

Researching Colonial New England Ancestors

Class 2: Using Town and Church Records

James A. Heffernan, Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors[®]
A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

Meet today's presenter



James Heffernan

Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

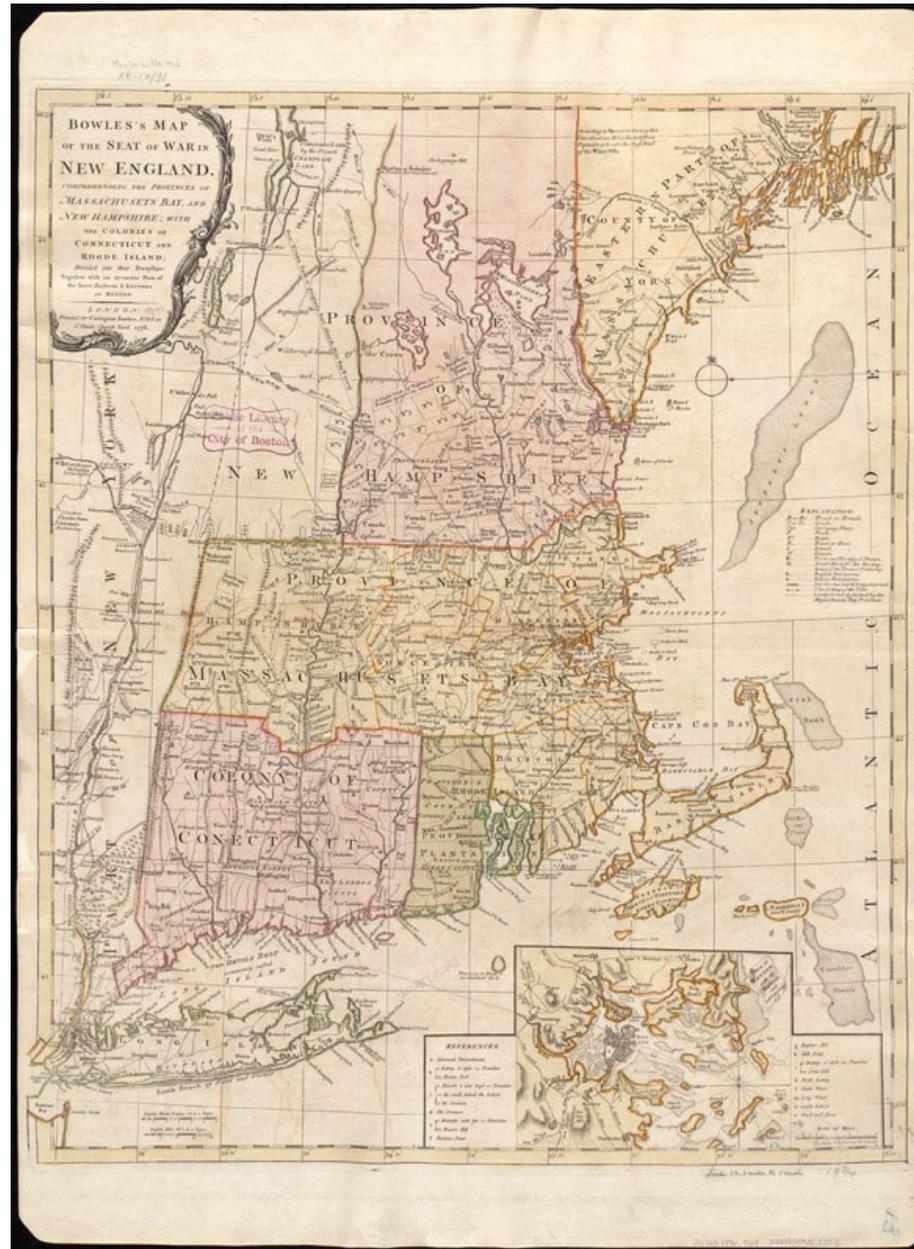
OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Background
 - Town Records
 - Church Records
 - Finding town and church records
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**



Voice of
James Heffernan

Background



Bowle's Map of New England (1775) – Leventhal Map Collection

Colonial Town & Church Records

- Births/Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths/Burials
- Day-to-day administrative tasks for each town or church
- Track population
- Discipline
- Fund services

Puritanism

- Clergy as religious and political leaders
- Personal responsibilities: clear land, raise dwellings, plant crops
- Collective responsibilities: allocate land, raise public buildings, deliver education, maintain general welfare
- Authority divested into local communities as each colony expanded
- Exception: Rhode Island

Town Records

Town Records

- Land grants to groups of settlers (proprietors)
- Proprietors establish property boundaries and common lands
- Formation of the town government (open town meeting)
- Blended church and state functions (until 19th c.)
- Elected officials

Town Records

- Vital records
- Town meeting minutes
- Elected offices
- Licenses
- Earmarks/Brands
- Warnings out
- Military
- Tax
- Land records (VT, RI, CT)
- Almshouse/Support
- Schools

Vital Records

- Births, marriages, deaths
- Interspersed with other town records
- Chronologically or by family group
- Indexing efforts
- Copies by later town clerks

Vital Records

- MA, CT, VT, RI, NH, ME: 1600s or formation
- Massachusetts: Statewide (1841)
- Connecticut: Statewide (1897)
- Vermont: Standardized (1857); Statewide (1919)
- Rhode Island: Statewide (1853)
- New Hampshire: Statewide (1848)
- Maine: (MA until 1820); Statewide (1892)

Card Indexes

Vermont

New Hampshire

Maine

BIRTH—MALE

Name of Child John Durkee
 Color White No. of Child of Mother _____
 Date of Birth December Month 25 Day 1770
 Maiden Name of Mother Ruth
 Mother's Birthplace _____
 Mother's Residence _____
 Full Name of Father Bartholomew Durkee
 Father's Birthplace _____ Age _____
 Father's Occupation _____
 Condition of Child as to Live or Still Birth Live Still
 If Still Birth the Cause _____
 Name of Informant _____
 Town Douglas E. G. Perkins Town Clerk

Name Jeremiah Hove
 Place of Death _____
 Date of Death 7th day of September 1823
 Age: Years, _____ Months, _____ Days, _____
 Place of Birth _____
 Sex _____ Color _____ Married, Single, Widowed, or Divorced, _____
 Occupation _____
 Cause of Death _____
 Place of Burial _____
 Name of Father _____
 Maiden Name of Mother _____
 Birthplace of Father _____
 Birthplace of Mother _____
 Occupation of Father _____
 Name and Address of Physician (or other person) reporting said Death. _____
 Reported from _____
 THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.
 I hereby certify that the above death record is a correct transcript as required by Chap. 21, Session Laws, 1905.
Harace M. Lane
 Clerk of Hampton
 Date May 7, 1906

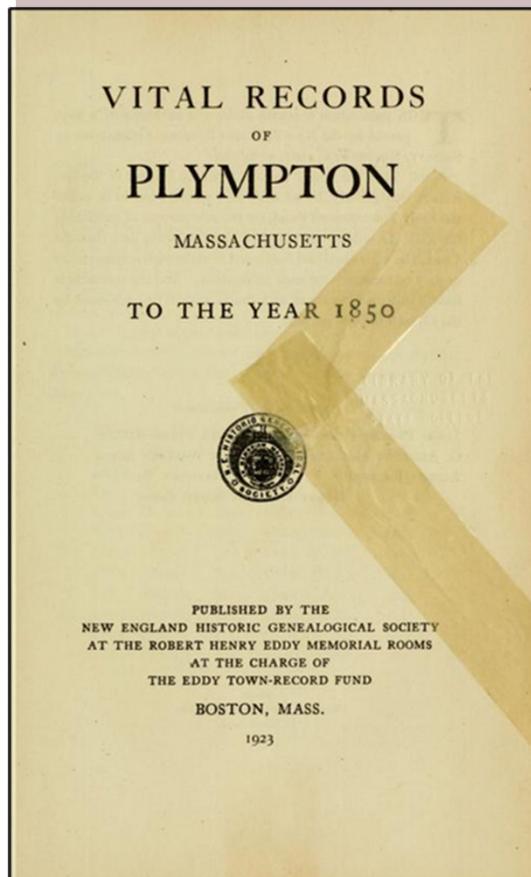
Form R-2 (For old records only)

COPY OF AN OLD RECORD OF A MARRIAGE

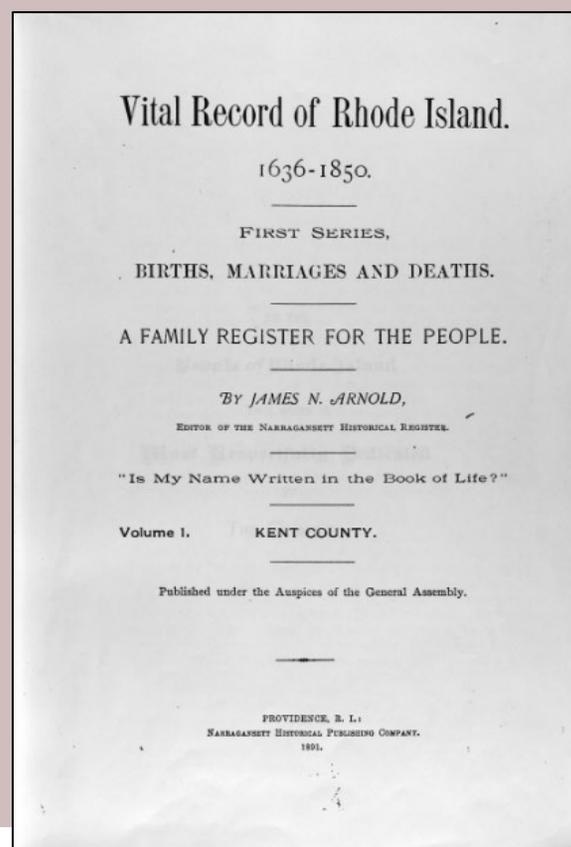
Groom John Hodg
 Bride Betsy Tucker
 Residence of Groom New Gloucester
 " Bride New Gloucester
 Age of Groom _____
 " Bride _____
 Color of Groom _____
 " Bride _____
 Occupation of Groom _____
 " Bride _____
 Birthplace of Groom _____
 " Bride _____
 No. of Marriage of Groom _____
 " Bride _____
 Groom Widowed or Divorced _____
 Bride " " _____
 Intention Filed Jan 20 1776
 By whom Married _____
 Residence _____
 Official Station * _____
 Date of Marriage _____
 Place _____
 *Clergyman, Justice of the Peace, etc.
 (Record continued over)

Published Indexes

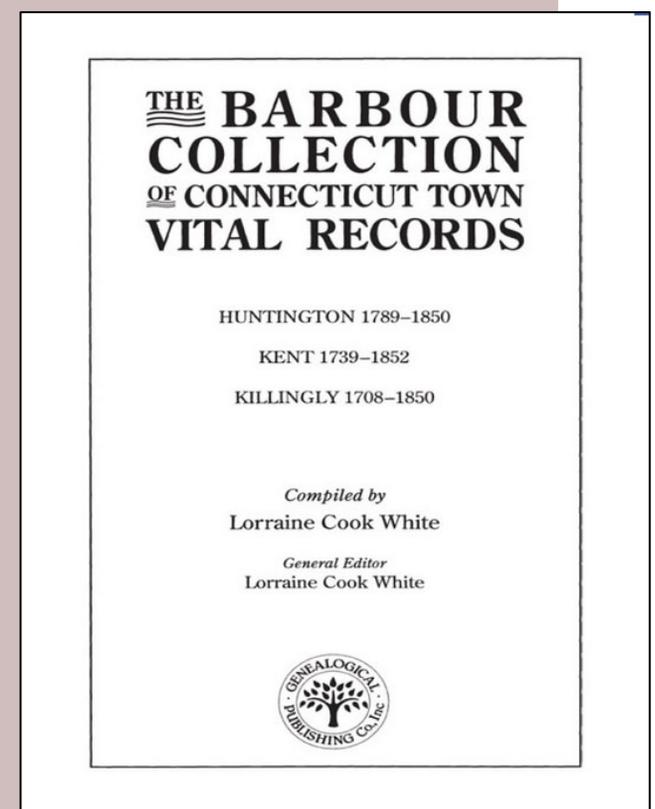
Massachusetts



Rhode Island



Connecticut



Tip

Check the source!

BIRTH—MALE

Name of Child John Durkee
Color White No. of Child of Mother _____
Date of Birth December Month 25 Day 1770
Maiden Name of Mother Ruth
Mother's Birthplace _____
Mother's Residence _____
Full Name of Father: Bartholomew Durkee
Father's Birthplace _____ Age _____
Father's Occupation _____
Condition of Child as to Live or Still Birth Live Still
If Still Birth the Cause _____
Name of Informant _____
Town Dorset E. G. Perkins Town Clerk

Town of Fayston

I hereby certify that the facts set forth on the reverse side of this card are matters of record in Book 2 Page 488 of Town records

Attest: A. C. Grandfield Town Clerk.

Consult Original Record

388 PLYMPTON MARRIAGES

SHAW, Mehetabell and Zachariah Weston, June 20, 1717.*
 Mehitabel and James Bozworth, Feb. 2, 1773.*
 Mehitebell [dup. ((Miss Mehetabel))] and John Perkins [dup. ((Sr. (s. Dea. Josiah)))]], Apr. 2, 1752.*
 Molley and Benjamin Ward, Dec. 1, 1768.*
 Moses and Mary Darling, Nov. 4, 1725.*
 Moses and Mary Pratt, Aug. 16, 1764.*
 Nathaniel [dup. ((Capt.))] of P. and Hannah Perkins of P. [dup. ch. Luke Jr. and Ruth, *see birth of Hanah Perkins*], May 10, 1739.*
 Parceus [(Persis, wid. Isaac (s. John, clerk of Popes Point Furnace), d. James Harlow), dup. *see birth of Abigail Harlow*] and Lameuel [(Lemuel)] Rickard, Feb. 8, 1749.* [Feb. 3, P.C.R. Feb. 8, 1749-50, C.R.]
 Percis and Joseph Lucas, Mar. 10, 1714-15.*
 Peres [dup. ((Perez))] and Patiance Dunham [dup. ch. Salvenus [(Dea. Silvanus (s. Israel))]] and Rebeckah ((d. Abel Crocker))], Dec. 31, 1761.* [Donham, P.C.R.]
 Phebe (see Feby).
 Phebe of P. and Jabiz Thomas of Middlebrough, Feb. 3, 1736.*
 Priscilah and David Bosworth, Dec. 22, 1720.*
 Priscilla Vaughan, d. Capt. George of Middleborough, and Amos Fuller of P., s. Philemon of P., July 3, 1826.
 Rebecca and Arthur Bennet, Dec. 27, 1781.*
 Ruth and Gideon Cushman, Feb. 25, 1773.*
 Ruth (see Ruth Shurtliff).
 Sarah and Caleb Atwood [dup. Attwood, ch. Nathaniel (Atwood) Jr. ((s. Lt. Nathaniel))] and Suseanah ((d. Barnabas Shurtliff Esq.))], Apr. 13, 1777.*
 Sarah and Elijah Lucas, Apr. 15, 1779.* [Apr. 17, P.C.R.]
 Silvanus and Lydia Attwood, Mar. 24, 1785.*
 Silvenas and Rebacca Donham, Aug. 15, 1780.*
 Sybil and Lt. John Bridgham, June 11, 1778.*
 Thomas and Mary Atwood, Sept. 18, 1760.*
 William [dup. (2d of Middleborough)] and Ruth Bryannt [dup. ((Bryant, d. Joseph and Zilpah (d. William Sampson and Joanna)))]], Sept. 26, 1782.*
 William Jr. of Middleborough, s. William of Middleborough, and Lydia Sampson of P., d. Peleg of P., Apr. 21, 1822. [Apr. 20, C.R.]
 Zilpha and Maletiah Warshborn, Mar. 16, 1756.* [Melatiah Washburn, P.C.R.]
 Zilpha and James Coggehall, July 18, 1782.*

Sarah and Elijah Lucas, Apr. 15, 1779.* [Apr. 17
 Silvanus and Lydia Attwood, Mar. 24, 1785.*
 Silvenas and Rebacca Donham, Aug. 15, 1780.*
 Sybil and Lt. John Bridgham, June 11, 1778.*

x 1779 - Silvanus Stephens to Sylvia Fuller - 638
 x 1780 - Silvanus Shaw to Rebecca Dunham - 639
Wid. She was a daughter of John Atwood, and Lucas Dunham was her first husband.
 x 1780 - Gideon Sampson 2^d to Lydia Ripley - 640

Family Groupings

(Page 537.)
The Children of Ezra Whiton by Elizabeth his wife
Her maiden name was Elizabeth Barrows Azariah
Pere Whiton was born March 16. 1736 or 7.
Elizabeth Whiton was born Sept. 28. 1739 Deceased Dec 11. 1739
Bethia Whiton was born March 29. 1741 Deceased July 12. 1741
Ruth Whiton was born August 10. 1743 Deceased August 23. 1744
Elizabeth Whiton wife to Ezra Whiton Deceased June 22. 1744
The Children of Ezra Whiton by Rebekah his wife
 Hannah Whiton Born October 13. 1746
 Thomas Whiton Born March 17. 1747 or 8.
 Priscilla Whiton was born January 1. 1750
 Rebekah Whiton wife to Ezra Whiton Deceased Sept 5. 1751
 Penner Whiton born August 2. 1751 and Deceased Sept 23. 1751
 The Children of Ezra Whiton by Elizabeth his wife
 John Whiton was born August 6. 1754
 Ephraim Whiton & Patience Whiton was born January 21. 1757.
 Elizabeth Whiton was born October 6. 1759
 Patience Whiton

Elected Office

- Moderator
- Town Clerk
- Selectman
- Grand/Petit Jurors
- Committee Members
- Overseers
- Constable

31

Agreeably to the foregoing warning Mett (26)
at time and place & opened said meeting.

1st Choose Mr Amasa Buck Moderator to
govern said meeting-

2nd Choose Mr Sam^l Lang grand Juror
3rd Choose Michael Bartlet } Petit Jurors.
John Field.

to serve at the Superior Court of Judica-
ture to be holden at Haverhill the first
tuesday of November next at ten o'clock
in the forenoon.

4th Choose John Clement to serve at petit
Juror at the superior Court to be holden
at Haverhill the twelfth day of November
next at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Voted- to dissolve this meeting

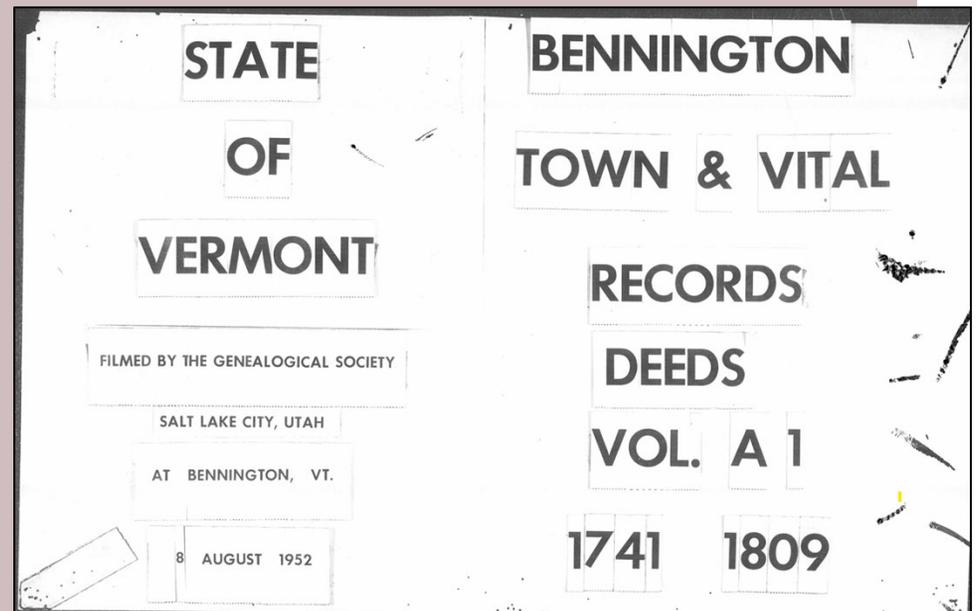
Stephen Bartlet Town Clerk.

This may certify all to whom it may
concern that we the selectmen do
licence James Mitchell J^r
A taverner for the term of one year from
the date and that he provide himself
with accomodation according to law.

Amasa Buck } select men
Aaron Hubbard } Bath.

Land Records

- Proprietor's records
- Deeds, mortgages
- Grantor, Grantee, abutters, witnesses
- CT, RI, VT



Overseers of the Poor

- Town maintenance follows English model
- Mid-18th century: decline in land relative to population, effects of war, rise in prices/decline in wages
- Financial support for indigent families
- Warnings out – likely to become public charges, dismissed

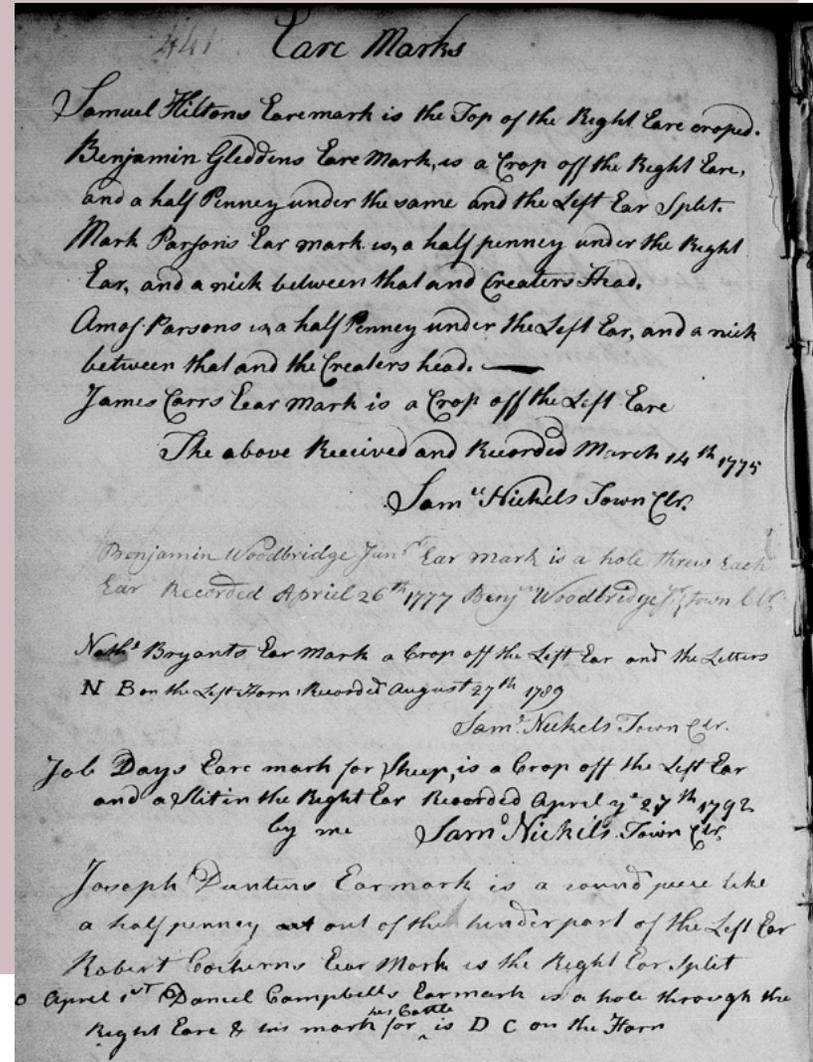
Warnings Out

(103)

November the 15th 1748 Granted a Warrant to
Constable John Richardson to warn the Widow Pedan
to Depart the Town of Roxbury as the Law Directs
November the 29th 1748 Directed a warrant to Constable
Joseph Adams to warn M^r Mark Jones to Depart
this Town in fourteen Days as the Law Directs.

Earmarks

- Protect property
- Enumerate male, farming population
- Track movement in and out of town

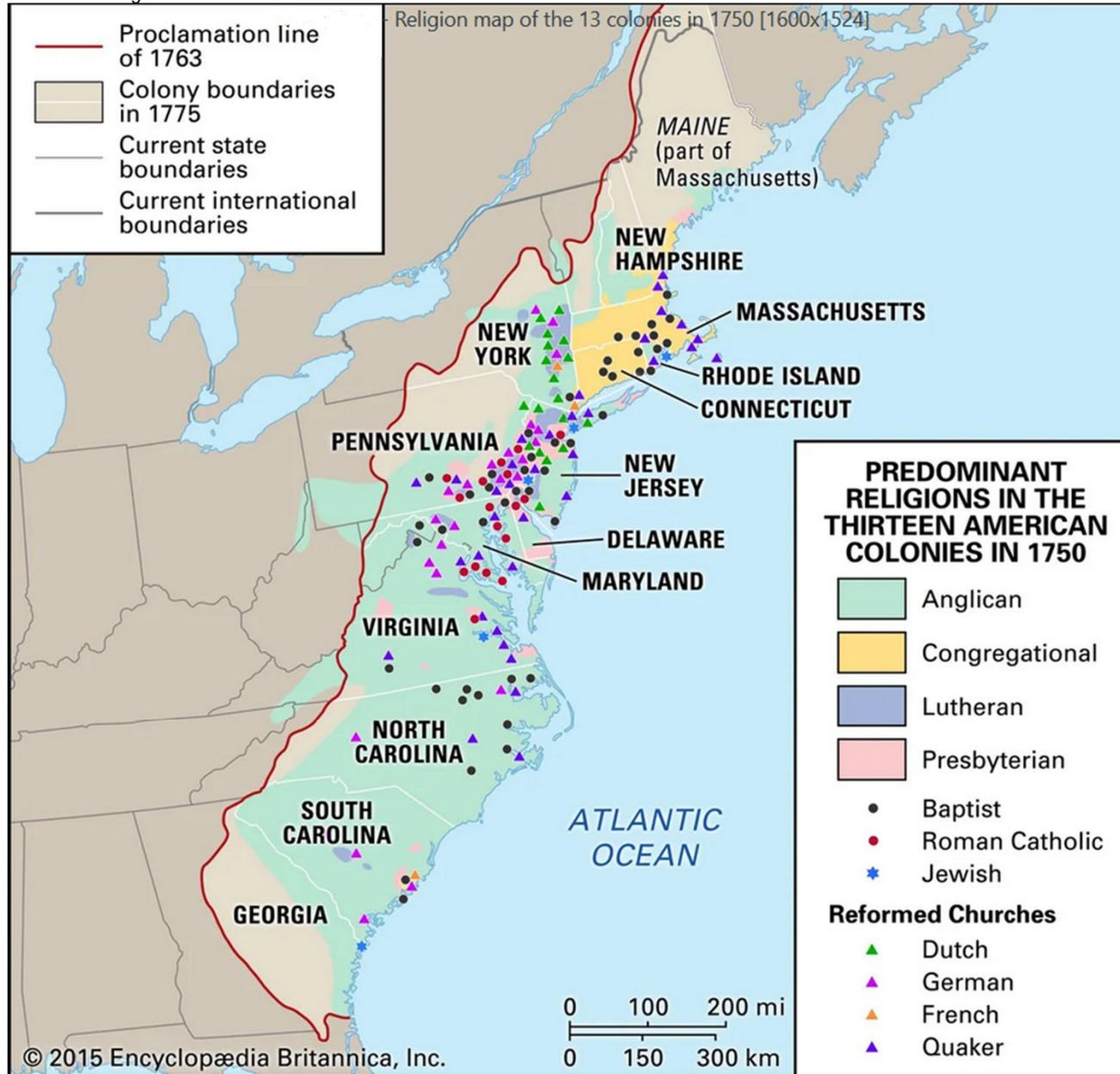


QUESTIONS?

Church Records

Religious Movements

- Puritan/Separatists (Calvinism)
- Congregational
- Anglican/Episcopal
- Baptists
- Quakers/Society of Friends
- Judaism (Touro Synagogue)

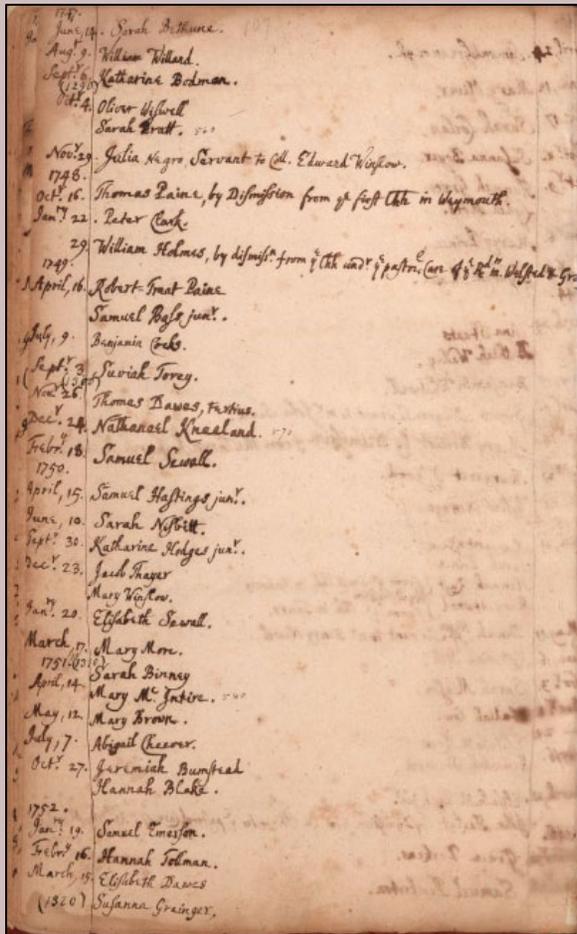


Predominant Religions in the Thirteen Colonies in 1750 – Encyclopedia Britannica (2015)

Church Records

- Births/Baptisms,
Marriages,
Deaths/Burials
- Membership
- Meeting minutes
- Pew Assignments
- Church discipline
- Diaries/Sermons
- Church finances

Admission/Membership



- Former church
- Date of admission or dismissal
- Track migration
- Familial connections

Baptismal Records

1661/4

Sarah ^{daughter of Hellen Baker married} mar. 24th
205. Benjamin ye son of James Torrey. mar. 24th
Abraham }
Isaac } Sarah & Rebecca } children of Wm Homes. Apr. 14th
210. Isaac }
Isaac }
Josiah } children of William Homes: Apr. 21th
Mary }
Bethaia ye daughter of Walter Hatfield. May. 12th
mercy ye daughter of Jonas Wickes }
215. Eunice ye daughter of Thomas Twence } May 19th
Daniel

Adult Mary Bryant the wife of
Thomas Bryant; December 10th.
Benjamin Bryant the son of
Thomas Bryant & Mary his
wife. December 10th.

Meeting Minutes

Church Record.

A 285.8778
R 579
no. 1

No record is now to be found of the organization of the Church in Windge, but probably it was formed in the year 1765, as in Nov. 6. of that year the first Minister ^{Rev. Seth Dean} was ordained, and the December following commences a record of admissions to the Chh.

June 27 1767.	At a Chh. meeting Mr. John Lovijay was chosen first Deacon, and Mr. Josiah Ingalls second. both of whom accepted.
March 23 1775.	Then the Chh. voted unanimously that Mr. Jonathan Sherwin and Mr. Francis Towne be Deacons of the Chh.
April 13.	Mr. Francis Towne accepted the office of Deacon.
" 31.	Mr. Jonathan Sherwin refused to accept the office of Deacon.
June 29 1770	At a conference meeting the Chh. voted to choose a Deacon after prayer Mr. Edward Jewett was unanimously chosen.
July 27	Mr. Edward Jewett accepted the office of Deacon.
Sept. 27.	At a meeting of the Chh. after prayer, the Pastor, Rev. Seth Dean being dismissed by the town from his pastoral relation to them he then requested a dismission and recommendation from the Chh. a committee was chosen to make a dismission & recommendation (viz.) Enoch Hale Esq. Daniel

Discipline

Wee Thos Pitkin jun^r & Martha Pitkin do, with shame & abhorrence of y^r Act^y penitently confess & acknowledge y^t wee have been guilty of y^e sin of Fornication & so in a degree have ~~been~~ transgressed against the Holy 7th Commandment & walked contrary to Ep: 5:3 - But Fornication & all uncleanness let it not be named among you, as becometh Saints - Wee desire to be deeply humbled for that our sin - Especially because herein wee have sinned against God: ~~and~~ given the enemies of God & Religion occasion to Blaspheeme & offended & grieved our Christian Brethren & Friends - Wee ask Forgiveness of that sin, First of God our Maker, & nextly of you our Fellow Christians Wee desire your prayer to God for us, that wee may be made more & more sensible of the Evil of that & all other sins, & y^t we may be enabled to bring forth fruit meet for Repentance, & we promise by the Help of Divine Grace to take spiriual Pleasur to our ways & carefully to endeavor to live as becomes the Gospell -



Adonijah Bidwell sermon booklet, circa 1754-1769

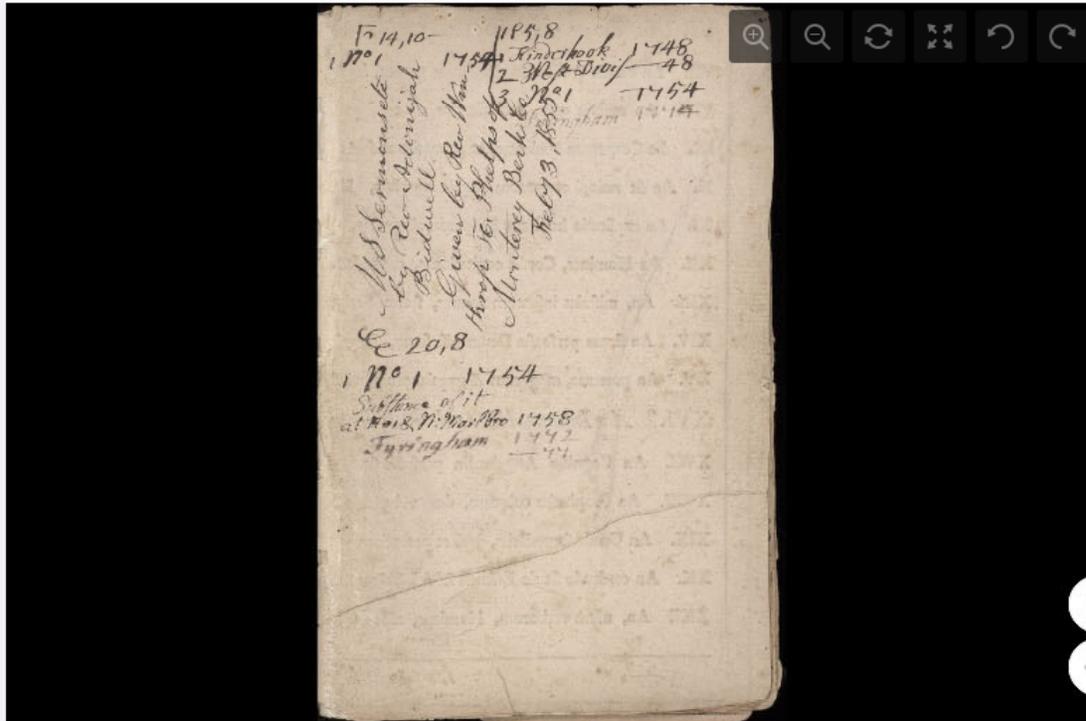
Adonijah Bidwell sermons, circa 1754-1781.

Search this resource



Browse Images

1 of 36



Summary

Title
Adonijah Bidwell sermon booklet, circa 1754-1769

Creator
Bidwell, Adonijah, 1716-1784

Geographic Coverage
Tyringham (Mass.)

Subjects
Sermons, American--Early works to 1800

Genre/Form
Sermons

Congregational Library & Archives

- Digitized through *New England's Hidden Histories*
- Records from 1620-1850
- Letters, sermons, diaries, conversion narratives, church disciplinary cases, account books, baptisms, marriages, and deaths
- Digital material contributed by the archive and partner institutions

NEW ENGLAND'S HIDDEN HISTORIES

Explore our collection of digitized early New England church records.

New England's Hidden Histories is a digital project of the Congregational Library & Archives that digitizes and provides access to early New England C

The project comprises an [online collection](#) of manuscript Congregational church records from approximately 1620 to 1850, which includes letters, sermons, narratives (relations of faith), church disciplinary cases, account books, as well as lists of baptisms, members, marriages, and deaths. These valuable records provide firsthand accounts of a broad range of community events, from ecclesiastical councils and town meetings to witch trials and revolutionary debates. (later state) governments typically supported Congregational churches from the early seventeenth century until as late as 1816 in Connecticut, 1817 in Massachusetts, these are essentially community records. These records provide historically significant information, preserving the voices of individuals that can help us more fully understand the lives of early New Englanders.

New England's Hidden Histories works in partnership with libraries, archives, museums, churches, and other cultural institutions in Connecticut, Maine, Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont to digitize these records. The project also produces literal transcriptions of these early documents to increase the efforts of volunteer transcribers. Records with transcriptions available are indicated in each section. Please note that many of the items in New England's Hidden Histories are physically located at other institutions. You will find the original repository listed as the source in the resource details for each record.

The records are arranged into three sections: [Church Records](#) (listed by state and alphabetically by town), [Personal Papers and Documents](#) (listed alphabetically by name), and [Conference and Association Records](#) (listed alphabetically by group), which can be accessed through the links below.

If you are new to our digital archive, you can find [a set of Guides for New Users and FAQs here](#).

NEHH COLLECTIONS



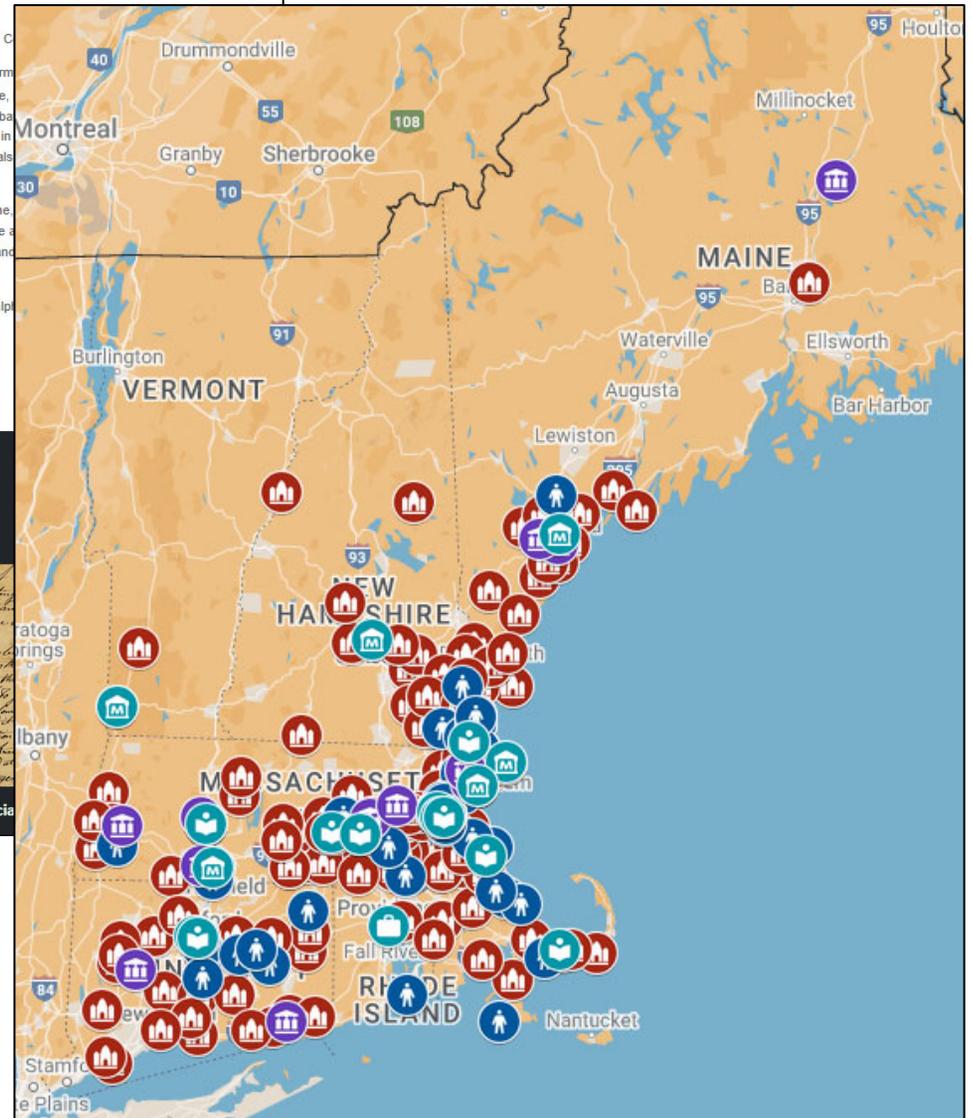
Church Records



Personal Papers & Documents



Conference & Association Records



<https://www.congregationallibrary.org/nehh>

Anglican/Episcopal Church

- Baptisms, marriages, burials
- Membership
- Correspondence
- Wardens & Vestry minutes
- Financial records
- Range of church, regional, historical archives



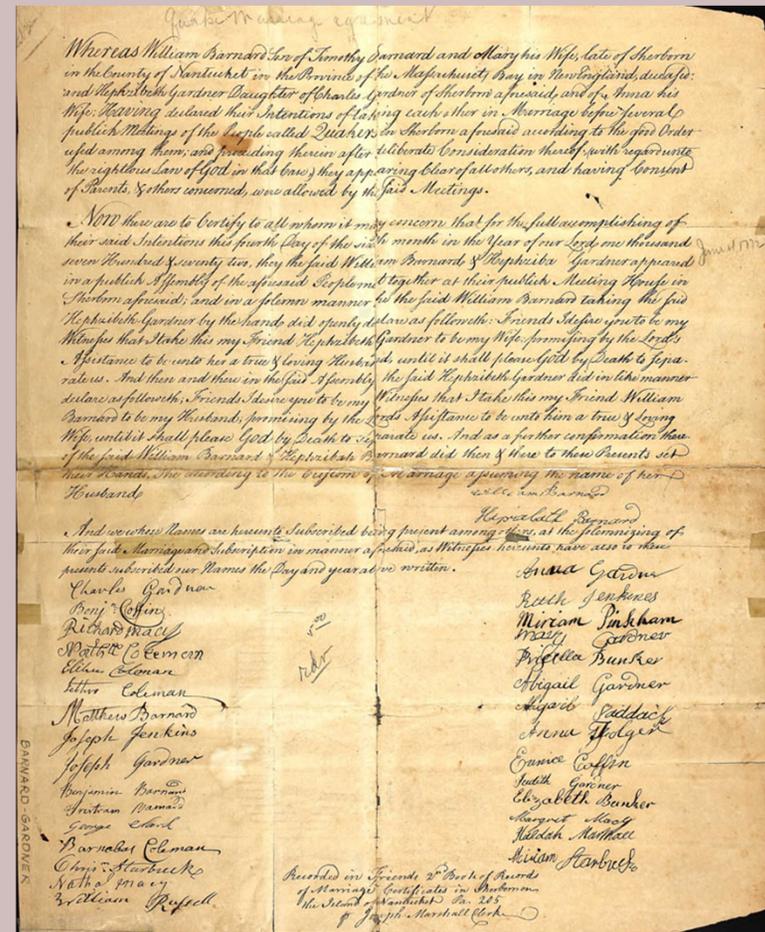
Baptist Records



- Baptism of the believer, not as infant
- Scant information for age or parentage
- Marriage a civic, not religious event
- Membership lists

Quaker Records

- Highly detailed birth, marriage and death records (sometimes with short biographies)
- New members
- Removals
- Discipline
- Most New England records held at the Rhode Island Historical Society



Where can I find town and church records?

Where are the records?

- Town or church of origination
- Successor town or church
- Microfilm
- Local archives
- Digitized at [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Catalog homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FamilySearch logo and links for Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for location, globe, help, chat, and notifications, along with the user name James Heffernan. Below the navigation bar, there is a secondary menu with links for Records, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog (highlighted), Books, and Wiki. A welcome message states: "Welcome to the new FamilySearch Catalog! We've made critical technology upgrades and added two years of new content to the Catalog. Use the Feedback button below or visit the Community to tell us what you think." A "GO TO COMMUNITY" link is also present. The main content area features a large blue-tinted image of a bookshelf. The text "FamilySearch Catalog" is prominently displayed, followed by a description: "Find books, records, images, and other important resources offered through the FamilySearch website, the FamilySearch Library, and select FamilySearch Centers around the world." Two buttons are provided: "LEARN HOW TO USE THE CATALOG" and "SEE TIPS AND RESOURCES". A vertical "Feedback" button is located on the left side. A search overlay is open on the right, titled "Search By", with tabs for PLACE, SURNAMES, TITLES, AUTHOR, SUBJECTS, and KEYWORDS. The "Place" tab is selected, and there is an empty search input field. Below the input field, the "Search For" section has tabs for CALL NUMBER and FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS). The "Availability" section has three radio buttons: "Any" (selected), "Online", and "FamilySearch Center". A "SEARCH" button is at the bottom of the overlay.

FamilySearch.org/search/catalog

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies **Catalog** Books Wiki

Notes
[Place Information](#) SEE: PART OF MAINE, PENOBSCOT

Results (14) TIPS AND RESOURCES PRINT CATALOG PRINT LIST (0) SEARCH

Subject	Search Terms
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Archives and libraries - Directories (1)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Centennial celebrations, etc. (1)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Court records (1)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Directories (2)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - History (2)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - School yearbooks (1)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Schools (4)	
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Town records (1)	
Town and vital records 1806-1907	Author: Orono (Maine). Town Clerk + ADD
United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Vital records (1)	

Search By
 PLACE SURNAMEN TITLES AUTHOR SUBJECTS
 KEYWORDS

Place
 Orono, Penobscot, Maine, United States

Search For
 CALL NUMBER FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS)

Availability
 Any Online FamilySearch Center

FamilySearch.org/search/catalog

Town and vital records 1806-1907

ADD TO PRINT LIST

Authors	Orono (Maine), Town Clerk (Author)
Format	Microfilm 35mm
Language	English
Publication Date	1955
Publisher	Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah
Place of Publication	Salt Lake City, Utah
Physical	on 3 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of original records at Orono and Old Town, Maine.

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

Subjects

Locality Subjects

[United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Town records](#)

[United States, Maine, Penobscot, Orono - Vital records](#)

Results per page:

100 ▾

< Page 1 of 1 >

Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Town records 1827-1840 includes minutes of town meetings, limits of companies of infantry in the town, intentions of marriage 1827-1839, marriage records 1826-1837, family records listing births and deaths, deaths 1823-1838, licenses to sell liquor, strays, ear and log marks.	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	11721 Item 2	7595778	 
Town records of 1806-1827 include minutes of town meetings, marriage records 1806-1826, intentions of marriage 1806-1827, roads, family records listing births, licenses to sell liquor, ear marks.	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	11722	7724797	 
Town records include marriage records 1806-1907:	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	11723	7595779	 

Library Catalog

American Ancestors.

[Catalog Login](#) | [Help](#)

[SEARCH -](#)
[ABOUT -](#)

[VISIT: AmericanAncestors.org](https://AmericanAncestors.org)

New Search

(Search History) ▼

Modify Search

KEYWORD ▼

rhode island town records

Search

90 results found. Sorted by **relevance** | [date](#) | [title](#) .

Result Page

1 2 Next

Add to email/print queue

Select All

Save to My Lists

KEYWORDS (1-50 of 90)

Most relevant titles entries 1-7

- 1

Gleanings from Rhode Island town records : Charlestown town council records, 1776-1800 / Linda L. Ma Mathew, ☆☆☆☆☆

Linda L., abstractor.
Hope, RI : Rhode Island Genealogical Society, [2023]
1 copy available at 5th Floor Stacks

Location	Call No.	Status
5th Floor Stacks	F78 .R2 Apr. 2023	AVAILABLE
- 2

Gleanings from Rhode Island town records : Charlestown town council records, 1738-1775 / Linda L. Ma Mathew, ☆☆☆☆☆

Linda L., abstractor.
Hope, RI : Rhode Island Genealogical Society, [2022]
1 copy available at 5th Floor Stacks

Location	Call No.	Status
5th Floor Stacks	F78 .R2 Apr. 2022	AVAILABLE
- 3

Gleanings from Rhode Island town records : Barrington, Massachusetts, town meetings, 1718-1744 / Cyn Ferguson, ☆☆☆☆☆

Cynthia Comery.
Rhode Island : Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2020.
1 copy available at 5th Floor Stacks

Location	Call No.	Status
5th Floor Stacks	F78 .R2 Apr. 2020	AVAILABLE
- 4

Gleanings from Rhode Island town records : Exeter town council records (2), 1771-1794 / Linda L. Mat Mathew, ☆☆☆☆☆

Linda L., abstractor.
Hope, RI : Rhode Island Genealogical Society, [2019]
1 copy available at 5th Floor Stacks

https://library.nehgs.org/screens/mainmenu.html

Massachusetts

Carroll D. Wright, *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties* (Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1889)

56 REPORT ON PUBLIC RECORDS.

EXISTING CHURCHES: BY TOWNS—Continued.

COUNTY OF NORFOLK—Continued.

CITIES, TOWNS, AND NAMES OF CHURCHES.	Date of Organ- ization	RECORDS		
		Kind	Years covered	Condition
Medfield,				
Baptist,	1776	Church	1776-1885	-
Congregational: Second,	1828	Church	1828-1885	-
Roman Catholic, ¹	-	-	-	-
Unitarian: First Congregational Parish,	1650	Parish	1652-1885	-
Medway,				
Baptist: West Medway,	1832	Church	1819-1885	Good ²
Congregational: Medway Village,	1838	Church and Parish }	1838-1885	Good
Second (West Medway),	1750		Church Parish	1750-1779 1814-1885
Methodist Episcopal: West Medway,	-	Church	1857-1885	Good
Roman Catholic: Saint Joseph's,	-	Church	1863-1885	Good
Millis,				
Congregational: First Church of Christ in Medway,	-	Church	1648-1885	Good
First Church of East Medway,	1714	Church	1714-1885	3.
Milton,				
Baptist,	-	Church	1882-1885	Good
Congregational: First,	1678	Church	1839-1885	Good
Second (East Milton),	1843	Church Parish	1843-1885 1846-1885	Good Good
Unitarian: First Congregational Society,	1662	Church Parish	1678-1885 1818-1885	Incomplete Good
Needham,				
Baptist,	1856	Church	1854-1885	Good
Congregational: Evangelical,	1857	Church Church	1857-1859 1872-1885	- -
Methodist Episcopal: Highlandville,	-	Church	1865-1885	Incomplete
Unitarian: First Congregational Society,	1711	Church Parish	- 1778-1885	- -
Norfolk,				
Baptist,	1843	Church	1842-1885	-
Congregational,	1839	Parish	1796-1885	Good
Norwood,				
Baptist,	1858	Church	1858-1885	-
Congregational, ⁴	1736	Church Parish	1736-1885 1730-1885	Good ⁵ Good ⁵
Roman Catholic: Saint Catherine's, ⁶	-	-	-	-
Universalist,	1857	Church	1827-1885	Fair

¹ Attended from Foxborough.
² The records from 1824 to 1830 are incomplete.
³ The earlier records are partly illegible. ⁵ With the exception of the first volume.
⁴ Formerly the Second Parish in Dedham. ⁶ Attended from Dedham.

Connecticut

Advanced Search

Home > State Publications > List of church records in the Connecticut State Library.

List of church records in the Connecticut State Library.

List of church records in the Connecticut State Library. - Page 1

ConnDoc
St292
Lich
1976
cop.2

Connecticut State Library
3 0231 01307 0466
15 June 1976

LIST OF CHURCH RECORDS
IN THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

This is a revised and amplified version of the list last published in 1970. It includes all manuscript records of churches held by the State Library in June 1976. Many of the records are originals, often bound; others are photostat copies made in the Library, with the originals returned to the church.

The list includes location indicators: call numbers (974.62 ...) for records included in the catalogued manuscript collection, and record group numbers (RG 70: ...) for records in the archival group. The symbol SLI (State Library Index) identifies those materials from which vital records data (births, deaths, marriages, baptisms) have been abstracted for the church record abstract file on slips that is kept in the History Reading Room.

More complete descriptions of the records may be found in the card shelflist of the catalogued manuscripts or in the Registration Sheet of Record Group 70.

Page 1
Page 2
Page 3
Page 4
Page 5
Page 6

List of Church Records in the Connecticut State Library (1976)

Historical Records Survey (WPA)

- Federal, state, local historical records
- 1935 (New Deal) – 1943 (WWII)
- 1939: Fed hands control to willing state governments
- Emergence of microfilm
- Published and unpublished inventories in state, county, town archives and historical societies

Work Progress Administration (WPA) Historical Records Survey

[United States](#) → [Archives and Libraries](#) → **Work Progress Administration (WPA) Historical Records Survey**

Contents [hide]

- 1 [Brief History](#)
- 2 [Repositories](#)
- 3 [Additional Resources](#)
- 4 [References](#)

Brief History [edit | edit source]

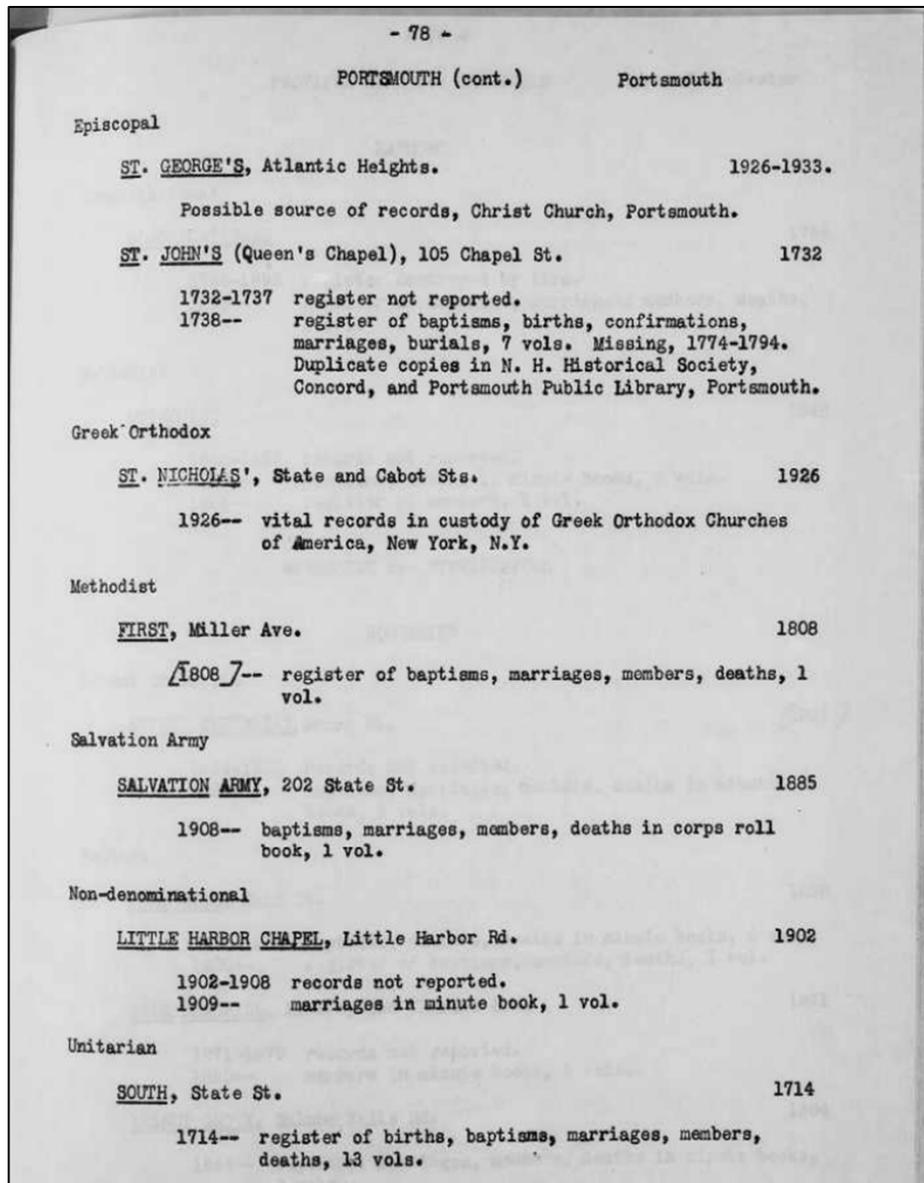
The Works Progress Administration (WPA), renamed in 1939 as the Work Projects Administration, was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help increase the amount of jobs in the country to combat unemployment. One WPA project, the Historical Records Survey, included inventories of courthouses, archives, and libraries for each state in the United States. These inventories describe the collections available in those repositories during the time period between 1935 when the program began to when it was dissolved in 1943.^[1]

Repositories [edit | edit source]

Repositories for materials created by the Work Projects Administrators of the Historical Records Survey (HRS) project are listed here by state. Most repositories do not house these materials in a single collection, and many items are not online. However, some historical materials may not be available anywhere else, making these HRS repositories valuable resources.

Location	Facility
Alabama	Alabama Department of Archives and History
Arizona	Arizona State Library, Archives & Public Records
Arkansas	University of Arkansas Libraries
California	California State Archives University of California Berkeley University of California Irvine Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
Colorado	Colorado State Archives
Connecticut	Connecticut State Library
Delaware	Delaware Public Archives
District of Columbia	Library of Congress Daughters of the American Revolution Library
Florida	State Library of Florida

FamilySearch.org/wiki



New Hampshire

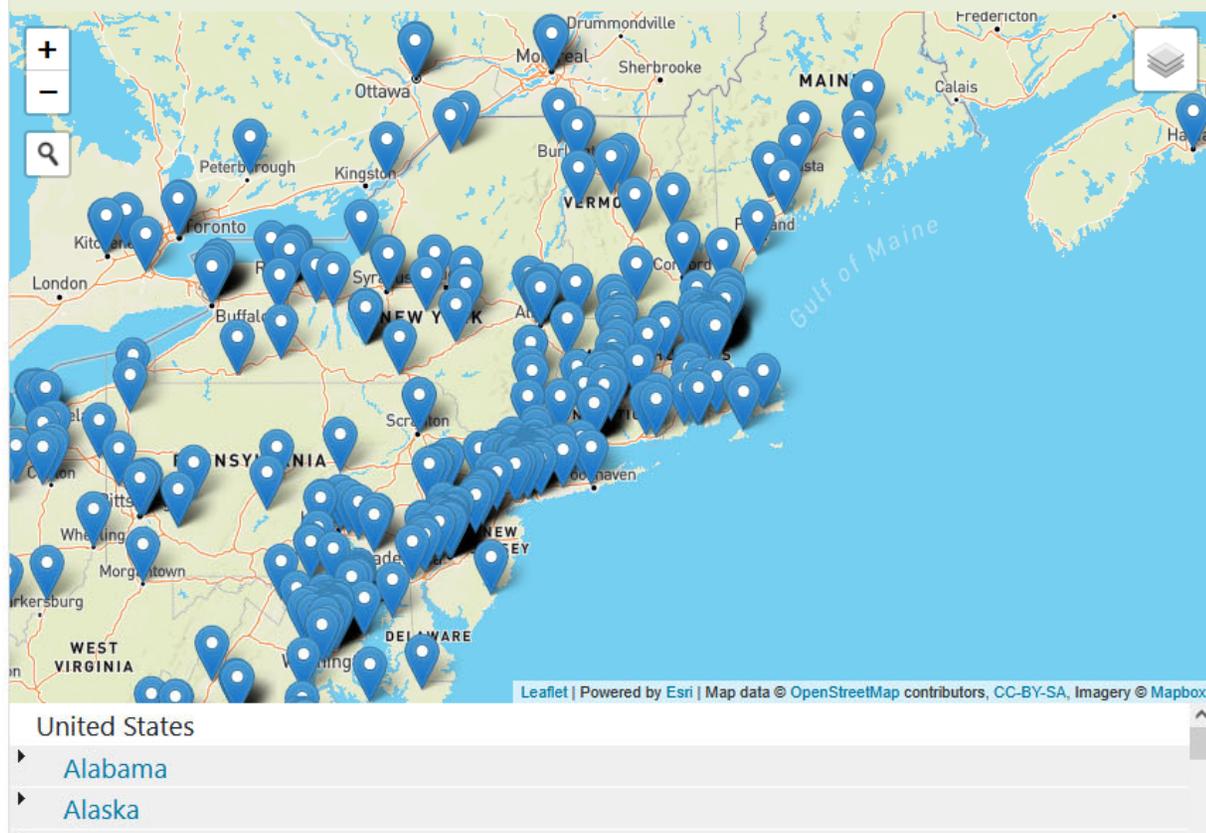
New Hampshire Historical
Records Survey, *Guide to
Church Vital Statistics
Records in New Hampshire*
(Manchester: The New
Hampshire Historical
Records Survey, 1942)



Search for people, places, events, and more

Search

FIND ARCHIVES NEAR YOU



ABOUT ARCHIVEGRID

ArchiveGrid includes over 7 million records describing archival materials, bringing together information about historical documents, personal papers, family histories, and more. With over 1,400 archival institutions represented, ArchiveGrid helps researchers looking for primary source materials held in archives, libraries, museums and historical societies.

If you'd like to see your [collections included](#) in ArchiveGrid or have questions about the ArchiveGrid project, please get in touch with us.

<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>

[About ArchiveGrid](#) | [How to Search](#) | [Include Your Collections](#)



Search

423 deerfield church

LIST VIEWSUMMARY VIEW

Records 1 to 10 of 423 1 2 3 4 5 > >> Show: 10 ▾

[Records of the First Church in Deerfield, 1731-1930 \[microform\]](#)

First Church in Deerfield (Deerfield, Mass.).

Historic Deerfield Library

Records of the church in Deerfield, 1731-1810 -- Records of the church in Deerfield, 1807-1830[sic] c1930 -- Records of the church in Deerfield, 1825-1923

Contact InformationView the Catalog Record

[Congregational Church records, 1818-1935 \[microform\]](#)

Historic Deerfield Library

Records of the Orthodox Congregational Church in Deerfield, 1835-1898 -- Records of the Orthodox Congregational Society, 1838-1935[sic] 1863 -- 1863-1911 -- Records of the Second Congregational Church in Deerfield (South), 1818-1828 (vol. I) -- 1827-1850[sic] (vol. II) -- Account book building committee for Second Congregational meeting house, 1848 -- Records of the First Congregational Church in South Deerfield, 1850-1865 (vol. III) -- 1865-1891 (vol. IV) -- Records of the Congregational Parish of South Deerfield, 1865-1870 (vol. I), 1870-1891 (vol. II) -- Records of the Second Congregational Church (The Monument Church), 1848-1865[sic] 1861 (vol. I) -- 1861-1864 (vol. II) -- Records of the Orthodox Congregational Society in South Deerfield, 1848-1864 -- Chart showing relationships and divisions of South Deerfield Congregational church bodies

Contact InformationView the Catalog Record

<https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/>



[About ArchiveGrid](#) | [How to Search](#) | [Include Your Collections](#)

🔍 Search

Records of the First Church in Deerfield, 1731-1930 [microform]

First Church in Deerfield (Deerfield, Mass.).

[Historic Deerfield Library](#)



📍 Contact Information

🗺 View in Google Maps

⚙ Details

volumes

Records of the church in Deerfield, 1731-1810 -- Records of the church in Deerfield, 1807-1830[sic] c1930 -- Records of the church in Deerfield, 1825-1923

Microfilm Waltham, Mass. : Graphic Microfilm of New England, [19--]

Originals owned by First Church of Deerfield, Deerfield, Mass. May not be published without permission

🔗 Related Resources

View this description in [WorldCat](#).

🔗 More Like This

[Sermons of Jonathan Ashley, 1738-1767](#)
Ashley, Jonathan, 1712-1780
Historic Deerfield Library

[Elisha Rockwell Sermons, 1828-1831](#)
Rockwood, Elisha, 1828-1831
American Antiquarian Society

[Sermons of Jonathan Ashley, 1732-1748](#)
Ashley, Jonathan, 1712-1780
Historic Deerfield Library

[Reverend Robert Crawford diaries, 1845-1892 1845-1867](#)
Crawford, Robert, 1804-1896
Historic Deerfield Library

[Jonathan Ashley Sermons, 1738-1767](#)
Ashley, Jonathan, 1712-1780
American Antiquarian Society

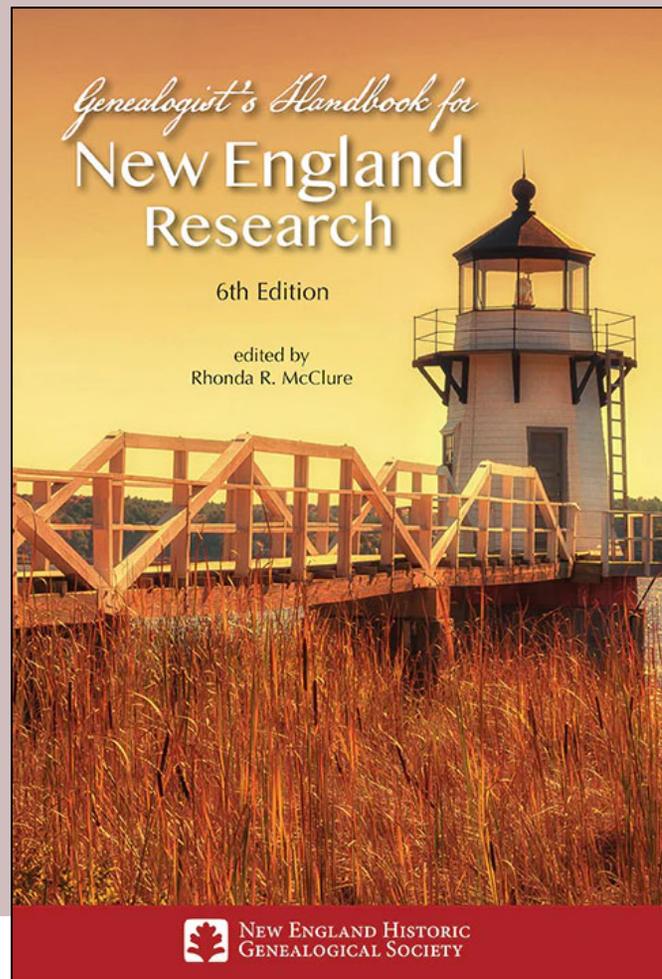
🔗 Topics

[Congregational churches](#)

[Églises congrégationalistes](#)

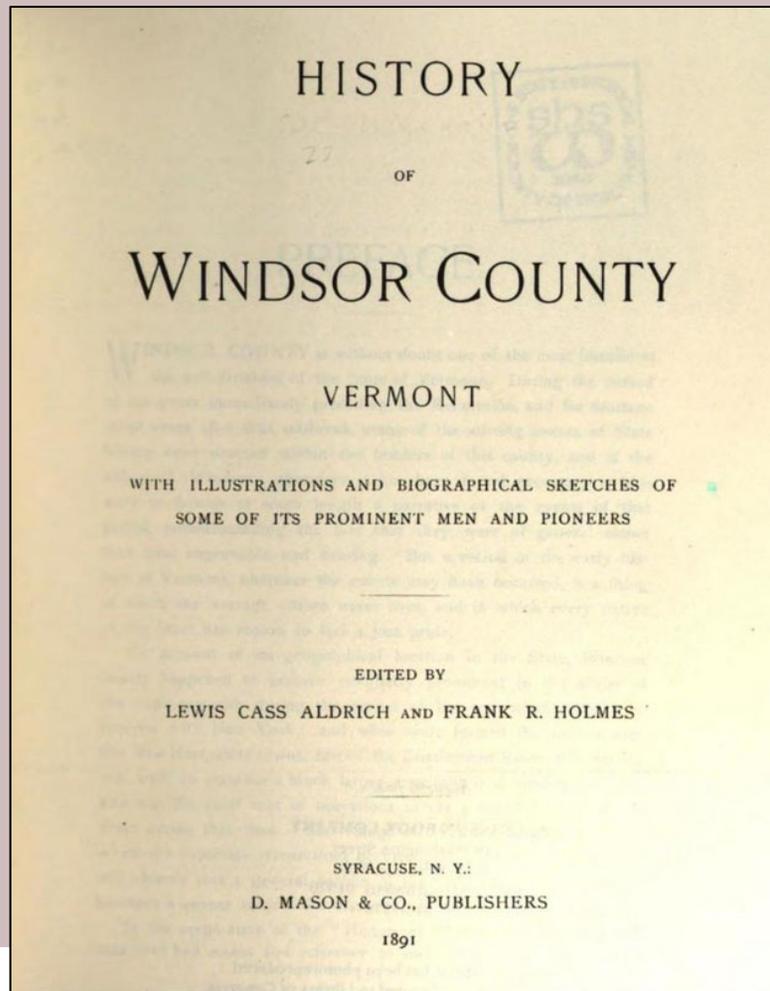
https://researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research



- Index of Towns
- Parent and daughter towns
- Locations of vital records and church records

Local Histories



VILLAGE OF WOODSTOCK. 259

The Universalist Church.—Universalism in Woodstock became first rooted in the withdrawal or rumored secession of Benjamin Emmons from the Congregational society, which is said to have taken place somewhere about the year 1786. Benjamin Emmons was not only one of the leading men of the town and State, but one of the earliest and most influential members of the first church society, and his acceptance of the doctrines of a new and then pronounced unorthodox belief was the cause of much confusion in the old society. About the same time other former members of the parent church left the fold and became identified with the new society, among them Captain John Strong, Dr. Stephen Powers, Judge William Perry. The new society, too, had converts from other denominations than the Congregationalist, and there were some few of the townspeople who, perhaps, had leanings toward Universalism at the time of their coming here. Considerable accessions to the ranks of the society from the Baptist church were also noticeable at about this period.

The Rev. Hosea Ballou was the first minister of the society in this locality. He became a preacher of Universalism by ordination in 1794, but prior to that time he had been a Calvinistic Baptist. He became minister in charge of the Woodstock society, in connection with other similar organizations, in the year 1803, a relation that was continued until August, 1809, when he left the State and accepted a call to the church at Portsmouth, N. H. After Mr. Ballou's departure the society had no settled minister for many years, but services were frequently held during the period, the desk being supplied by various ministers of the church, among whom were Joab Young, C. G. Persons, Uriah Smith, Jacob Holt, William Bell, and possibly others.

But during this period, the society having no established leader or minister, it suffered severely and became somewhat disorganized. The work of again building up and re-organizing fell upon the next settled minister, Rev. Russell Streeter, who came to the charge in 1834. As well as firmly re-establishing the society, to Mr. Streeter belongs the credit of having brought about the erection of a convenient chapel on Church street, during 1835. The parsonage property of the society was formerly the home of Dr. Thomas Powers, and was purchased for a minister's residence in 1877.

FamilySearch Research Wiki

A Genealogy Resource Guide

149,835 articles

Find the birth, death, marriage, census records, and other genealogy resources for your ancestor by selecting the region and country below.

Search by place or topic Find Search Tips

North America

South America

Europe

Africa

Asia

Jump-start your research

List of all Localities

Guided Research will help you find the best databases for select locations.

Guided Research

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

Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut Genealogy

[United States](#) → [New England](#) → [Connecticut](#) → [Hartford County](#) → [Hartford](#)

Contents [hide]

- 1 Town Information
 - 1.1 Description
 - 1.2 Parent Towns
 - 1.3 Populated Places
 - 1.4 Adjacent Towns
- 2 Town Records
 - 2.1 Vital Records
 - 2.1.1 Births
 - 2.1.2 Marriages
 - 2.1.3 Deaths
 - 2.1.4 Divorce
 - 2.2 Town Reports
- 3 Resources
 - 3.1 Biographies
 - 3.2 Cemeteries
 - 3.3 Census
 - 3.4 Church Records
 - 3.5 City Directories
 - 3.6 Compiled Genealogies
 - 3.7 Court Records
 - 3.8 Land Records
 - 3.9 Maps
 - 3.10 Military
 - 3.10.1 Revolutionary War, 1775-1783
 - 3.10.2 Civil War, 1861-1865
 - 3.10.3 World War I, 1917-1918
 - 3.10.4 World War II, 1941-1945
 - 3.11 Naturalization and Citizenship
 - 3.12 Newspapers
 - 3.13 Obituaries
 - 3.14 Other Town Records
 - 3.15 School Records
 - 3.16 Probate Records
 - 3.17 School Records
 - 3.18 Tax Records
- 4 Research Facilities
 - 4.1 Archives

Town Records [edit | edit source]

In New England most original vital records of birth, marriage, and death can be found at the town clerk's office

Hartford Town Clerk
 550 Main Street, 1st Floor, Suite 104
 Hartford CT 06103
 Phone: 860-757-9750
 Email: Noel.McGregor@hartford.gov or LUSAE001@hartford.gov
 Website

Vital Records [edit | edit source]

Births [edit | edit source]

- **1600s-1850** Barbour Collection: Connecticut Vital Records Prior to 1850 [*] at FamilySearch Catalog - index & images; some towns may be missing
- **1600s-1850** The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records [*] This collection of bound typescripts is available at the listed libraries; some towns may be missing
- **1600s-1870** Connecticut, U.S., Town Birth Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection) [*] at Ancestry - index & images (\$) ; some towns may be missing
- **1631-1691** Hartford, Windsor and Fairfield CT: Vital Records, 1631-1691 [*] at AmericanAncestry - index & images (\$)
- **1639-1941** Connecticut, Births and Baptisms, 1639-1941 [*] at FamilySearch — index
- **1639-1865** Land Records, 1639-1901; General Index, 1639-1865, (Includes: Births, Marriages, and Deaths) [*]; Hartford Town Clerk at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1639** Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford Among the Settlers, 1639, (Includes: Births, Marriages, and Deaths) [*]; at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1797-1868** Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1797-1868 [*]; Hartford Municipal Building at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1852-1902** Records of Births, 1852-1902 [*]; Hartford Municipal Building at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1897-1917** The Connecticut Genealogy Index - Births [*] at Reclaim the Records - Index
- **1897-1917** Connecticut, Births [*] at MyHeritage — index (\$)

Marriages [edit | edit source]

- **1600s-1700s** U.S., New England Marriages Prior to 1700 [*] at Ancestry - index & images (\$)
- **1600s-1850** Barbour Collection: Connecticut Vital Records Prior to 1850 [*] at FamilySearch Catalog - index & images; some towns may be missing
- **1600s-1850** The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records [*] This collection of bound typescripts is available at the listed libraries; some towns may be missing
- **1600s-1870** Connecticut, U.S., Town Marriage Records, pre-1870 (Barbour Collection) [*] at Ancestry - index & images (\$) ; some towns may be missing
- **1639** Original Distribution of the Lands in Hartford Among the Settlers, 1639, (Includes: Births, Marriages, and Deaths) [*]; at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1631-1691** Hartford, Windsor and Fairfield CT: Vital Records, 1631-1691 [*] at AmericanAncestry - index & images (\$)
- **1639-1865** Land Records, 1639-1901; General Index, 1639-1865, (Includes: Births, Marriages, and Deaths) [*]; Hartford Town Clerk at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1790-1833** Connecticut: Marriages and Deaths, 1790-1833 [*] at American Ancestors — index & images (\$)
- **1797-1868** Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1797-1868 [*]; Hartford Municipal Building at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1852-1899** Records of Marriages, 1852-1899 [*]; Hartford Registrar of Vital Statistics at FamilySearch Library Catalog — images
- **1897-1968** Web: Connecticut, U.S., Marriage Records, 1897-1968 [*] at Ancestry - index (\$) ; Also at: *Connecticut State Library*
- **1897-2017** The Connecticut Genealogy Index - Marriages [*] at Reclaim the Records - Index
- **1959-2012** Connecticut, U.S., Marriage Index, 1959-2012 [*] at Ancestry - index (\$)

Church Records [edit | edit source]

At its founding, Congregationalism was the dominant religion in Connecticut and was even the state religion until 1818. Other common Christian denominations include the Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, and Baptist churches.

To see the churches in Hartford, visit [FamilySearch Places](#)

Many Connecticut churches have deposited their records at the [Connecticut State Library](#). The following are church records available online for the town of Hartford:

- **1630-1920** Connecticut, U.S., Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920 [*] at Ancestry - index & images (\$)
- **1633-1885** Hartford, CT: Historical Catalogue of the First Church, 1633-1885 [*] at American Ancestors - index only (\$)
- **1660-1955** Connecticut, Church Records, 1660-1955 [*] at FamilySearch; index — [How to Use this Collection](#)
- [Connecticut Church Records](#)

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

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies Catalog Books Wiki

⚠ This is an experimental Labs product and is not guaranteed to always be available. When using it, you may encounter some errors and limited data. FamilySearch Community support is [available](#).

Full-Text Search

Unlock hidden discoveries in historical records that have never been searchable till now. Check back often as we keep adding millions of images. More information below.

Feedback

Start your search

Keywords

Name

Place

Year (Range)
From To

Image Group Number (DGS)

SEARCH

FamilySearch.org Full-Text Search

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'FamilySearch', 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Memories', 'Get Involved', and 'Activities'. The user is logged in as 'James Heffernan'. Below the navigation bar, there are tabs for 'Records', 'Images', 'Family Tree', 'Genealogies', 'Catalog', 'Books', and 'Wiki'. The main content area displays search results for 'Isaac Moore'. The first result is titled 'New Hampshire. Town Records 1794-1796' and contains a snippet: 'June I Isaac Moore of lawfull age testafy and says that some time in the month of June 1784 being in ... keep out of the way and woe till place to see his Isaac Moore Bond of to'. The second result is also titled 'New Hampshire. Town Records 1794-1796' and contains a snippet: '...on the first wensday of June 1795 - Humbly sheweth Isaac Moore of Bath in said State ; That on or about the... and he, as in duty bound, will ever pray - - Isaac Moore (5)'. The third result is titled 'Bath, Grafton, New Hampshire. Land Records 1780-1859, 1797-1811, Town Recor...' and contains a snippet: '...at one OClock of said day at this place - Att Isaac Moore Town Clerk - March 15th Met according to ...'. On the right side, there is a search panel with a 'Search' title and a close button. It contains a 'Keywords' field with the example 'Ex: "Jane Lee" Car*', a 'Name' field with 'isaac moore', a 'Place' field with 'New Hampshire, Unite', and a 'Year (Range)' section with 'From' and 'To' fields. Below these fields is an 'Image Group Number (DGS)' field. A 'Search Tips' section provides instructions on how to refine searches using quotation marks, plus signs, and minus signs. At the bottom of the search panel are 'SEARCH' and 'RESET' buttons.

FamilySearch.org Full-Text Search

The screenshot displays the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'FamilySearch', 'Family Tree', 'Search', 'Memories', 'Get Involved', and 'Activities'. The user's name, 'James Heffernan', is visible in the top right. The main heading is 'New Hampshire. Town Records December 1794–November 1796'. Below this, there are options for 'CITATION' and 'ATTACH TO TREE'. The central area shows a document image with a thumbnail strip at the bottom. The image contains handwritten text with several names highlighted in yellow: 'Isaac Moore', 'John Prentice', and 'Seth Parker'. To the right, a 'Full Transcript' panel is open, showing the typed text of the document. The transcript includes the following text: 'your Honor may be convinced of the alteration and give him liberty to plead to the merits of the action by entering a new in as ample manner as he might have done in the first instance had he not been defaulted and he as in duty bound will ever pray Isaac Moore - State of New Hampshire - In the House of Representatives June 9th 1795 The Committee on the Petition of Isaac Moore reported, that the prayer of his Petitioner have leave to bring forward from the Office of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas in the County of Cheshire, the note mentioned in said Petition - which report was read and accepted Sent up for concurrence John Prentice Speaker In Senate the same day Read & Concurred on Seth Parker and Seth Parker Speaker'.

FamilySearch.org Full-Text Search

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@americanancestors.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat



THANK YOU!

AmericanAncestors.org/Education



Copyright © 2025