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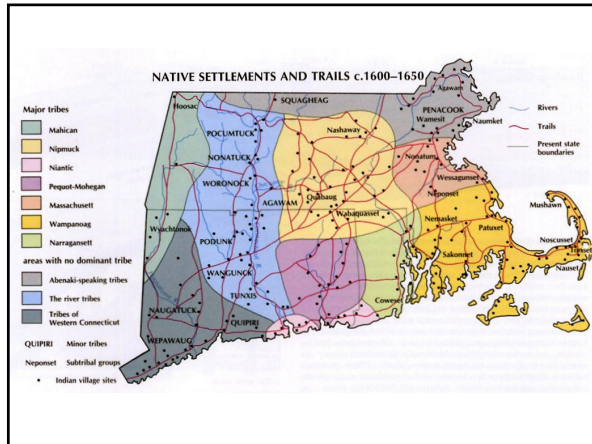
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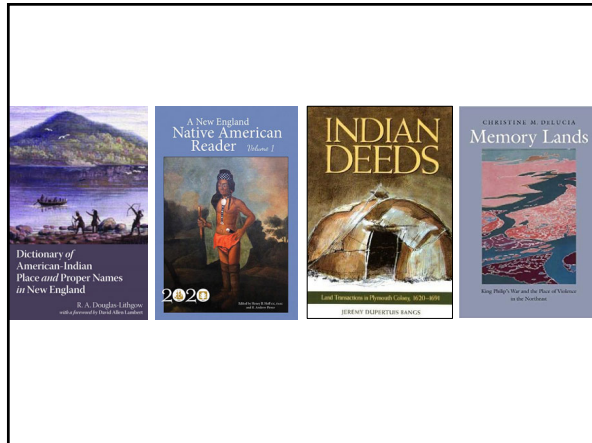
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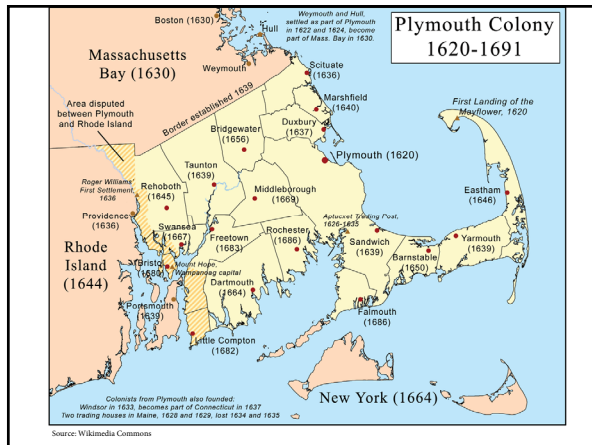


9

Plymouth Colony

- Established 1620
- Encompasses SE Mass., Cape & Islands
- Core group were Separatists who had first fled to Leiden, Holland
- Small in population and grew slowly
- Friendly relations with Mass. Bay
- Emigration to Berkshire Co., MA; Dutchess Co., NY; Cape May, NJ; coastal Maine

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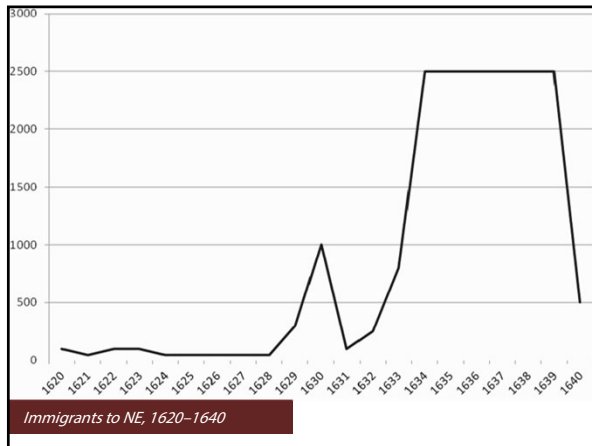


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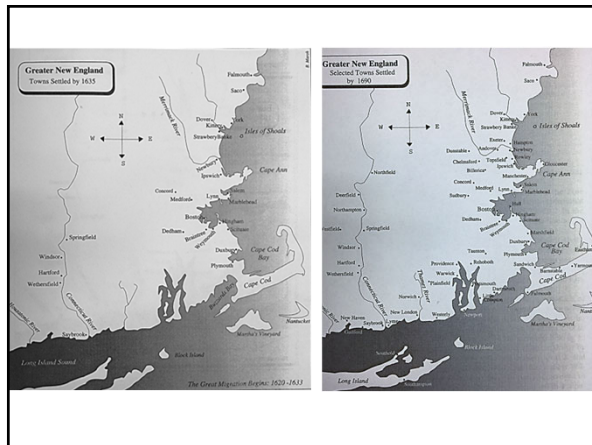
Massachusetts Bay Colony

- 1620s scattered settlements on Cape Ann
- 1628 Endicott group to Salem
- 1630 Winthrop Fleet to Boston
- Established and led by Puritans
- By far the most populous and influential colony in New England
- Dissidents soon founded NH, Providence, Conn, and New Haven Colonies

12



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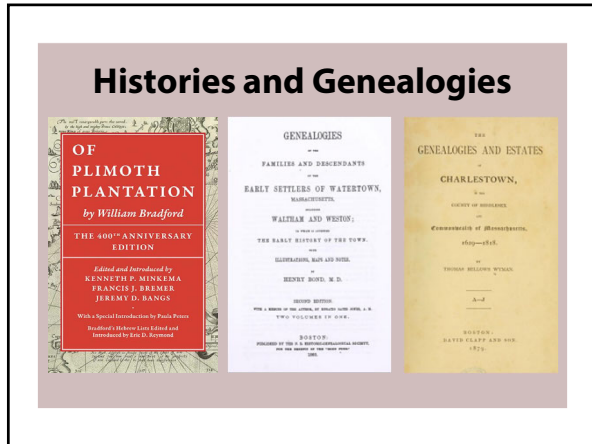


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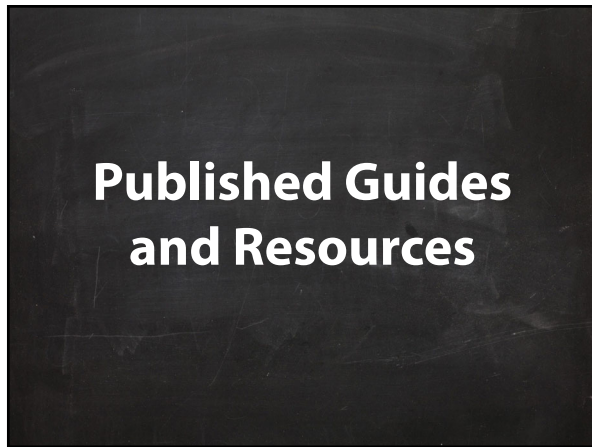
History of Colonization

- Always the largest and most influential New England colony
- Plymouth Colony and Massachusetts Bay Colony merge in 1691
- Maine part of Mass. until 1820
- Major location point for migration north, west, and south

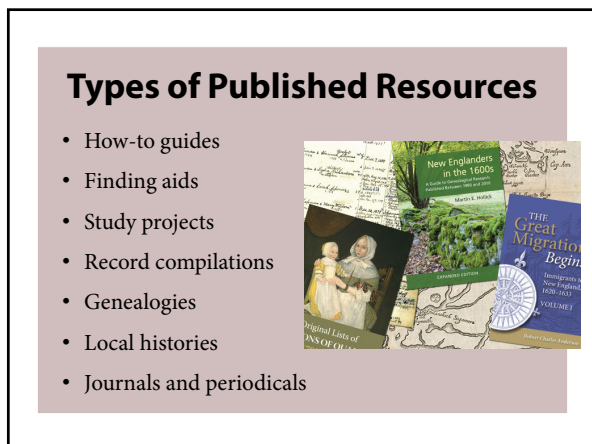
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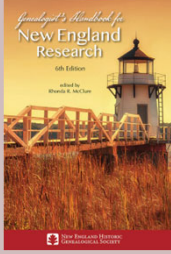
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18

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research

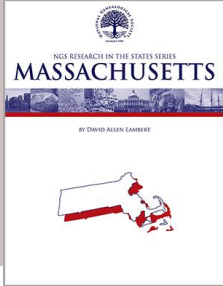
- Town and County Lists
- Detailed Maps
- Court Houses
- Library and Archives
- 6th Edition



19

NGS Research in the States: Massachusetts


- Bibliography of resources for various topics
- Websites and databases of primary resources for Massachusetts



20

New England Marriages Prior to 1700

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

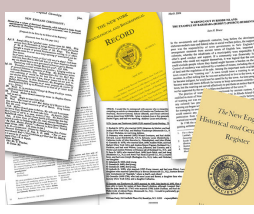


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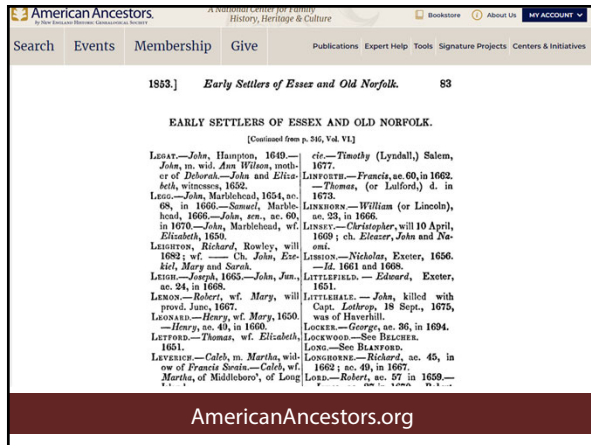
Periodicals

- ★ • New England Historical and Genealogical Register
- ★ • The American Genealogist
- ★ • The Mayflower Descendant
- ★ • The Essex Antiquarian
- ★ • The Essex Genealogist

... and many more



25



1853.] *Early Settlers of Essex and Old Norfolk.* 83

EARLY SETTLERS OF ESSEX AND OLD NORFOLK.
(Continued from p. 246, Vol. VI.)

LEAT.—John, Hampton, 1640.—
John, m. wid. Amy Wilson, moth-
er of Deborah.—John and Eliza-
beth, witnesses, 1652.

LEED.—John, Marblehead, 1654, ac-
68, in 1666.—Samuel, Marble-
head, 1668.—John, sen., ac. 69,
in 1670.—John, Marblehead, wf.
Elizabeth, 1650.

LEIGHTON, Richard, Rowley, will
1682; wf. — Ch. John, Exe-
ter, Mary and Sarah,
ac. 24, in 1668.

LEIGH.—Joseph, 1655.—John, Jun.,
ac. 24, in 1668.

LEMON.—Robert, wf. Mary, will
provd. June, 1667.

LEONARD.—Henry, wf. Mary, 1650,
—Henry, ac. 40, in 1660.

LETFORD.—Thomas, wf. Elizabeth,
1661.

LEVERING.—Caleb, m. Martha, wid.
of Francis Smith.—Caleb, wf.
Martha, of Middleboro', of Long

cir.—Timothy (Lyndall), Salem,
1677.

LISSIGET.—Francis, ac. 60, in 1662.
—Thomas, (or Lulford), d. in
1673.

LITTLETON.—William (or Lincoln),
ac. 23, in 1666.

LITTLETON.—Christopher, will 10 April,
1669; ch. Eliezer, John and Ne-
ont.

LITTLETON.—Nicholas, Exeter, 1656.
—H. 1661 and 1668.

LITTLEFIELD.—Edward, Exeter,
1651.

LITTLEHALE.—John, killed with
Capt. Lathrop, 18 Sept., 1675,
war of Haverhill.

LOCKER.—George, ac. 36, in 1694.

LOCKWOOD.—See BEECHER.

LONG.—See BLANFORD.

LONGMIRE.—Richard, ac. 45, in
1692; ac. 49, in 1697.

LONG.—Robert, ac. 57 in 1659.—

26

... and so many more!




27



28

Great Migration Study Project


- Directed by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
- Started in 1988
- Genealogical and biographical sketch for immigrants to New England from 1620 to 1640
- Thirteen published volumes
- Newsletter (bound versions available)
- Tours and other educational programs
- ★ Searchable online databases on AmericanAncestors.org



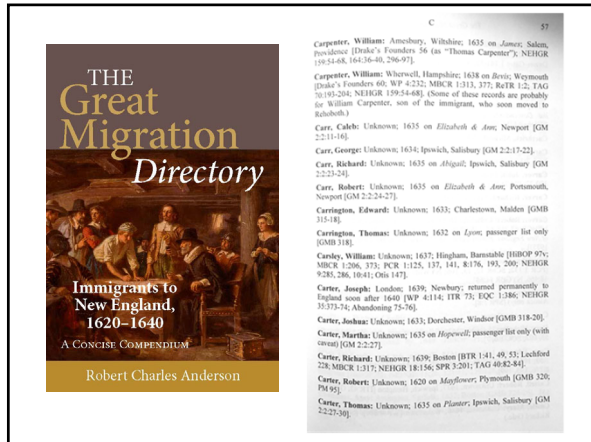
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Great Migration Volumes

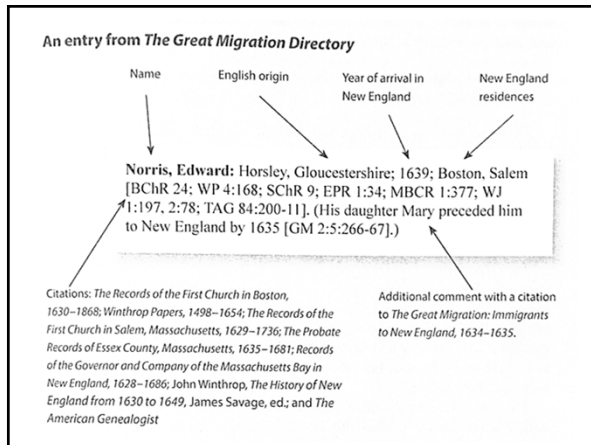
- ★ *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633 (3 vols.)*
- ★ *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634-1635 (7 vols.)*
- The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony 1620-1633*
- The Winthrop Fleet: Mass. Bay Company Immigrants to NE 1629-1630*
- Puritan Pedigrees*
- ★ *The Mayflower Migration*
- The Great Migration Newsletter, vols. 1-25*
- The Great Migration Directory, 1620-1640*



30



31



32



33

Sources Used

- Passenger lists (original, published, and reconstructed)
- Lists of Freemen
- Colony and court records
- Notarial records
- Town records
- Vital records
- Land records
- Church records
- Journals and letters
- Citation in brackets with abbreviated source; see *Key to Titles*

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QUESTIONS?

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Early New England Families

39



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Early Massachusetts Records

- Vital and church records: birth, baptism, marriage, death, burial, divorce, gravestone
- Land records: grants, deeds, mortgages, gifts
- Probate records: will, inventory, guardianship
- Civil records: lawsuits, individual vs individual
- Criminal records: prosecution by authorities
- Military records: Colony, town militia

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Overview of Colonial Government

- Colony – Records of General Court, laws, appeals, border disputes, diplomacy, war
- County or Jurisdictional Courts – Criminal and Civil actions
- Towns – Selectmen, elected officers (Town Clerk), vital records, town grants of land

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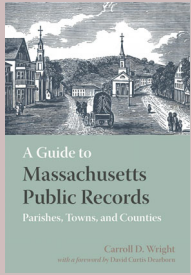
Access to 17th century original records

- Originals not often available to the public
- Microfilm images
- Digital images online – replacing microfilm
 - Americanancestors.org
 - Familysearch.org
 - Ancestry.com

49

A Guide to Massachusetts Public Records

- List all town and church records available as of 1884
- Invaluable tool to determine when records were lost or destroyed
- Reprinted in 2014



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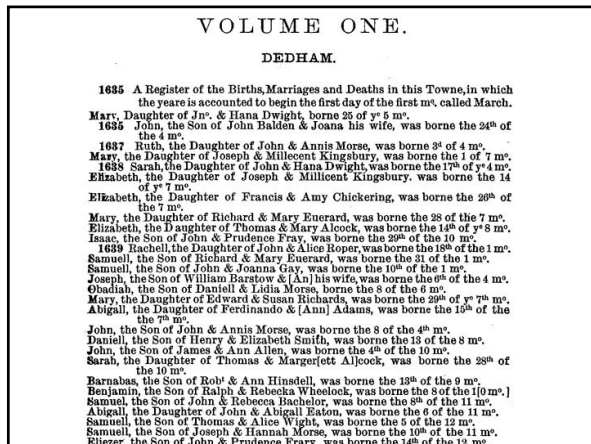
Town Guides

Research towns throughout New England and New York

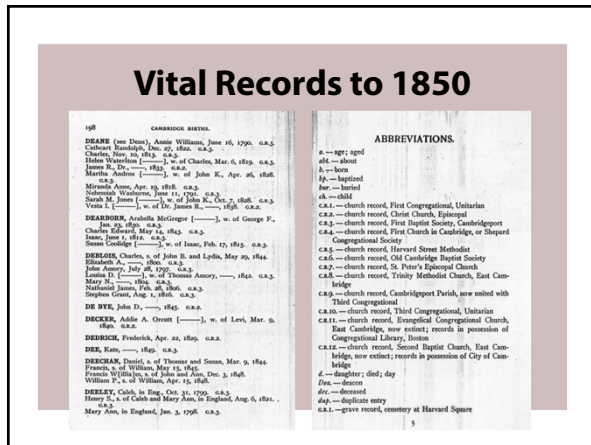
Connecticut Town Guide Maine Town Guide

AmericanAncestors.org/tools/town-guides

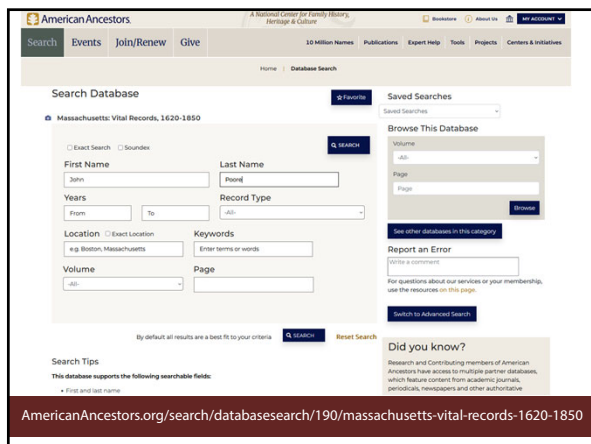
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56



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United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Church history (1)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Church records (3)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Deeds (2)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Genealogy (2)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Genealogy - Periodicals (1)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Genealogy - Societies - Directories (1)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - History (15)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - History - Civil War, 1861-1865 (3)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - History - Revolution, 1775-1783 (3)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Land and property (1)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Military records - Colonial period, ca. 1600-1775 (1)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Military records - Team records (3)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Taxation (1)
 United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Team records (3)
United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Vital records (13)

Boxford and Newbury Massachusetts vital records with genealogical notes on families from Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Slave records from Massachusetts

Genealogical notes on families from Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Vital records for Greenland, Lunenburg, Danvers, Gloucester, Peabody, Dartmouth families in New Hampshire; Hamilton, Danvers, Townsend, Newbury, Beverly, Haverhill families in Massachusetts; Bridgton family in Maine; vital records from New Plains, Essex, Lee Brook, Newbury, Methuen, Georgetown, Bedford (Mass.), Charlestown (Boston, Mass.), Reading (MA).

Quincy Civil records and files

Newbury vital records, abstracts death ; Newbury, Massachusetts death certificates and registers of births, 1812-1882

Newbury, Massachusetts birth records, 1714-1830

Newbury, Massachusetts births, 1812-1851 and Newburyport, Massachusetts births, 1740-1820

Newbury, Massachusetts death records, 1815-1882 and Newburyport, Massachusetts death records, 1700-1843

Newbury, Massachusetts marriage records, 1695-1900

Records of births, marriages, intentions, and deaths, 1635-1915

Author: Newbury (Massachusetts). Town Clerk, Newbury (Massachusetts). Town Clerk

Various vital records from Newbury and West Newbury, Massachusetts regarding abled nonpoor families

FamilySearch.org

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Records of births, marriages, intentions, and deaths, 1635-1915

Authors: Newbury (Massachusetts), Town Clerk (Author); Boston (Massachusetts), Town Clerk (Author)

Format: Microfilm System

Language: English

Publication Date: 1971, 2004

Publisher: Edited by the Genealogical Society of Utah

Place of Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah

Physical: 4 microfilm reels, 39 runs.

References: Digital Collections Massachusetts, Town Clerk, vital and town records, 1628-2002

Notes: Microfilm of records in the Town Hall, Newbury, Massachusetts.
 Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records are available online, click here
 View this collection record in WorldCat for other available access locations.

Subjects: United States, Massachusetts, Essex, Newbury - Vital records

File/Digital Notes: File Number or Image Group Number (ID#)

Note	Location	Collection/Sheet	Film	Image Group Number (ID#)
Records 1628-1700 of marriage, intention, and death and records 1815-1882	Great Mountain Record	United States & Canada Film	886202	709724
Records of death (1712-1844), birth (1734-1745), marriages and intentions (1728-1818)	Great Mountain Record	United States & Canada Film	886203	709725

FamilySearch.org

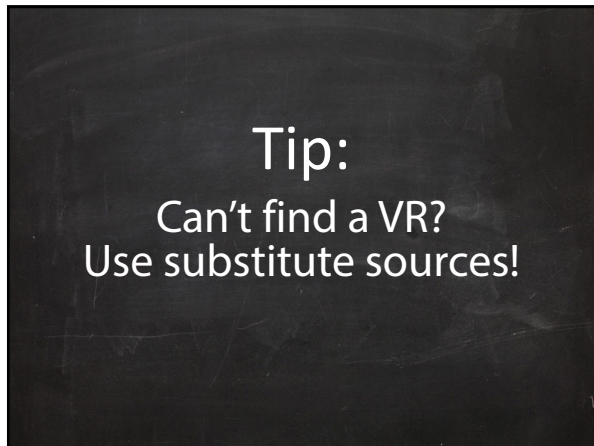
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Historical Record Search Results (45)

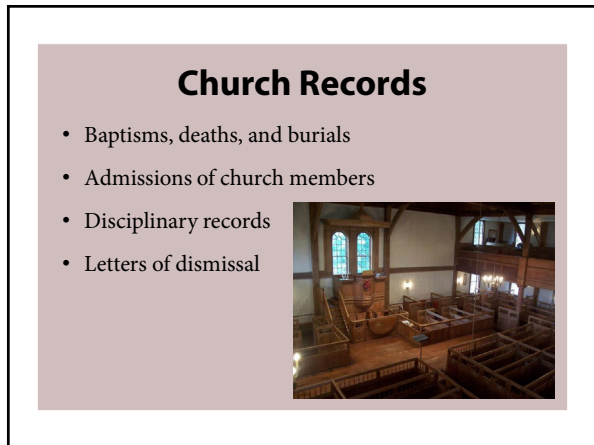
Collection	Sex	Name	Birth	Marriage	Death	Relationships
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1628-2001	M	Isis Foster	23 June 1642			Parents
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Births and Christenings, 1628-1915	M	Father				Children Jonathan Foster
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Births and Christenings, 1628-1915	M	Father				Children Edward Foster
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Births and Christenings, 1628-2001	M	Isis Foster	23 June 1642			Parents
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Births and Christenings, 1628-2001	M	Isis Foster	23 June 1642			Parents
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Births and Christenings, 1628-2001	F	Marriage	27 February 1685			Spouses Mary T*
1800 Essex Principal Massachusetts, Births and Christenings, 1628-2001	F	Marriage	27 February 1685			Spouses Mary Tremble

FamilySearch.org

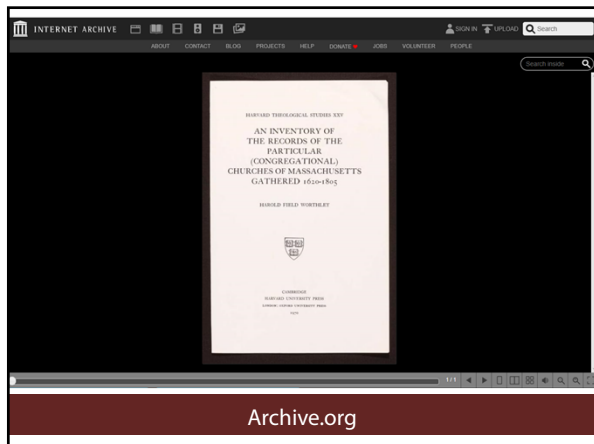
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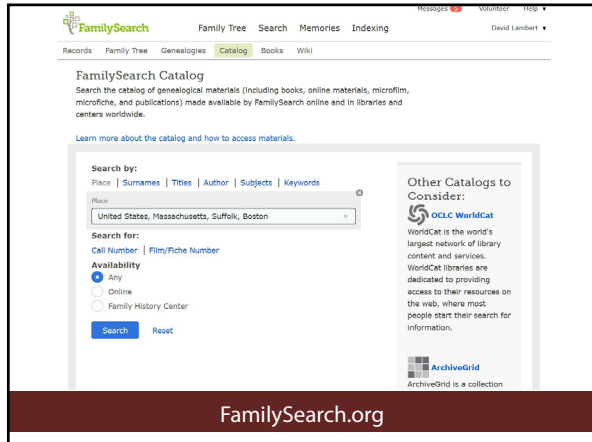
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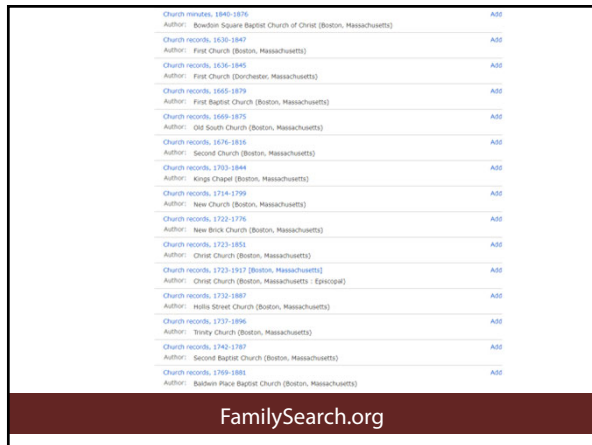
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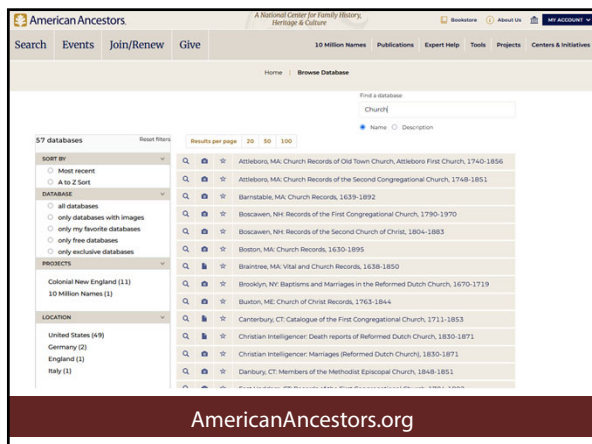
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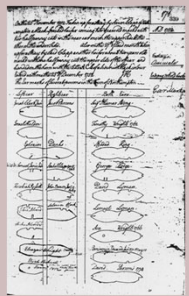
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Town Records

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



76

Why are town records important?

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


77

Where are they located?

- Often not indexed and occasionally in print
- Local town & city clerk's offices, or historical societies have originals
- Some have been imaged on microfilm or digitally from the FamilySearch Library

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Proprietors' Records



17th – 18th century

- General Court assigns grants of land to groups of settlers
- These settlers form Proprietorship Committees to distribute land to settle towns

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Proprietors' Records

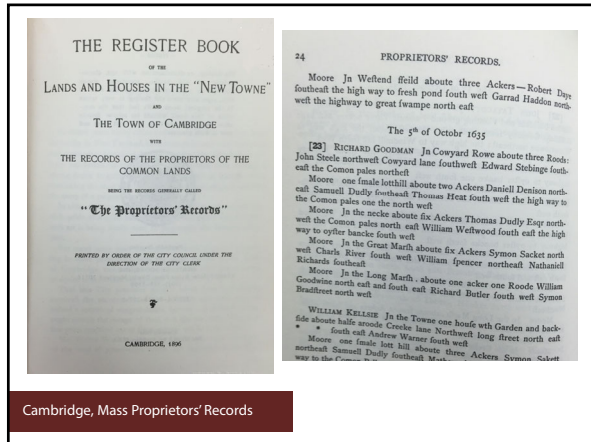
- Proprietors were responsible for the improvement of the land and were required to enlist settlers and newcomers, assigning lots, building highways, and subdividing land/meadow/forest
- Early record of community
- Can include land grants and early deeds

83

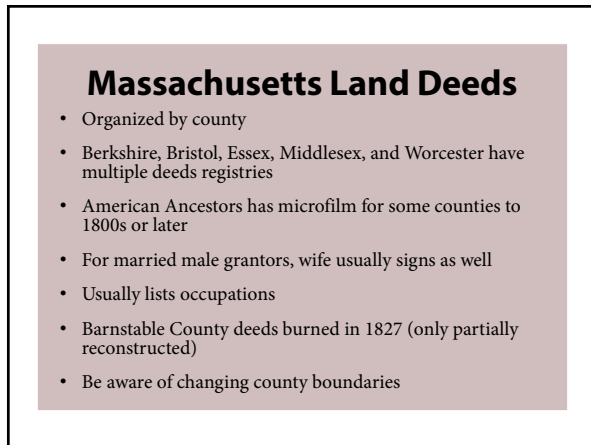
Where to locate Proprietor Records

- Town Halls: town clerk, tax office or assessor
- County Registry of Deeds
- Libraries and local historical Societies
- FamilySearch.org microfilm and online
- Published transcriptions of proprietor records

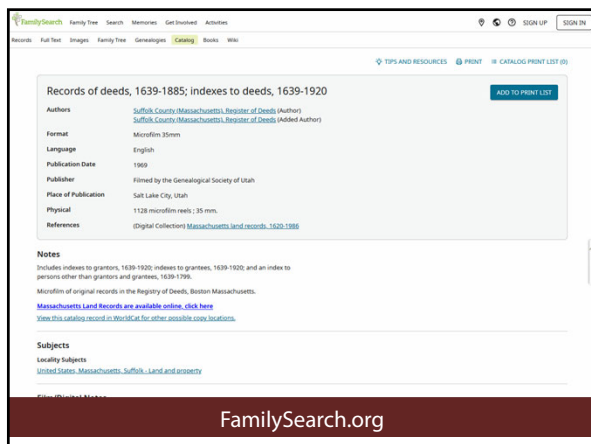
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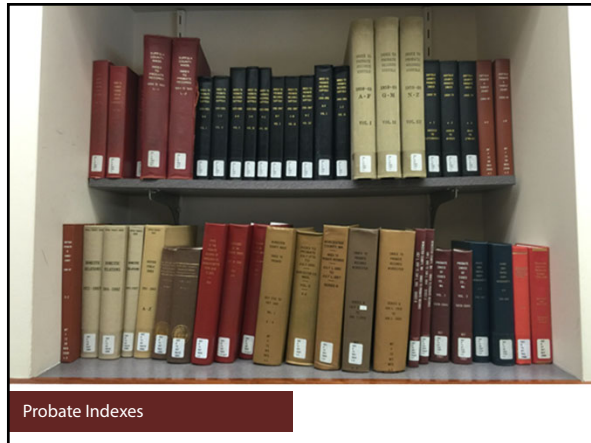
Published Abstract

Mayflower Descendant, 5:238

[GOVERNOR THOMAS HINCKLEY'S WILL.]

[II : 192²] In the Name of God Amen
 The 16th of october 1700 I Thomas Hinkley Barnstable in y^e County of Barnstable in his Mag^{ties} province of y^e Massachusetts bay In new England tho under some bodily weakness & Infirmities yet throw y^e Great Goodness of God of disposing mind & memory Calling to mind the uncertainty of this transitory life and that all flesh must yeild not only to y^e decays of nature but also to death it self whensoever it shall please God to send it and being desirous to be in a readines for y^e same as in greater and higher respect & Cheifest Concerns so also in setting things in order respecting my temporal estate (according to my duty) as those I leave behind me may with peace & quietness Endeavor to serve God and one another in love i do theirfore by these presents make ordeyn & declare this to be my last will & testament herby revoking & adnulling

91



92

**Massachusetts Probate Files Papers
AmericanAncestors.org**

- Barnstable 1685-1789
- Bristol 1686-1880
- Essex 1638-1881
- Hampshire 1660-1889
- Middlesex 1648-1871
- Plymouth 1686-1881
- Suffolk 1630-1841 *
- Other counties available for later years

93



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Court Records

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

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Criminal Abstracts

Essex County Quarterly Court
provisions, to be severely whipped.
 Guido Baly* admonished for beating his wife. †
 Thomas Tuck* fined for drunkenness and common tipping. §
 John Peach sr. * fined 20s. for giving Tristram Dolliver oppo

Plymouth County court – Warning Out

Constable Edward Hobbs of Bridgewater reported that by warrant from Brantree selectmen Nicholas Byram, Joseph Hayward and David Perkins he warned Samuel Gurney "an inhabitant of the Town of Brantree now being at the house of Goodman Bayley Intending to Reside there," to depart the town of Brantree, 1 March 1698.

99

Civil Abstracts

Plymouth County, Common Pleas

2. Thomas Macomber v. Ephraim Wood, "alias Atwood," Case, for spoiling a pair of cart wheels which deft. was hired to repair. Deft. pleaded that "he did the Work to the Utmost of his Capacity, as well as the Streeks and Wheels...would bear." Jury verdict for pltf., £3 and costs, taxed at £4.13s.3d. Appealed by deft. [No further record.]

3. Gershom Ewell v. Joseph Green. Debt, on bill for £3. Deft. pleaded not indebted. Jury verdict for deft., costs, taxed at [blank]. Appealed by pltf. [No further record.]

4. Thomas Jenkins v. Humphrey Turner. Debt, on bill. Default by deft. Judgment for £4.3s. and £1.15s.5d. costs.

100

Divorce Records

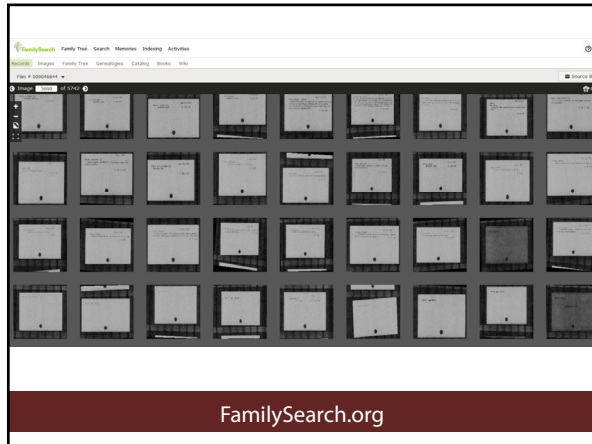
- 1639-92 – county courts, General Court, Court of Assistants (40 known cases)
- 1692-1786 – Governor & Council (229 cases at Judicial Archives at Mass. State Archives)

101

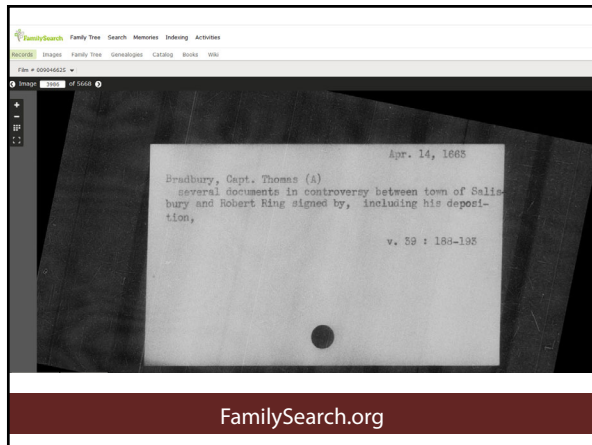
**Massachusetts Archives Collection
1629–1799**

- 328 volumes about early Massachusetts history (also called the Felt Collection)
- Access the collection at the Massachusetts Archive or browse on FamilySearch.org
- Some of the volumes pertaining to the 17th century:
 - Volume 9: Domestic Relations, 1643-1774
 - Volume 10: Ecclesiastical, 1637-1679
 - Volume 11: Ecclesiastical, 1679-1739
 - Volume 15A: Emigrants, 1651-1774
 - Volume 30: Indian, 1603-1705
 - Volume 112: Towns, 1632-1693
 - Volume 113: Towns, 1693-1729
 - Volume 303: Petitions, 1659-1786

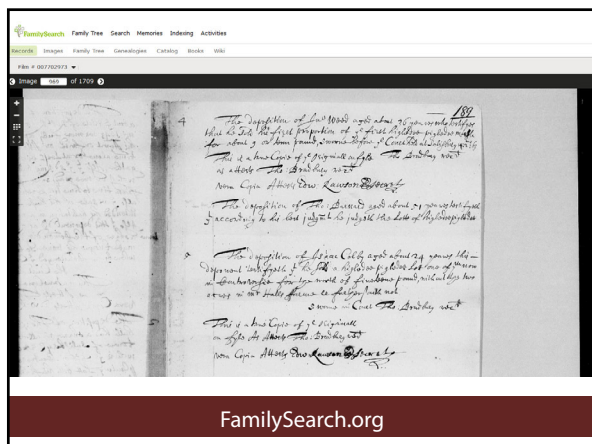
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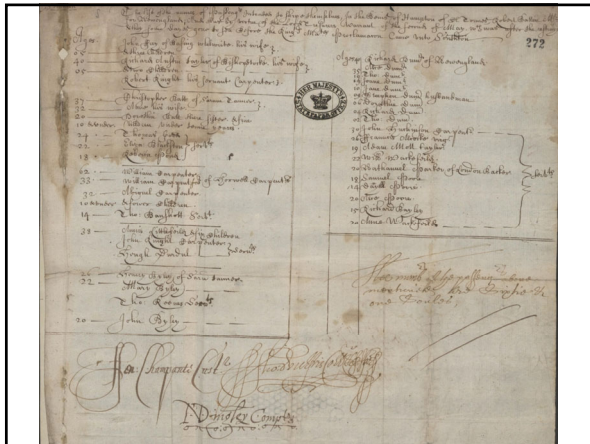
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112



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Common Challenges

- Distinguishing between people of the same name in the same community
- Determining parentage when multiple marriages are involved
- Finding women's maiden names
- Origins

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General Considerations and Suggestions

- You may not find one “smoking-gun” record; you may need to rely on a number of records to build a case
- Some records may be less reliable than others
- May have several working theories
- Know when your town was established and if there are any parent/daughter towns that would affect record keeping

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General Considerations and Suggestions

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

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And keep in mind . . .

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

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Summary

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

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QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services
research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist
AmericanAncestors.org/chat

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Consultations

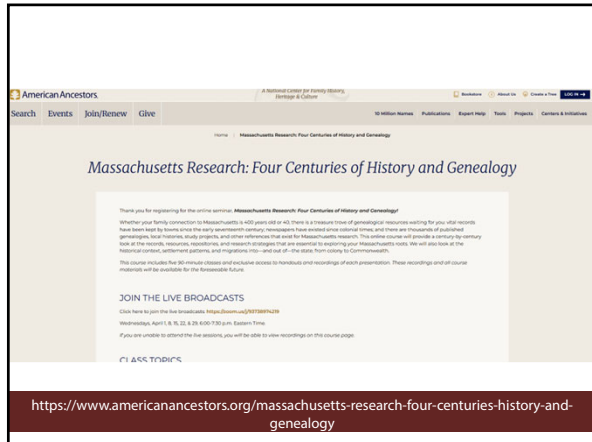
Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations



 SCAN ME

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121



122



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