Researching Connecticut Ancestors

Class 5: Planning a Research Trip to Connecticut

Jen Shakshober, Senior Researcher

American Ancestors
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Meet today's presenter

Jennifer Shakshober
Senior Researcher
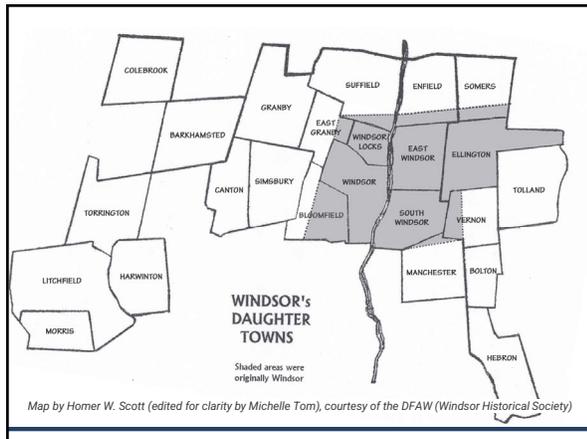
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Voice of
Jen Shakshober,
Senior Researcher

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Review: Earliest European Settlements

- 1614: Adriaen Block sails up the Connecticut River and reaches present-day Hartford

- 1623: Dutch West India Company presence in the Hartford area as a fur-trading outpost

- 1633: Windsor becomes the first English settlement (encompassing present day towns of Windsor, Enfield, Suffield, Simsbury, Coventry, Tolland, Litchfield, Bolton, and others)
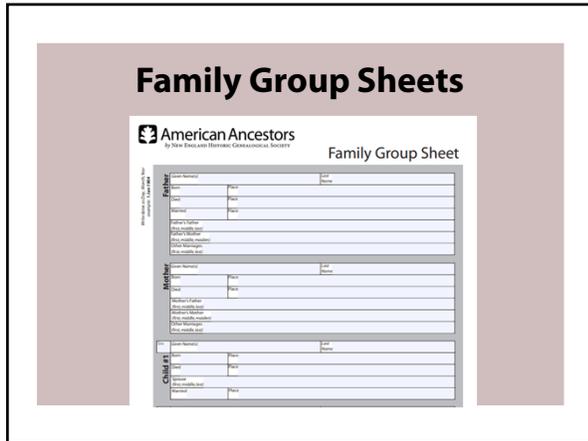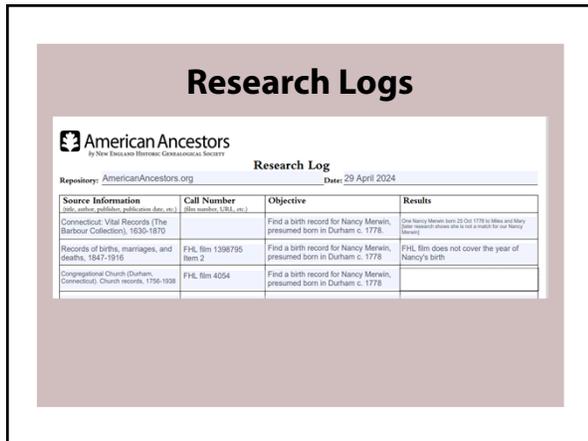
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WINDSOR's DAUGHTER TOWNS

Shaded areas were originally Windsor

Map by Homer W. Scott (edited for clarity by Michelle Tom), courtesy of the DFAW (Windsor Historical Society)

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Step 1

Get Organized

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Family Group Sheets
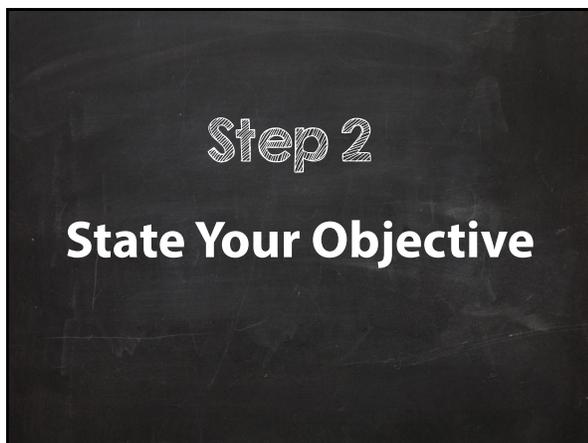
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Research Logs

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Step 2

State Your Objective

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What is my research question?

Who are the parents of Nancy Merwin, born c. 1778 in Connecticut, died 20 Nov 1832 in Springport, Cayuga, New York?

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Which resources can help me answer this question?

- Birth record, marriage record, death record
- Baptismal record
- Probate record
- Land deed
- Court record
- Obituaries

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Other Resources Answering the Question of Parentage:

- Bibles
- Published genealogies
- Family papers

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Step 3

Get Online

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Online Databases

Connecticut: Vital Records (The Barbour Collection), 1630-1870 (American Ancestors)
- Covers 137 of the 149 Connecticut towns established by 1850
- Does not include the towns of Bolton, Coventry, Enfield, Mansfield, New Haven, or Vernon, because published compilations already exist. There are American Ancestors databases covering some of these towns:
  - Bolton and Vernon, CT: Vital Records, 1704-1852
  - Coventry, CT: Vital Records, 1711-1844
  - Mansfield, CT: Vital Records, 1700-1850
  - New Haven, CT: Vital Records, 1649-1850
- The American Ancestors database compiles birth, marriage, and death records into a single database, while Ancestry replicates the Barbour Collection in three separate databases

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FINDING EARLY CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS: THE BARBOUR INDEX AND BEYOND
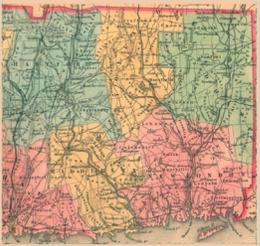
Linda MacLachlan

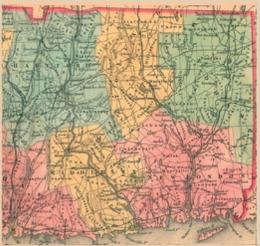*Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond* (2019)

Source bibliographies for 149 towns: the 143 towns indexed by Dr. Lucius Barbour, plus:

Cromwell
Easton
New Britain
New Fairfield
Seymour
Trumbull

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FINDING EARLY CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS: THE BARBOUR INDEX AND BEYOND

Linda MacLachlan

"Diligent genealogists should go beyond the Barbour Index in three different ways:

1. *Vital records in the Barbour Index should be verified by comparison with the original source…*
2. *Vital records not in Barbour may be in other sources*
3. *Other evidence for vital statistics may be found in church and cemetery records, town compilations and other publications…"*
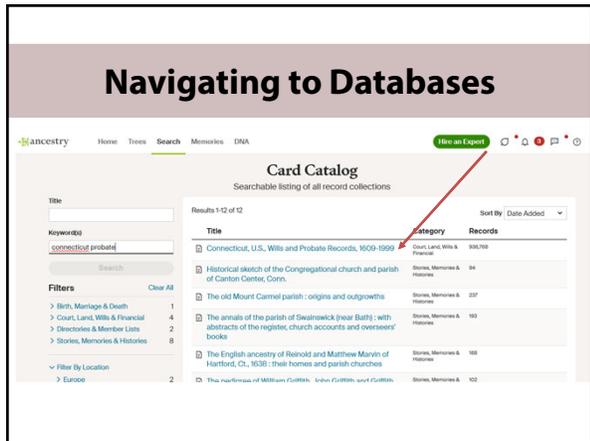
MacLachlan, Linda. *Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond*. Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield, 2019, p14.

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Tip

Always check the Family Search catalog, searching by place name.

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Navigating to Databases

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Online Databases (Ancestry)

- Connecticut, U.S., Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920 (Ancestry)

- Connecticut, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1609-1999 (Ancestry)

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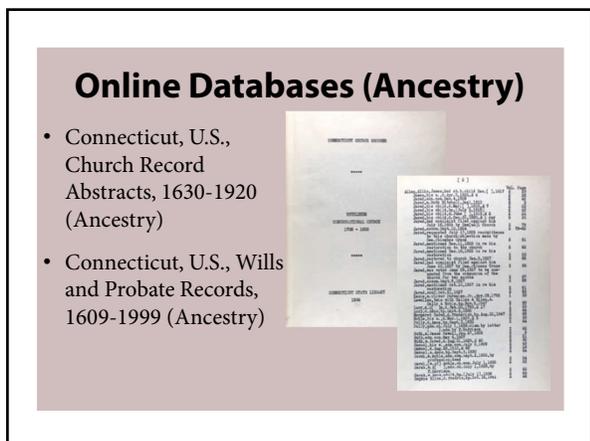
Online Databases
(American Ancestors)

- Connecticut: Early Probate Records, 1635-1750

- Connecticut: Marriages and Deaths, 1790-1833

- Connecticut Nutmegger

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Online Databases (American Ancestors)

Seymour, CT: Vital Records, 1700-1914	Greenwich, CT: Vital Records, 1670-1847
Windham, CT: Congregational Church Records, 1700-1851	Bolton and Vernon, CT: Vital Records, 1704-1852
Suffield, CT: Church Records, 1710-1836	Woodstock, CT: Vital Records, 1686-1854
Newtown, CT: Vital Records, 1704-1850	Salisbury, CT: Vital Records, 1720-1914
Hartford, Windsor and Fairfield CT: Vital Records, 1631-1691	Madison, CT: Church Records, 1791-1827
Saybrook, CT: Vital Records, 1647-1834	East Granby, CT: Vital Records, 1737-1886
Preston, CT: First Congregational Church Records, 1698-1898	New Haven, CT: Vital Records, 1649-1850
East Haddam, CT: Records of the First Congregational Church, 1704-1802	Madison, CT: Vital Records, 1718-1890

….and many more!

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Online Databases
(American Ancestors)

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Online Catalogs and Finding Aids

CT State Library
Preserving the Past. Informing the Future.

Personal and Family Vital Records

About this collection

This collection offers a miscellany of manuscripts and documents published by the Connecticut State Library containing vital records indexes.

In addition to the better known indexes at the State Library (Barbour Collection Index, Bible and Family Records Index, Connecticut Census Index, 1790-1850, Newspaper Marriage and Death

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What's NOT online?

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Onsite resources

- Newspapers
- Court records
- Some vital records
- Published histories/genealogies in open stacks
- Archival materials in closed stacks:
  - Family papers (correspondence, genealogical notes, photographs, news clippings, ledgers, scrapbooks, memorabilia...)
  - Institutional records (ex: Colt's Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company records)
  - Organizational records (ex: Arts and Crafts Club of Hartford, Baptist Associations of Hartford collection)
  - Military collections (ex: Civil War Collection of 450 items, including cartes de viste and stereographs)
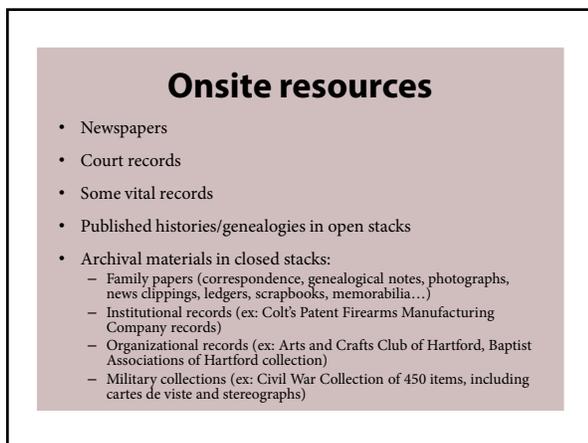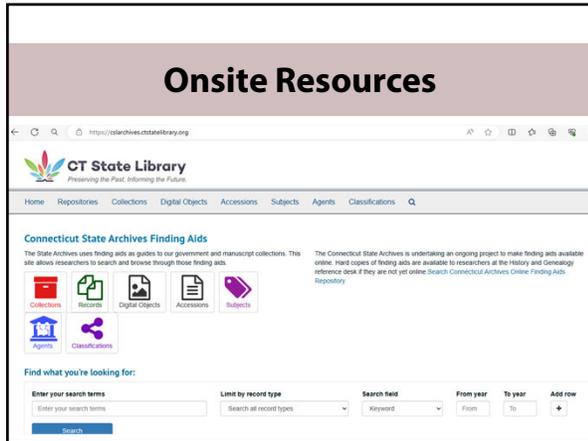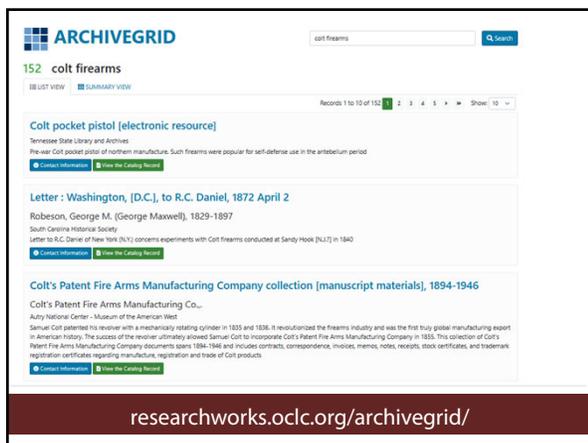
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Boolean Searches

How to Search

You can apply Boolean search logic to your keywords and terms, using AND, OR, NOT, and parentheses. You can also use specific indexes for your search terms.

Broaden Your Search

Put an upper-case OR between your keywords. For example, **dust OR bowl** retrieves records containing either dust or bowl.

Narrow Your Search

Put quotes around your keywords to find records with an exact phrase. For example, **"dust bowl"** retrieves records with the words dust and bowl together, but would not match a description where those two words were not adjacent and in that order.

Put an upper-case NOT between your keywords. For example, **dust NOT bowl** retrieves records containing dust, but not bowl.

Put a ~ and a number between 1 and 4 at the end of your exact phrase. For example, **"dust bowl"~4** retrieves records where dust and bowl appear within four words of each other.

Put parentheses around your search terms. For example, **(dust OR bowl) NOT oklahoma** retrieves records containing either dust or bowl, but not Oklahoma.

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ARCHIVEGRID

"samuel colt" AND "connecticut" [Search]

34   "samuel colt" AND "connecticut"

LIST VIEW   SUMMARY VIEW

research works.oclc.org/archivegrid/

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How to Find County or Town Clerks

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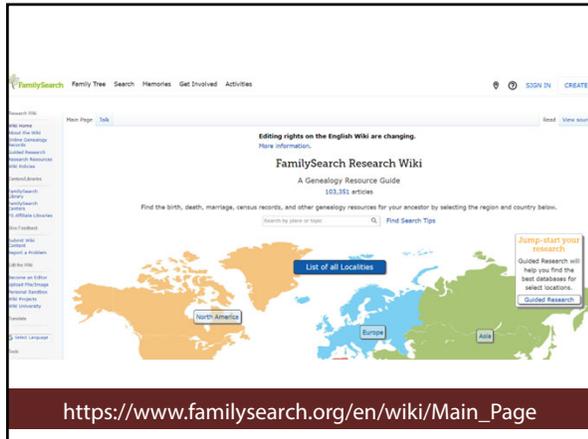
https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page

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familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page

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https://www.eastonct.gov/town-clerk

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Locating Ancestral Graves
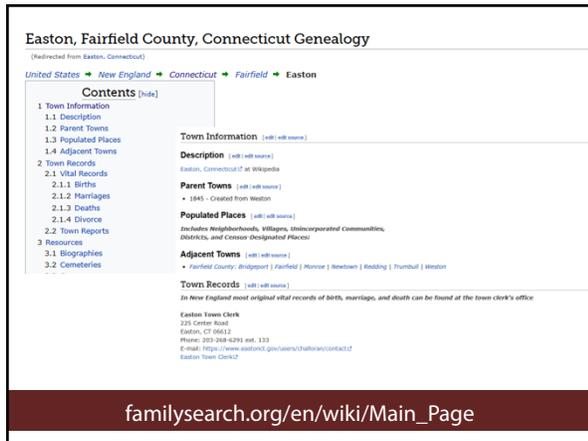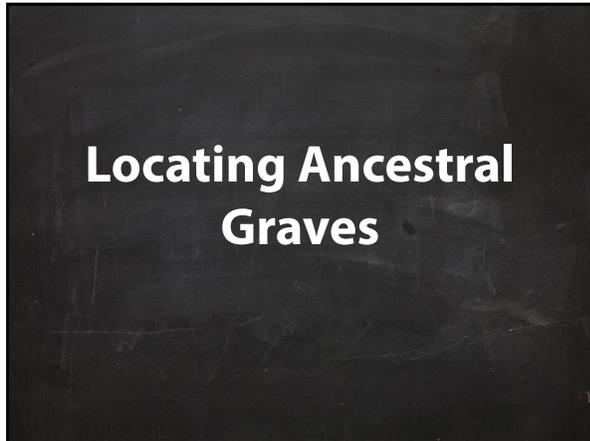
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Hale Collection

- Connecticut, U.S. Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629-1934 (Ancestry)

- Hale Collection on microfilm and digital images (FS Library films 3076-3433)

- https://www.halecollection.com/

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Find A Grave

REMEMBER!

Not all Find A Grave memorials represent actual graves/accurate burial locations!

William Swain
BIRTH   1585
               England
DEATH   unknown
               Connecticut, USA
BURIAL   Burial Details Unknown Add to Map
MEMORIAL ID   45250345 · View Source

Corp James E. Crossley
BIRTH   unknown
DEATH   4 Apr 1965
BURIAL   Latimer Hill Cemetery
               Bloomfield, Hartford County, USA Add to Map
MEMORIAL ID   33129037 · View Source

Co. C 10 Regt
CONN VOLS
ae 68

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Find A Grave - Cemetery

Search 572,871 cemeteries in 249 different countries

| Cemetery Name | Cemetery Location (City, County, State, or Country)* | Search |
| hartford, conn |

Hartford County, Connecticut, USA
Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut, USA
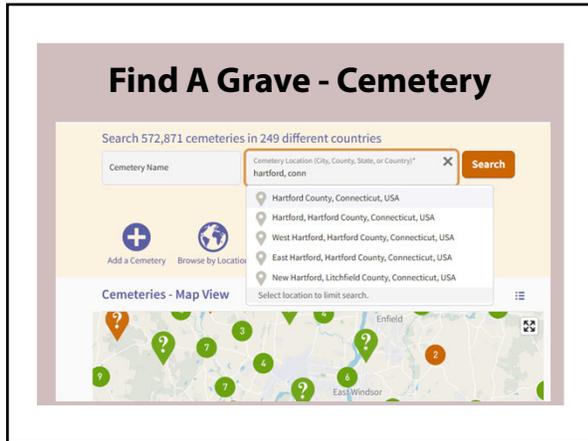West Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut, USA
East Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut, USA
New Hartford, Litchfield County, Connecticut, USA
Select location to limit search.

Cemeteries - Map View

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Step 4

Update Your Log

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Updating Log

American Ancestors
by New England Historic Genealogical Society

Research Log

Repository: Connecticut State Library   Date:

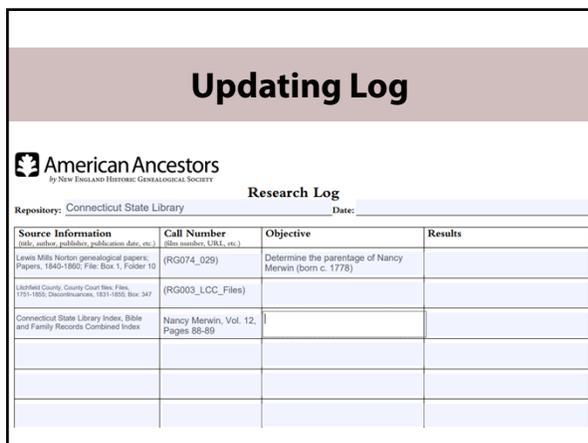| Source Information (title, author, publisher, publication date, etc.)	Call Number (film number, URL, etc.)	Objective	Results
Lewis Mills Norton genealogical papers; Papers, 1840-1860; File: Box 1, Folder 10	(RG074_029)	Determine the parentage of Nancy Merwin (born c. 1778)	
Litchfield County, County Court files; Files, 1751-1855; Discontinuances, 1831-1855; Box: 347	(RG003_LCC_Files)		
Connecticut State Library Index, Bible and Family Records Combined Index	Nancy Merwin, Vol. 12, Pages 88-89		

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Step 5
Embark on Your Trip

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Before you go . . .

1. Check the opening hours, transportation, parking, hotel accommodations, meal options, access, etc.

2. Review and exhaust online resources beforehand

3. Review their online catalog and create a research log specific to this research trip

4. Call ahead to request special collections that are housed off-site

5. Review rules and guidelines (ex: pencils, photography, computer access, etc.)

6. Fees

7. Schedule a consultation with American Ancestors

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Connecticut Repositories

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Connecticut State Library

- 231 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106

- Open to visitors Monday – Friday from 10am – 4pm. Masks are recommended while in the library and museum.

- Metered street parking on Oak, Russ, Lafayette; all-day free parking on Hungerford; Capitol Place parking garage at 21 Oak St; lot at Buckingham and Hudson Streets

- Bring photo ID.

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Connecticut Historical Society

- Waterman Research Center hours: Tuesday-Saturday 12 pm - 5 pm, Thursday until 8 pm

- Mandatory online registration to submit a research appointment request.

- Materials must be requested through Connecticut Museum's online library catalog system **a minimum of two (2) days before your confirmed research visit.**

- Library catalog: https://cmch.bibliovation.com/

- CMCH digital catalog (pilot phase): https://digitalcatalog.chs.org/

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State Vital Records Office

- 410 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06134

- Hours: Monday, 9am-1pm; Wednesday, 9am-3:30pm; Friday, 11am-3:30pm

- For births, marriages, and deaths after July 1, 1897

- Cost is $20 per record, payable by cash or credit

- For walk-ins, only 2 records retrieved per day

The City of Hartford

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Godfrey Memorial Library

- 134 Newfield Street (Route 3), Middletown, CT 06457

- Home of the American Genealogical-Biographical Index (AGBI)
  - Comprised of 4 million names
  - Drawn from 800 books held by Godfrey Library
  - Also derived from 2 million records from the *Boston Transcript* genealogical column
  - $15 per citation (personal check or PayPal)
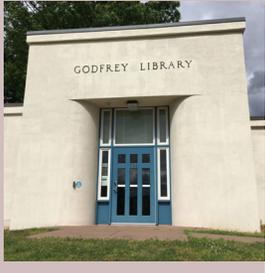
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Hartford History Center

Online exhibits and LibGuides:
  - *From Civil Rights to Human Rights: African American, Puerto Rican & West Indian Housing Struggles in Hartford County, Connecticut 1940-2019*
  - *Hartford Changemakers:* reference materials on Black, Latin, and indigenous Hartford historical figures
  - *Butch Lewis Video Collection*
  - https://hplct.libguides.com/hhc

- Contact:
  - hhc@hplct.org
  - (860) 695-6297

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Windsor Historical Society

- 96 Palisado Ave, Windsor, CT 06095

- Over 350 published genealogies of Windsor families

- Family and subject files

- Windsor High School yearbooks (1915-present)

- Account books (1733-1954)

- Old Document Project (c. 1640-1939), containing over 3,000 items indexed by name, date, and document type
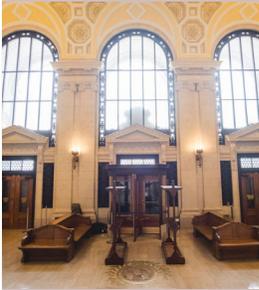
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Review the Steps:

1. Get organized
2. State your objective
3. Get online
4. Update your log
5. Embark on your trip

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CT State Library Day Trip
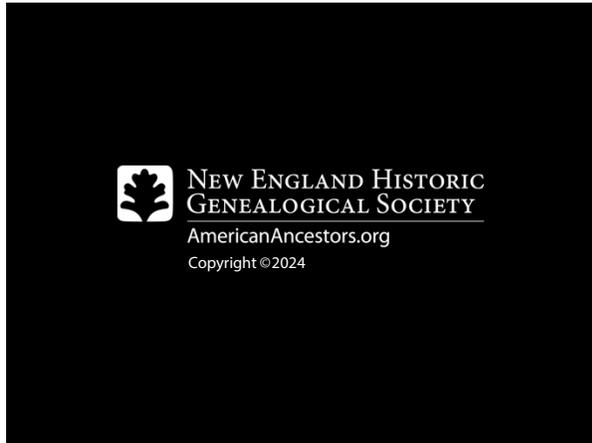## July 30, 2024, 9am-4pm

- Registration required
- Includes 30-minute virtual consultation via Zoom prior to the day trip
- Tour and orientation by Connecticut State Library staff
- Lunch (provided)
- Research assistance by American Ancestors staff while onsite
- Register at: https://my.americanancestors.org/2450/2490

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THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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