

Researching in New England Town Records: 17th through 19th Centuries

*Class 3: The Foundations of Using Financial Records in New
England Research*

Melanie McComb, Senior Genealogist



American Ancestors®

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Meet today's presenter



Melanie McComb

Senior Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - "Follow the Money" Approach
 - Land Records (Native American Deeds, Proprietor Records, and other Land Deeds)
 - Tax Records
 - Probate Records
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

(No. 9.) To *Thomas Hancock Esq.*

Town Tax for the Streets, assessed by Virtue of the
Province Law, 33d GEORGE II. d. Chap. 3.

	£.	s.	d.
<i>Poll,</i>		<i>5..</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Houses and Lands,</i>			
<i>Personal Estate and Faculty,</i>			
		<i>3..</i>	<i>16..</i>
			<i>9</i>
			<i>42</i>
<i>Tax,</i>		<i>£ 46..</i>	<i>2..</i>
			<i>11</i>



Voice of
Melanie McComb,
Senior Genealogist

Errors Exceptea,

John Grant, Collector.

"Follow the Money" Approach

- When vital records do not exist or have significant gaps, we turn to financial records to learn more about our ancestors
- This approach can be used to track an individual's movements through a country or overseas
- It can help clarify relationships between families

Land Records

Why use Land Records?

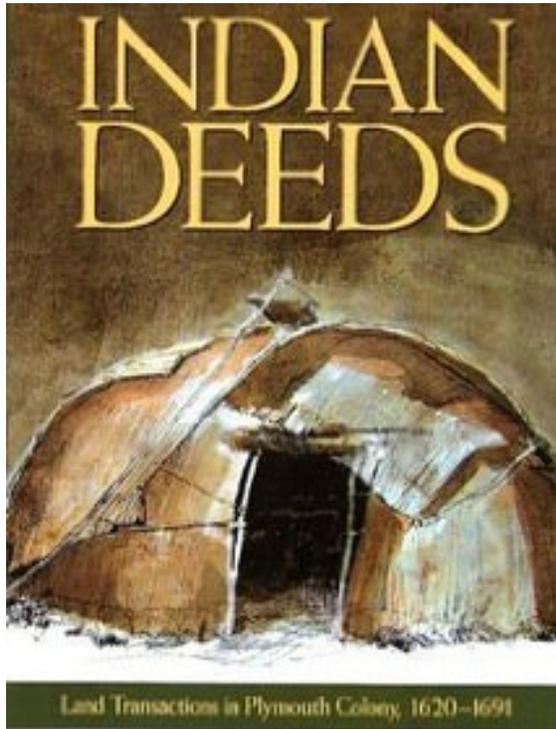
- In some cases, a land record may be the only documented source you can locate.
- Land records can often trace generations of ownership of a single parcel of land.
- Using land records, you may determine the site of your ancestor's house or farm today.

Tip:

Remember not all deeds were recorded at the date of the sale.



Native American Settlement in SE New England



Bangs, Jeremy Dupertuis, *Indian Deeds: Land Transactions in Plymouth Colony, 1620-1691*, (Boston: NEHGS, 2002).

Indian Deeds by Jeremy Bangs

The first of July 1640

(30)

Bought of Ponus Sagamore of Toquams and of Wajcusue Sagamore of Shippan by mee Nathanael Turner of Quenebrooke all the ground that belongs to both the abovesaid Sagamores except a piece of ground which the abovesaid Sagamore of Toquams reserved for his and the rest of the said Indians to plant on all which ground being expressed by meadows upland grass with the rivers and trees And in consideration hereof the said Nathanael Turner am to give and bring or send to the abovesaid Sagamores within the space of one month twelve coats twelve bowes twelve hatchets twelve glases twelve knives two kettles four fathom of white wompum. all which land both We the said Sagamores do promise faithfully to perform both for ourselves heirs Executors or assigns to the abovesaid Nathanael Turner of Quenebrooke to his heirs Executors or assigns And hereunto we have set our marks in the presence of many of the said Indians they fully consenting hereunto

Witnessed by us

William Wilkes

James

Witnessed by two Indians

the mark of  Owenoke Sagamore Ponus's Son

the mark of 

of mark of  Ponus Sagamore

of mark of  Wajcusue Sagamore

pd in part of payment 12 glases
12 knives
04 coats

Indian Deed - Stamford, Conn. (1640)

Tip:

Indian Deeds were not always
recorded before legal
settlement occurred by
colonists.

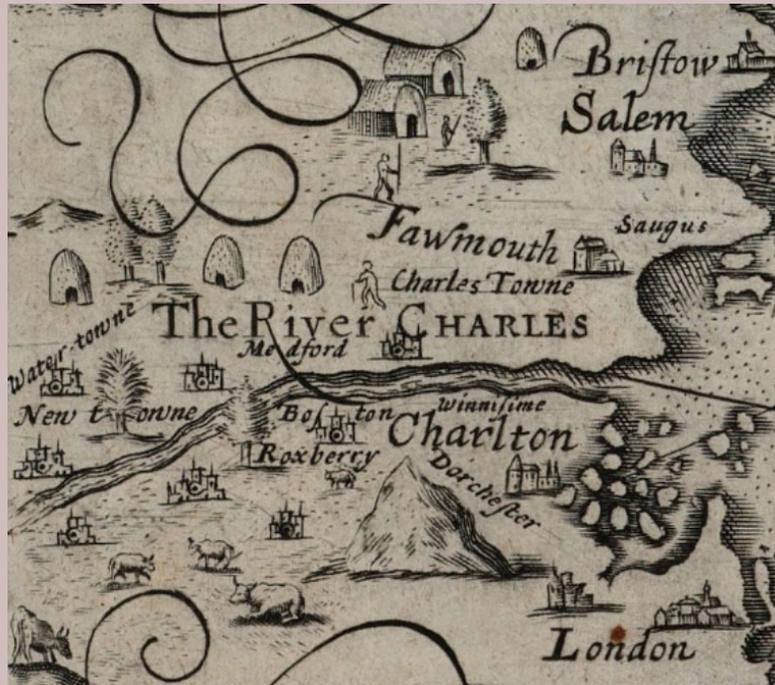
Proprietor Records



Foster's New England Map (1677)

Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library

Land Distribution Process



- 17th – 18th century**
- General Court assigns grants of land to groups of settlers.
 - These settlers form Proprietorship Committees to distribute land to settle towns.

Where to find Proprietor Records?

Town Halls, Town Clerk, Tax Office or assessor

County Registry of Deeds

Libraries and local historical societies

FamilySearch Library microfilm

Published transcriptions of Proprietor records



FamilySearch Catalog

Search the catalog of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, and publications) made available by FamilySearch. Many items can be loaned to local family history centers around the world.

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

SEARCH BY:

Place | **Surnames** | Titles | Author | Subjects | Keywords

Place

Keywords

Proprietor

[Call Number](#) | [Film/Fiche Number](#)

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Other Catalogs to Consider:

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WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to their resources on the web, where most people start their search for information.

ArchiveGrid

ArchiveGrid is a collection of nearly two million archival material descriptions, including MARC records from WorldCat and finding aids harvested from the web.

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Place

- United States, Kentucky, Jefferson, Cambridge
- United States, Maine, Somerset, Cambridge
- United States, Maryland, Dorchester, Cambridge
- United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge
- United States, Minnesota, Isanti, Cambridge
- United States, Nebraska, Furnas, Cambridge
- United States, New York, Washington, Cambridge
- United States, Ohio, Guernsey, Cambridge
- United States, Vermont, Lamoille, Cambridge
- United States, Wisconsin, Dane, Cambridge

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ArchiveGrid is a collection of nearly two million archival material descriptions, including MARC records from WorldCat and finding aids harvested from the web.

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Refine your search

SEARCH BY:

Place

usetts, Middlesex, Cambridge

- Surnames
- Titles
- Author
- Subjects
- Keywords

SEARCH FOR:

- Call Number
- Film/Fiche Number

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PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

Notes

Originally, Cambridge was called New Towne. In 1636 it began to be called Cambridge, and in 1638 it was ordered to be so called, i.e., Cambridge.

Use for:

United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, New Towne

Part of [United States](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Middlesex](#)

Print List

- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Almanacs (2)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Archives and libraries - Inventories, registers, catalogs (4)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Bibliography (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Biography (3)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Buildings, dwellings, etc. (2)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Cemeteries (8)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Census - 1910 (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Census - 1920 - Maps (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Centennial celebrations, etc. (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Church history (13)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Church records (17)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Description and travel (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Directories (8)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Genealogy (7)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Genealogy - Indexes (2)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - History (21)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - History - Indexes (2)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - History - Revolution, 1775-1783 (3)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Land and property (3)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Maps (3)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - Civil War, 1861-1865 (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Biography (2)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - World War, 1914-1918 (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - World War, 1939-1945 (1)



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▼ **United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Land and property (3)**

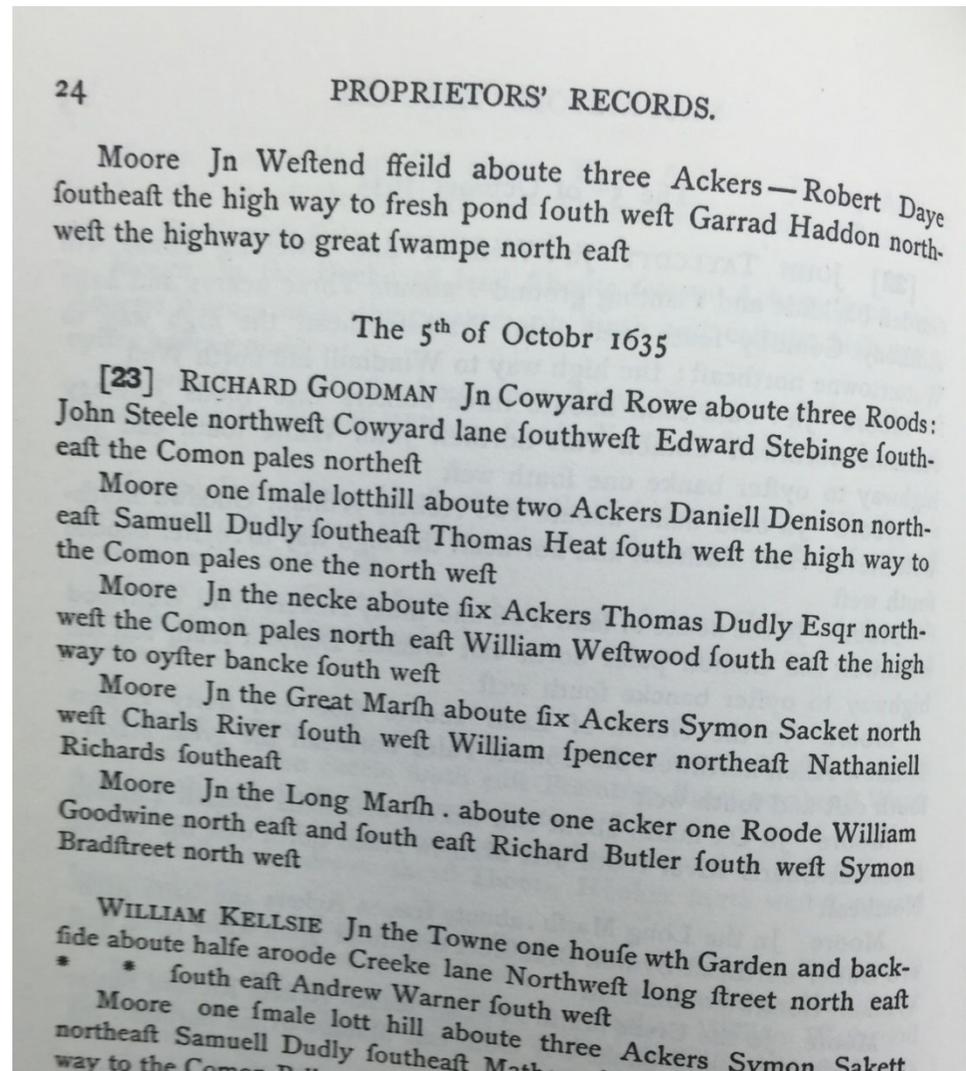
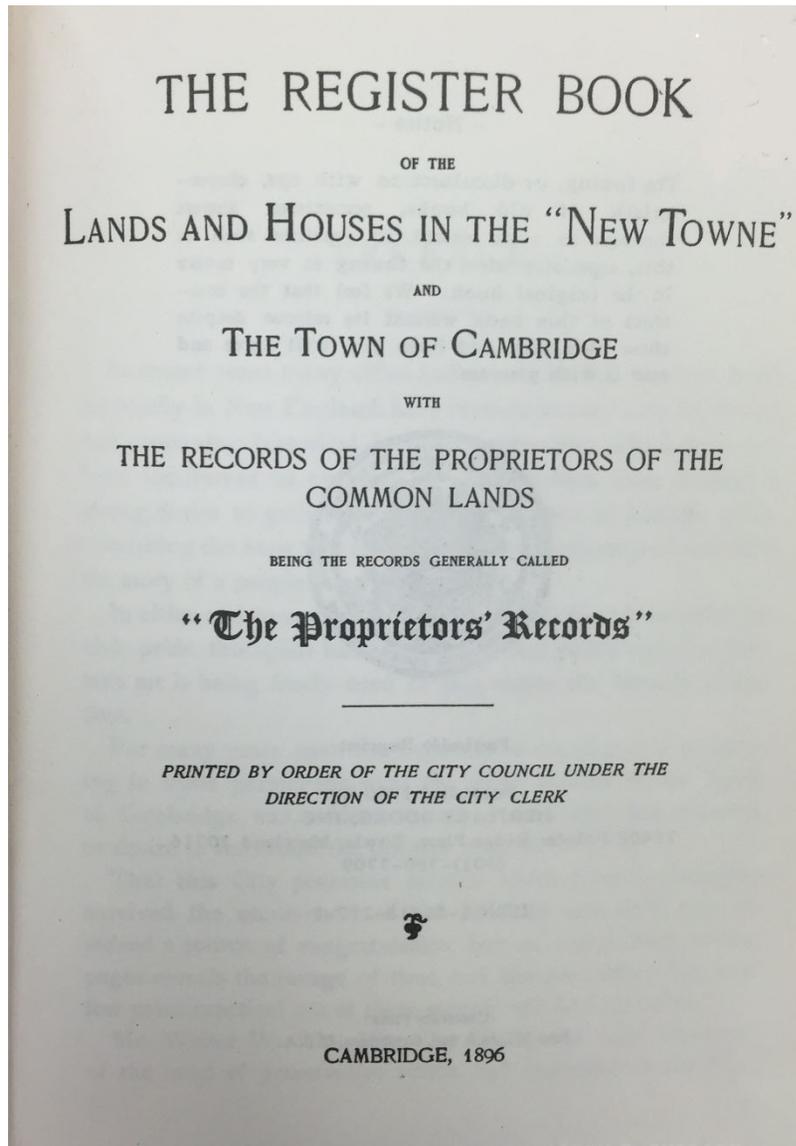
Proprietor's records, 1635-1841 Add
Author: Cambridge (Massachusetts). Town Proprietors

Proprietors' records of Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1635-1829 Add
Author: Brandon, Edward J.

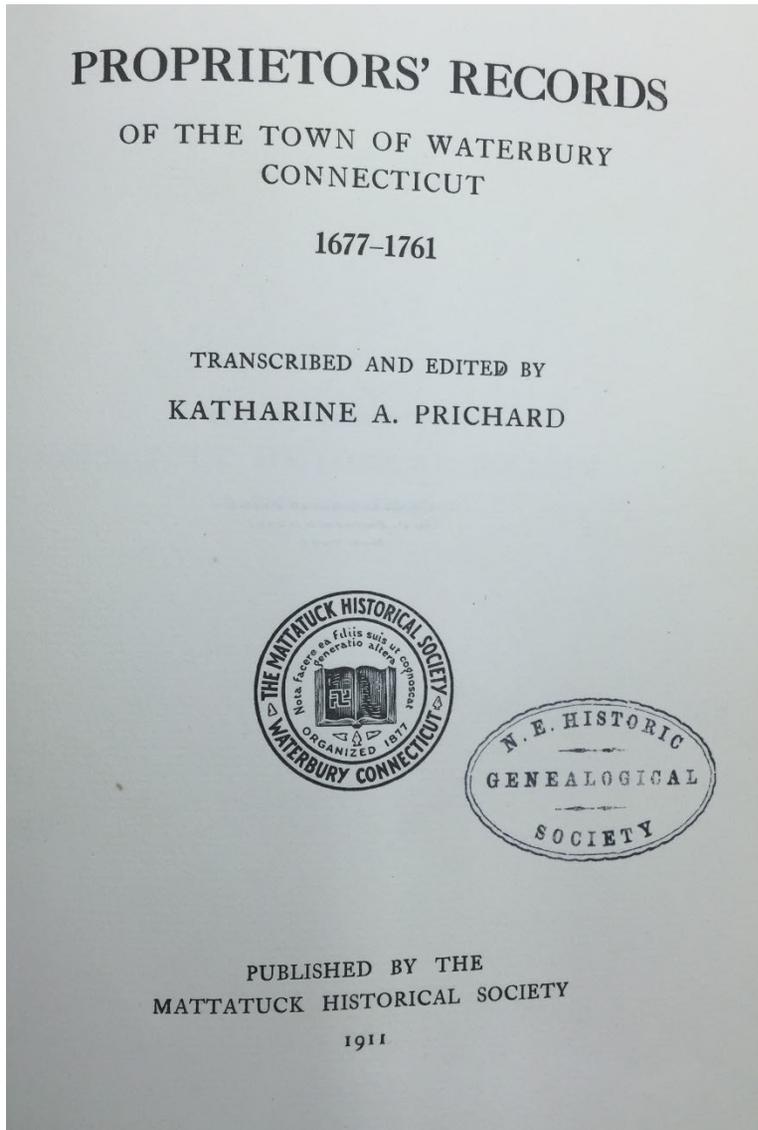
The Register book of the lands and houses in the "New Towne" and the town of Cambridge : with the records of the proprietors of the common lands being the records generally called "The Proprietors' Records" Add

- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Maps (3)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - Civil War, 1861-1865 (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - Civil War, 1861-1865 - Biography (2)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - World War, 1914-1918 (1)
- ▶ United States, Massachusetts, Middlesex, Cambridge - Military history - World War, 1939-1945 (1)

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Cambridge, Mass Proprietors' Records



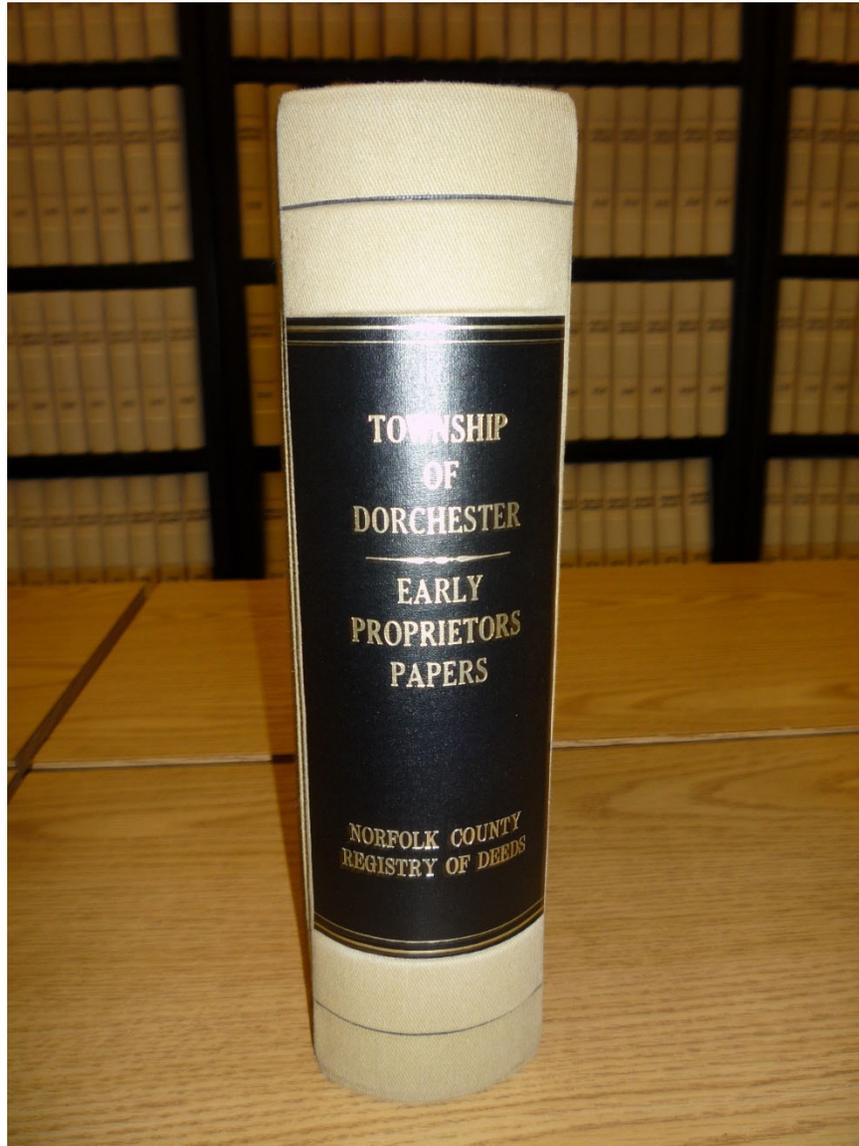
Waterbury Proprietors' Records 123

and s^d former Lotts are to have ordinary Measure. past
 by A full vote
 A true Record of the vote
 Attes^d. John Southmayd Clerk.

A List and order of of the Lott that was Agreed upon
 And Drawn for At A proprietors Meeting November.
 26. 1723.

the Lott	the propriety
1 Thomas Brounson	40
2 Samuell Scott	40
3 Thomas Clark	40
4 the 2 ^d Proprietors Lott	40
5 Abraham Anddruss Se ^r .	144
6 John Scovill. Ju ^r .	40
7 John Richards Se ^r .	144
8 Thomas Worner Se ^r .	180
9 Joseph Hikcox Ju ^r .	40
10 School Lott	270
11 Samuell Porter	40
12 Isaac Brounson Ju ^r .	40
13 John Judd Ju ^r .	40
14 Obadiah Scott	40
15 Thomas Handcox	180
16 Joseph Brounson	40
17 Richard Welton	40
18 Benjamin Bernes Ju ^r .	40
19 John Brounson of Isaac	40
20 John Richason	40
21 John Southmayd	270
22 Thomas Anddruss	40
23 Samuell Worner of Thomas	40
24 the 3 ^d proprietors Lott	40
25 John Worner Se ^r .	162

Waterbury, Conn. Proprietors' Records



At a Proprietors Meeting on the 7th day of December 1719 the said Meeting was adjourned unto the 21st day of the 1st month of then met together in the Meeting house according to the Adjournment. At which time there was nine or ten particular Men met together as the Proprietors were informed on the East side of the Meeting house without Doors & there did read a Warrant & pretended to Carry on a propriety Meeting by virtue of said Warrant & did as they say Cause a Moderator & a Clerk to be chosen which Meeting of the 9th Men aforesaid had been proper for the propriety that were in the Meeting house after they had agreed as the Law directs upon another method for falling of a propriety Meeting & have acted on the same Method for many years past could by no means have had the opportunity of acting by reason of the privacy of the Meeting of the 9th nine Men & the Inconvenience of their continuance Whereas those that were in the Meeting house before their Names might be entered down by the propriety Clerk as Disobeying against the Meeting and Action of the 9th nine Men that met on the Outside of the Meeting house & their Names are as followeth

Sam ^l Jones 47	Ebenezer Paul 24	Deer Samuel 1
Ben ^g Choy 48	John Johnson 25	Jensen Daniel 2
Jacob Searl 49	Sam ^l Leedy 26	Robert Gray 3
Jurrah ^g Searl 50	Remember Boston 27	Thomas Fryson 4
Nich ^l Hawes 51	Philip Withington 28	Sam ^l Johnson 5
Thos ^g Mawfley 52	John Johnson 29	Ebenezer Mandley 6
John Andrews 53	Ebenezer Williams 30	Sam ^l Paul 7
Henry Leadbetter 54	Wm ^g Gilling 31	Ebenezer Gilling 8
Ben ^g Blakeman 55	John Blakeman 32	Sam ^l Leedy 9
Rob ^t Pelton 56	John Davenport 33	John Percott 10
Thos ^g Peirce 57	Sam ^l Robinson 34	Ralph Pope 11
James Piro 58	John West 35	John Gilchrist 12
Robert Searl 59	Matthew Iron 36	Thos ^g Iron 13
Ben ^g Mansfield 60	Isaac How 37	Walter Overden 14
Ebenezer Withington 61	Ben ^g Bird 38	Isaac Royal 15
Abraham Gilling 62	Abraham How 39	Ebenezer Harris 16
Sam ^l Henshaw 63	Samy Blake 40	Wm ^g Proffitt 17
John Peirce 64	Humphrey Aberton 41	John Miles 18
Ben ^g Ball 65	Isaac Royal Jun ^r 42	Smith Woodward 19
Prisiah Wales 66	Henry Jones 43	Joseph Leck 20
Obadiah Swift 67	Joseph Blake 44	Math ^l Gutt 21
Charles Davenport 68	Isaac Humphrey 45	Ebenezer Davenport 22
Richard Wray 69	Peter Iron 46	Stephen Bajer 23
Richard Withington 70		
70 in all		

Taken up and Sam^l Paul Clerk for & Prop^{ts} in Dorchester
 A True Copy &c made by Sam^l Tufley Clerk

Dorchester / Stoughton, Mass. Proprietors' Records

A Notification for a Proprietors Meeting.

Whereas by a Vote of the Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Lands late in the Township of Dorchester & now in the Township of Sloughdon, bearing Date of 22^d Day of November 1722. Enabling Some of the Proprietors & Selectmen of Dorchester, or of Major part of them, to Call a meeting of the said Proprietors as often as it may be thought Needfull;

We the Subscribers Accordingly do Notifie the said Proprietors, That they Meet at the Meeting-house in Dorchester, on Friday the 8th Day of December next Ensuing if Date hereof, at Two of the Clock in the Afternoon, for the Ends & Purposes hereafter mentioned Viz.

- 1st To Choose a Committee to Prosecute in Law any that have or shall Trespass on any of the Proprietors Lands, or to Eject off any that shall be found to be illegally Possessed of the said Lands.
- 2^d To Hear the Account of the Committee that was Chosen to sell a Piece of Common Land adjacent to the School Farm leased to Henry White.
- 3^d To Choose a Committee to make a List of the Lots in 25 Divisions of Land (so called) as they have been laid out, & Enter the same upon Record.
- 4th To Choose a Committee to...

Details of Proprietor Meetings

Tip:

Tax records can indicate when
your ancestor was paying
real estate tax.

Names.	Doll. £. S. D.	Province.			Town £. S. D.	County £. S. D.	Total all £. S. D.
		Real. £. S. D.	Perf. & £. S. D.	Total of Province £. S. D.			
N. Ebenezer Newcomb, <u>Drain tree</u>	X . .	. 3 6	. . .	. 3 6	. 3 7	. . 5	. 7 6
P. Cap. William Pierce	X . .	. 2 8	. . .	. 2 9	. 2 10	. . 4	. 5 11
R. David Rayson, <u>Drain tree</u>	X . .	. 17 2	. . .	. 17 2	. 17 7	. 2 .	1 16 9
S. James Swift	+ 12 3	. 2 4	. . 5	. 15 .	. 15 5	. 1 9	1 12 2
W. John Webb	X 4 6	. . .	. . .	1 4 6	1 5 1	. 3 .	2 12 7
Joseph Woodward	X 12 3	. . .	. . .	. 12 3	. 12 7	. 1 5	1 6 3
Joseph Whiston	X 12 3	. . .	. . .	. 12 3	. 12 7	. 1 5	1 6 3
		3 . 1 3	1 . 5 9	. . 5 4 . 7 5	4 . 9 8	. 10 4	9 . 7 5
	Brought over	6 . 2 6	9 . 6 3	1 8 10 16 17 7	17 . 5 10	2 . 0 1	36 . 3 6
	Total	9 . 3 9	10 12 .	1 9 3 21 5 .	21 15 6	2 10 5	45 10 11
Note, the	est. of Herckiah Merott	has paid in	part				00 15 6
And John Webb has	paid in	part					2 . . .
				Remains to collect			42 15 5
				To be paid you out of Town Treasury			6 . 7 0
				Total you are to pay to Province Treasurers			49 . 2 11

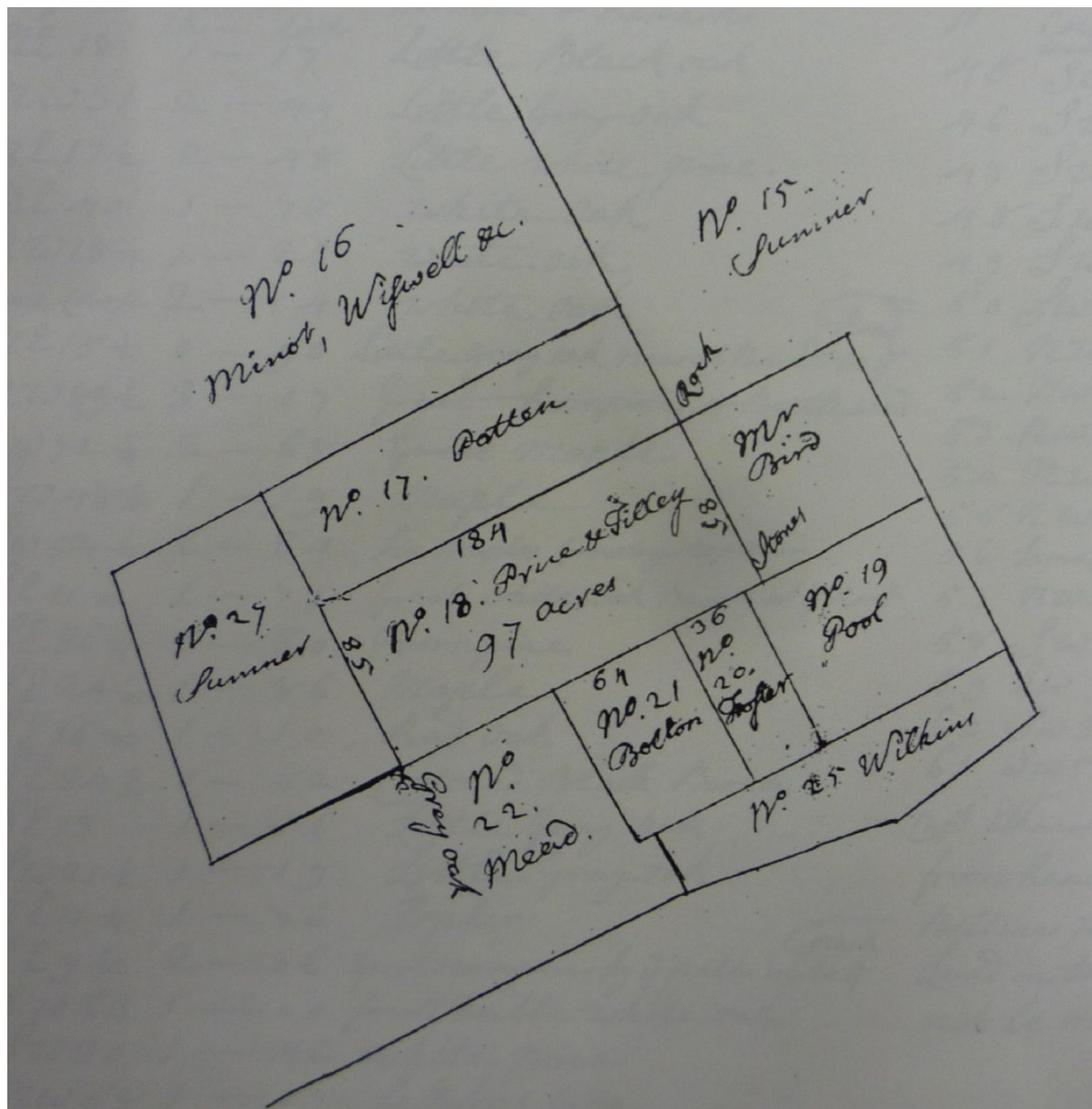
Tax Records of Proprietors

Tip:

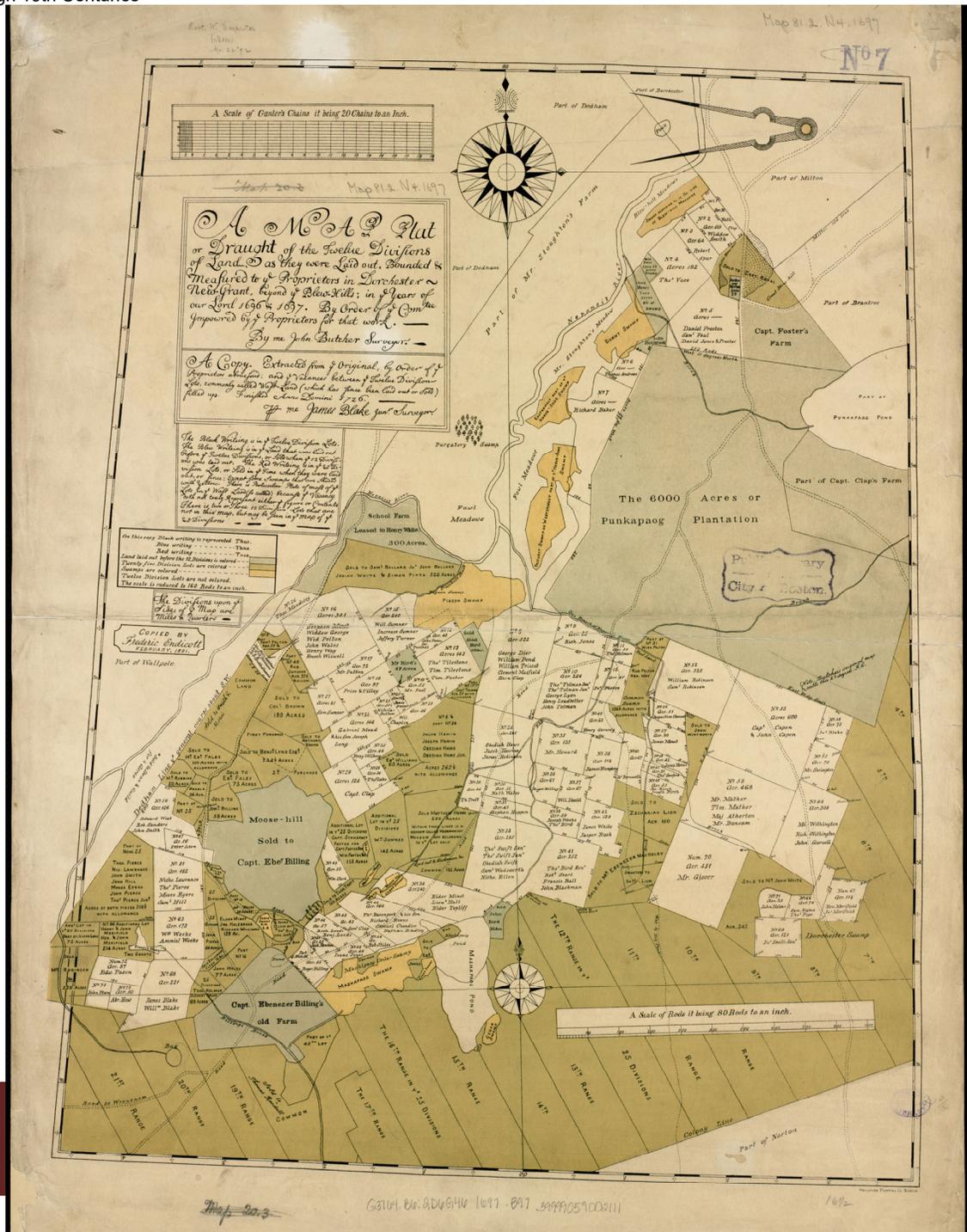
Your ancestor did not need to reside in a community to own land there.

Tip:

Use Proprietor records to determine the earliest date of settlement for your family in the 17th and 18th century.

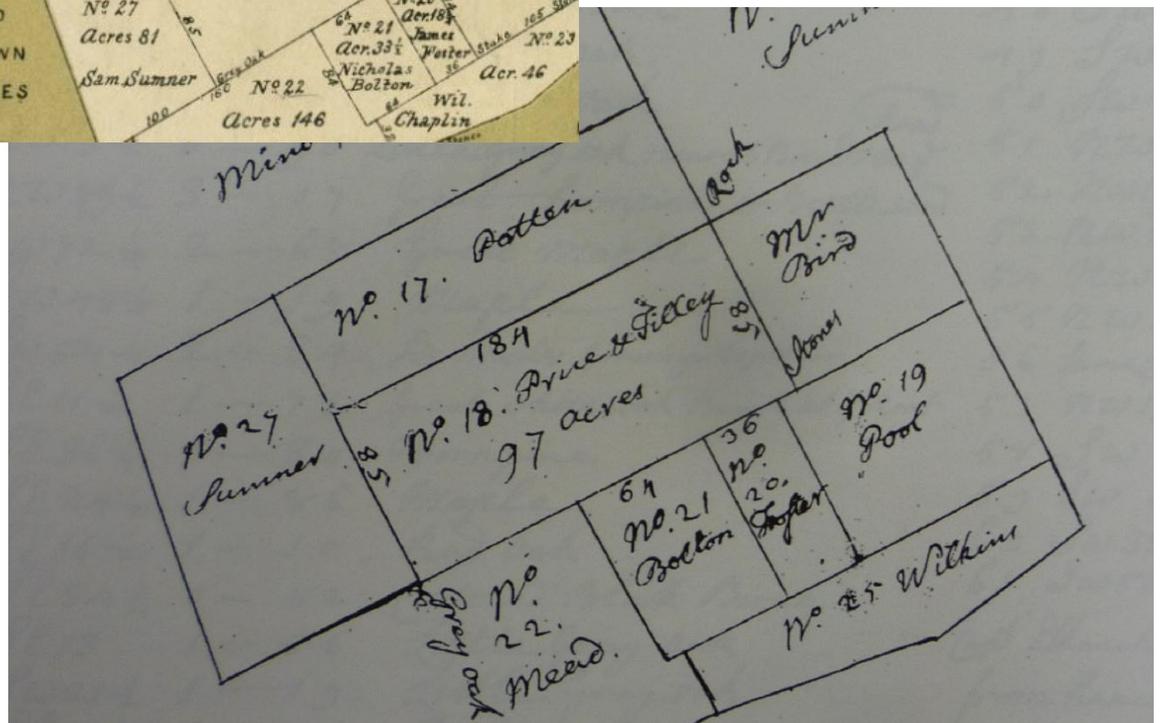
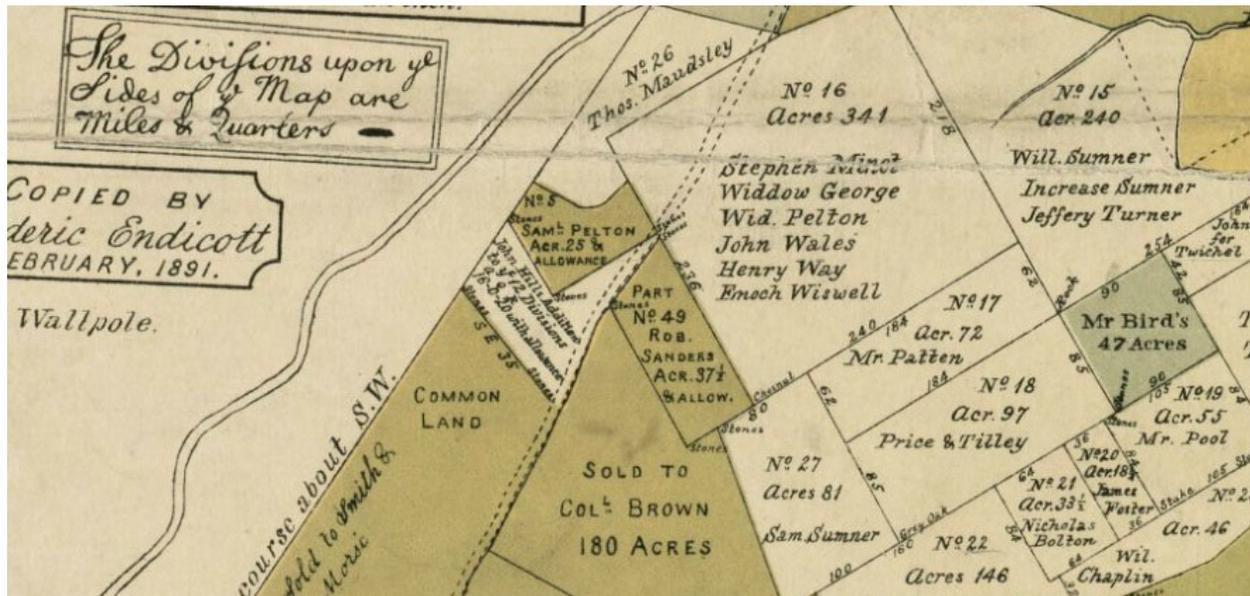


Dorchester / Stoughton, Mass. Proprietor's Plans



Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library

1696 Butcher's Map

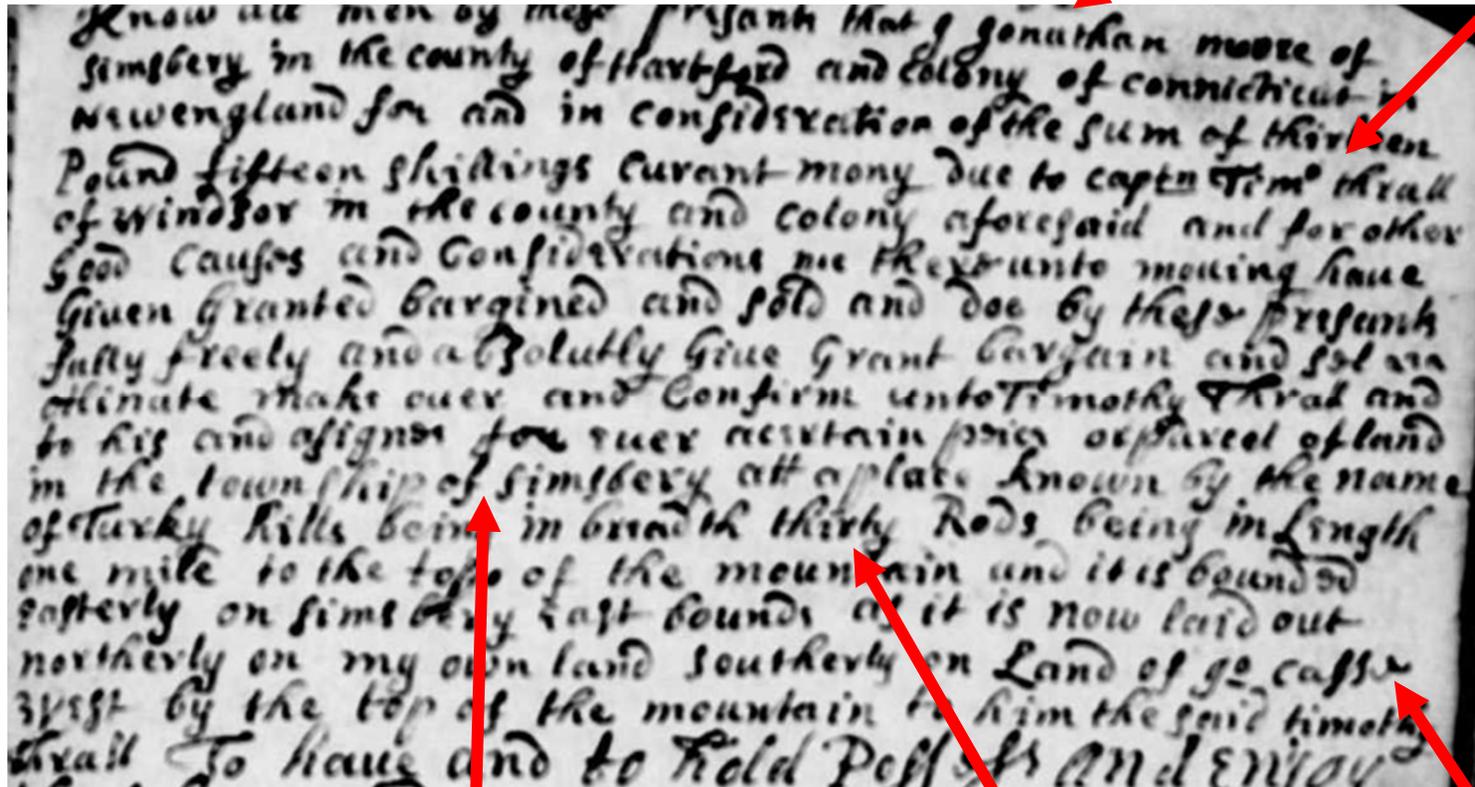


1696 Butcher's Map

QUESTIONS?

Land Deeds

Grantor/Seller
Grantee/Buyer



Know all men by these presents that Jonathan Moore of
Simsbury in the county of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut in
New England for and in consideration of the sum of thirteen
Pound fifteen shillings current money due to Capt^m Tim^l Thrall
of Windsor in the county and Colony aforesaid and for other
good causes and considerations in these presents moving have
Given granted bargained and sold and doe by these presents
Justly freely and absolutely Give Grant bargain and sell an
attestate make over and Confirm unto Timothy Thrall and
to his and assigns for ever certain price or parcel of land
in the township of Simsbury at a place known by the name
of Turkey Hills being in breadth thirty Rods being in length
one mile to the top of the mountain and it is bounded
easterly on Simsbury East bounds as it is now laid out
northerly on my own land southerly on Land of go capt^m
Thrall by the top of the mountain to him the said Timothy
Thrall To have and to hold Possⁿ and ENJOY

Location of land

Land measurements

Abutting neighbors

Introduction of the Land Deed

shall To have and to hold Possess and Enjoy
the above said parcels of Land with all the rights
rights and appurtenances thereunto belonging to
the said Timothy Thrall and to his heirs and assigns for
ever and the said Jonathan Moore do by these
written Covenant promise and Grant to and with the
said Timothy Thrall his heirs and assigns forever that
the enforcing and delivery hereof is lawful
and sole part of so parcel of land in a good estate
of inheritance in fee simple and that by force and
virtue hereof he the above said Timothy Thrall his
heirs and assigns may at all times and from time
to time forever hereafter Lawfully and peaceably
have hold use occupy Enjoy and possess the above
granted parcel of Land free and clear and freely
clearly acquitted and discharged from all taxes or
other little Grants sales mortgages or or any
incumbrances what soever
The condition of the above written deed or abination
is such that in case of the above named Jonathan
Moore My heirs executors Administrators or assigns do
well and truly pay or cause to be paid
to the said Timothy Thrall his heirs executors adm-
inistrators or assigns the above said sum of thirteen pound
fifteen shillings of current and Lawfull money of
this colony within four years after the date hereof
and paying the lawfull interest for the said thirteen
pounds and fifteen shillings yearly then the above
written Deed to be void and of none effect otherwise
to stand in full force and virtue as witness my
hand and seal this fourth day of February in the
year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and
thirteen or fourteen

Terms of the Land Sale

Land Measurements

- 1 mile: 80 chains, 320 poles, rods or perches = 5,280 ft.
- 1 chain: 4 poles, rods perches is 66 ft., or 100 links.
- 1 pole, rod or perch: 25 links, 16 ½ ft.
- 1 link: 7.92 inches



Signed sealed and delivered Jonathan Moore
in presence of us
John Throat
Josiah Moore
The above named Jonathan Moore
personally appeared in Windsor y^e fourth of
February 1713-14 and acknowledged the above
written instrument to be his free act and deed
before me John Moore Justice
Entered verbatim J-6^o y^e 22^o 1713-14
test John Slater clerk

Signed, Sealed, Delivered, and Appearing
Before the Court

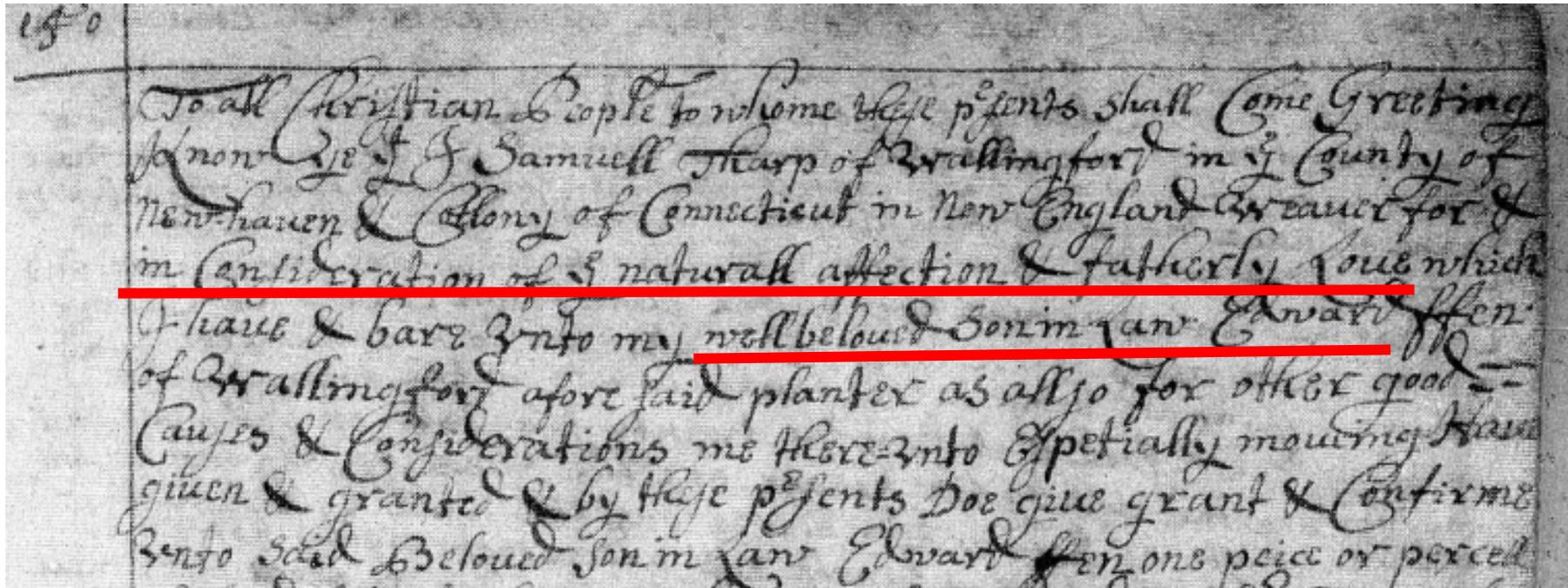
Tips for Analyzing Land Deeds

- Note where the buyer and seller's residence are at the time of the sale. This is a key clue for identifying migration.
- Look for deeds where a husband is selling property. If his wife is living, her first name will be referenced in the deed and/or the court inquiry to release her dower.
- Note the deed witnesses and abutting neighbors. They may be relatives of either party.
- Look for phrases like "in consideration of natural affection" to identify family members, including in-laws.
- Quit claim and power of attorney deeds are useful for documenting the children of a deceased parent.

14
To all People to whom these Presents shall come: GREETING.
KNOW YE, That I Isaac Brooks of Bristol in the County
of Hartford and State of Connecticut
for the consideration of Two Hundred and forty Pounds L. money
Received to my
full satisfaction of Samuel Cook of Plymouth in the County of Litchfield
and Oliver Dutton of Bristol aforesaid
Do give, grant, bargain, sell, and confirm unto the said Cook and Dutton and to
his heirs and assigns forever one piece or parcel of Land Situate in said
Plymouth and containe Eighty Eight acres and is Bounded and
Bounded Southeast upon Jonathan Pond's corner on the south
bank of the River then Northwardly upon the Town Line to a
heap of stones then West to a white Oak Tree with stones about
it, then South to a heap of Stones then West to the River then over
the River, then running as the River runs to a white Oak tree to Lodge

Residence of parties – Plymouth, Litchfield,
Connecticut Land Deeds, 1796, FamilySearch

"in Consideration of natural affection & Fatherly Love which I have & bare unto my well beloved son in law"



Wallingford, New Haven, Connecticut Land Deeds, FamilySearch

Land Records by State

Massachusetts Land Records

- The earliest land owners in Massachusetts were town Proprietors.
- County-level land registration started in 1640, managed by county court clerks
- In 1715, the legislature mandated a Register of Deeds per county to be elected

Connecticut Land Records

- The earliest land was granted by the Conn. General Court to town Proprietors.
- Proprietors distributed the land within the town.
- Records are held on the town level. The only exception are the border towns of Woodstock and Suffield which were once part of Massachusetts.
- The FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah has microfilmed deeds on the town level through 1900 in most towns.
- There is no statewide or county index to deeds.



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Hartford, CT: General Index of Land Records of the Town of Hartford, 1639-1839

Exact Search Soundex

SEARCH

First Name

First/Middle/[Maiden] names

Last Name

Last Name

Years

From

To

Location Exact Location

e.g. Boston, Massachusetts

Keywords

Enter terms or words

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse)

Any

First and Middle Names

Last Name

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 Print

 Save Record

New Search

Report Error

Name	Samuel FILEY
Land Record	11/29/1796
Location	Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut, United States 
Original Text	Grantee: Filey, Samuel & Grantor: John & Hannah Cook
Grantor	John, Hannah COOK
Character	quitclaim
OriginalVolume	20
OriginalPage	499
Page	3410

No Image – Index only database

Why can't I see an image?

This database is an index only database, so no images are available.

View

AmericanAncestors.org

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch Catalog website. 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, there are icons for location, globe, help, chat, and notifications, along with the user name Melanie McComb. Below the navigation bar, there is a secondary menu with links for Records, Full Text, 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 banner with the text "FamilySearch Catalog" and 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 visible: "LEARN HOW TO USE THE CATALOG" and "SEE TIPS AND RESOURCES". A search overlay is open, showing search filters: "Search By" (PLACE, SURNAMEN, TITLES, AUTHOR, SUBJECTS, KEYWORDS), "Place" (Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut, United States), "Search For" (CALL NUMBER, FILM/FICHE/IMAGE GROUP NUMBER (DGS)), and "Availability" (Any, Online). A "SEARCH" button is at the bottom of the overlay.

FamilySearch.org

Land and property (9) ^

Connecticut The river towns of Connecticut	Author: Adams, Herbert B., 1850-1901, Andrews, Charles M., 1863-1943	+ ADD
Deed, 1856 February 18, Deacons of the Baptist Church in Hartford, grantors, Congregation Beth Israel of Hartford, grantee, for land in Hartford, Connecticut	Author: Baptist Church (Hartford, Connecticut), Congregation Be...	+ ADD <small>MORE</small>
Hartford, Connecticut land records, 1639-1688; and births, marriages and deaths, 1644-1730/ Albert C. Bates, editor	Author: Bates, Albert C., 1865-	+ ADD
Land records, 1639-1901; general index, 1639-1865	Author: Hartford (Connecticut). Town Clerk	+ ADD
Original distribution of the lands in Hartford among the settlers, 1639	Author: None Provided	+ ADD
Proprietors records 1792-1931	Author: North Meadow (Hartford, Connecticut). Town Clerk	+ ADD
Proprietors records v. 1-3, 1659-1929	Author: South Meadow (Hartford, Connecticut). Town Clerk	+ ADD
The river towns of Connecticut : a study of Wethersfield, Hartford and Windsor/ by Charles M. Andrews	Author: Andrews, Charles M., 1863-1943	+ ADD
The river towns of Connecticut : a study of Wethersfield, Hartford, and Windsor/ by Charles M. Andrews	Author: Andrews, Charles M., 1863-1943	+ ADD

Search X

Search By

PLACE SURNAMEN TITLES AUTHOR SUBJECTS
KEYWORDS

Place X

United States, Connecticut, Hartford, Hartford

Search For

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

Availability

Any Online

SEARCH

RESET

Feedback

Land records, 1639-1901; general index, 1639-1865

ADD TO PRINT LIST

Authors	Hartford (Connecticut), Town Clerk (Author)
Format	Microfilm 35mm
Language	English
Publication Date	1947-1949, 1983, 1986
Publisher	Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah
Place of Publication	Salt Lake City, Utah
Physical	117 microfilm reels ; 35 mm.

Notes

Microfilm of originals in the Town Hall, Hartford, Connecticut.

Additional indexes within most volumes.

Proprietors records referred to as "dist." in general index.

Proprietors records and deed book 1 include births, marriages, deaths, and ear markings.

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

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	Image Group Number (DGS)	Format
Deeds v. 16-17 1783-1790	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	4518	8189167	 
Deeds v. 18-19 1774-1795	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	4519	7833614	 
Deeds v. 20-21 1795-1801	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	4520	7833615	 
Deeds v. 22-23 1799-1811	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	4521	7833616	 
Deeds v. 24-25 1802-1808	Granite Mountain Record Vault	United States & Canada Film	4522	8199978	 



The screenshot displays the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "Records", "Full Text", "Images", "Family Tree", "Genealogies", "Catalog", "Books", and "Wiki". The "Records" tab is selected. Below the tabs, the film number "Film # 007833615" is displayed. To the right of the film number are buttons for "SOURCE BOX" and "ATTACH TO TREE". Below the film number, there is a grid of document images. The first image in the grid is highlighted with a blue border and contains the handwritten number "#4520". Other images in the grid include a title page with the text "TOWN OF HALESTON CONNECTICUT REGISTER OF DEEDS VOL. 30 1785-1797" and a page with the word "BEGIN".

FamilySearch.org

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for FamilySearch, Family Tree, Search, Memories, Get Involved, and Activities. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Records, Full Text, Images, Family Tree, Genealogies, Catalog, Books, and Wiki. The main content area displays a document titled "TOWN OF HARTFORD CONNECTICUT REGISTER OF DEEDS VOL. 20 1795 1797". The document is divided into two columns. The left column contains the title and a note: "FILMED BY THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH AT HARTFORD, CONN. 28 DECEMBER 1948". The right column contains the title "REGISTER OF DEEDS" and the volume and date information "VOL. 20 1795 1797". On the left side of the document viewer, there is a "Feedback" button and a "Image 4 of 739" indicator.

FamilySearch.org

99

K NOW all Men by these Presents, That *We John Cook of Hartford,*
in the County of Hartford and Hannah ^{Cook} his Wife

for divers good Causes and Considerations *us*
thereunto moving ; especially for *the Sum of Two hundred Pounds Lawfull money*
received to *our* full satisfaction of *Jonathan Emmons of Barkhamstead in*
the County of Litchfield, and Samuel Seloy of East Haddam in the County of
Middlesex
Have remised, Released, and for ever Quit-Claimed, and do by these Presents for ourselves
justly and absolutely Remise, Release, and for ever Quit-Claim unto the said
Jonathan and Samuel and
to their Heirs and Assigns for ever, all such Right and Title as *We* the said *John Cook*
and Hannah Cook

have or ought to have in or to *a certain Estate set out as Dower*
to said Hannah present Wife of said John Cook from the Estate of
Hezekiah Marsh late of said Hartford deceased a former Husband of the
said Hannah, said Estate lying and being situate in said Hartford
Possession being had to the Purts of the settlement of the Estate of the
said Hezekiah Marsh for quantity, position, & boundaries

FamilySearch.org

Tip:

Check probate inventories to determine the land holdings of your ancestor's estate.

New Hampshire Deeds

- **Masonian Proprietary Period 1629-1641** *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers* (Vols. 29).
- Original Town charters from the 17th and 18th century can be found in the *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers* (Vols. 27-28).
- *New Hampshire Provincial and State Papers Online*
<http://sos.nh.gov/Papers.aspx>
- **Massachusetts Era 1641-1679**
- Post-1679, New Hampshire was a royal province. Deeds could be recorded at the town or county level
- 1769 - Rockingham County Registry of Deeds was created – deeds would continue to be registered at the county level as each county was created.

Rhode Island Land Records

- The earliest land grants were made by the colony. The records of these grants are known as "land evidences". They are located at the Rhode Island State Archives.
- The Rhode Island General Assembly granted land to groups who in turn became Proprietors of the towns.
- Some early grants and land transfers were recorded in *Proceedings of the General Assembly, 1646 to 1851*, located at the Rhode Island State Archives.
- Rhode Island Deeds are recorded on the town level.

Vermont Land Records

- The earliest landowners in Vermont were town Proprietors.
- Some early Vermont land recorded 1688-1786 appears in Secretary of State, *New York Land Patents 1688–1786: Covering Land Included in the State of Vermont* (Vol. 7).
- Land Grants 1778-1881 were published in Secretary of State, *Petitions for Grants of Land 1778–1881*. State Papers of Vermont, (Vol. 5). The petitions list the location, property, and the reason for the petition.
- Vermont land deeds are recorded at the town level.

Maine Land Records

- Maine deeds are recorded on the county level by the Registrar of Deeds
- Cumberland Co. Land records were not destroyed.
- First 18 vols. York County Deeds covering all of Maine to 1736 were published by the state from 1887-1910 on AmericanAncestors.org
- Some land was dealt with through the Land Office in Maine after 1820, when Maine was created as a state.



QUESTIONS?

Tax Records

Why use tax records?

- Identifies your ancestor at a specific place and time
- Provides information about occupation and housing status not found in other records
- Overlooked source in early published genealogies
- Adds to the life story of your ancestor

Challenges of Tax Records

- Not all towns/counties/states' tax records survive
- Records are often not indexed
- Records are not always easy to understand and require some historical context
- Separate repositories for each level of taxation (federal, state, local)

Locations for Tax Records

- Tax Assessor's Office
- Historical Societies
- City or State Archives
- Genealogy Web Sites
- Newspapers
- Published Records
- University/College Collections

Tip:
Check the “Taxation” category
under the town in the
FamilySearch catalogue

Centennial celebrations, etc. (1) ✓

Church directories (1) ✓

Church history (11) ✓

Church records (7) ✓

Directories (3) ✓

Genealogy (4) ✓

History (5) ✓

Land and property (1) ✓

Naturalization and citizenship (3) ✓

Naturalization and citizenship - Indexes (2) ✓

Probate records (1) ✓

School yearbooks (2) ✓

Taxation (1) ^

[Genealogy : a journal of American ancestry Taxpayers of New Britain, Conn. /](#) Author: Andrews, Frank D., 1847-1937 + ADD

Vital records (1) ✓

 Feedback

Search ✕

Search By

PLACE SURNAMENES TITLES AUTHOR SUBJECTS
KEYWORDS

Place ✕
United States, Connecticut, Hartford, New Britain

Subjects ✕

Search For

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

Availability

Any Online

 SEARCH

Genealogy : a journal of American ancestry Taxpayers of New Britain, Conn. /

ADD TO PRINT LIST

Authors [Andrews, Frank D., 1847-1937](#) (Author)
Language English
Physical p. 107-108

Notes

This record contains the names of the residents of New Britain, Connecticut, in the year 1799, who paid taxes, with the amount of their respective taxes.

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



Genealogy : a journal of American ancestry - v. 1, Jan-June 1912. No. 14

IDENTIFIER	1986378_14
LANGUAGE	English eng en
SUBJECT	United States - Genealogy - Periodicals
EXTENT	v.
PAGE COUNT	8
OWNING INSTITUTION	Houston Public Library
PUBLISHER DIGITAL	FamilySearch International
ACCESS LEVEL	



[VIEW INSIDE](#)



Feedback

April 6, 1912.

Genealogy

107

Taxpayers of New Britain, Conn.

BY FRANK D. ANDREWS.

Following are the names of the residents of New Britain, Conn., in the year 1799, who paid taxes, with the amount of their respective taxes. To the list should be added that of Rev. John Smalley, pastor of the church, who by virtue of his office was exempt from taxation. The writer spent ten years or more of his early life in New Britain, attended the public school there, and was acquainted with many of its inhabitants, among them descendants of those whose names appear in these pages. His apology, if one is necessary, for the publication of this old manuscript which has been in his possession for many years, is, that a few persons may be interested in the names of those who resided in the town over one hundred and ten years ago, and that the list will be of value to genealogists and others who care for ancestry. It therefore seems worth while to preserve it in printed form. The tax list was of August, 20, 1799.

Moses Andrews	\$245,95	Stephen Booth	\$ 1,30	David Daniels	\$ 67,
Levi Andrews	440,58	Abner Booth	60,	Charles Eddy	189,28
Joseph Andrews	238,55	Ziba Booth	60,	Charles Eddy, Jr.	37,
John Andrews	130, 9	Elisha Booth	77,85	Elijah Frances	133,60,5
Elijah Andrews	43,97	Thomas Booth	163,94	Elijah Frances,	
Josiah Andrews	114,	Salmon Booth	60,	Jr.	118, 5
Hezekiah An-		Elijah Brownson	60,	James Frances	206,63
drews	165,90	Samuel Brown-		Justice Frances	216,96,5
Ezekiel Andrews		son	83,71	Allen Frances	225,83

Published Article on Taxpayers of Great Britain,
Connecticut, 1799, FamilySearch

Town Taxes

- When towns were first incorporated, they were responsible for electing or appointing a tax collector.
- The town would collect taxes to repair roads, build schools, etc.

Ministerial Tax

- Also known as the religious tax or rate
- Mandatory tax to support the local congregational church
- Collected and enforced by colonial governments from settlement until the American Revolution

1738

A List of that part of the
ministerial and Precinct Rates
which is to be collected by Samuel
Belcher one of the Constables of the
Town of Stoughton, for the year 1738
as they were proportioned by us the
Subscribers, Assessors for the first
Precinct in said Town

Stoughton, Massachusetts Tax
List, Ancestry.com

Names	No. Polls	penes		Ministerial			Total		Precinct						
		Real	Personal	Real	Personal	Total	L	S	T						
S David, Stone	1	00	03	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	3			
Ralph, Shepard	1	16	05	0	0	0	0	10	3	0	1	5			
Thomas, Spur	2	13	12	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	11			
William, Sumner	0	08	00	0	1	4	0	0	1	4	0	0	2		
Anne, Sumner	0	04	00	0	0	8	0	0	0	8	0	0	1		
Nathaniel, Sumner	1	13	07	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	1	8			
John, Shepard	2	48	24	0	7	10	0	3	11	1	8	9	0	4	0
Michael, Shaller	1	17	12	0	2	5	0	2	0	0	13	3	0	1	10
James, Smith	0	03	00	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1
Caleb, Smith	1	00	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	0	1	2
Robert, Swan	0	08	00	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	2

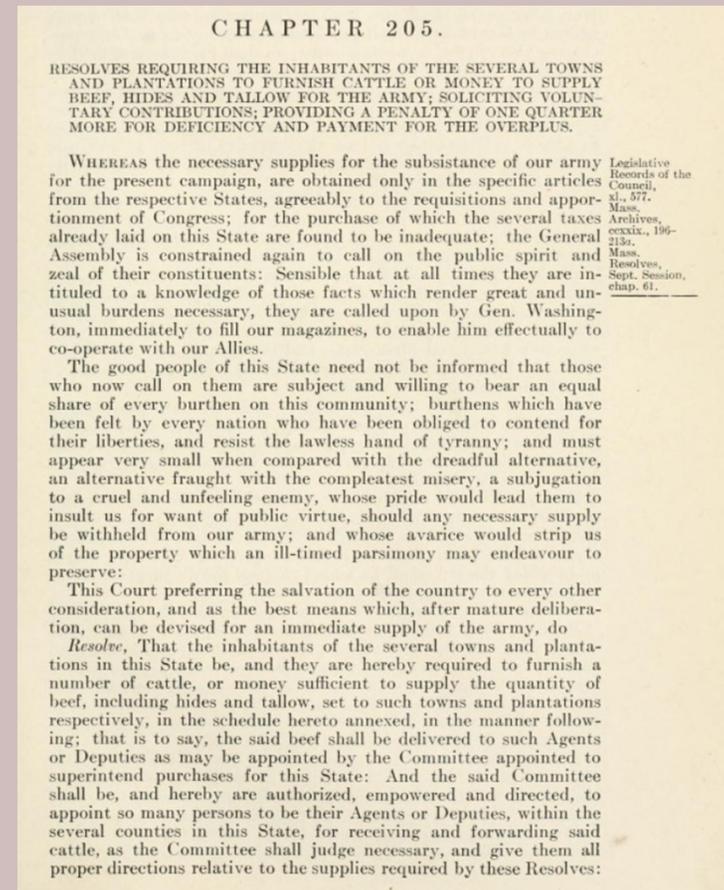
Stoughton, Massachusetts,
1738 Ministerial Tax, Ancestry.com

Revolutionary War Supply Taxes

- Congress had no authority to levy taxes. Money and supplies were requested from the states.
- Taxes went towards raising supplies, paying troops, building ships, providing clothing, raising bounty money, providing relief for families of soldiers in service.
- Each state has different tax assessments that were levied. Consult the DAR and SAR guides for more information.

Beef Tax

- Chapter 205 – Acts and Resolves of the Province of Massachusetts Bay
- Inhabitants of several towns were required to supply cattle or money to purchase beef for the Continental Army



This following Assessment Assessment was made
 By the Assessors of the Town of Chelmsford this
 fourth Day of December 1780
 To Defray the Charges of Raising the Quantity of
 Beef which the Town was Required to procure for the
 Benefit of the Army agreeable to a Resolution of the General
 Court of S^t State Passed September 1st 1780

Oleper	Brown	13:10	77:4:6	11:5:11	102:0:6
William	Brown	27:0	9:12:10	2:6:10	38:19:8
Benj ⁿ	Butterfield	13:10	77:4:6	12:6:0	103:0:6
Samuel	Butterfield	13:10	4:0:2	2:16:8	20:6:10
W ^o d ^r Keziah	Butterfield	0 0	7:14:4	0:11:9	8:6:1
Simon	Blodget	27:0	77:4:6	9:7:0	113:11:6
W ^o d ^r Robert	Bates	13:10	30:16:8	4:2:4	48:9:4
Francis	Bowers	13:10	20:9:1	2:18:11	36:18:0
W ^o d ^r Timothy	Clark	0 0	86:16:10	7:16:3	94:13:1
David	Chambers	13 10	0 0 0	1:18:2	15:8:2
Joseph	Chambers	13 10	0 0 0	0 0 0	13:10 0
William	Chambers	13:10	0 0 0	2:1:2	15:11:2
W ^o d ^r Rebekah	Dutton	13:10	9:12:10	1:9:0	24:11:10

Chelmsford, Massachusetts 1780 Beef Tax
 (Ancestry.com)

Poll Tax

- Tax levied as a prerequisite to voting
- Massachusetts was the first to enact the poll tax in 1646, followed by New Haven colony in 1649
- Typically assessed on white males 16 years and over
- The following groups were often exempt from paying poll tax:
 - Clergy
 - Public officials
 - Impoverished
 - Sick/Disabled/Elderly
 - Enslaved persons
 - Women

Voted to Raise & Lightly pounds to be assessed to the
support of the Poor & all other necessary charges
that shall in said town the ensuing year

Voted to allow Francis Fullum his Sons poll Tax
he being lame —————

Voted to allow Ezra Houghton fourteen shillings
& ten pence if being for money he paid toward
the support of the Wd. Brabrooks & did more
then there was any estate for —————

Poll Tax Exemption, Lancaster, Massachusetts
Town Records, 1765, Ancestry.com

Taxes on Real and Personal Estates

- Tax rolls may detail the type of structures they have on the estate (house, farm, mill, etc.)
- Tax rolls are a great census alternative. They can help you recreate the community they were living in.

1									2						
North List for 1792		Male Polls from 10 to 70 years old	Houses, Over 5 years old, upwards	Boys 5 years old and upwards	Cattle & Horses 4 years & upwards	Ditto 3 years	Ditto 2 years	Orchard land	Charle, Mowing	Pasture	Mills wharves & Ferries	Stock money on hand and on trust except what is due on Public Charities	Buildings & unimproved lands	Amount of Inventory	Sum Assessed
Joseph Alcock											10/	£ 1.17.6	£ 4.5.-	£ 6.12.6	£ 3.19.6-
Perkins Ayers												5/	15.-	- 1.0.-	- 12.-
Walter Akerman	20/	3/	4/						5/	7/		3..0-	1.10-	- 6..9-	3..17.6
Joseph Akerman	10/	3/	4/						4/	3/		1..10/	1.10-	- 4..4-	2..14.-
Barnet Akerman	10/		2/						5/	5/		1..0-	10/	- 2..12-	- 1..11.6
Nath ^l Adams	10/	6/	4/						5/	5/			10/	- 2.-	- 1..4.-
James Ayers	20/	24/	28/	12/	10/	6/	3/	60/		60/			1.5/	12..8.-	- 7..9..0
Widow Eliz th Adams													1..10/	1..10.-	0..18.-

Portsmouth, New Hampshire Tax List, 1792, FamilySearch

Tip:
Search for tax records where
your ancestor may have
owned property outside of
their primary residence.

486

Assessors Return of Non-Residents. July 5th 1852.

Harvard July 5 1852.

To the Town Clerk of Harvard.

We the Assessors of the Town of Harvard have this day determined that the following Persons, owners of Real Estate in said Harvard but Non-residents shall have their respective Estates set to them in the several School Districts in this town as follows. viz:

District No. 1.

Names.	Place of Residence	Description of R. Estate	True Value	Proportion
William S. Park	Boston	Part of a House Shop & Garden.	600.00	36.00
Samuel W. Taylor	Lancaster	House Barn & Garden.	350.00	21.00
Sylvanus Wetherbee	Newton	House Barn & 40000 land	1200.00	72.00
Heirs of John L. Folsom	Lowell	A Building spot	20.00	1.20
John M. Porter	Groton	Part of a House & Garden	600.00	36.00
Abijah Lawrence	Bolton	House Barn & 14 acres land	1400.00	84.00
Robert E. Newman	Boston	3 Houses Shop & 2 Garden	2200.00	132.00

Non-Residents Charged, Harvard, Massachusetts, 1852, Ancestry.com

Probate Records

What is a Probate Record?

- Court process that disposes of a deceased person's estate
- Describes how an estate will be distributed
- Names who will administer the estate
- Contains a list of property/possessions owned by the deceased

Why Use Probate Records?

- Provide an approximate death date for the deceased
- Verify family relationships
 - Married daughters may be listed with their husband's surname
- Wills and inventories offer a glimpse into the personal belongings of an ancestor and how they were distributed
- Context of an ancestor's life

Challenges of Probate Records

- Not everyone left a probate record (i.e. women)
- Deceased may have had multiple marriages
- Not all children are listed
- No uniformity
- Difficult to read

Common Probate Terms

- **Testate:** dies with a Last Will & Testament.
- **Intestate / Administration:** dies without a will.
- **File Papers:** the original documents associated with the probate file.
- **Record Books / Copy Books:** copies of certain probate files copied into bound record volumes.

Documents Found in Probate Records

- Will
- Codicil
- Letters of Administration & Letters of Testamentary
- Inventory
- Accounts
- Distributions
- Guardianship Records
- Miscellaneous Probate Papers (examples below):
 - Dower Records
 - Bill of Sales
 - Receipts

Where to Find Probate Records?

- Most probate records are found at the county level since they were handled by county courts
- Exceptions:
 - Rhode Island – town level
 - Early Connecticut and Massachusetts town councils had jurisdiction over probate matters

In the name of God Amen I Deleg Heath of Warren in the County
of Bristol in the Colony of Rhode Island Gentleman Being weak of
Body and calling to mind my mortality and that it is appointed for man
once to die being of sound mind and memory Do make this my Last will
and testament in the following manner. Principally & first of all
I give and becomend my soul to god that gave it and my Body
to the Earth to be Decently Buried in a Christian manner at the
Discretion of my Executor herein after named: And as to my worldly
Estate I give and bequeath the same in the following manner: Viz:
Imp^s my will is that my just Debts and funerall Charges be duly &
Reasonably Paid

Item To my Loving and well beloved wife Jerusha Heath I give and
bequeath one third of my housing and Land (Lying in Warren and
Rehoboth) Durring the term of her natural Life: One
feather Bed that which was made between she and I: one Bolster
Two Pillows: six pair of sheets which have been used, one home
Spun mill'd Blanket, one Checkt Linsey wolsy ~~blanket~~ ^{coverlid} and a sute of
Orange Coulered Curtains trined with red: my Large Chestnut Oval
Table one of my great Chairs (viz) that I purchased of Sam^l
Howlins: Esqr: and three white Chairs: one Small Bible my

Will Excerpt, 1748, Warren, Rhode Island,
FamilySearch

(158) men Chosen to Ann mayheue by the Town for the ordering
of the Estate of John Butler Deceased July:ye Last 1658
namely Thomas Burchard John Duggell John Peare John
Burchard

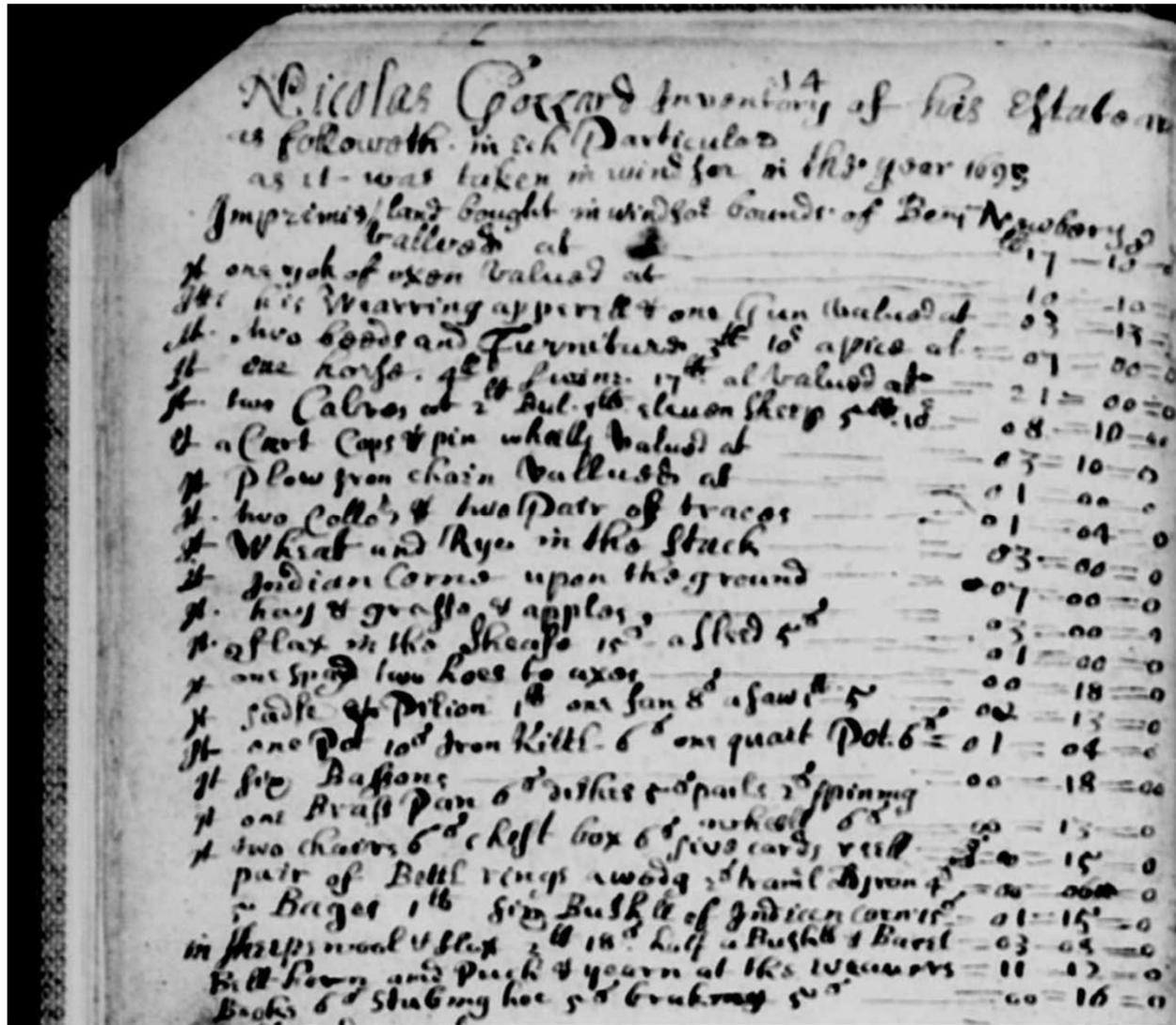
June:ye 7th 1659 Mr mayheue Chosen magistrate for this
year = the former of Government is the same ^{that} it was Last
year Saving the Claws Touching appeals is Laid off for this year

Richard Larson is Chosen Constable for this year

July:ye 5th 1659 ordered by the Town that ^{the} Burchard and the
Constable shall take an Inventory of the estate of the widow
Case and Give it in to the Town

October:ye 2nd 1663 an action of the Case by William Weeks
an Plaintiff Touching Damage of Hogs against William Binjon
Defendent in that Case

Request for Inventory, 1659, Edgartown,
Massachusetts Town Records, FamilySearch



Inventory Excerpt, 1695, Simsbury,
 Connecticut, FamilySearch

Know all men by this that I Mary Hilliard of Simsbury in
the County of Hartford and Colony of Connecticut doth own
and acknowledge that she hath Received her part and portion
of her fathers Copy Estate which was agreed upon at first
Which said Estate I do Give an acquittance for my self
and for my Heirs for ever unto my husband James Hilliard
to him and to his heirs forever as witnesses to the True
Performance here of I set to my hand this 7th of January
1712-13 In presence of us witnesses
Joseph Adams
David Bull Sept
Mary Hilliard
mark

Probate Distribution, Simsbury, Connecticut,
FamilySearch

Review

1. The earliest land deeds for the colonists were with the local Native American tribes and then the proprietor records. These may help you establish the earliest settlement when your family was in New England.
2. Search town records for the different locations that your ancestor may have owned property in addition to their home residence to locate deeds and tax records.
3. When possible, use published records and manuscript material for those that already reviewed the earliest deeds, probate, and tax records
4. Not all records are online – you may need to contact the town clerks, local histories, and other archives to find these records.

QUESTIONS?

Schedule a consultation

consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services

research@americanancestors.org

Consultations

Book a one-on-one
consultation with
a genealogist and
receive help with your
family history research!

[AmericanAncestors.org/
Expert-Help/Consultations](https://www.AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations)





THANK YOU!

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