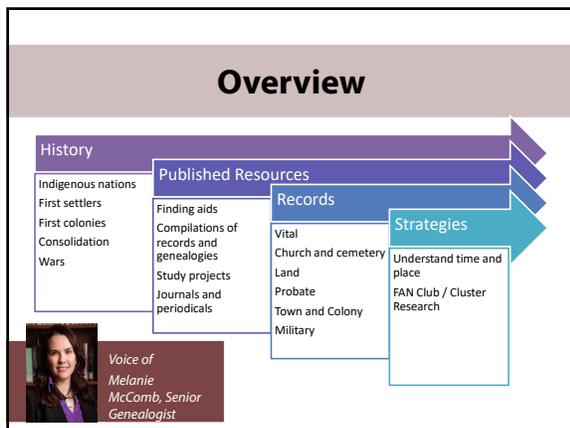




1



2



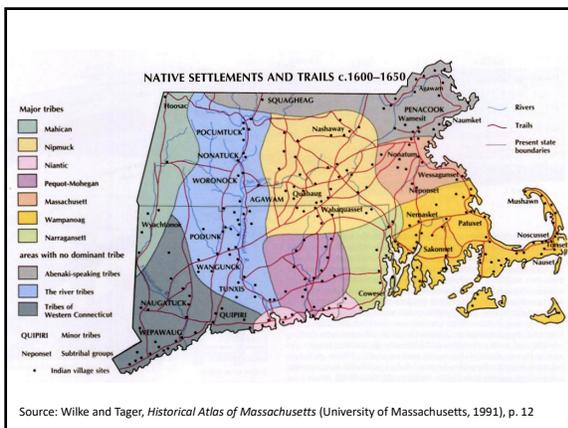
3



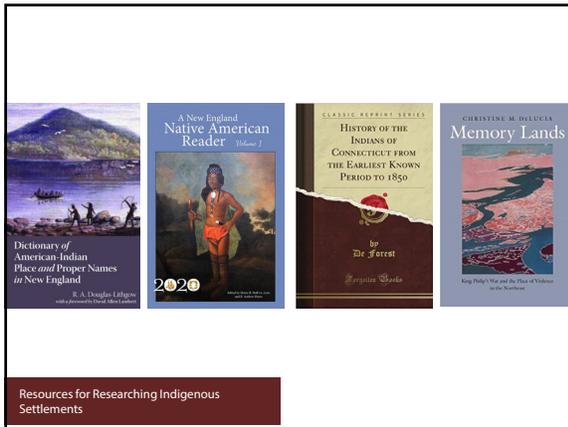
4



5



6



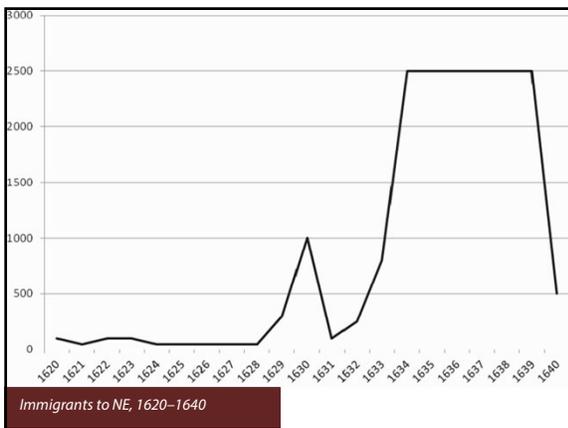
Resources for Researching Indigenous Settlements

7



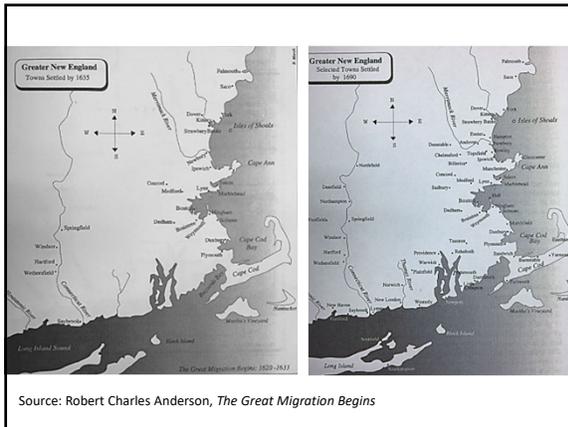
AmericanAncestors.org/tools/native-nations-new-england

8



Immigrants to NE, 1620-1640

9



Source: Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins*

10

First Connecticut Settlement - Windsor

The image shows a historical map of the Palisado settlement in Windsor, Connecticut. The map is a plan view showing a rectangular grid of streets and buildings along a riverbank. A 'RIVULET' is labeled at the bottom. The map is titled 'PLAN OF THE PALISADO (ENLARGED BY J. D. BAYBORN)' and includes a reference to 'The Records of the Town of Windsor, Conn.'.

- William Holmes establishes trading post 1633 near junction of Farmington River and Connecticut River
- English counterbalance to the Dutch settlement at Hartford
- Permanent settlers from Dorchester arrive in 1635

Ancient Histories and Genealogies of Windsor, viewed at HathiTrust.org, page 140.

11

Founding of Wethersfield

- John Oldham and others from Watertown, MA 1634
- Welcomed by the Wangunk desirous of trading beaver pelts
- Merged with Hartford and Windsor by 1637

The image shows a historical map of a colonial town in Wethersfield, Connecticut, dated 1641. The map is a plan view showing a grid of streets and buildings along a riverbank. The title is 'A COLONIAL TOWN: WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT, 1641'. The map is attributed to Paullin, *Atlas of Historical Geography*.

12

Early Connecticut

1634: Oldham & Co. from Watertown to Wethersfield

1636: Hooker & Co. from Cambridge to Hartford

1637: Davenport & Eaton to New Haven

1633: Holmes from Plymouth to Windsor –

1635: settlers from Dorchester

1635: Winthrop and Gardiner to Saybrook

Connecticut's Oldest English Settlement
Map of Connecticut showing the settlements in 1670 from *Historical Sketches of Meriden* by G.W. Perkins

13

First Colonies

Saybrook

- Founded by Winthrop and Gardiner, 1635

Connecticut River Colony

- Merger of Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield towns - 1637

New Haven

- Founded by Davenport and Eaton, 1637

National Geographic: Connecticut ca 1645, accessed 21 Dec 2021

14

Consolidation

- 1639: River Colony adopts Fundamental Orders
- 1644: Connecticut River Colony merges with Saybrook Colony
- 1662: Connecticut Colony receives Royal Charter and absorbs New Haven Colony

15

Pequot War

- Pitted the Pequot who were allied with the Dutch against the three colonies in 1636 and 1637
- Pequot allied with the Dutch
- Colonists allied with Mohegan and Narragansett tribes
- Pequot tribe was decimated

16

King Philip's War

- Metacom, a member of the Wampanoag, was known as King Philip
- Connecticut settlers fearing the Narragansett would join with Metacom joined an attack near South Kingston, Rhode Island
- No major battles fought on Connecticut soil



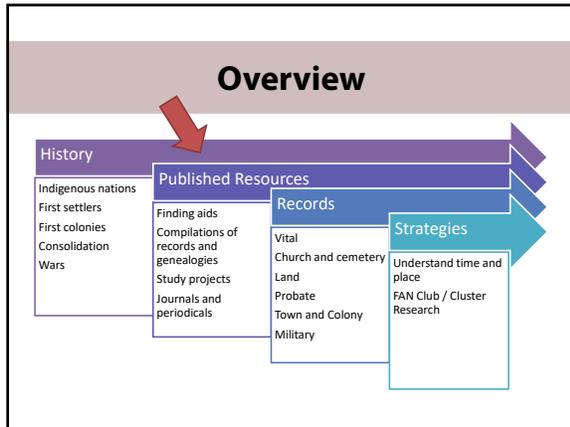
17

17th-Century Connecticut Towns

• 1633 Windsor	• 1649 Stonington	• 1685 Danbury
• 1634 Wethersfield	• 1651 Derby	• 1686 Mansfield
• 1635 Saybrook	• 1651 Middletown	• 1686 Preston
• 1635 Hartford	• 1651 Norwalk	• 1686 Windham
• 1637 New Haven	• 1659 Norwich	• 1686 Woodstock
• 1639 Branford	• 1662 Haddam	• 1689 Plainfield
• 1639 Fairfield	• 1665 Lyme	• 1690 Canterbury
• 1639 Guilford	• 1667 Killingworth	• 1693 Glastonbury
• 1639 Milford	• 1670 Simsbury	• 1697 Lebanon
• 1639 Stratford	• 1670 Wallingford	• 1699 Colchester
• 1640 Farmington	• 1673 Woodbury	• 1699 Durham
• 1640 Greenwich	• 1674 Suffield	
• 1641 Stamford	• 1674 Waterbury	
• 1646 New London	• 1683 Enfield	

Dates of Settlement: from Office of Connecticut Secretary of State : Accessed 23 Dec 2021

18



19

Types of Published Resources

- How-to guides
- ★ • Finding aids
- ★ • Study projects
- ★ • Compilations of records and genealogies
- ★ • Journals and periodicals
- Genealogies and Local Histories

The slide features a collage of historical documents and books, including 'New Englanders in the 1600s', 'The Great Migration Begins', and 'Original Lists of ANS OF CL...'.

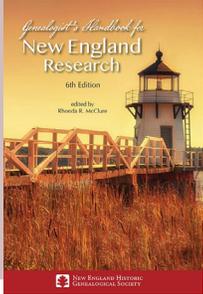
20

Finding Aids

21

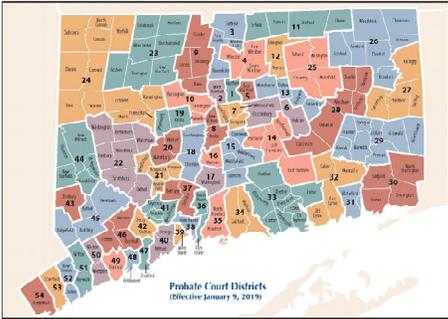
Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research

- Town and County Lists
- Detailed Maps
- Court Houses
- Library and Archives



Genealogist's Handbook for
New England
Research
6th Edition
edited by
Rhonda R. McClain
New England Historic
Genealogical Society

22



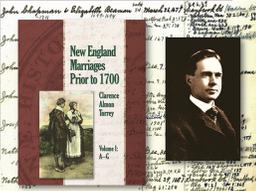
Probate Court Districts
effective January 1, 2019

19
Connecticut Probate Districts; Handbook, p. 18

23

New England Marriages Prior to 1700

- Enumerates approximately 99% of all pre-1700 marriages of New Englanders
 - Includes marriages in Europe prior to migrating
 - Found 70% of maiden names
- ★ Searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org



New England
Marriages
Prior to 1700
Charles
James
Terry
Miami, FL
A-G

24

Torrey's New England Marriages prior to 1700

husband's name
 ABBY, Samuel (ca 1648-1698) & Mary KNOWLTON (1654-), m2 Abraham
 marriage date: ~~MICHELL, 1699-1700~~ Oct 1672; Wenham/Salem/Windham, CT
 sources within {}
 Knowledge Supp. 3:21; Tingley-Meyers 793; I:111C 1:33; DePew 47; Hale (1952) 660; Granberry 139.

wife's name
 ADAMS, Peter (?1622, ?1621-1690+) & Rachel [?NEWCOMB] ?du Francis; ca 1650?; Medfield (NYGBR 12:10; Reg. 48:191, 85:383; Braintree Anc. 7; Melrose Twp. 282; Bartlett, Adams 79; Adams (1898) 7; Sv. 1:14; Hill (#1) 40, 43; Vinton Mem. 297, 299; W. Cooke Gen. (ms) 14; Fellowes-Davis Anc. 88)
 place(s) of residence
 sources within {}
 other spouse & date of that marriage
 other family member

25

Torrey's Source List

~~ADAMS, Peter (?1622, ?1621-1690+) & Rachel 1650?; Medfield (NYGBR 12:10; Reg. 48:1; Bartlett, Adams 79; Adams (1898) 7; Sv. 1:14; Cooke Gen. (ms) 14; Fellowes-Davis Anc. 88)~~

<p>Adams (1861): Adams, George, <i>Genealogy of the Adams Family of Kingston, Mass.</i> (Boston: privately printed, 1861)</p> <p>Adams (1881): Appleton, William Sumner, <i>Some Descendants of Elian Adams of Ipswich, Mass.</i> (Boston: D. C. App & Son, 1881)</p> <p>Adams (1895): Adams, Smith, <i>Genealogy and History of a Part of the Newbury Adams Family, Formerly of Devonshire, England, Being the Descendants of Robert Adams and Wife Eleonor</i> (Calais, Me.: The Calais Advertiser Office, 1895)</p> <p>Adams (1898): Adams, Andrew N., <i>A Genealogical History of Henry Adams of Braintree, Mass., and His Descendants; also John Adams, of Cambridge, Mass., 1632-1897</i> (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1898)</p> <p>Adams (1900): Adams, Andrew N., <i>A Genealogical History of Robert Adams of Newbury, Mass., and His</i></p>	<p>Alden (ms): <i>Alden Genealogy</i> (published under auspices of the Alden Kindred of New York and Vicinity, 1935)</p> <p>Alden Chart: see Daniel Alden Gen.</p> <p>Alden Mem: Alden, Ebenezer Alden, <i>Memorial of the Descendants of the Hon. John Alden</i> (Randolph, Mass.: Samuel P. Brown, 1867)</p> <p>Alden-Pabodie: Alden, Mary Lonford (Taylor), <i>Elizabeth (Alden) Pabodie and Descendants</i> (Salem, E. Putnam, 1897)</p> <p>Alden-Snell-Long: Long, Hallock Porter, <i>Alden-Snell-Long Ancestry: Being the Compiler's Line of Descent from John Alden Who Arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the Mayflower, in 1620</i>. . . (Washington, D. C., 1925)</p> <p>Aldis: Whitin, Frederick H., <i>The Aldis Family of Dedham, Wrentham, Roxbury and Franklin, Mass.</i> (Dedham: Dedham Transcript Press, 1925)</p>
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26

GALL, THOMAS, b. ca. 1597, d. Malden, Mass., May 1676. Goodman, pp. 139-45.

CALENDER, ELLIS, b. ca. 1639, d. Boston, Mass., 18 May 1728. NEHGR 144:195-210; 319-30; 145:31-43 (five generation study); NEHGR 145:373 (correction).

CALLUM, JOHN, d. Haverhill, Mass., 25 February 1693/4. TAG 70:1-8, 104-11.

CALLUM, MACKENZIE, d. Lynn, Mass., after 26 February 1677. TAG 70:1-8, 104-11.

CAMP, EDWARD, b. ca. 1603, d. New Haven, Conn., before 22 September 1659. CA 32:140-44.

CANE, CHRISTOPHER, b. ca. 1613, d. Cambridge, Mass., 9 December 1653. GM2 112:6-son Jonathan? at Soc, pp. 87-88.

CANNIFF, ALEXANDER, d. Plymouth, Mass., after 1688. Jessup, pp. 251-53.

CANNISTY, THOMAS, b. ca. 1600, d. Dover, N.H., after June 1681. NHGR 19:1-7; Jessup, pp. 253-57.

CAPEN, BERNARD, b. ca. 1562, d. Dorchester, Mass., 8 November 1638. GMB 1:209-11; NEHGR 158:110-11 (Hannah John?); MJ 17:25-27.

CARD, JOHN, b. ca. 1620, d. York, Me., 25 January 1691/2. Probable English origins at MG 19:22-30.

CARD, RICHARD, d. Jamestown, R.I., before 1 July 1674. John? at TAG 58:40-42.

CADORE, RICHARD, b. ca. 1615, d. Newport or Warwick, R.I., not long after 29 November 1675. GM2 116:6-10; Johnson, pp. 66-68; TAG 79:100-8 (Richard? John?).

CARGILL, SEE GREGG

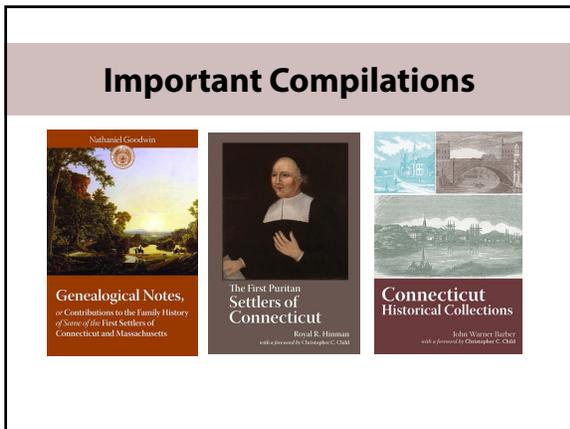
CARLETON, EDWARD, b. 1610, of Rowley, d. before 27 November 1678, possibly in England. R1600, p. 220; PA, p. 389-96; MCA, p. 171. Wife Ellen (Newton) at PA, p. 547; RD600, pp. 393-96; MCA, p. 624.

CARLELLA, JOSEPH, b. ca. 1663, d. York, Me., 17 March 1717/8. Donald Bradford Macdonald, *Joseph Carlell of York, Me., York and Lincoln County Descendants and the Autiquity of the Carlell Name* (n.p., the author, 1986). Reviews: CN 20:141-42.

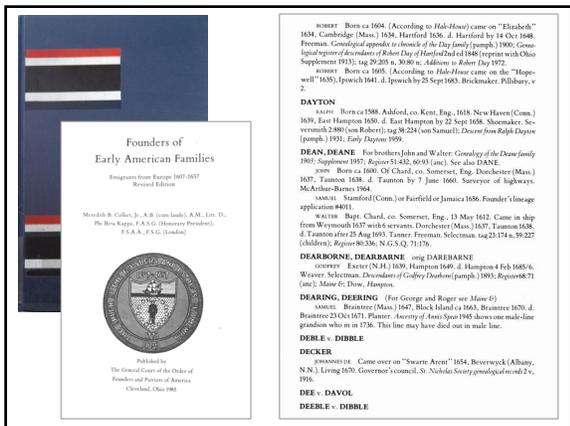
27



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30

Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society

- From 1860 to 1930, Connecticut Historical Society published a series of key early documents from their collection
 - Archive.org has digitized
 - AccessGenealogy has index

COLLECTIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY: VOLUME 1

- Rev. Thomas Hooker's Letter to Governor Winthrop, 1636
- Abstracts of Two Sermons by Rev. Thomas Hooker, in the Years 1636, 1639
- List of English Colonies before the New World, 1614
- Account of the Trial of Edward Cheney before the Church of New Haven, is printed from a contemporary manuscript, supposed to be by Cheney himself.
- Letter from Governor Winthrop Respecting the Charter of Connecticut, 1662
- The President's Right to Electors, by Gordon Sullivan, 1889
- New Migration Colony of Connecticut Villagers, 1742
- Connecticut Officers at Louisbourg
- A List of the Officers in the Connecticut Regiment, under the command of Lt. General Rogers, at the Reduction of Louisbourg and Fort Louis depending, to the Surrender of the British Hesper, and Garrisoned the same and Evacuated by the British Troops.
- Return Returns to the Transatlantic Foundation, 1774.

31

Great Migration Study Project

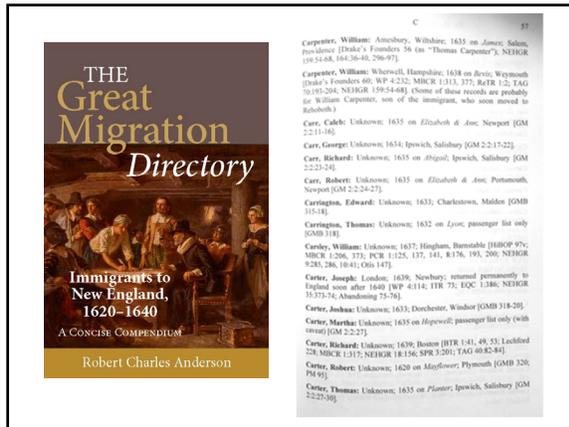
32

Great Migration Study Project

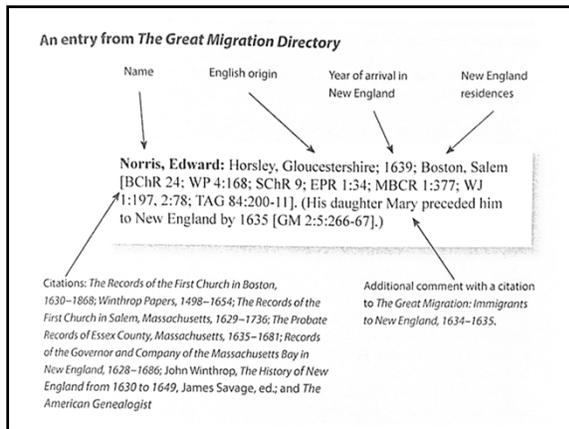
- Directed by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
- Started in 1988
- Genealogical and biographical sketch for immigrants to New England from 1620 to 1640
- Thirteen published volumes
- ★ Searchable online databases on AmericanAncestors.org
- Trace early Connecticut settlers



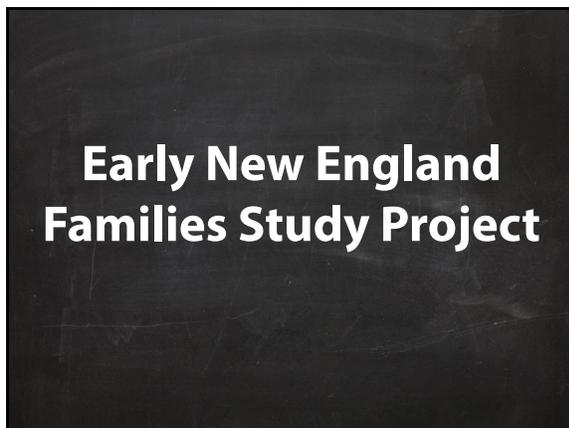
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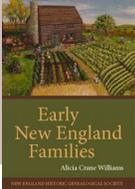
38



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Early New England Families

- Directed by Alicia Crane Williams
- Genealogical and biographical sketch for those who married in New England from 1641 to 1700 (uses Torrey as guide)
- Grouped by year of marriage
- Two published volumes
- ★ Searchable at AmericanAncestors.org
- New sketches posted online



40



[AmericanAncestors.org/publications/early-new-england-research](https://www.americanancestors.org/publications/early-new-england-research)

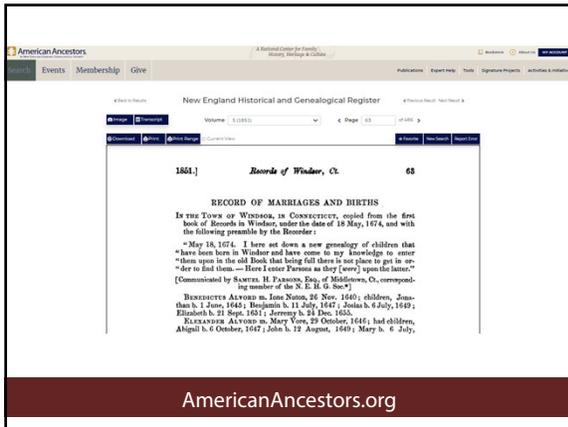
41

Mayflower Families

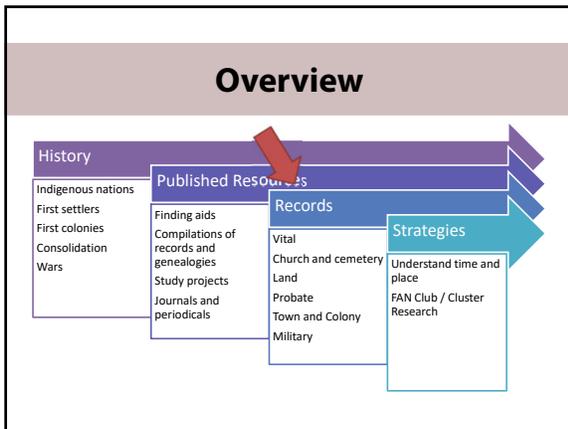
- Project provides well-documented lineages of the ship's passengers
- ★ At AmericanAncestors.org
 - Index of all the 5th Generation descendants, their spouses, and children
 - Searchable database at AmericanAncestors.org



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Early Connecticut Records

- Vital and church records: birth, baptism, marriage, death, burial, gravestone
- Land records: grants and deeds
- Probate records: will, inventory, guardianship
- Town and Colony: meetings, actions, records, censuses
- Court: lawsuits, probate
- Military records: Colony, town militia

48



49

Jurisdictions for Records			
	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town → State	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town → State	County	County
Massachusetts	Town → State	County	County
New Hampshire	Town → State	County	County
Rhode Island	Town → State	Town	Town
Vermont	Town → State	Town	Probate Districts

50

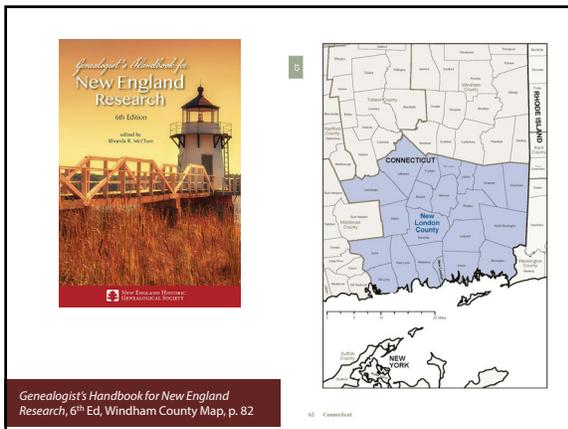
Overview of Colonial Government

- Colony
 - Fundamental Orders of Connecticut 1639
 - Connecticut Charter – 1662
 - General Court of Connecticut
- Towns
 - Selectmen
 - Elected officers (Town Clerk)
 - Responsible for vital records, town grants of land, Overseers of the Poor
- Courts
 - 1666 - Hartford, Fairfield, New Haven, and New London for probate and other affairs

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Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 6th Ed, Windham County Map, p. 82

53

Town (Current Probate District)	Inc.	County	Parent Town(s)	Pre-2011 Probate District (Est.)	Parent Probate District	Notes	VRs	CRs
Newington (7)	1871	Hartford	Wethersfield	Newington (1875)	Hartford			
Newtown (45)	1711	Fairfield		Newtown (1820)	Danbury	Daughter Town: Brookfield.	B, N, W	
Norfolk (24)	1758	Litchfield		Norfolk (1779)	Litchfield, Simsbury		B, W, W	
North Branford (35)	1851	New Haven	Branford	North Branford (1837)	Guilford & Wallingford	Alias: North Farms.	B, W	
North Canaan (24)	1888	Litchfield	Canaan	Canaan (1846)	Sharon			
North Haven (36)	1786	New Haven	New Haven	North Haven (1955)	New Haven	Alias: East Farms.	B, W	
North Stonington (30)	1807	New London	Stonington	North Stonington (1835)	Stonington	Alias: Milltown.	B, W	
Norwalk (51)	1651	Fairfield		Norwalk (1802)	Fairfield, Stamford	Daughter Towns: New Canaan, Westport, Wilton.	B, W	
Norwich (28)	1662	New London		Norwich (1748)	New London	Settled 1659. Daughter Towns: Bozrah, Franklin, Lisbon.	B, P, N, W, W	

Connecticut Town Pages with Norwich, New London County

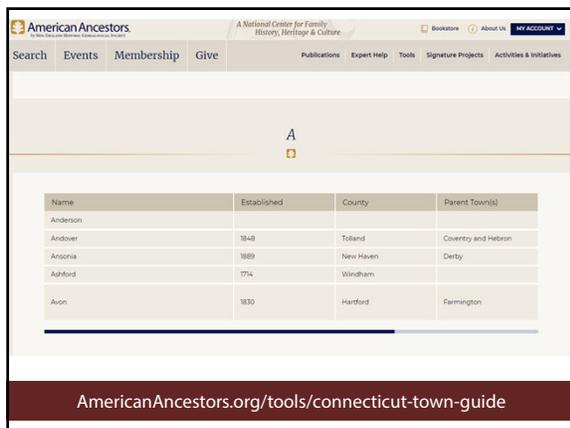
54



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Vital Records

- Kept by towns since earliest settlement of community
- Generally are well-kept, but not always complete
- Originals at Town Clerk's office or Connecticut State Library
- Barbour Collection provides easiest access to Connecticut Vital Records
- FamilySearch.org in process of digitizing original records

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Barbour Collection

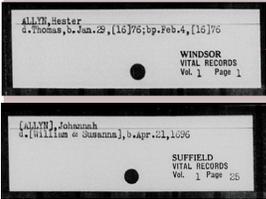
- Compiled under the direction of Lucius Barnes Barbour
- Statewide alphabetical **slip index** – available FamilySearch.org
- **Bound volumes** by town – available AmericanAncestors.org, Ancestry.com (\$), FamilySearch.org



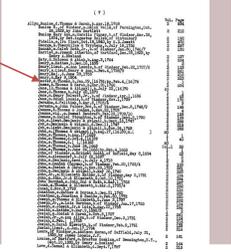
61

Barbour Collection

Slip Index (FS)



Town Page (AA)



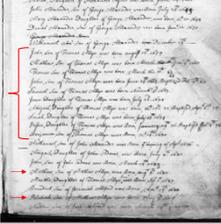
62

Family Search Digitization

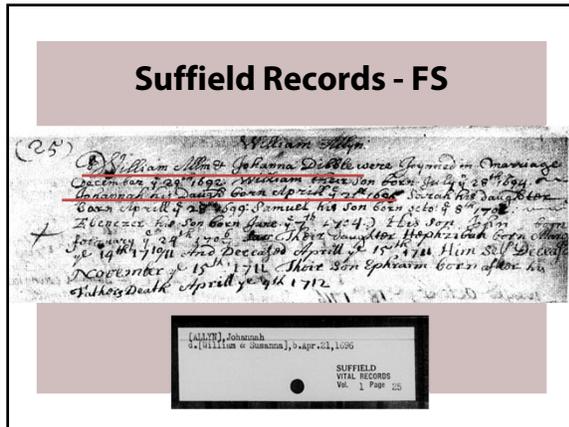
Windsor Town Clerk's Records



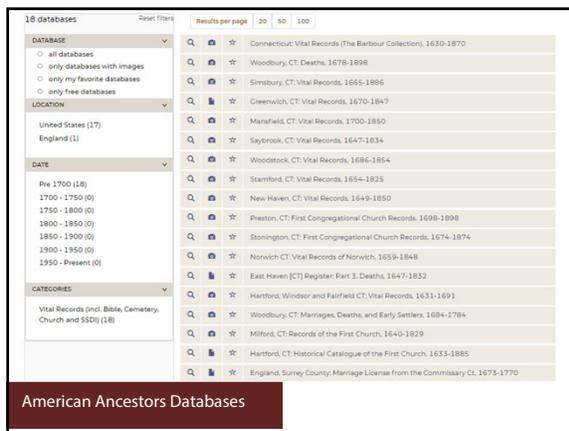
Allyn Births



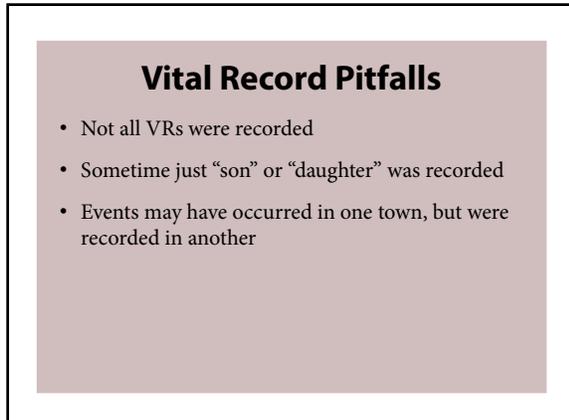
63



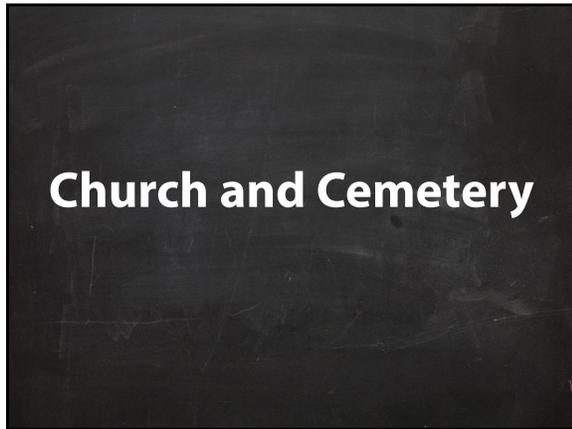
64



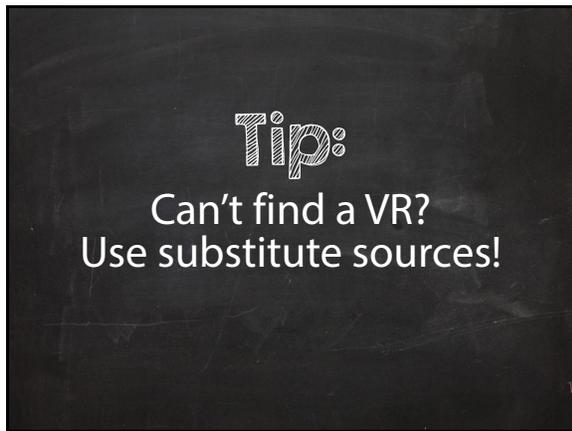
65



66



67



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Church Records

- Baptisms, deaths, and burials
- Admissions of church members
- Disciplinary records
- Letters of dismissal



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Connecticut Church Records

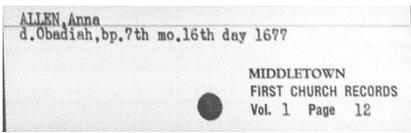
- Most complete holdings of church records are at the Connecticut State Library
 - Digital listing of their complete church record holdings online
- FamilySearch.org
 - “Index cards to vital records of Connecticut churches at the Connecticut State Library”
 - Index covers one quarter of all records held by Connecticut State Library
 - Check the FamilySearch.org catalog, by town, for digitized original record
 - “Connecticut, Church Records, 1660-1955”
 - “Connecticut, Marriages, 1630-1997”
 - “Connecticut, Births and Christenings, 1649-1906”

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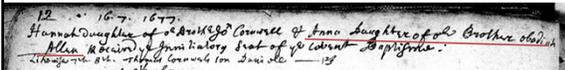
Connecticut Church Records

- “Connecticut, U.S., Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920”– Ancestry.com
- Congregational Church Archives
 - Simsbury (1697)
 - Lebanon (1697)

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“Index cards to vital records of Connecticut churches at the Connecticut State Library”



“Church records, 1668-1871”
Author: First Church of Christ (Middletown, Connecticut)

Middletown, CT First Church – Family Search

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17th-Century Connecticut Cemetery Records

- Hale Collection: Compilation of vital events from cemetery inscriptions and newspaper death notices
 - Title at FamilySearch: "Connecticut, Charles R. Hale Collection, vital records : COLLECTION RECORD, 1640-1955"
 - W. P. A. Project (Works Progress Administration) directed by Charles R. Hale
- FindAGrave.com

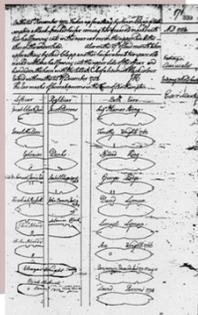
73

Town and Colony

74

Town Records

- Comprised of many different types of records: town meeting, selectmen's records, tax rolls, proprietors' records, cattle marks, warnings out, pauper records, etc.
- Ann Lainhart's *Digging for Genealogical Treasure in New England Town Records* (1996)



75

Why are Town Records Important?

- They are one of the most underutilized resources from 17th to 19th century
- Offer clues to when an ancestor arrived in a town and often when they leave
- Learn about town offices your ancestor held and military service
- Valuable resource for female ancestors

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Index to Connecticut Town Records

112 AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.
TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	4	1654-1906	No.....	No.
Land records.....	188	1624-1906	No.....	Yes.
Vital statistics.....	12	1858-1906	No.....	Yes.
School society.....	2			

Early vital statistics have been copied by present town clerk.

TOWN OF MILFORD, COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	6	1696-1896	No.....	No.
Land records.....	67	1626-1906	No.....	Vols. 1-56.
Vital statistics.....	7	1833-1906	Yes.....	No.
School society.....		In c o m- plete.		
Church (First Congregational).....				

© Very few entries from 1800 to 1847.

Index to Connecticut Town Records Annual report of the American Historical Association - 1906 v.2

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Where to Find 17th Century Town and Colony Records?

- Connecticut Archives index
 - “Towns and lands, 1629-1789”: 10 volumes
 - “Towns and lands, 1649-1820”: five volumes
 - Searchable by name
- Local town & city clerk’s offices, or historical societies have originals
- Some town records have been imaged on microfilm or digitally from the FHL Library – use Catalog > Place Search

78

Colony Records

- Available for
 - Colony of Connecticut
 - Colony of New Haven
 - Colony of Saybrook – vital records only
- Includes:
 - Minutes of colonial officials
 - Earliest mention of male inhabitants of colony

79

Colony Records – Hathi Trust

80

Land

81

Connecticut Land Deeds

- Earliest land was granted by Connecticut General Court to town Proprietors
- Proprietors distributed land within town
- Records held by towns, digitized by FamilySearch.org
- No statewide or county index to deeds

82

Where to Locate Proprietor Records

- Town Hall, Town clerk, tax office or assessor
- Libraries and Historical Societies
- Family History Library
- Published transcriptions
 - *Original distribution of the lands in Hartford among the settlers, 1639.*
 - *Proprietors' Records of the Town of Waterbury, 1677-1761*
 - Search HathiTrust.org or Archive.org for ancestor's town

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The screenshot shows a digital scan of a historical document. The title page is yellowed and features the text: "PROPRIETORS' RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF WATERBURY CONNECTICUT 1677-1761". Below the title, it says "REPRODUCED AND BOUND BY KATHARINE A. PRICHARD" and "PUBLISHED BY THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WATERBURY". To the left, a "CONTENTS" page is visible, listing sections like "I--CHARTER AND LETTERS OF THE GRANTING CHARTER" and "II--THE FIRST PROPRIETORS' BOOK". The browser interface at the top shows "INTERNET ARCHIVE" and various navigation icons. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "Proprietors' records of the town of Waterbury, Connecticut, 1677-1761" and the URL "Archive.org/details/proprietorsreco00wateiala".

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Other Published Sources

- Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut
 - Volume 1: 1636 – 1665
 - Volume 2: 1665 – 1678
 - Volume 3: 1678 - 1689
 - Volume 4: 1689 - 1706
 - HathiTrust.org or Archive.org
- Use Proprietor records to determine the earliest date of settlement for your family

85

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CONNECTICUT. 103
TOWN OF DERBY, COUNTY OF NEW HEAVEN.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	4	1678-1806	No.....	No.
Land records.....	85	1678-1806	No.....	No. Gen. index.
Vital statistics.....	6	1812-1899	No.....	Yes.
Subscribers'.....	4

* Prior to 1812 vital statistics were recorded in land and town records.
Land records, vols. 1 and 2, have been copied by Daughters of Revolution.
General index to vital statistics, 1812-1899, since their volume index.

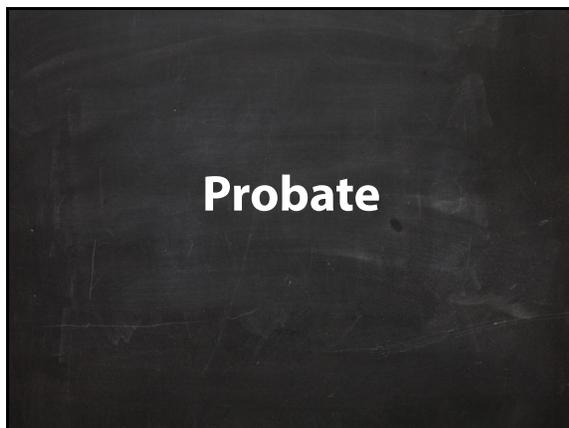
TOWN OF DURHAM, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	4	1728-1806	All prior to 1720.	No.
Land records *.....	33	1698-1806	Yes.....	Yes. ^b
Vital statistics *.....	3	1847-1899	Yes.....	Yes.
Subscribers'.....	1	1798-1862
Proprietors'.....

* According to Fowler's history of Durham records existed back to 1602, but no trace can be obtained of them.
^a Land records have index of grantees; vols. 1-16 partial record of grantees.
^b Early book of land and proprietors' records contains early vital statistics; some found in town records.
^c Vital statistics, land records, contains early proprietors' records; earlier proprietors' records are missing. (Fowler.)
 Miscellaneous records: Joint stock corporations, 1 volume; earmarks and dog register, 1; siemens, 1; attachments, 1; entries, 1; accounts with families of volunteers, 1; account book of sheep masters of Durham (town book), 1.

Inventory of Connecticut Town Records

86



87

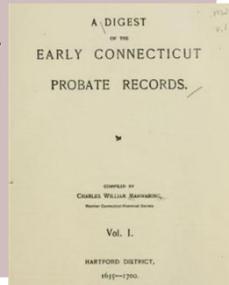
Connecticut Probate Records

- Proof of death (between date of will and probate)
- Family relationships, widow, legatees
 - Personal bequests
- Financial status, land ownership
- Be sure to confirm the accuracy and completeness of published records

88

Where to Find 17th-Century Probate Records

- Charles Williams Manwaring, *A Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Volume 1 covers to 1700. Available at [Archive.org](https://archive.org)
- [AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.americanancestors.org) (“Connecticut: Early Probate Records, 1635-1750”)



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Page 185-6.

Winthrop, Gov. John, Boston. Invt. in Hartford, 273-01-04. Taken 5 September, 1676, by John Allyn, Joseph Haynes, George Gardner. Will dated 3 April, 1676.

I John Winthrop, of the Colony of Connecticut, in New England, now resident of Boston, being sick in Body but through Mercy of perfect memory and Understanding, do make this my last Will & Testament: I Will & bequeath unto my two sons Fitz John & Waitstill, to each of them an equal proportion out of my Estate, which is to be a double portion to each of them (that is, double to what I give to each of my daughters); the rest of my Estate to be equally divided to my 5 daughters, viz: Elizabeth, Lucy, Margaret, Martha & Anne, only my Will is that in the Computation of my Estate, whereas I have already given to my daughters Elizabeth & Lucy good Farms which they are in possession of, that that may be considered by the Overseers of this my Will hereafter named, and proportionably accounted as part of their portions, abatement to be made out of the present Legacy to them given above accordingly. And I do hereby nominate and appoint my two sons Fitz John & Waitstill and my 5 daughters above named to be Executors & Executrices of this my last Will & Testament. And I doe request the persons hereafter named to accept the trouble to be overseers of this my Will and to settle all things accordingly, and doe declare that it is my Will that if any question, difficulty or differences arise in or about this my Will, it shall be determined by them or any three of them. The persons are: Of Connecticut, Capt. John Allyn, Mr. William Joanes and Major Robert Treat. Of Boston: Mr. Humphrey Davie, Mr. James Allyn, and my brother Mr. John Richards.

In Witness that this is my last Will & Testament, I have hereunto set my Hands & Seal. Done in Boston this 3 day of April, 1676.

Witness: *Thomas Thatcher sen.*, JOHN WINTHROP Esq.
John Blake.

Court Record, Page 154—25 July, 1676: Will proven.
(A Copy on File, & on Record at Hartford, Connecticut.)

Manwaring's Record for Winthrop

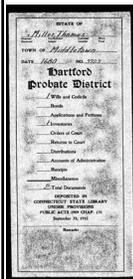
90

Other Sources for Probate Records

- Connecticut State Library: books and loose papers – much available through FamilySearch.org
- FamilySearch.org
 - Index: “General index to probate records : all districts in Connecticut 1641-1948”
 - “Probate files collection, early to 1880”
 - Viewable at Family History Center or Affiliate
- Ancestry.com (\$) “Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999”

91

Estate of Thomas Miller, Middletown, CT



August 6th 1780

Do hereby certify that the within and enclosed are the true and correct copies of the original probate records of the estate of Thomas Miller deceased in the County of Middlesex State of Connecticut as the same are now on file in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the said County of Middlesex State of Connecticut and as the same are now on file in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the said County of Middlesex State of Connecticut and as the same are now on file in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the said County of Middlesex State of Connecticut

Witness my hand and seal of office this 6th day of August 1780

John F. Miller
Clerk of the Superior Court

Ancestry.com: "Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999"

92

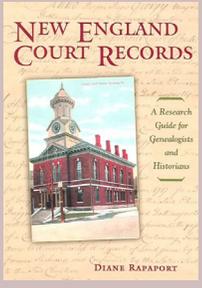
Courts



93

Court Records

- Criminal activity by or against an ancestor
 - Infractions against town or colony rules
- Civil actions by or against ancestor
 - Property, real, animal
 - Relations with neighbors
 - Social and financial status
 - Divorce
- Few images available; FHL Microfilm



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Particular Court 1639-1663

- First court to hear probate cases
- Published in *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Hartford, CT: Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society) vol. 22
- AmericanAncestors.org: “Connecticut: Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of CT, 1687-1688”

95

Court fees
ye Clerk saith:
Marsh^l 17th
M^r Davis taking
bond—4th

Attended
5th day

/From the original manuscript in the possession of the Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Conn.

Jehoj: Bartlet being p'sented by ye Grand Jury ye 2th of yis Instant for being drunk, he was sutioned before yis Court and appeared; was Convicted by testimony of being drunke it being the second time./ This Court Doe sentence him, that he shall find two sufficient suertyes to be bound in ye sun of ten pounds, wth Condition of good behavior, and for want of such suertyes, to be sent to ye gaol./

Jere: Gillet and Jn^r Williams of Symsbury was p' sented by the grand Jury ye 4th June Instant for not going to mette was Sumonned and appeared before yis p'sent Court, & ye Court hearing what they had to say for yemselves and they p'omising Reformation, ye Court so Cause to pase yis by

Nath Winchell of Winds' being p'sented by ye grand Jury in March Last for neglecting ye publick ordi- nances on ye Sabath, and withdrawing in time of Exer- cise & making uproar in the Street/ was sumonned and appeared before ye Court and being Convinced The

An Inventory of the Estate of Daniell Garet Deceased was exhibited in Court and oath made that there was a true p'sentim' of the Estate to the Aprizⁿ so far as at p'sent is known and if more Come to knowledge she will Cause it to be added to the Inventory./ This Court grants administration on the Estate to the widow and desire and order Capt Caleb Standly and John Marsh ov'scers to assist the widow that the estate may be Improved for the best advantage that she may not be a Towne Charge./

Court of Particulars

96

Court of Assistants

- Appeals court
- Also divorce, murder, witchcraft
- AmericanAncestors.org: “Minutes of the Court of Assistants, 1669-1711”

97

A Court of Asisten^s at hartford may: 17: 1669.
 upon the humble Petition of **Mary Barns** the wife of **Charls Barns** the [sic] shee might bee [word crossed out] Redleased from her matrimoniall Bond and Engagement to the said Barnes this Counte [sic] having duely Considered ~~tee~~ that p'mises with the Euidences p'sented Doe finde y^e said Barnes hath wilfully deser't'd his wife at and that if the one of them if not both of ~~both~~ them haue Committed adultery and theirfore doe Declare that they doe relese the said mary from her Coniugall relation matrimonial bond to the said Charls Barnes.

Court of Assistants - Divorce

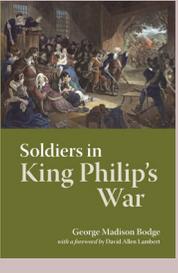
98

Military

99

Military Records

- Two major conflicts: Pequot War and King Philip's War
- Few details for 17th century muster rolls
 - Mostly Colony records, originals at State Archives
 - Town records – local militia
- Military history chapters appear in many published town histories



100

CONNECTICUT HISTORIANS THE PEQUOT WAR OF 1637

PATTISON, EDWARD—Service mentioned. (Mason and Savage.) Edited from Winsor. (Tuttle, Dodge and Sibley's Win.) From Saybrook. (Tarlton.)
Probably came in the Christian, 1635. Sibley says that "his valiant right arm caused seven Indians to 'sit the dust.'" He was of New Haven 1639, a proprietor of Rehoboth, Mass., 1643, where his land was forfeited. Two children. (Savage, Pope and Nash's Fifty Puritan Ancestors, p. 148.)

PHILLIPS, WILLIAM—Edited from Hartford. (Tarlton, Talbot, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field.
Was early of Hartford where he died 1655. No children. (Talbot, Savage and Manswaring, Vol. 1, p. 143.)

PERCIE, JOHN—Edited from Hartford. (Talbot and Parker.) Had a lot north of Soldiers' Field.
An early inhabitant of Hartford first removed before 1639. In 1642 he was given his land to William Clark. (Talbot, Savage and H. V. V., p. 63.)

PLUMB, JOHN—Edited from Wethersfield. (Adams and Sibley's Weth.)
He came to Dochester, Mass., 1635, owned a vessel in which he probably came to Wethersfield, 1637, which some think was employed to carry Mason's soldiers in 1637. Removed to Stratford about 1643 and died 1648. Nine children. (Weth. Gen., Savage, Plumb's Plumb Family, p. 11 N. 31; C. R., pp. 307 and 409, and Abateer, p. 60.)

PRATT, WILLIAM—Edited from Hartford. (Tarlton, Talbot, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field.
An original proprietor of Hartford, removed to Saybrook, 1635. Was baptist of James 12th, 1666. Died about 1678. Eight children. (Talbot, Whiteley's Descendants of John Pratt, p. 9; Pratt's First Family, pp. 47 to 44; Savage, Manswaring, Vol. 1, p. 194, and Tutlow, p. 634.)

PURNAS, JOHN—Edited from Hartford. (Tarlton, Talbot, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field. He had land at Hartford in the distribution of 1639, died 1649. Two daughters. (Talbot, Win. Gen., Savage, Manswaring, Vol. 1, p. 30; C. R., Vol. 1, p. 406, and Nash's Fifty Puritan Ancestors, p. 39.)

ROGERS, JAMES—Service mentioned. (C. R., Vol. II, p. 164.) Edited from Saybrook. (Tarlton.)
Came in the Increase, 1635, was of Saybrook, 1637, then of Stratford, or Milford, about 1645, and New London, 1656, died 1688. Seven children. (Rogers' James Rogers and Descendants, pp. 27 to 38; Savage, Carlisle, pp. 99 to 101 and 205 to 208; Pope, Don's Story Ye Memorial at Milford, p. 18, and Abateer, p. 64.)

ROYCE, THOMAS—Edited from Hartford. (Tarlton, Talbot, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field.
Was early of Salem, Mass., removed to Hartford about 1637, to Northampton, Mass., 1644, where he died 1649. Eight children. (Talbot, Bow's Book Genealogical Records, pp. 101 to 113; Savage and Tutlow, p. 638.)

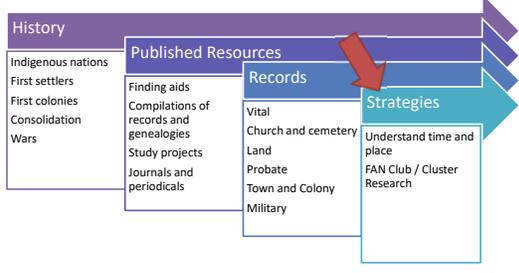
ROUSE, ROBERT—Edited from Wethersfield. (Adams and Sibley's Weth.)
Came to New England 1634 and became one of the first settlers of Wethersfield 1634 or '5. Removed to Stratford 1644, where he died 1666. Ten children. (Weth. Gen., Orcutt's Hist. Stratford, p. 171; Savage and Abateer, p. 608.)

ROUSE, ROBERT, JR.—Service mentioned. (Stratford Land Records, Book 1, p. 232, and Orcutt's Hist. Stratford, p. 130.)
He was son of Robert and Margery Rouse, came with his parents in 1634, and settled at Wethersfield. He removed to Stratford before 1644 and to Stratford about 1667, where he gave his son-in-law, James Johnson, 20 ac of acres in 1679, that was "granted use for service in the Pequot war." He had a Colonial grant of 20 acres in 1668, with no mention of service, which grant was finally taken up by and confirmed to Thomas Weller.

Connecticut Soldiers in Pequot War

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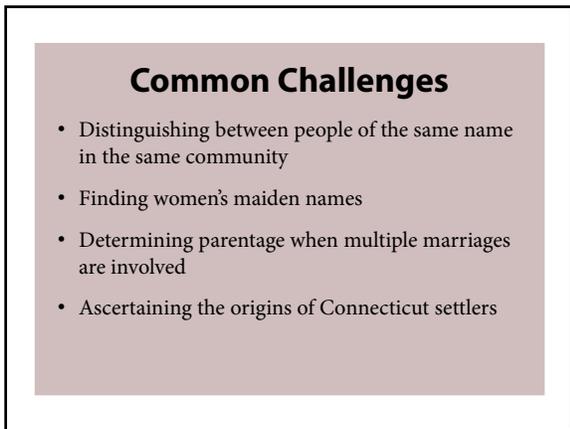
Overview



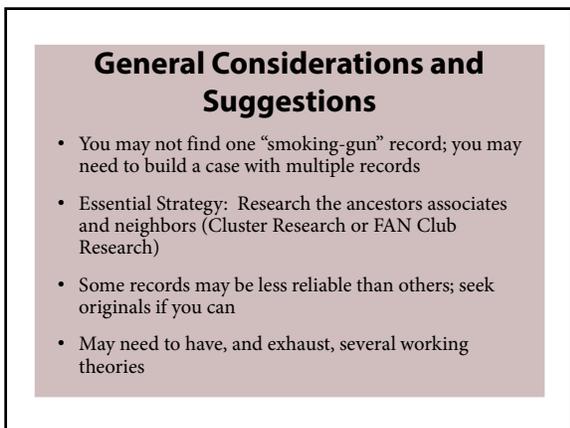
102



103



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General Considerations and Suggestions

- Create a complete timeline with probate, land records, military, or any possible record
- While not culturally consistent, some families used naming patterns
 - Surnames as first names or less common first names can be clues of earlier kinships and origins
- Do not assume a woman's name at marriage is her maiden name; could be a first married name

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Strategy for Sorting Common Names

- What makes each person unique?
 - Dates of vital events
 - Names of wife and children
 - Specific plot of land occupied
- Timeline valuable in common names situations

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Strategy for Finding the Maiden Name

- Who were the neighbors?
- Who are the associates of the husband?
- If the family were early settlers, where did they migrate from?
 - Earliest settlers of Woodstock were from Roxbury, MA
 - Ebenezer Grosvenor of Roxbury arrived in Pomfret, the town south of Woodstock, in 1699 and married Ann ??? In 1707
 - Correlation of births in Roxbury, MA settlers of Woodstock narrowed possible candidates to Ann Massey/Marcy and Ann Lyon

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And keep in mind . . .

- Terms of kinship may have different meanings in 17th-century:
 - Nephew and nieces may be referred to as “cousins”
 - Sometimes “brother” or “sister” can be indications of brothers and sisters within a faith
 - “Father” and “Mother” could refer to in-laws
- Use of “Jr” and “Sr” typically mean younger versus older and don’t necessarily mean kinship

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Summary

- Don’t rely on just one record set
- Don’t reinvent the wheel - look at published sources in combination with originals
- Keep up with scholarly publications
- More and more records are being indexed and digitized everyday

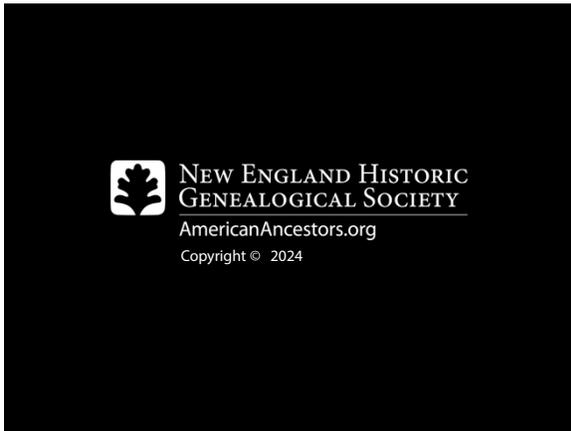
110

THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



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