

# Massachusetts Research: Four Centuries of History and Genealogy

*Class 4: 20<sup>th</sup> -Century Research*

Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors<sup>®</sup>

A NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILY HISTORY, HERITAGE & CULTURE

# Meet today's presenter



Rhonda R. McClure  
Senior Genealogist

# OVERVIEW

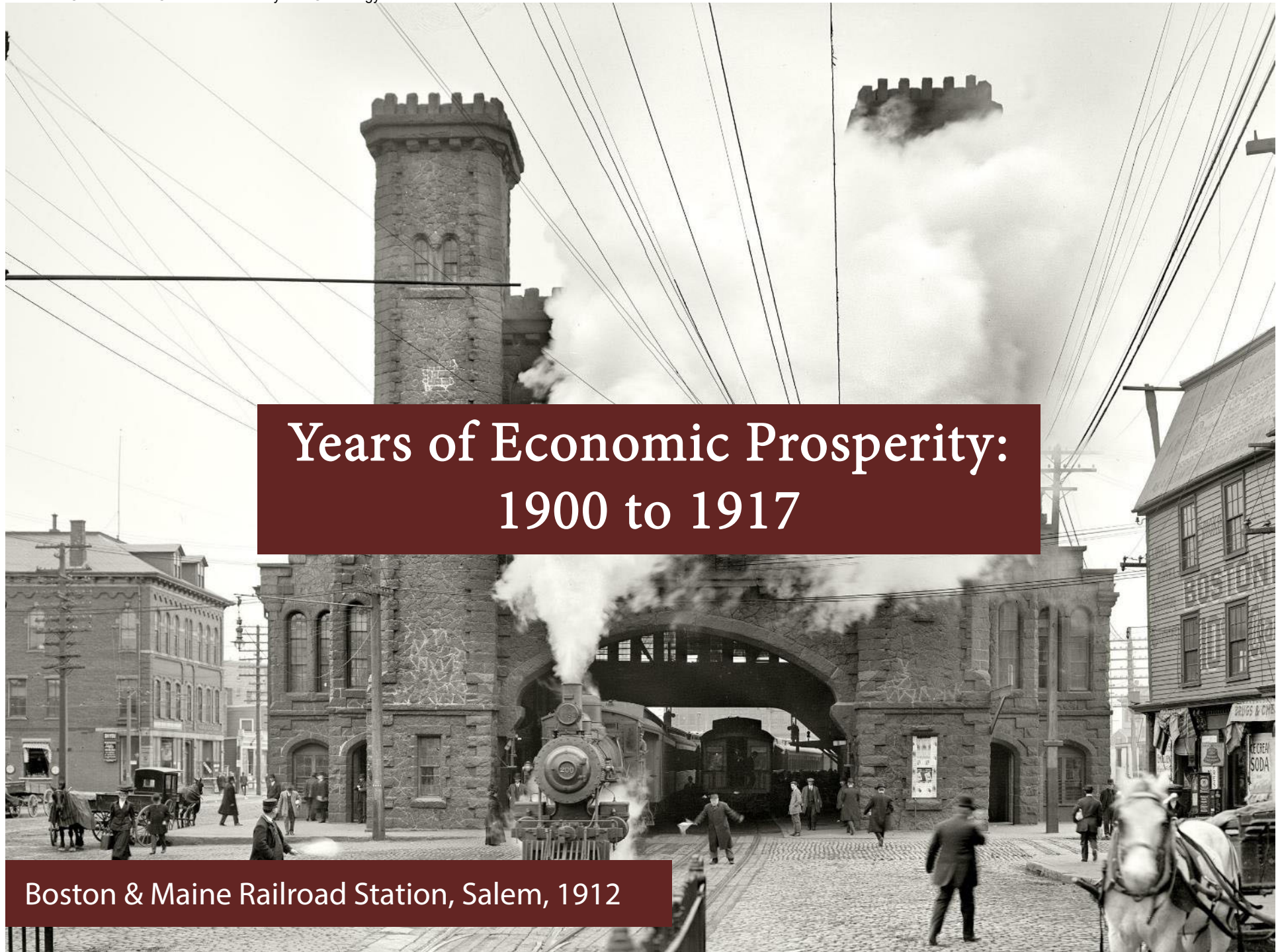
- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
  - Historical Context
  - Accessing Civic Records
  - Massachusetts Archives
  - Massachusetts Court Records
  - Massachusetts Military Records
  - Useful Resources and Other Notable Massachusetts Repositories
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**

# Brattle Street, Boston, 1920



*Voice of*  
Rhonda R. McClure  
Senior Genealogist

# Historical Context: Massachusetts in the 20th Century



# Years of Economic Prosperity: 1900 to 1917

Boston & Maine Railroad Station, Salem, 1912



Boston Harbor Bird's Eye View, 1905

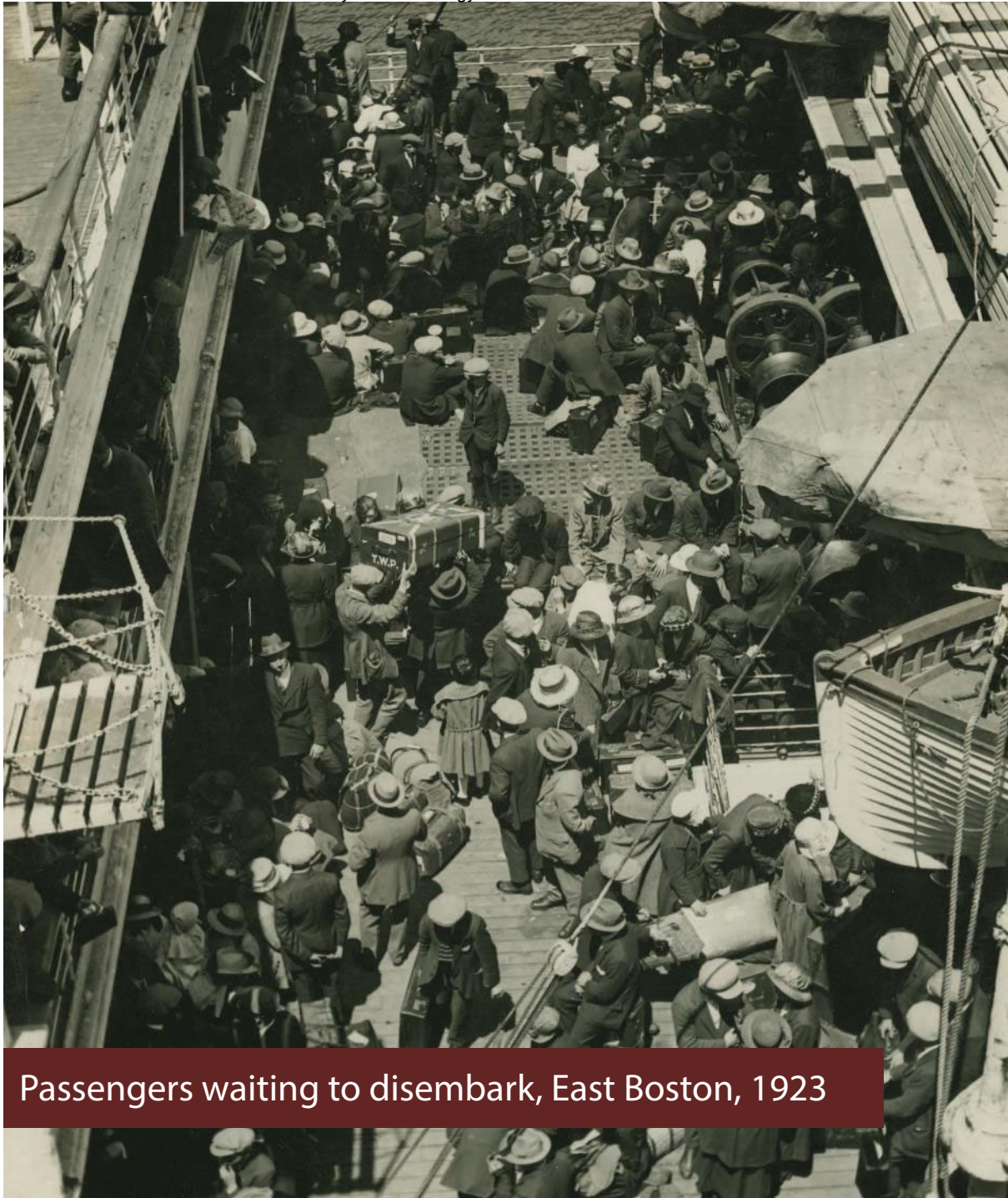




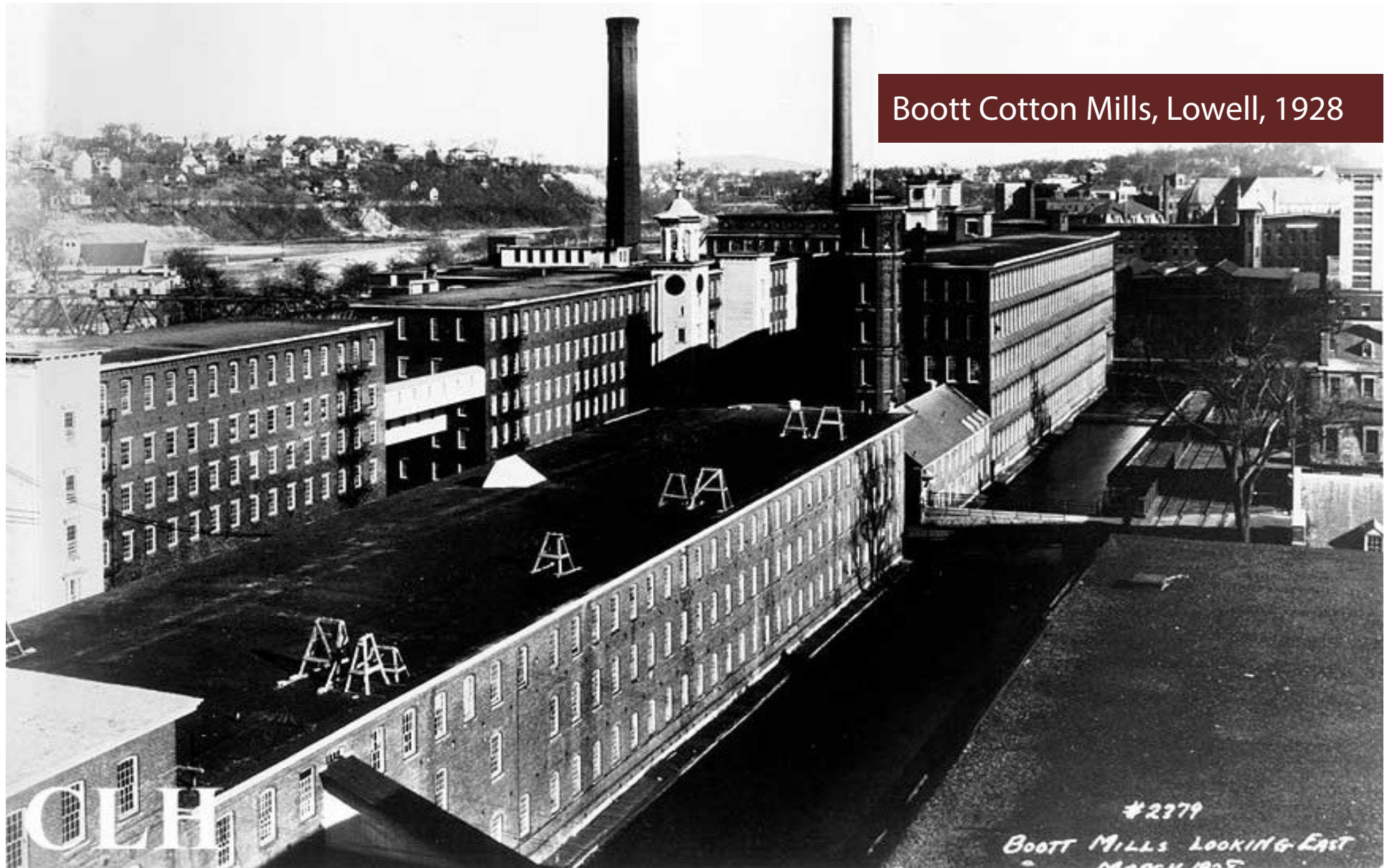
Holyoke Street Railway: Mount Tom Railroad Incline, 1912



“Bread and Roses Strike,” Lawrence, 1912



Passengers waiting to disembark, East Boston, 1923



# Great Depression & WWII: 1929 to 1945



*Millbury Savings Bank, Millbury, 1929*

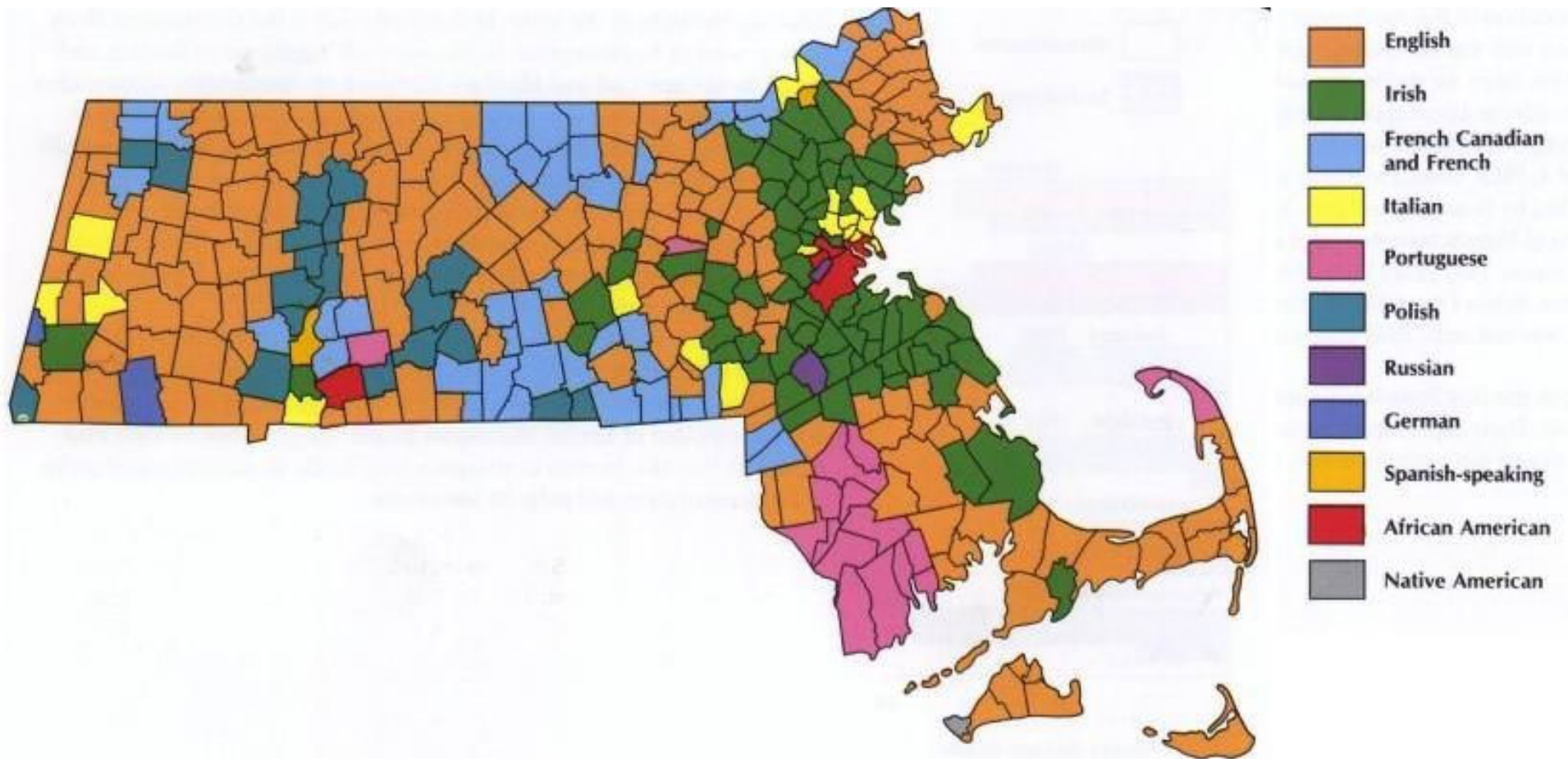


*American Steam Automobile Co., Newton, 1942*

Springfield Armory 1777 to 1965



## Post-War Massachusetts Challenges & Reinvention



## Polled: Largest Ancestry Groups in Massachusetts by Town, 2000

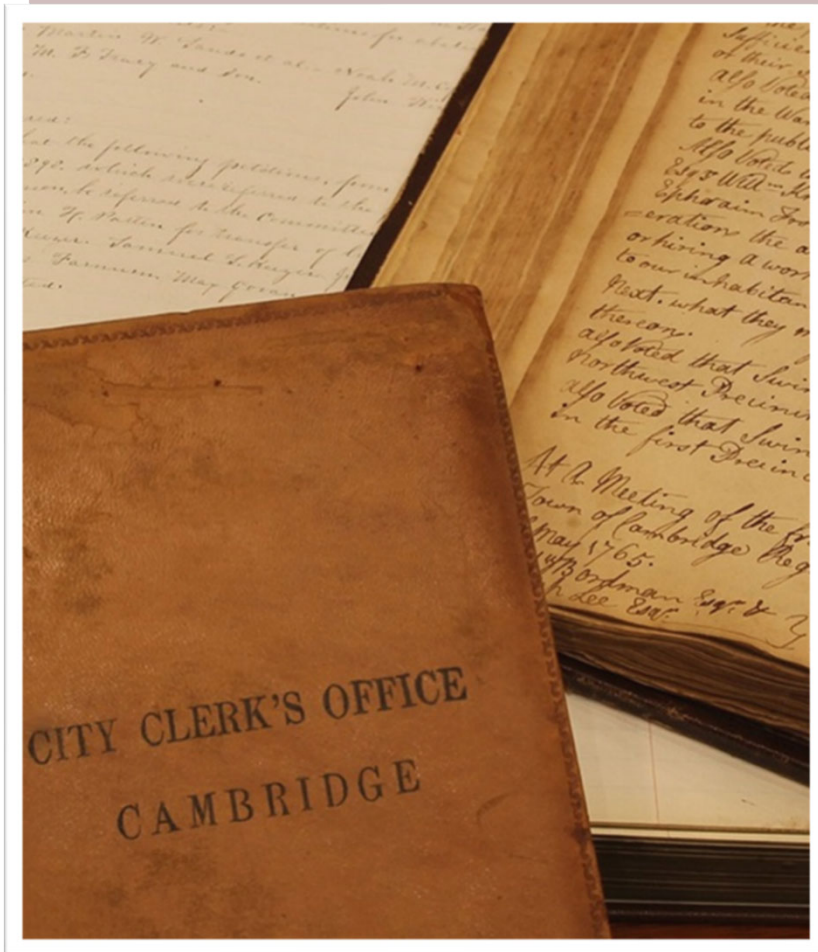
# Accessing Massachusetts Civic Records

# Massachusetts Civil Records

- Civil records – including vital & probate records – act as the foundation in our research
- Often there are levels of bureaucracy to navigate
- Confidentiality rules limit access & can require court intervention
- Who created the original record?
  - Local, State, or Federal Government?



# Massachusetts Vital Records



- Massachusetts is a predominantly “open record” state
- 20th century Mass. Vital Records maintained at two levels:
  - By the town clerk where the event occurred
  - Reported to the State where a second return is kept

## Researching Vital Records at the Massachusetts Archives

- Original manuscripts of vital records for 1841 to 1935
- Delayed & corrected original records up to 1920
- Most of these records up to 1927 are digitized and available online at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)
- Request certified copies from reference archivist for \$3
  - Online form submitted via mail or email:  
[archives@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.ma.us)

# Vital Records for 1921 to 1925\*

Searchable as three separate collections:

## Births:

[www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2859768](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2859768)

## Marriages:

[www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3010705](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/3010705)

## Deaths:

[www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1463156](http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1463156)

**\*except Boston**

### Massachusetts, marriage records, 1921-1924

Authors: [Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth](#) (Main Author)  
[Massachusetts. State Archives](#) (Repository)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Digital Images

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Digitized by FamilySearch International, 2018

Physical: 67 digital folders

[Add to Print List](#)

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#### Notes

Digital capture of original records at the Massachusetts State Archives.

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#### Subjects

**Locality Subjects**  
[United States, Massachusetts - Vital records](#)

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< Page 1 of 3 >

#### Film/Digital Notes

Note	Location	Collection/Shelf	Film	DGS	Format
Marriages small short volumes state, Vol 001 Abington to Andover, 1924	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Digital		107324035	
Marriages small short volumes state, Vol 001 Abington-Amherst, 1923	<a href="#">Granite Mountain Record Vault</a>	United States & Canada Digital		106462053	

# Vital Records 1638 to 1927\*

## browsable:

Available on  
FamilySearch.org:

- SEARCH
  - Images

Image Group Number	Place	Date	Record Type	Number of Images
<a href="#">007578869 (Item 1 of 3)</a>	Salem, Essex, Massachusetts, United States	1934	Vital Records	324 images
<a href="#">007578869 (Item 3 of 3)</a>	Canton, Norfolk, Massachusetts, United States	1896	Vital Records	187 images
<a href="#">007578869 (Item 2 of 3)</a>	Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, United States	1943	Vital Records	158 images
<a href="#">004000350 (Item 3 of 5)</a>	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States	1730—1800	Declarations of Intention, Marriage Records	55 images
<a href="#">004000350 (Item 5 of 5)</a>	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States	1661—1882	Death Records, Declarations of Intention, Marriage Records	85 images
<a href="#">004000350 (Item 2 of 5)</a>	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States	1660—1784	Birth Records, Marriage Records	45 images
<a href="#">004000350 (Item 4 of 5)</a>	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States	1773—1840	Birth Records, Death Records, Marriage Records	90 images
<a href="#">004000350 (Item 1 of 5)</a>	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States	1659—1719	Town Records	106 images

**\*except Boston**

# Explore Historical Images

Browse records that haven't been made searchable through indexing yet.

[HOW TO GET STARTED](#)

Feedback

### Start your search with a place.

FamilySearch will look for records created there. Want to search by name instead? [Search Historical Records](#).

Place

Massac

- 📍 **Massachusetts, United States**  
State, 1776 - Present
- 📍 **Massa-Carrara, Tuscany, Italy**  
Province, 1946 - Present
- 📍 **Massacre Grounds, Pinal, Arizona, United States**  
Region,
- 📍 **Massachusetts Bay Colony, British Colonial America**  
Colony, 1628 - 1776

### Are you new to using Explore Images?

We can guide you through a search using collections of similar documents that can provide additional context for your search. You can also search for a specific collection by name by using the search bar.



Collection Title

Indexed (or transcribed) data is used to search for specific records. However, many records have not been indexed, so it is not possible to search for names in these records yet.



The search feature on this page lets you browse all images on FamilySearch, including unindexed records. This means you could find documents that may not appear in traditional searches!

# FamilySearch.org

FamilySearch Family Tree Search Memories Get Involved Activities

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

**Results (101,725)** REFINE SEARCH OPTIONS

Image Group Number	Place	Date	Record Type	Number of Images
<a href="#">004764017</a>	Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States	1686—1915	Probate Estate Case Files	1,037 ima
<a href="#">004764018</a>	Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States	1686—1915	Probate Estate Case Files	1,216 ima
<a href="#">004764019</a>	Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States	1686—1915	Probate Estate Case Files	1,304 ima
<a href="#">004764020</a>	Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States	1686—1915	Probate Estate Case Files	1,208 ima

**Refine Search** X

Bristol 10,812  
 Cumberland 47  
 Dukes 114

[SHOW ALL 24](#)

**Research Wiki**

[United States Genealogy](#)

Guide to United States ancestry, family history and genealogy: parish registers, transcripts, census records, birth...

Research articles may provide additional context for your search.

Date

Life Event

**Collections Filter**

[SELECT COLLECTIONS](#)

You can filter your search results by collections of image groups.

[SHOW ADVANCED SEARCH](#)

[RESET](#) [UPDATE](#)

[www.familysearch.org/en/records/images/search-results?place=371&pageSize=50](http://www.familysearch.org/en/records/images/search-results?place=371&pageSize=50)

**Browse Collections**

Life Event: All

[BROWSE ALL COLLECTIONS](#)

**Collection Titles (49)**

- Massachusetts, State Vital Records, 1638-1927

Collections with Images (49)

- United States, Massachusetts, Enslavements, 1869  
1 image groups | 0% indexed
- United States, Massachusetts, Poor Relief, from 1860 to 1896  
16 image groups | 0% indexed
- United States, Massachusetts, Deaths, from 1934 to 1939  
12650 image groups | 52% indexed
- Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston Passenger Lists, 1891-1943  
454 image groups | 39% indexed
- Massachusetts, State Vital Records, 1638-1927  
4761 image groups | 95% indexed
- Massachusetts, Suffolk, Boston Passenger Lists, 1820-1891  
115 image groups | 100% indexed
- United States, New England Petitions for Naturalization Index, 1791-1906  
115 image groups | 97% indexed

[DONE](#)

## Select Collections



## Results (4,434)

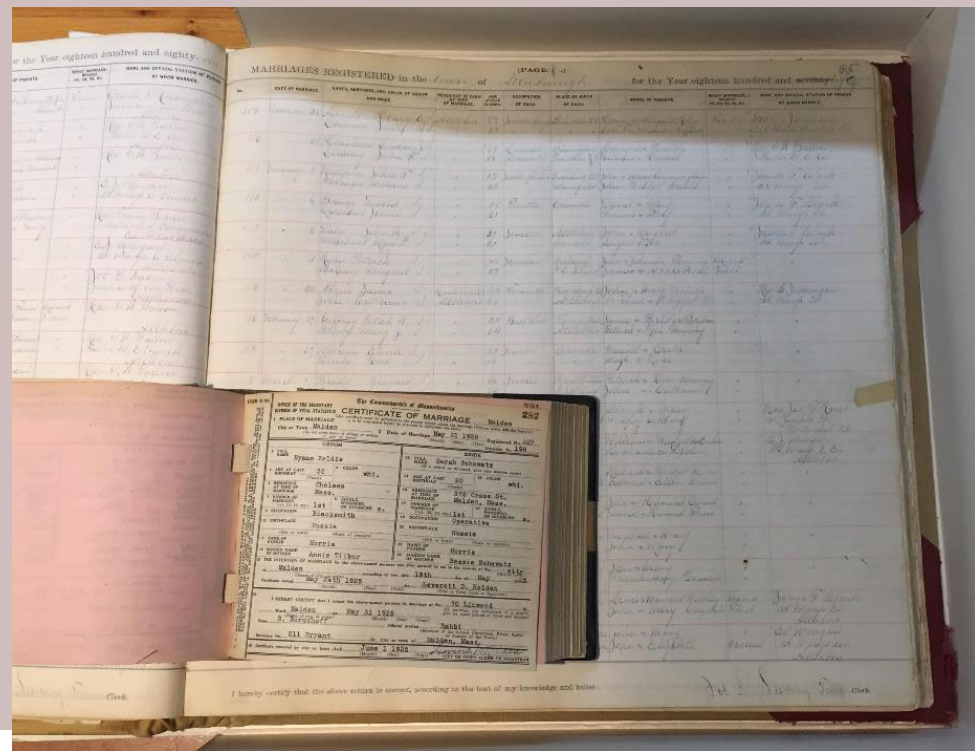
REFINE

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<a href="#">007578869 (Item 3 of 3)</a>	Canton, Norfolk, Massachusetts, United States	1896	Vital Records	187 images
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<a href="#">004000350 (Item 2 of 5)</a>	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts, United States	1660—1784	Birth Records, Marriage Records	45 images
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## Mass. State Vital Records 1638-1927

# Shift from Register to Certificate Format

- Before 1903 all births, deaths, & marriages were recorded in register format



# Introduction of Certificates

*(all towns except Boston)*

DEATHS REGISTERED in the City of <i>Northampton, Mass.</i> for the Year Nineteen Hundred and <i>one.</i>													
No.	DATE OF DEATH.	FULL NAME OF THE DECEASED. <small>(If a married or divorced woman or a widow, give also maiden name and name of husband.)</small>	SEX <small>(Indicate if color than white.)</small>	AGE <small>(State, married, widowed or divorced.)</small> Years Months Days	DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH. <small>(Primary and immediate cause.)</small>	1. Residence.			OCCUPATION.	PLACE OF BIRTH.	NAMES AND BIRTHPLACES OF PARENTS OF DECEASED.		DATE OF RECORD.
						2. Place of Death.	3. Place of Burial.	<small>(Give full name of father and maiden name of mother.)</small> <small>(Birthplace.)</small>					
208	August	Dennis Henchy	M	75	Paralysis (general)	12-23 Gumbury St.	Uxbridge	Worker	Ireland	Thomas Henchy	Ireland	Feb 1876	
209	"	Fanny B. Lawrence Merritt	F	69	Apoplexy - Paralysis	31 Mary St.	Uxbridge	"	Whately	Mary Hennessy	Springfield	"	
210	"	John W. Conroy	M	55	Exhaustion & Rheumatism	3 West Whately	Uxbridge	"	Huntington	Almira Bennett	Whately	"	
211	"	St. Edmund Harris Phelps	M	70	Heart Disease	1-2-17 W. Phillips Ave.	Uxbridge	Number	Northampton	Samuel H. Conroy	Northampton	"	

- May 1903: Death Certificates
- January 1918: Birth & Marriage Certificates

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE

This certificate must be delivered to the person before whom the marriage is to be contracted before he proceeds to solemnize the same.

1 PLACE OF MARRIAGE *Uxbridge* (City or town) (State or country)

2 Date of Marriage *May 1 1922* Registered No. *21*

3 FULL NAME *Philip Leon Barron*

4 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY *24* 5 COLOR *White*

6 RESIDENCE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE *Uxbridge*

7 NUMBER OF MARRIAGE *1st* 8 SINGLE WIDOWED OR DIVORCED *Single*

9 OCCUPATION *Tinsmith*

10 BIRTHPLACE *Mainville, R. I.*

11 NAME OF FATHER *Odilon*

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Margaret Degardin*

13 FULL NAME *Alma Alice Darcy*

14 AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY *19* 15 COLOR *White*

16 RESIDENCE AT TIME OF MARRIAGE *Uxbridge*

17 NUMBER OF MARRIAGE *1st* 18 SINGLE WIDOWED OR DIVORCED *Single*

19 OCCUPATION *Clerk*

20 BIRTHPLACE *Uxbridge*

21 NAME OF FATHER *Wilfred A.*

22 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER *Georgianna Rondeau*

23 THE INTENTION OF MARRIAGE by the above-named persons was duly entered by me in the records of the *Uxbridge* Town (City or town) according to law, this *24* day of *April* 1922. Certificate issued *Apr. 29, 1922* by *George T. Hobbs, T. C.*

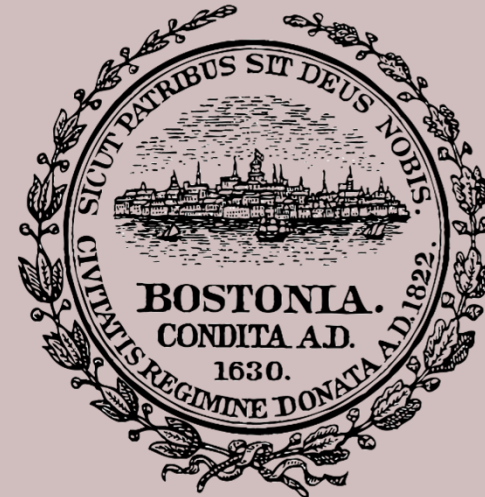
24 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I joined the above-named persons in marriage at No. *The Good Shepherd* St. (If marriage was solemnized at a public place, give its name and address.)  
Ward *Uxbridge* on *May 1, 1922* (City or town) (Day) (Year)  
Name *G. Fontaine* Official station *Priest*  
Residence No. *Church St.* St., City or town of *Linwood*

25 Certificate received by city or town clerk *May 2 1922* (Month) (Day) (Year)

# Boston Vital Records

## 1904 to 1925

- After 1904, Boston Vital Records inconsistently recorded both Register and Certificate formats
- Boston Death Records
  - Before 1904: Register
  - 1904 to 1914: Certificate
  - 1915 to 1918: Register
  - 1919 to 1920: Certificate
  - 1921 to 1925: Register (Not Digitized)
- Boston Birth & Marriage Records
  - Before 1918: Register
  - 1919: Certificate
  - 1920: Register
  - 1921 to 1925: Register (Not Digitized)



# Registry of Vital Records & Statistics

- Vital Records 1936 to today
- Under the Department of Health – Separate from the Massachusetts Archives
- Offers only physical certified copies of records
- Submit record request via mail for \$32 per record
- Visit the research room to view and transcribe records – photos prohibited

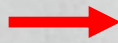


Office located:  
150 Mt. Vernon St.  
Dorchester, MA

# Amended Records

- A “\*” in the Vital Record Index indicates an amended or corrected record
  - Corresponding citation is for the amended volume
- All records amended after 1935 are held at the Registry of Vital Records & Statistics
- Records amended before 1935 (vols. 1 to 86) are open and can be accessed at the Massachusetts Archives
- Common amendments for birth certificates:
  - Adding a father's information
  - Spelling corrections
  - Adoptions

INDEX TO BIRTHS IN MASSACHUSETTS 1941-1945					
	NAME	TOWN	YEAR	VOL.	PAGE
Cushman	Albert	Boston	1942	25	195
	Anne Adams	"	1944	33	415
	" Harriette	"	1941	12	64
	Arline	"	1941	9	89
	Arthur Lawrence	Lynn	1941	76	206
	Bertil Russell	Clinton	1941	48	545
	Bonnie Lee	Melrose	1944	93	130
	*Carl Herbert	Boston	1942	424	406
	Cherrie	Wareham	1943	145	335
	Corinne Ann	Westfield	1943	147	77
	Daniel Albert	Boston	1942	18	91
	David Alan	Plymouth	1942	121	82



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS

RETURN OF A BIRTH

County of Worcester Registered No. 85

City or Town of Worcester No. St Vincent Hospital St. Ward  
(If birth occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2. FULL NAME OF CHILD Mary F Lynch { If child is not yet named, make supplemental report, as directed

3. Sex of Child <u>Female</u>	4. Twin, triplet, or other? (To be answered only in event of plural births)	4a. Number in order of birth	5. Born alive or stillborn <u>Alive</u>	6. Date of birth <u>Jan 5 1918</u> (Month) (Day) (Year)
-------------------------------	---	------------------------------	---	--

7. FULL NAME FATHER <u>Thos. J Lynch</u>	8. FULL MAIDEN NAME MOTHER <u>Mary F Hennessey</u>
--	--

9. RESIDENCE No. 454 Chandler St. Worcester

10. RESIDENCE No. 454 Chandler St. Worcester

*Corrected 11/4/43*

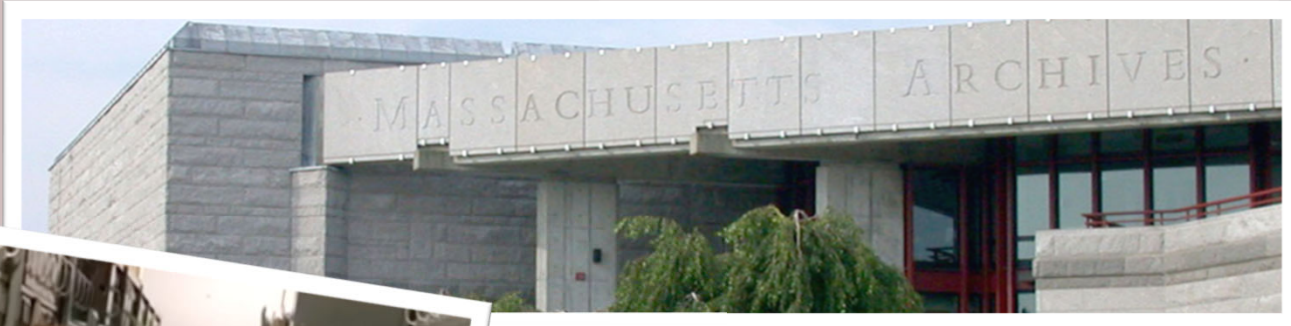
Reminder: the original copy of a record created *after* 1935 that was later amended is restricted. Only those named on the record can access it without a court order.



# QUESTIONS?

# Massachusetts Archives

*Located:  
220 Morrissey Blvd,  
Dorchester, MA*



- Collects 20<sup>th</sup> century materials produced by state agencies.
  - State prisons
  - Mental health facilities
  - Public hospitals
- Massachusetts law restrict some of these records to preserve privacy.

# Medical Examiner Records 1885 – 1960

- Noted on a death certificate if an individual was seen by the Medical Examiner after their death
- May provide information as to circumstances of a person's life and death
- Provide death record to the Reference Archivist and they will send you the Medical Examiner's corresponding return



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Worcester (County)      The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 (City or Town)      OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
 MEDICAL EXAMINER'S  
 CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Registered No. 100

No. East Road St., Ward { (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

NAME Herbert Eugene Harrington  
 (If deceased is a married, widowed or divorced woman, give also maiden name.)

Residence No. East Road St., Ward, (If nonresident, give city or town and state.)

Age 70 yrs. 3 mos. 3 days. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. days.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
4 COLOR OR RACE White	5 SINGLE (write the word) MARRIED Married WIDOWED or DIVORCED	18 DATE OF DEATH June 11, 1960 (Month) (Day) (Year)	19 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have investigated the death of the person above-named and that the CAUSE AND MANNER thereof are as follows: (If an injury was involved, state fully) Organic heart disease type undetermined
19 Cause of death (Give maiden name of wife in full) (Husband's name in full) enter that fact here. Years 3 Months Days If less than 1 day Hours Minutes		(See reverse side for description for unknown person)	
20 Occupation, or particular work done, as spider, cooper, bookkeeper, etc. Farmer			

# State Prison Records

- Prison information is open upon an individual's death, but medical & mental health info is redacted
- Request a prison inmate case file by providing proof of death
- Case files often contain in-depth family histories
- The years available depend on the prison. Examples:
  - State Prison at Charlestown (1910-1941)
  - Men's Reformatory at Concord (1884-1939)
  - Prison for Women at Framingham (1913-1973)
  - State Prison Colony at Norfolk (1927-1955)



# State Hospital Records

- The Massachusetts Archives maintains records of State facilities that no longer in operation
- Many State Hospitals opened in the 1800s & did not close until the 1990s
- Access to these records may now be available





**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
Secretary of the Commonwealth, William Francis Galvin  
Massachusetts Archives  
220 Morrissey Blvd.  
Dorchester, MA 02125  
[archives@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.ma.us) | 617-727-2816

### Massachusetts State Institution Request Form

**PLEASE READ:** Fill out all fields as completely as possible. Due to limited indexing, providing as much information as possible helps us conduct a thorough search. There are gaps in our collections, so not all searches are successful. You will receive a response in writing within ten (10) business days letting you know whether we have located a record relevant to your request. If a record is found, please allow additional time for review and copying. Copies will be sent as PDFs through email whenever possible, so be sure to include your email address below.

<b>Full Name of Subject (both maiden and married name if changed):</b>
<b>Date of Birth:</b>
<b>Place of Birth:</b>
<b>Date of Death:</b>
<b>Additional information:</b>

Copy of death record provided? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

State Institution	Admission Date	Admission number

## Institution Records Request

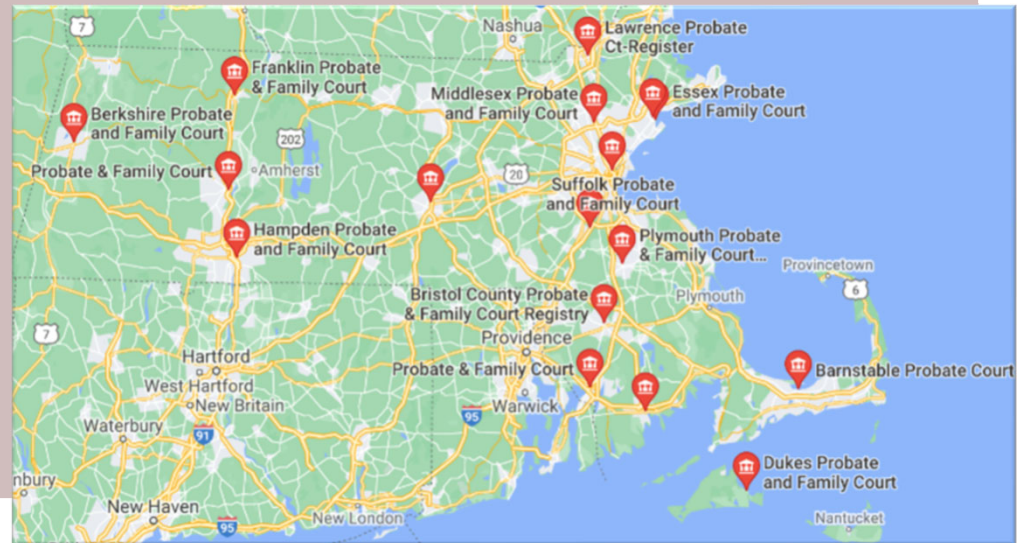
**Have questions?**  
Contact the helpful  
reference team!

[archives@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.ma.us)

# Massachusetts Court Records

# Divorce Records

- 1887 to 1922: Divorces overseen by Mass. Superior Court
- After 1922, Probate & Family Courts also granted jurisdiction— have since heard most divorces in the state
- Probate & Family Courts are broken up into 14 divisions
- Each division keeps own Divorce index:
  - Statewide index (1952 to today) available at *Registry of Vital Records and Statistics*
  - Which Court & Docket Number
- Contact courthouse where divorce occurred to request copies



# Probate Records

- Where to look for 20<sup>th</sup> century MA probate records varies from county to county
- Depending on the record's age, probate may be at the Supreme Judicial Court Archives or still at Probate & Family Court where originally filed



# Online Search Tools:

## How to find historic court records

GET STARTED

The best way to find the historic court record you're looking for will depend on a variety of factors, such as the type of record and the year of the document. Use this decision tree to find out how to get access to the record you're looking for.

Start →

1) Mass.gov – historic court record “decision tree”  
[www.mass.gov/decision-tree/how-to-find-historic-court-records](http://www.mass.gov/decision-tree/how-to-find-historic-court-records)

# Online Search Tools:



## Welcome to Massachusetts Trial Court Case Access

We've made some changes to the appearance of this site to make it easier to use.

You can use this site to:

- Look up case information
- Pay some court fees online

Please note: The information on this site is not the official record of the court. It may not include the most recent court activity.

**Click Here** To search public records.

**Quick Pay** To bypass standard case search page

## 2) Massachusetts Trial Court Electronic Case Look-Up

[www.masscourts.org](http://www.masscourts.org)

# Naturalization Records at the Supreme Judicial Court Archives

- Naturalization records for anyone naturalized in State Superior Courts after 26 September 1906
- Majority of Superior Court naturalizations for 1906–1945 available on FamilySearch.org
  - Not text searchable, use indexes to locate petitions
  - Does not include Suffolk or Dukes counties



## Naturalization Records at the Supreme Judicial Court Archives

- Naturalization records filed after 1945 have not been digitized
  - Use online index to locate petition number
  - Contact Judicial Archivist to get full record
- Declaration of Intent & Petition for Naturalization may include:
  - Name, address, occupation, date and place of birth of the applicant
  - Information regarding arrival in the US
  - Marital status & names of children, with their dates and places of birth
- Prior to 1922, married women were included on their husband's petition
- No statewide index to naturalization records at the Judicial Archives
  - Each court was responsible for indexing its own records

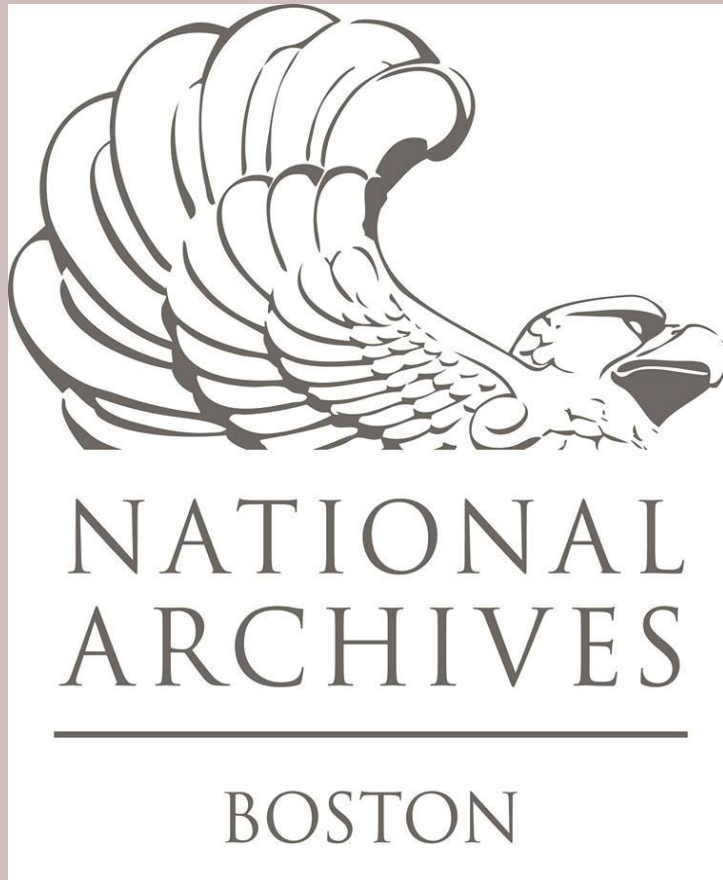
# Mass.gov quick links to FamilySearch naturalizations:

[www.mass.gov/info-details/find-out-which-historic-naturalization-records-are-available-online](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-out-which-historic-naturalization-records-are-available-online)

The screenshot shows the Mass.gov website interface. At the top left is the Mass.gov logo. To its right is a search bar with the text 'Search Mass.gov' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, it says 'PART OF Accessing Court Archives' and 'OFFERED BY Massachusetts Court System Show 1 more'. The main heading is 'Find out which historic naturalization records are available online'. Below this is a paragraph: 'You can access post-1906 state Superior Court naturalization record holdings by county on FamilySearch.org. If the historic naturalization record you're looking for isn't here, please see the links in the sidebar for more information on how to get other records from the judicial archives.' Below the paragraph is a green bar with the text 'TABLE OF CONTENTS'. Underneath this bar is a list of counties, each with a green checkmark icon to its left: Barnstable County, Berkshire County, Bristol County, Essex County, Franklin County, Hampden County, Hampshire County, Middlesex County, Nantucket County, Norfolk County, Plymouth County, and Worcester County.

**Need more help finding a record?**  
Contact the Supreme Judicial  
Court Archivist: [archives@jud.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@jud.state.ma.us)

# Naturalization Records at the National Archives



- 27 September 1906: All US naturalizations transferred from State to Federal Courts.
- *The Northeast Regional Branch of the National Archives in Waltham* houses naturalization filed at Massachusetts Federal Courts.
  - U.S. District Court (1790-1991)
  - U.S. Circuit Court (1845-1911)
- [boston.archives@nara.gov](mailto:boston.archives@nara.gov)

Search > Immigration & Emigration > Massachusetts, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950

# Massachusetts, U.S., State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1798-1950

Search

Match all terms exactly

First & Middle Name(s)

Last Name

Birth

Day

Month

Year

[Add Range](#)

Location

Arrival

Location

Departure



Provided in association with National Archives and Records Administration

## Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

Court

Description

## Related data collections

[U.S. Naturalization Records](#)

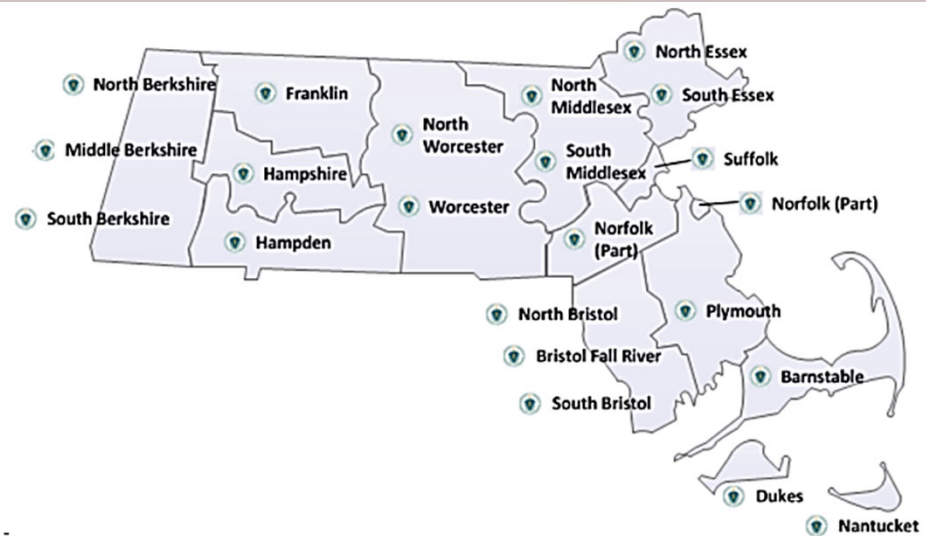
[U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes](#)

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2361/>

# Massachusetts Land Records

- Maintained at local level – 21 registry districts
- Registries of Deeds record & maintain every land transaction in each county/district
- Access most 20<sup>th</sup>-century land records online!

[masslandrecords.com](http://masslandrecords.com)



# Massachusetts Land Records

The screenshot displays the website interface for Massachusetts Land Records. At the top, there are navigation links: [Search Home](#), [Search Criteria](#) (circled in red), [Search Options](#), [Search Help&Support](#), [FAQ](#), and [Basket](#). Below these is the site logo "masslandrecords.com" and the text "Worcester District Recorded/Registered Land". A search form includes fields for "\* Business/Last Name", "First Name:", and "Party Type:" (set to "Both"), along with "Search", "Reset", and "Advanced" buttons. A red arrow points to a button labeled "Recorded Land Name Search (Dates Available: 01/01/1961-Current)".

The main content area is titled "Registry of Deeds" and identifies William Francis Galvin as the Secretary of the Commonwealth and Kathryn A. Toomey as the Register for Worcester. It includes contact information and office hours. A red arrow points from the "Search Criteria" link to the "Registry of Deeds" section.

A large red-bordered box highlights a search menu with the following options:

- Recorded Land
  - [Name Search](#)
  - [Book Search](#)
  - [Document Search](#)
  - [Property Search](#)
  - [Recorded Date Search](#)
  - [Unindexed Property Search](#) (indicated by a red arrow)
  - [Pre-1960 Grantor Index](#)
  - [Pre-1960 Grantee Index](#)
- Plans
  - [Name Search](#)
  - [Book \(Year\) Search](#)
  - [Document Search](#)
  - [Property Search](#)
  - [Recorded Date Search](#)
  - [Unindexed Property Search](#)
- Registered Land (Land Court)
  - [Name Search](#)
  - [Book Search](#)
  - [Certificate Search](#)
  - [Document Search](#)
  - [Property Search](#)
  - [Recorded Date Search](#)
- Registered Land Plans
  - [Name Search](#)
  - [Book Search](#)
  - [Court Case Number Search](#)
  - [Document Search](#)
  - [Property Search](#)
  - [Recorded Date Search](#)

[Search Home](#) [Search Criteria](#) [Search Options](#) [Search Help&Support](#) [FAQ](#) [Basket](#)

**masslandrecords.com**  
Worcester District Recorded/Registered Land

\* Book:  Page Number:

Recorded Land Unindexed Property Search Book: 2045 Page Number: 200 ( Total: 1.69 seconds, 1 rows)

[Select All](#) | [Invert Selection](#) | [Deselect All](#) | [Print Search Result](#) | View: [20/Page](#) [50/Page](#) [100/Page](#)

Type Desc.	Book	Page
<input type="checkbox"/>	02045	200

[View Details](#) [View Images](#)

Type Desc.	Book	Page
	02045	200

1 of 1 [Add to Basket](#) [Print Document](#)

200 2045

second day of January A. D. 1914.  
Signed and sealed in presence of  
Athol Co-operative Bank (seal)  
Thomas J. O'Connell Vice President  
A. Foster Hamilton Treasurer  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Worcester ss. January 2, 1914. Then personally appeared the above-named A. Foster Hamilton and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of the Athol Co-operative Bank, before me -  
Robert B. Deane, Justice of the Peace.  
Rec'd Jan. 9, 1914, at Sh. 306. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

\* \* \* \* \*

Fitoburg Co-op Bank that the Fitoburg Co-operative Bank, the mortgage named in a certain mortgage given by Sylvester D. Crimmins dated Nov. 20, 1913 and recorded with Worcester District Deeds, Lib. 204, Folio 237, hereby acknowledges that it has received full payment and satisfaction of the debt thereby secured, and in consideration thereof I do hereby cancel and discharge said mortgage.  
I S W I T N E S S E D the said Fitoburg Co-operative Bank has caused its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed and these presents to be signed, acknowledged, and delivered in its name and behalf by Warner W. Allan, its Treasurer, this eighth day of January, A. D. 1914.  
Signed and sealed in the presence of  
Fitoburg Co-operative Bank, (seal)  
By Warner W. Allan Treasurer.  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Worcester, ss. Jan. 8 1914. Then personally appeared the above-named Warner W. Allan, Treasurer, and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be the free act and deed of the Fitoburg Co-operative Bank, before me -  
Foster Bailey, Justice of the Peace.  
Rec'd Jan. 9, 1914, at Sh. 306. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

\* \* \* \* \*

Fiske that I, Amanda Fiske of Mt Vernon in State of New York mortgages in a certain mortgage given by Samuel Fisk & Leonard Cotton to me dated August 27 A. D. 1913, and recorded with Worcester District Registry of Deeds, Book 2000 Page 243, do hereby acknowledge that I have received full payment and satisfaction of the same, and in consideration thereof I do hereby cancel and discharge said mortgage.  
I S W I T N E S S E D I hereunto set my hand and seal this 6th day of January A. D. 1914.  
Signed and sealed in the presence of  
Amanda Fiske (seal)  
Aloise C. Loewenstein  
State of New York  
County of Westchester ss. January 6th 1914. Then personally appeared the above-named Amanda Fiske and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed, before me -  
Aloise C. Loewenstein Notary Public (seal)  
Westchester Co. N.Y.  
Rec'd Jan. 6, 1914, at 108. Wm. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

\* \* \* \* \*

Richardson I, Emma F. Richardson holder of a mortgage from John W. Hill to me dated March 16th 1887 recorded with Worcester District Deeds Book 1200, Page 270, acknowledge S A T I S F A C T I O N of the above W I T N E S S E D my hand and seal this fifth day of January 1914.  
Emma F. Richardson (seal)  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Worcester ss. January 8th 1914. Then personally appeared the above named Emma F. Richardson and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her free act and deed, before me -  
Theodore B. Dunn Justice of the Peace  
Rec'd Jan. 10, 1914, at Sh. 306. A. W. Ent'd & Ex'd.

\* \* \* \* \*

Click on  
"view images" tab  
to see an image of  
the deed

# Massachusetts Military Records

# Massachusetts National Guard

- Massachusetts Archives
  - Service records of all Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard personnel discharged *before 1940*
  - Contact the Reference Archivist: [archives@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:archives@sec.state.ma.us)
- The Military Records Branch in Milton
  - Service records of all discharged Massachusetts Army and Air National Guard personnel  
(*1947 to present*)
  - [www.massnationalguard.org](http://www.massnationalguard.org)
    - phone: (508) 422-1993
    - email: [military.records@mass.gov](mailto:military.records@mass.gov)



# National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) St. Louis, Mo.

- Repository of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased 20th century veterans from all services
- Records from Spanish American War to 2000
- Submit record requests online: [vetrecs.archives.gov](http://vetrecs.archives.gov)





Search Archives.gov

- RESEARCH OUR RECORDS
- VETERANS' SERVICE RECORDS
- EDUCATOR RESOURCES
- VISIT US
- AMERICA'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

# National Personnel Records Center

Home > National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)

## National Personnel Records Center

[Main Page](#)

### About Military Personnel Records

[Address, Hours, Contact Information](#)

[Fire of 1973](#)

[Overview of Records](#)

[Request Military Service Records](#)

### For the Public

[Access to Records](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Replacing Awards and Decorations](#)

[Military Record Requests](#)

[Funeral Home Director Information](#)

[Visiting and On-Site Research](#)

[War Relics Requests](#)

## National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)



National Personnel Records Center


1 Archives Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63138

Telephone: 314-801-0800

Fax: 314-801-9195

[See the Press Kit](#) →

["Natural Disaster" Requests](#)



Celebrating the Triumph of the American Spirit

[LEARN MORE](#)

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>

[Access to Records](#)

**Other Resources**

- [Archival Records Programs](#)
- [Genealogy](#)
- [Research on specific wars](#)
- [Prologue Articles](#)
  - [An Overview of Military Service Records at NARA](#)
  - [20th-Century Veterans' Service Records](#)

## Mission and History:

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) is one of the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) largest operations. We are the central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. Our mission is to provide world class service to government agencies, military veterans and their family members, former civilian Federal employees, and the general public.

NPRC, as it exists today, is the product of several previous operations. Today's organization is the embodiment of NARA's policy that places all inactive Federal personnel records, both military and civilian, in the custody of a single administrative unit. The history of NPRC is a rich and varied story whose roots are interwoven in the fabric of the post-World War II American experience.

[Learn more about the history of NPRC](#)

## NPRC Records Holdings, Overview:

ARCHIVAL RECORDS	FEDERAL RECORDS
Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) from all service branches for veterans with a discharge date 62 (or more) years ago*	Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) from all service branches for veterans with a discharge date less than 62 years ago*
Records of Persons of Exceptional Prominence (PEP): military personnel files of Presidents, members of Congress and the Supreme Court; famous military leaders; decorated heroes; celebrities; and other cultural figures who served in the military	Military health and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans, retirees and military family members treated at military service medical facilities
Official Personnel Folders (OPF) of former Federal civil servants whose employment ended prior to 1952	Official Personnel Folders (OPF) of former Federal civil servants whose employment ended after 1951
Organizational, Auxiliary and Other records pertaining to individual military and civilian service with the government of the United States - includes Selective Service Records	Employee Medical Folders (EMF) of former Federal civilian employees

\* Military personnel records are open to the public 62 years after the service member's separation from the military. (To calculate this, take the current year and subtract 62.) Records of any veteran who separated from the military 62 (or more) years ago can be ordered by anyone for a copying fee. Non-archival records are subject to access

## Personnel Records, Quick Find:

### MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS

If the veteran separated from military service **62 (or more) years ago**

If the veteran separated from military service **less than 62 years ago**

### CIVILIAN PERSONNEL RECORDS

If the Federal civil servant's employment ended **before 1952**

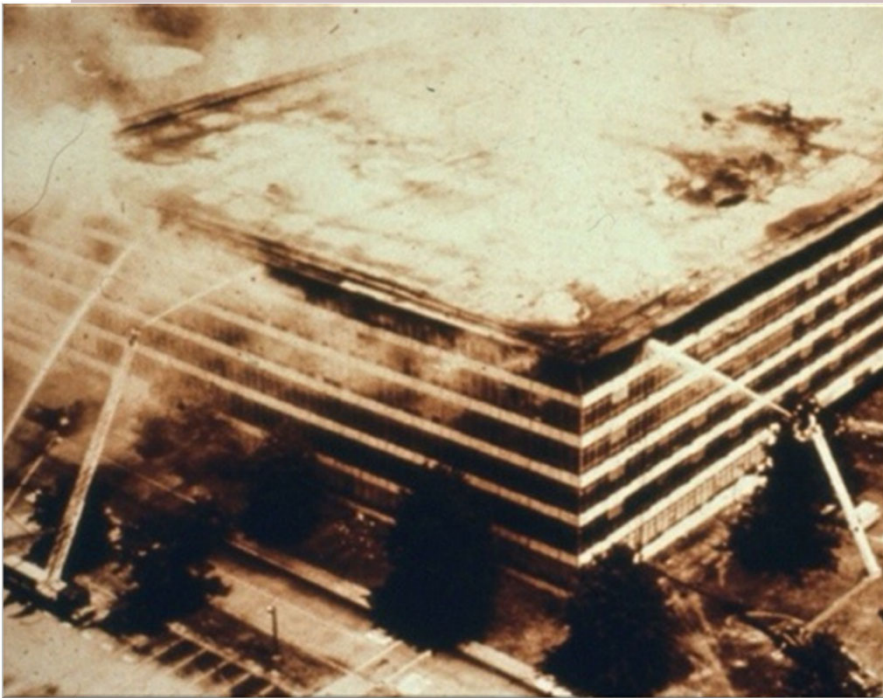
If the Federal civil servant's employment ended **after 1951**

[Check the Status of a Military Service Records Request →](#)



<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center>

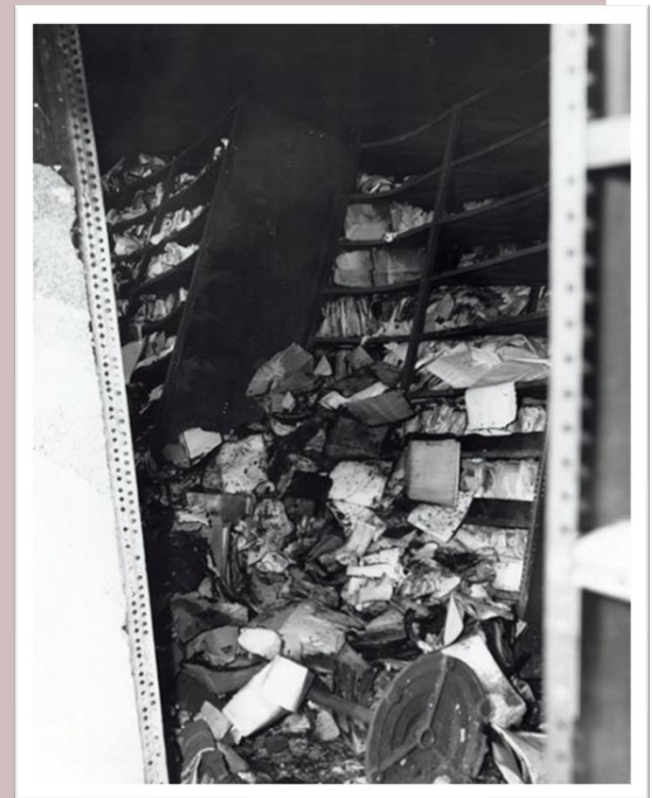
# National Personnel Records Center Fire 12 July 1973



- Destroyed 1/3 of its 52 million military personnel files
- There were no duplicate copies of destroyed records and they had not been microfilmed
- Difficult to determine what records were lost
  - No index of records made prior to the fire & many records were on loan to the VA

# National Personnel Records Center Fire 12 July 1973

- Losses to Federal military records collection included:
  - Army: 80% record loss for personnel discharged 1 November 1912 to 1 January 1960
  - Air Force: 75% record loss for personnel discharged 25 September 1947 to 1 January 1964
    - names alphabetically after Hubbard, James E.
  - U.S. Army Reserve personnel: some late 1950s to 1964



# QUESTIONS?

# Useful Resources:

## *Finding your Ancestors at Home*

# Massachusetts Newspapers

- Newspapers offer a wealth of information about your Massachusetts ancestors & their community.
- About 4,500 newspaper titles have been published in Massachusetts over the last 300 years.
- Advancements in printing & communication technologies in late 19<sup>th</sup> century led to a boom of local newspapers being published daily in Massachusetts.





# Massachusetts Newspapers

- 20th century Massachusetts newspapers can include genealogical details such as:
  - Birth, Death, & Marriage Announcements
  - School announcements
  - Probate & Court proceedings
  - Town Meeting Minutes
  - Property Sales
  - Military enlistments & news
  - Everyday comings & goings



## Where to Find 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Mass. Newspapers

- Many historic Massachusetts newspapers digitized & available online
- No central online repository for searching Massachusetts newspapers
- Check with your local library for microfilms of smaller local newspapers
- Popular large national databases:
  - Newspapers.com
  - NewspaperArchive.com
  - Genealogybank.com
  - Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov



- Useful summary of Massachusetts newspapers accessible online available at: [theancestorhunt.com/blog/massachusetts-online-historical-newspapers-summary](http://theancestorhunt.com/blog/massachusetts-online-historical-newspapers-summary)

# Massachusetts City Directories

- Pin your ancestor to an exact place & time
- Follow an ancestor from year to year, filling in the gaps between censuses
- Gained more widespread popularity in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century & were being published as late as the 1980s

## Where to find them online:

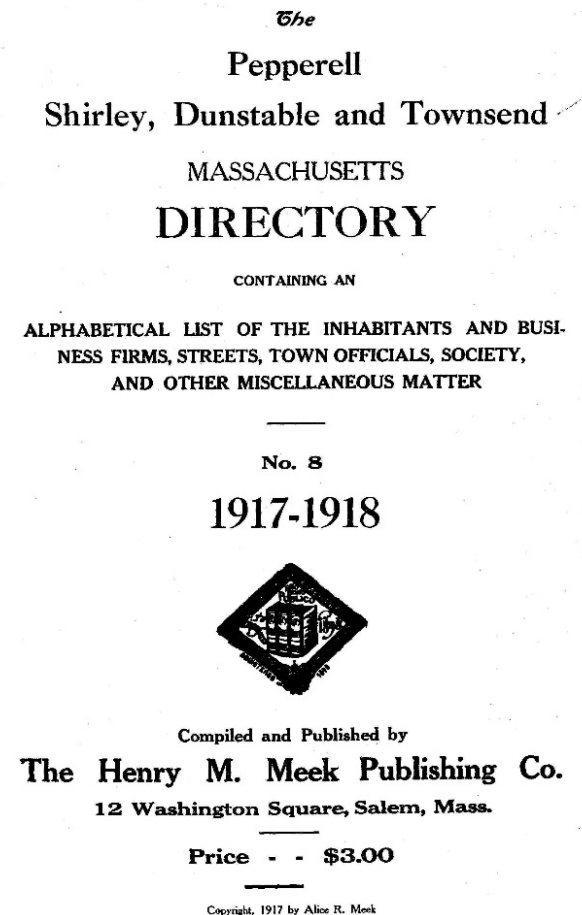
- Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com))
- Fold3 ([www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com))
- Google Books ([www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com))
- Internet Archive ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org))

## Where to find them in person:

- Libraries - Local History Rooms
- Universities (often also online)
- Massachusetts State Library

# Massachusetts City Directories

- Published semi-annually
- Served functional purpose:  
How people found each other
- Include lists of churches, hospitals, schools & government offices – Point you to other family records
- Provide year-to-year local history & information on prominent citizens



- Alphabetically list an individual with their occupation, work address, and/or home address
- Wives may be named in parentheses after husband
- Reveal dates of marriage and death or if someone has moved out of town
- Type and amount information provided evolved over the decades.
  - Early directories focused on men with occupations; would not always include domestic servants, women, or the unemployed
  - Later, more people were included such as: students and unmarried women

GARDNER DIRECTORY—1957      151

Bidne Sigurd (Alphild) emp H-WCo h Riverside  
Parker  
Bielak Stanley Paul (Sophie) emp 38 Sand h 25 Mis-  
sion  
Billie's Diner (Mrs Billie M Viefield) 240 Main  
Billings Arthur G (Martha E) mach H-WCo h 87  
Pearl  
—Bertha B tel opr TelCo r rear 202 S Main  
—May J wid John W h rear 202 S Main  
—Roger emp N&SCo r 38 Parker  
Bilodeau Albert J (Eva) ins agt 2d fl 21 Pleasant h  
37 Oriole  
—Alma housewkr h 120 Monadnock  
—Edmond S (Ernestine M) assembler FSSCo h 178  
Nichols  
—Ernestine M emp 158 Main r 178 Nichols  
—Lorraine T finisher FSSCo r 178 Nichols  
—Paul S emp OWSCo r 178 Nichols  
—Rene R (Marianne I) foreman H-WCo h 198 Ash  
Bilson Taimi L Mrs typist (29) 31 Parker h at West-  
minster  
Binnall Edward P (Eleanor M) h 180 Greenwood  
—James E (Jacqueline) rem to Baldwinville  
—Melvin R (Shirley M) trk driver Westminster h 49  
Reservoir  
—Richard J (Blanche J) pressman 18 Travers h off  
Airport rd  
—Thomas H (Anna C) rem to Portland Conn  
—Thomas H (Christine) business agt 52 Main h 180  
Greenwood  
—William died Nov 9 1955 age 63  
Birge Jennie E wid C Arthur h 148 Vernon  
Biron Alfred J (Laura A) serviceman WCElecCo h  
186 Chestnut  
—Geraldine D clk H-WCo r 186 Chestnut  
—Henry A (Gertrude F) h 40 Birch  
—Irene F married James Gettens  
Birt James W Jr (Pauline T) clk 86 Parker h 89  
Richmond  
—Harriet E Mrs atdt GSH r do  
—William E (Harriet E) ins (20) 14 Main h 232  
Waterford  
Bishop Charlotte M asst cashier The First National  
Bank r 70 Edgell  
**BISHOP ENOS R (Ethel B) pres The First National  
Bank 25 Pleasant h 70 Edgell—See p 32**  
—Joseph W Sr (Mabel M) foreman H-WCo h 171  
Oak  
—Joseph W Jr (Virginia) tchr 62 Waterford h 171  
Oak  
—Lorraine Mrs emp N&SCo h (1) rear 266A Pleas-  
ant  
—see Levesque

*Clues found in a City Directory may point you in the right direction.*

PAGE 4 J  
MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the City of *Salem* for the Year Nineteen Hundred and *four*.

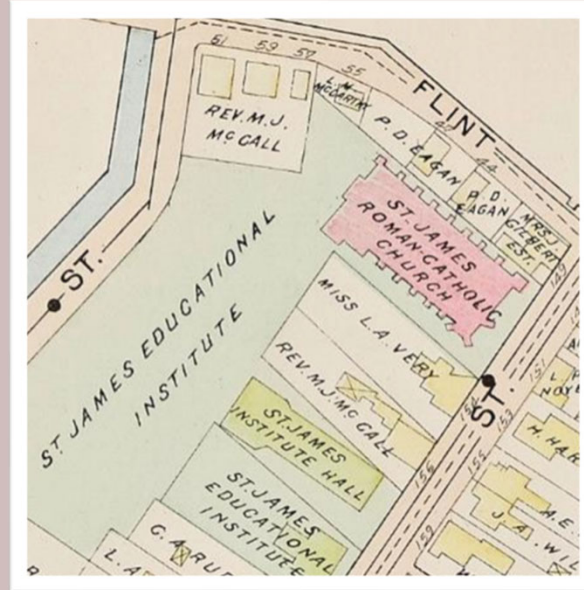
ALL NAMES TO BE GIVEN IN FULL.

DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE.	FULL NAMES OF GROOM AND BRIDE. <small>Color, if other than white. (If the bride is a widow or divorced, give maiden name also.)</small>	AGE of Each in Years.	What Marriage, 1st, 2d, 3d, &c. And if widowed or divorced.	RESIDENCE OF EACH AT TIME OF MARRIAGE.	OCCUPATION OF EACH.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH.	NAMES OF PARENTS OF EACH.		NAME, RESIDENCE AND OFFICIAL STATION OF PERSON BY WHOM MARRIED.
							Full Name of Father.	Maiden Name of Mother.	
<i>1904</i> February 16 <i>Salem</i>	<i>Thomas C. Brennan</i> <i>Margaret E. Mitchell</i>	<i>25</i> <i>21</i>	<i>First</i> <i>First</i>	<i>Salem</i> <i>Medford</i>	<i>Merchant</i> <i>At home</i>	<i>Salem</i> <i>Medford</i>	<i>Thomas F. Brennan</i> <i>Thomas Mitchell</i>	<i>Bridgett Collins</i> <i>Mary Kennedy</i>	<i>M. J. McCall</i> <i>Salem, Cath. Clergyman</i>

**Clergymen.**

Bedinger Henry (Epis.), 2 Forrester  
 Bent Gilbert R. 9 Dearborn  
 Brodie James F. (Cong.), 136 Federal  
 Bronson Dillon (M. E.), 349 Lafayette  
 Buckham John W. (Cong.), 3 Winter  
 Carey Robert H. (Bap.), 8 Brown  
 Clark DeWitt S. (Cong.), 2 Oliver  
 Davis James W. (Adv. Ch.), 10 Cushing  
 Farnham Edwin P. (Bap.), 15 Beckford  
 Franks James P. (Epis.), 6 Hamilton  
 Gadoury Joseph O. (Fr. C.), 139 Lafayette  
 Gordon Benjamin, 28 Peabody  
 Haley George W. (R. C.), 161 Federal  
 Hayes John A. (Swed.), 39 Northey  
 Hill James L. 225 Lafayette  
 Hinkley Elmer N. (Advent), 25 Nursery  
 Knight Frederick H. (M. E.), 121 Federal  
 Lamb Frank M. (Bap.), 13 Cedar  
 Larkin E. T. Miss (Friends), res. at Peabody  
 Latimer George D. (Unit.), 28 Pleasant  
 Levesque Joseph L. M. (Fr. C.), 139 Lafayette  
 → **McCall Michael J. (R. C.), 161 Federal**  
 McCall Peter F. (R. C.), 161 Federal  
 McGrath John J. (R. C.), 161 Federal  
 Manchester Alfred (Unit.), 3 Cedar

**Example:**  
 If your ancestor was married by a minister, finding their church may lead to other records.



→ **McCall Michael J. pastor, St. James Cath. church, h. 161 Federal**  
 Peter F. 1st asst. pastor, St. James Cath. church, h. 161 Federal

# Reverse Directories or Street Guides

- Sometimes appear within the larger City Directory; consult the table of contents
- Lists individuals by street address instead of alphabetically
- Name of the homeowner or head of household at each address

## POLK'S SAUGUS

### Directory of Householders, Occupants of Office Buildings and Other Business Places, Including a Complete Street and Avenue Guide 1946-47

Copyright, 1947, by R. L. Polk & Co.

In the following list the streets are arranged in alphabetical order, the intersecting streets being shown. The number of each building on the street is given in numerical order, and opposite the number is placed the name of the occupants or houseowner or tenant. In the business blocks containing offices the occupants are shown by room numbers where practicable, in apartment homes the number denotes the number of the apartment. In all streets both sides of the street are included in one list. The profession or business of individuals of firms is given only at their respective place of business; to find occupation of others refer to Alphabetical List of Names.

Numerical Streets are compiled in with Named Streets in their regular Alphabetical Order.

The symbol © following a householder's name indicates that we have received information during the canvass that the house is owned by some member of the family, but as the publisher cannot and does not guarantee the correctness of the information furnished, nor the complete absence of mistakes no responsibility for errors can be or is assumed, nor can the publisher furnish further information than that shown.

The symbol Δ preceding names denotes householders and places of business having telephones.

---

**ABERDEEN AVENUE** from 86 Basswood av to 65 Saugus av, precinct 2

Althea av begins

11Δ Spinney Chas  
12Δ Edgecomb Stanley ©  
15 McWilliam Harry T ©  
18 Paridon Ellen Mrs ©

Alaric av begins

31 Meader Fred M ©  
37 Yurchus Albert  
39 Vacant

**ACADIA AVENUE** fr 96 Basswood av east to a dead end, precinct 2

5 Wright Lillian R Mrs  
23 Yeo Frank H ©  
28 Blake Herbert L  
29 LePelley Wm C  
50 Crossman Jas O ©

**ADAMS AVENUE (PH)** fr 393 Central west to 106 Vine, precincts 4-8

## *Saugus 1946-47* *"Directory of Householders"*

ARLINGTON DIRECTORY. 155

---

OAKLAND AVENUE, A. H.  
*From Appleton to Claremont Avenue.*

4 Mr. & Mrs. Luther F. Fleming	5 Mr. & Mrs. Stevens Lawrence
18 Nathaniel Swett	21 Mr. & Mrs. Edmund W. Byram
Miss Susan Hartley Swett	23 Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Bartlett
Miss Sophie Swett	77 Mr. & Mrs. Edward F. Burns
22 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Ober	83 Mr. & Mrs. Nixon Waterman
132 Mr. & Mrs. George M. Bacon	
178 Mrs. Leander Peirce	

ORCHARD PLACE.  
*From 1020 Massachusetts Avenue.*

24 Mr. & Mrs. John Dreselly

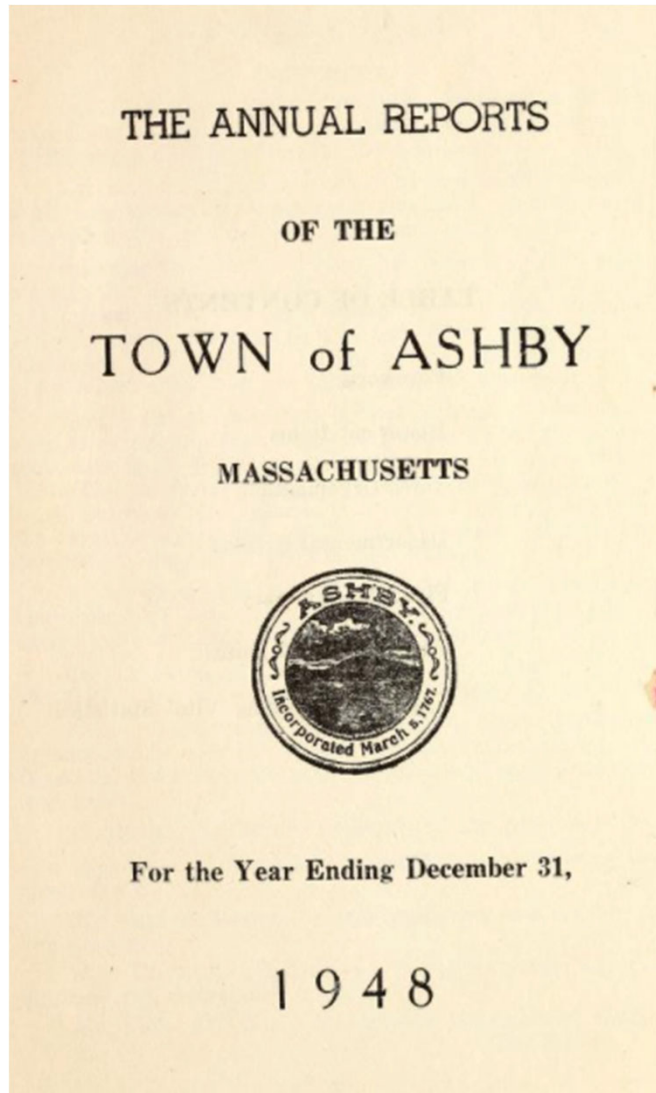
PALMER STREET.  
*From 361 Massachusetts Avenue to Broadway.*

12 Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Bowen	7 Mr. & Mrs. Walter W. O'Hara
14 Mrs. Elizabeth R. Filfield	9 Mrs. Granville Peirce
Wallace A. Filfield	13 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur A. Lawson
16 Mrs. Hamlin Harding	17 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Rhoades
Theodore Harding	
18 Mr. & Mrs. William A. McCabe	

## *Arlington 1904-5* *"Street Guide"*

# Massachusetts City & Town Annual Reports

- Contain statistics and data for a one-year period
- Published by Massachusetts law by the town or city government
- Small town directories often list births, marriages, and deaths
- Large collection of directories at the Massachusetts State Library
- Check your Local Library's Local History Room



**DEATHS**

RECORDED IN THE TOWN OF ASHBY FOR  
THE YEAR 1948

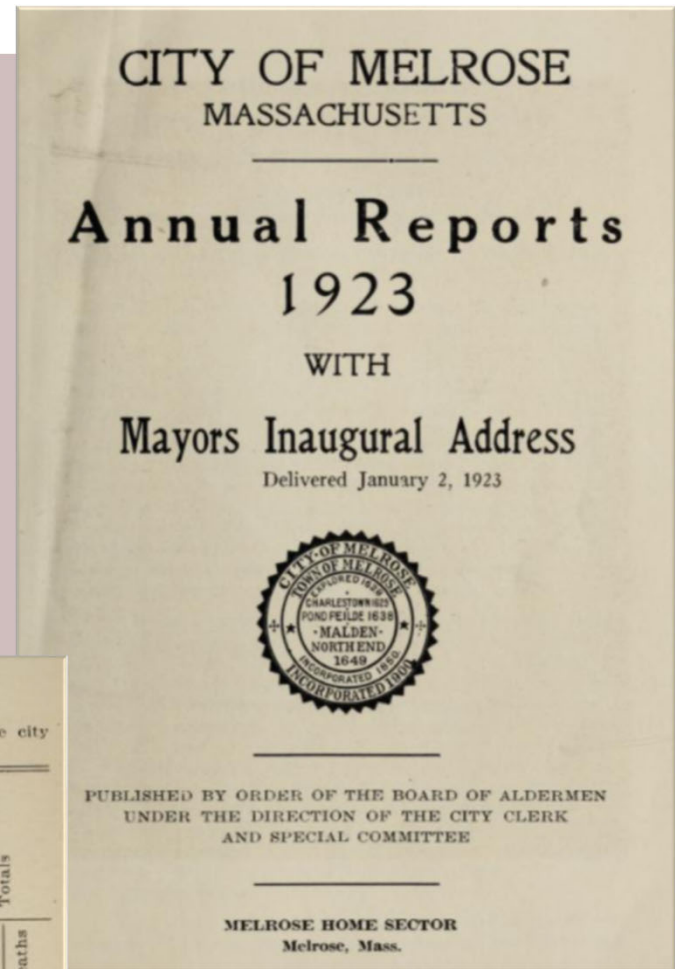
DATE	NAME	BIRTHPLACE	AGE		
			Yrs.	Mos.	Dys
January:					
11	Jacob Waaramaa	Finland	70	5	29
February:					
19	Jesse L. Cutting	Ashby	75	0	23
23	Charles V. White	Marlboro, N. H.	52	6	19
23	Lauri K. Inki	Finland	51	9	6
March:					
3	James C. Allen	Ashby	75	10	4
22	Fannie Louise Joyce Jenkins	Ashby	84	11	23
April:					
4	Nellie M. Aldrich	New Ipswich, N. H.	86	1	15
8	Henry B. Houghton	Stow	86	8	20
27	Willis E. Wright	Ashby	69	11	24
29	Arthur G. Gustafson	Fitchburg	49	7	9
June:					
23	Fernando A. Farnsworth	Brookline, N. H.	89	8	8
27	William Rajala	Fitchburg	47	6	2
July:					
31	Toivo Lybeck	Maynard	40		
August:					
1	Paul Koivula, Mason, N.H.	Mason, N. H.	23	1	26
23	John M. Enright	Troy, N. H.	54	3	29
23	Hilma Lydia (Helenius) Salminen	Finland	65	7	9
27	Minnie (Helein) Jackson	Finland	73	7	3
September:					
18	Mary Louise Kincaid	Ashby	36	2	19
18	Rita Joan Kincaid	Fitchburg	1	0	19
20	Martha W. Foster	Springfield	62	0	15
21	Silja E. (Sallila) Somppi	Finland	54	1	29
25	Alexis Arapoff	Russia	43	9	19
29	Baby Foresman	Fitchburg	—	—	—
October:					
23	Harold A. White	Kennedy, N. Y.	63	0	18
November:					
15	Elizabeth J. Leighton	Nova Scotia	79	5	29

(This listing serves as a portion of the Town Clerk's Report)

Many towns have made historic reports available on the Internet Archive ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org))

# Annual Reports give insight into functioning of the city or town your ancestors lived in:

- Budget Information
- Details on the local schools
- Cemetery Reports
- Vital Statistics & Trends
- Road & Public Works
- Other town related data



**Table 1**  
**CASES AND DEATHS OF DISEASES DANGEROUS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH, BY MONTHS**

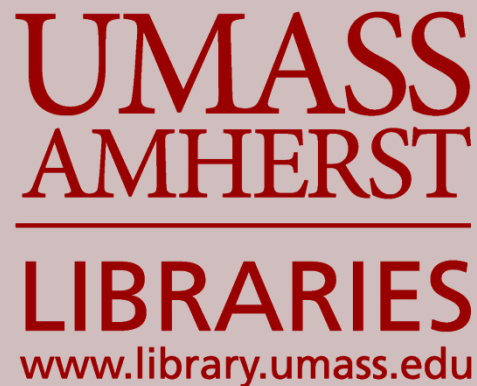
This table includes all cases (with their deaths) irrespective of whether cases were transported into the city from elsewhere, or were contracted outside of the city; also all deaths of Melrose cases dying in hospitals out of town.

Months	Diphtheria		Scarlet Fever		Typhoid Fever		Measles		Whooping Cough		Smallpox		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Poliomyelitis		Tuberculosis				Totals						
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths					
																							Pulmonary and Millary	Meningeal	Other Forms		
January	12	..	9	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..			
February	1	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..		
March	1	1	9	..	..	..	12	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	1		
April	..	..	11	..	..	..	25	..	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58	1	
May	..	..	11	..	1	..	47	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	..	..	77	..		
June	..	..	4	1	1	..	40	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	1	
July	1	..	3	..	..	..	25	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	1	
August	..	..	3	..	..	..	4	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	1	
September	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	
October	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	
November	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	
December	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	..	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>6</b>

# Other Notable Massachusetts Repositories

- **Massachusetts State Library**
  - City & Town Directories
  - City & Town Annual Reports
  - Annual Reports of State Hospitals and other State Institutions
- **City of Boston Archives**
  - Historical records of Boston city government.
    - Tax Records & Voting Lists
- **Springfield History Library & Archives**
  - Records of Western Massachusetts
  - Large collection of French-Canadian records
  - 1.3 million archival documents: diaries, deeds, account books, & photographs.
- **Worcester Historical Museum Library & Archives**
  - Collection focused on city of Worcester
  - Some Worcester County





- **University Special Collections & Archives**
  - Unique collections of local historical manuscripts, publications, photographs, oral histories & the personal papers of notable individuals & businesses.

# Summary



- Pay attention to historical context
- Look beyond vital records
- Who created the record?
- Look offline
- Ask for help

# 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://AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations)





# THANK YOU!

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



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