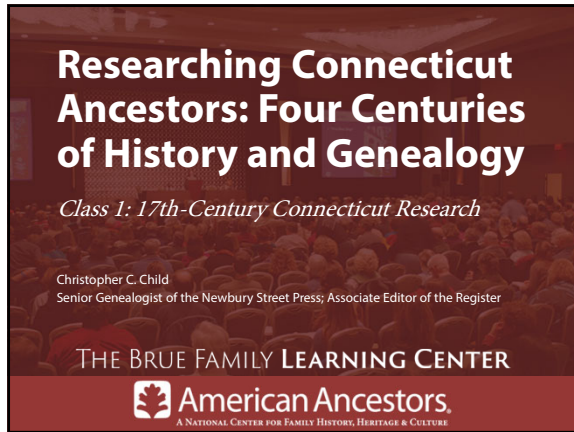
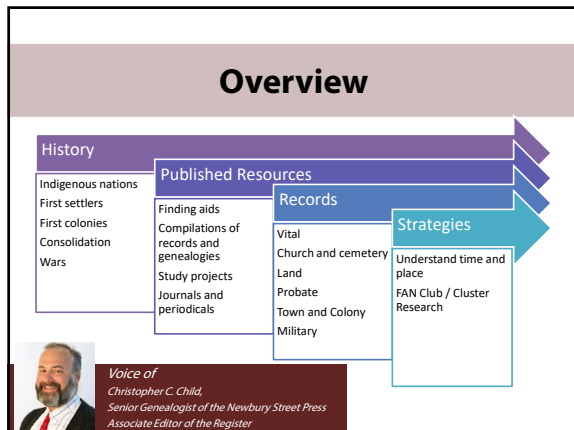




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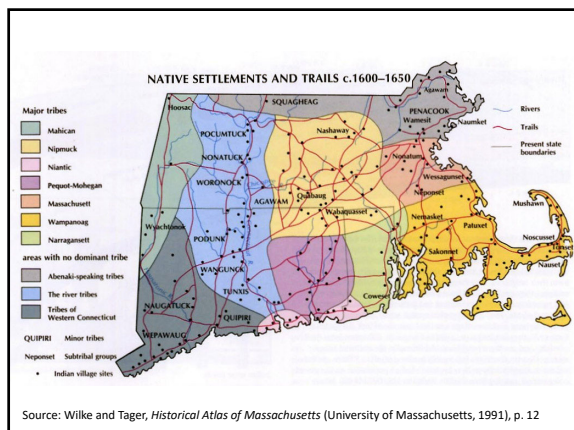
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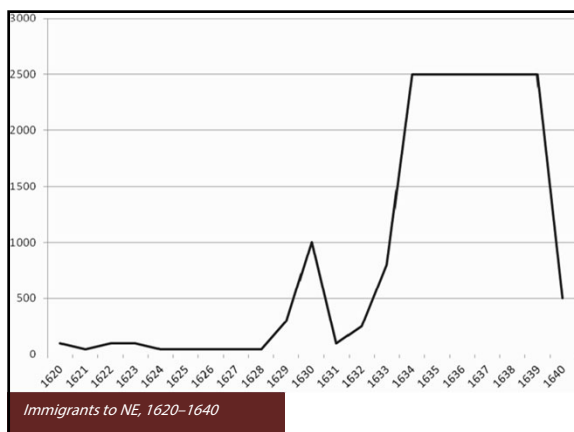
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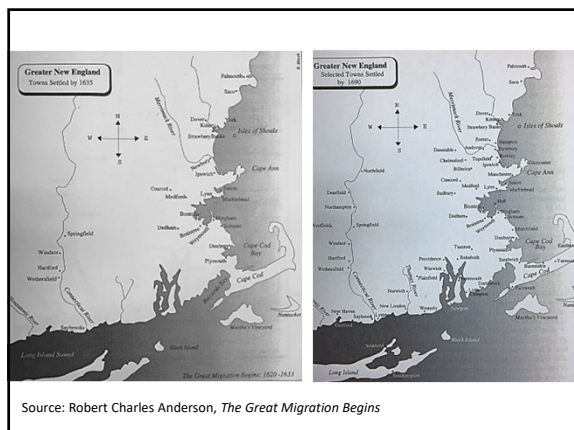
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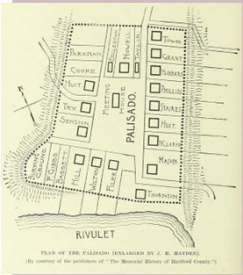


9



10

First Connecticut Settlement - Windsor



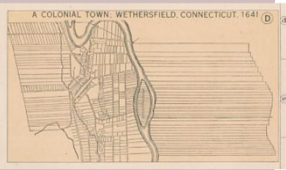
- William Holmes establishes trading post 1633 near junction of Farmington River and Connecticut River
- English counterbalance to the Dutch settlement at Hartford
- Permanent settlers from Dorchester arrive in 1635

Ancient Histories and Genealogies of Windsor, viewed at HathiTrust.org, page 140.

11

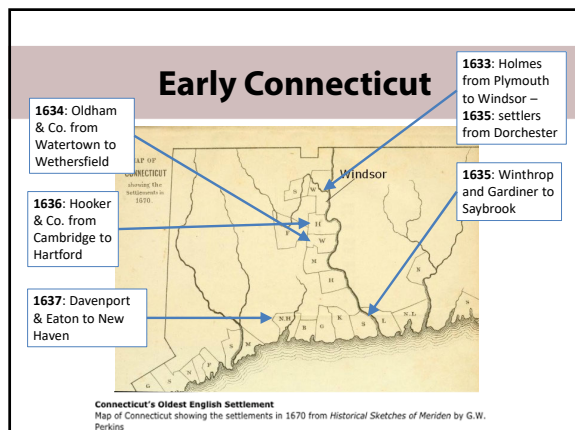
Founding of Wethersfield

- John Oldham and others from Watertown, MA 1634
- Welcomed by the Wangunk desirous of trading beaver pelts
- Merged with Hartford and Windsor by 1637

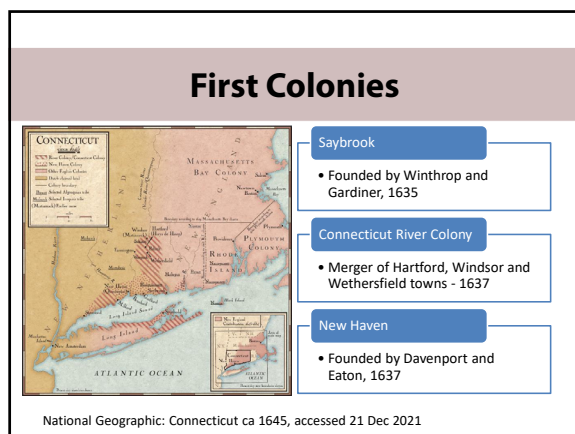


Paullin, *Atlas of Historical Geography*

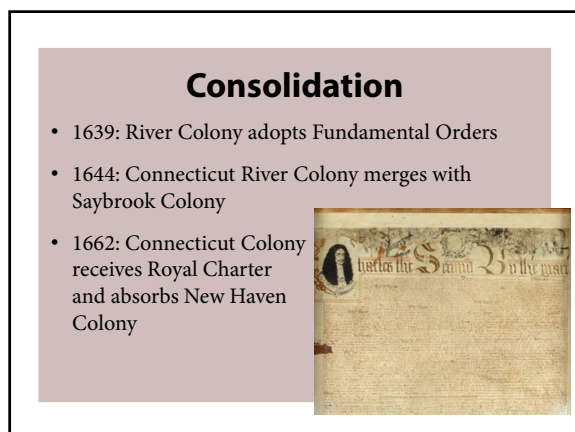
12



13



14



15

Pequot War

- Pitted the Pequot who were allied with the Dutch against the three colonies in 1636 and 1637
- Pequot allied with the Dutch
- Colonists allied with Mohegan and Narragansett tribes
- Pequot tribe was decimated

16

King Philip's War

- Metacom, a member of the Wampanoag, was known as King Philip
- Connecticut settlers fearing the Narragansett would join with Metacom joined an attack near South Kingston, Rhode Island
- No major battles fought on Connecticut soil



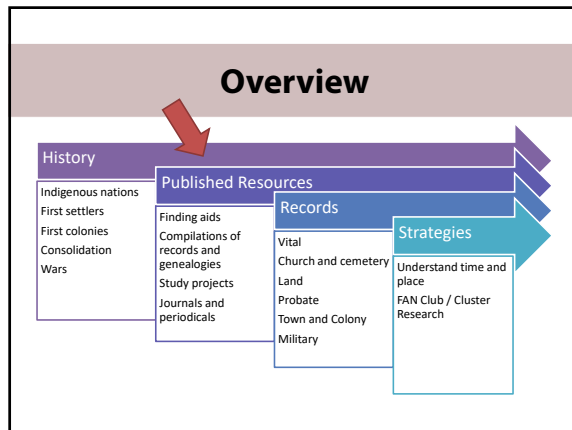
17

17th-Century Connecticut Towns

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • 1633 Windsor | • 1649 Stonington | • 1685 Danbury |
| • 1634 Wethersfield | • 1651 Derby | • 1686 Mansfield |
| • 1635 Saybrook | • 1651 Middletown | • 1686 Preston |
| • 1635 Hartford | • 1651 Norwalk | • 1686 Windham |
| • 1637 New Haven | • 1659 Norwich | • 1686 Woodstock |
| • 1639 Branford | • 1662 Haddam | • 1689 Plainfield |
| • 1639 Fairfield | • 1665 Lyme | • 1690 Canterbury |
| • 1639 Guilford | • 1667 Killingworth | • 1693 Glastonbury |
| • 1639 Milford | • 1670 Simsbury | • 1697 Lebanon |
| • 1639 Stratford | • 1670 Wallingford | • 1699 Colchester |
| • 1640 Farmington | • 1673 Woodbury | • 1699 Durham |
| • 1640 Greenwich | • 1674 Suffield | |
| • 1641 Stamford | • 1674 Waterbury | |
| • 1646 New London | • 1683 Enfield | |

Dates of Settlement from Office of Connecticut Secretary of State : Accessed 23 Dec 2021

18

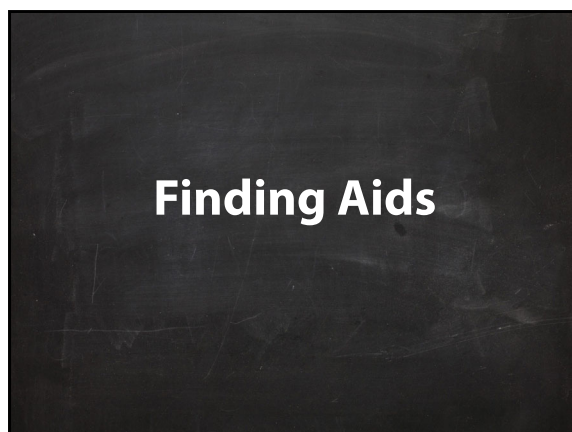


19

Types of Published Resources

- How-to guides
- ★ Finding aids
- ★ Study projects
- ★ Compilations of records and genealogies
- ★ Journals and periodicals
- Genealogies and Local Histories

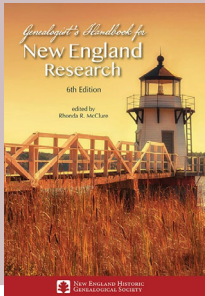
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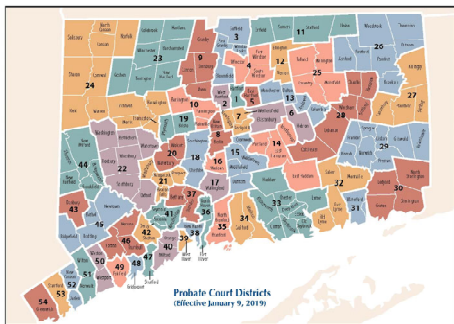
21

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research

- Town and County Lists
- Detailed Maps
- Court Houses
- Library and Archives



22





23

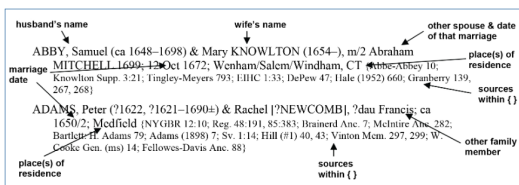
New England Marriages Prior to 1700

- Enumerates approximately 99% of all pre-1700 marriages of New Englanders
 - Includes marriages in Europe prior to migrating
 - Found 70% of maiden names
- ★ Searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org



24

Torrey's New England Marriages prior to 1700



25

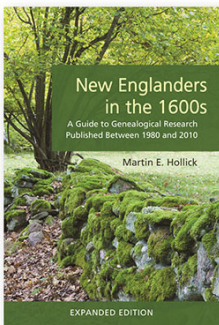
Torrey's Source List

ADAMS, Peter (?1622, ?1621-1690+) & Rachel
1650/2, Medfield (NYGBR 12:10, Reg. 48:1)
Bartlett, Adams (1898) 7:3, 1:14
Cooke Gen. (ms) 14; Fellowes-Davis Anc. 88)

Adams (1861): Adams, George, *Genealogy of the Adams Family of Kingston, Mass.* (Boston: privately printed, 1861)
Adams (1881): Appleton, William Sumner, *Some Descendants of William Adams of Ipswich, Mass.* (Boston: D. C. App. & Son, 1881)
Adams (1895): Adams, Smith, *Genealogy and History of a Part of the Newbury Adams Family, Formerly of Devonshire, England, Being the Descendants of Robert Adams and Wife Eleazar* (Calais, Me.: The Calais Advertiser Office, 1895)
Adams (1898): Adams, Andrew N., *A Genealogical History of Henry Adams of Braintree, Mass., and His Descendants; also John Adams, of Cambridge, Mass., 1632-1897* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1898)
Adams (1900): Adams, Andrew N., *A Genealogical History of Robert Adams of Newbury, Mass., and His*

Alden (ms): Alden, George, *Genealogy of the Alden Family of Kingston, Mass.* (Boston: privately printed, 1861)
Alden Chart: see Daniel Alden Gen.
Alden Mem.: Alden, Ebenezer Alden, *Memorial of the Descendants of the Hon. John Alden* (Randolph, Mass.: Samuel P. Brown, 1867)
Alden-Pabodie: Alden, Mary Loford (Taylor), *Elizabeth (Alden) Pabodie and Descendants* (Salem: E. Putnam, 1897)
Alden-Snell-Long: Long, Hallock Porter, *Alden-Snell-Long Ancestry: Being the Compiler's Line of Descent from John Alden Who Arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the Mayflower, in 1620*... (Washington, D. C., 1925)
Aldis: Whitin, Frederick H., *The Aldis Family of Dedham, Wrentham, Roxbury and Franklin, Mass.* (Dedham: Dedham Transcript Press, 1905)

26

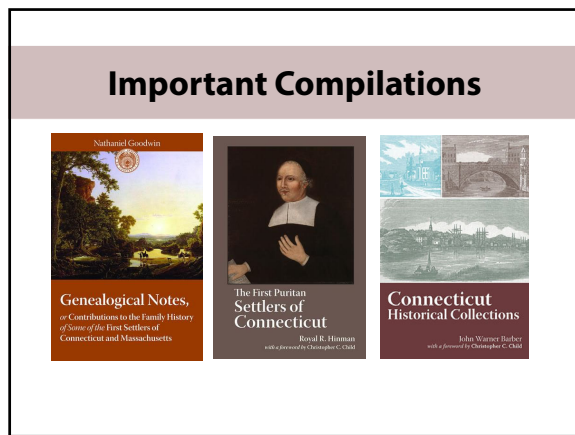


CALL, THOMAS, b. ca. 1597, d. Malden, Mass., May 1676. Goodman, pp. 139-45.
CALENDER, ELEAN, b. ca. 1639, d. Boston, Mass., 18 May 1728. NEHGR 144:195-210, 319-30, 145:31-43 (five generation study); NEHGR 145:373 (correction).
CALISA, JOHN, d. Haverhill, Mass., 25 February 1693/4. TAG 70:1-8, 104-11.
CALISA, MACKENZIE, d. Lynn, Mass., after 26 February 1677. TAG 70:1-8, 104-11.
CAMP, EDWARD, b. ca. 1603, d. New Haven, Conn., before 22 September 1659. CA 32:140-44.
CANE, CHRISTOPHER, b. ca. 1613, d. Cambridge, Mass., 9 December 1653. GM2 112:6-8; son Jonathan? at Sea, pp. 87-88.
CANNY, ALEXANDER, d. Plymouth, Mass., after 1688. Jessup, pp. 251-53.
CANNY, THOMAS, b. ca. 1600, d. Dover, N.H., after June 1681. NEHGR 19:1-7; Jessup, pp. 253-57.
CAPEN, BERNARD, b. ca. 1562, d. Dorchester, Mass., 8 November 1638. GMB 1:209-11; NEHGR 158:110-11 (Hammill John?); MJ 17:25-27.
CARL, JOHN, b. ca. 1620, d. York, Me., 25 January 1691/2. Probable English origins at MG 19:22-30.
CARD, RICHARD, d. Jamestown, R.I., before 1 July 1674. John? at TAG 58:40-42.
CARPIS, RICHARD, b. ca. 1615, d. Newport or Warwick, R.I., not long after 29 November 1675. GM2 116:10; Johnson, pp. 66-68; TAG 79:100-8 (Richard? John?).
CARROLL, SEE GREGG.
CARROLL, EDWARD, b. 1610, of Rowley, d. before 27 November 1678, possibly in England. RD600, p. 220; PA, p. 389-96; MCA, p. 177; Wife Ellen (Newton) at PA, p. 547; RD600, pp. 393-96; MCA, p. 624.
CARROLL, JOSEPH, b. ca. 1663, d. York, Me., 17 March 1717/8. Donald Bradburn Macdonald, *Joseph Carle of York, Me. York and Lincoln County Descendants and the Antiquity of the Carle Name* (n.p., the author, 1986). Review: CN 20:141-42.

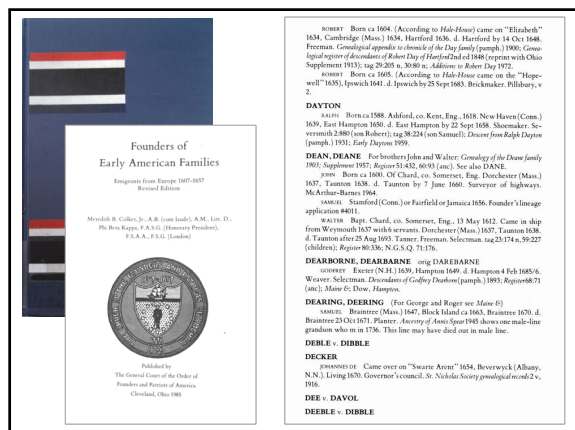
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28



29



30

Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society

- From 1860 to 1930, Connecticut Historical Society published a series of key early documents from their collection
 - Archive.org has digitized
 - AccessGenealogy has index

COLLECTIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY: VOLUME 1

- Rev. Thomas Hooker's Letter to Governor Winthrop, 1636
- Abstracts of Two Sermons by Rev. Thomas Hooker, in the Years 1636, 1639
- List of English Clergymen before the New Haven Church, 1636
- Account of the trial of English Clergymen before the Church at New Haven, is printed from a contemporary manuscript, supposed to be by Charles Ingersoll
- Letter from Governor Winthrop Respecting the Charter of Connecticut, 1686
- The People's Right to Election, by Jonathan Bulfinch, 1689
- Three Minutes Catalog of Connecticut Writings, 1743
- Connecticut Officers at Louisbourg
- A List of the Officers in the Connecticut Regiment, under the command of Lt. General Rogers, at the Reduction of Louisbourg and Fortifications depending, to the surrender of his Britannick Majesty, and Garrisoned the same and relieved by the British troops
- Papers Relating to the Transference of Jurisdiction, 1775

31

Great Migration Study Project

32

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
- ★ Searchable online databases on AmericanAncestors.org
- Trace early Connecticut settlers



33

Who is Included in the Series?

- If person appeared in a record before 1636
- Direct or indirect implication of arrival by the end of 1635, even if the record was of a later date
- Documentation of an immediate family of a person known to have arrived before 1636

34

982

The Great Migration Begins

vice, and acquired land. Since William Honywell does not appear in the 1643 list of men able to bear arms, or in any other Plymouth Colony record, the William Honywell who appears in the unfortunate incident of 1605/6 is almost certainly a different person than the immigrant of 1633.

JOHN HOOKER

John Hook came on the *Mayflower* as a servant boy to Isaac Allerton and "died with the first" [Bradford 441, 444].

THOMAS HOOKER

ORIGIN: Rotterdam

MIGRATION: 1633 in the *Griffin* [WJ 1:129]

FIRST RESIDENCE: Cambridge

REMOVES: Hartford 1636

OCCUPATION: Minister

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: On 11 October 1633 Winthrop reported a "list as Newtown, where Mr. Hooker was chosen pastor, and Mr. Stone teacher, in such a manner as before at Boston" [WJ 1:137]. When Hooker moved to Hartford the church went with him, and he remained pastor there until his death.

FREEMAN: 14 May 1634 [MHC 1:369]

EDUCATION: Matriculated at Cambridge from Queen's College 1604, migrated to Emmanuel, B.A. 1607 & M.A., 1611 [Voss 2:409; Morison 385-88]. His inventory included "books in his study" valued at £300.

OFFICES: Ashbur, 7 May 1640 [RPG 1:1]

ESTATE: Granted one acre for a cemetery at Cambridge, 4 November 1633 [CATR 6]. Granted five acres of land and another three acres of land, 5 January 1633A [CATR 7]. Granted "five acres of meadow ground in the mead next Watertown weir" and "thirty acres of oak marsh on the south side Charles River" 2 April 1635 [CATR 12]. In the division of meadow land on 20 August 1635 granted a proportional share of acre [CATR 13]. Granted three acres, 6 February 1636 [CATR 17]. 6 February 1636/6 list of "houses" in the town, "Mr. Tho[mas] Hooker" held four [CATR 18].

In the Cambridge land inventory on 1 May 1635 Thomas Hooker held four parcels of land: "in the town one house with garden and backside about one rood"; "in Coward Row one cow house and yard about one acre"; "in Wigwam Neck about five acres"; and "in the Long Marsh about

Thomas Hooker

983

three acres" [CaBOP 3-4]. On 2 May 1636 "Thomas Hooker of the New Towne" sold to Nicholas Danforth "about one acre of land being the lot of Edward Hopkins" [CaBOP 58].

There is no entry in the Hartford land inventory of 1640 for Thomas Hooker, but his name is mentioned frequently as an abutter in other entries [HABOP *Passim*].

In his will, dated 7 July 1647 and proved apparently in 1649, "Thomas Hooker of Hartford" bequeathed to "my son John Hooker my housing and lands in Hartford, hereinaid, both that which is on the west, and also that which is on the east side of the River, to be enjoyed by him and his heirs forever, after the death of my wife, Susanna Hooker, provided he be then at the age of one and twenty years, & being my will that my said dear wife shall enjoy and possess my said housing and lands during her natural life"; to "my son John my library of printed books and manuscripts" provided he "deliver to my son Samuel" books to the value of £20, or the cash equivalent, and "if my son John do not go on in the performing of his studies, or shall not give up himself to the service of the Lord in the work of the ministry, my will is that my son Samuel enjoy and possess the whole library and manuscripts, to his proper use forever; only it is my will that whatever manuscripts shall be judged meet to be printed ... and however I do not forbid my son John from seeking and taking a wife in England, yet I do forbid him from marrying and carrying there"; to "my son Samuel, in case the whole library come not to him, as is before expressed, the sum of seventy pounds"; to "my daughter Sarah Hooker" £100 at marriage or at age twenty-one; "the disposal and further education of her and the rest, I leave to my wife"; to "the two children of my daughter Joseph Shepherd deceased, and the child of my daughter Mary Newton, to each of them ten pounds"; "my beloved wife Susanna Hooker" to be executrix and to receive the residue of the estate; "my beloved friends Mr. Edward Hopkins and Mr. William Goodwyn" to be coexecutors [Hartford PD Case #284]. CCCC 1:608-501; Mainwaring 1:16-18].

"The inventory of the estate of 'Mr. Thomas Hooker' taken 21 April 1648, totalled £1136 15s., including £450 in real estate: 'tenning and lands within the bounds of Hartford on both sides the river'." There was also "an advance in the *Estimate*," £50 [Hartford PD Case #284]. CCCC 1:501-502].

BIRTH: About 1586 (based on matriculation at Cambridge), son of "Thomas Hooker of Maresfield, Thom. Leicestershire [GECIM 5:122-24].

DEATH: Hartford 7 July 1647 [MHC 4:8:544-45]. Eldest son.

The visitation of Good was exceeding strange; it was sudden & general, as if the Lord had immediately sent forth an angel, not with a sword to kill, but with a rod to chastise, & he smote all, good & bad,

35

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The Great Migration Begins

old & young, or all if there were a general infection of the air; which went from north to south by degrees infecting all, yes, such as were on the sea near our coast were so infected & smitten. And this is remarkable, that though few died, yet some did, and generally those that died were of our choicest flowers, & most precious saints, among others that were then taken to rest was that worthy & blessed light Mr. Hooker, who having a cold & preached twice on the Sabbath (Mr. Stone not being at home), and ministered both the sacrament the Lord's supper in the forenoon & baptism in the afternoon, he was so overpowered by his spirit's work, that he never could recover them again [BCR 180].

MARRIAGE: *American*, Buckinghamshire, 5 April 1621; Susannah Carbrand [Bucks Marr 4:13]. She married 22 after 7 December 1634 and before January 1660/70 WILLIAM GOODWIN [NEHGR 55:25]. (On a Particular Court held on 7 December 1634 Walter Grey was confined to and was punished for "his gross abuse & evil in slandering Mr. William Goodwyn & Mr. Hooker in charging them with the act of adultery" [RPG 154:36].)

CHILDREN:

- i JOANNA, b. say 1622, m. by about 1638 as his second wife Rev. Thomas Shepard of Cambridge (Young's First Planters 35v-35). (Although Young assumes this section of Shepard's sermons to indicate that the marriage took place in October 1637, Shepard himself says the marriage was in the "Year after those wars in the country," meaning the Pequot War of 1637.)
- ii MARY, b. say 1624, m. by about 1640 Rev. Roger Newton (she had one child by the date of her father's will, 7 July 1647; see TAG 149-150).
- iii ANNIE, b. say 1625, m. 1649 Rev. John Wilson, son of JOHN WILSON [NEHGR 51:128; Shibley 1:65-66].
- iv SARAH, b. say 1630, m. 1649 Rev. John Wilson, son of JOHN WILSON [NEHGR 51:128; Shibley 1:65-66].
- v JOHN, b. say 1631, married to England and married there; Savage says he became a parish priest.
- vi SAMUEL, b. say 1635, married 1655 [Shibley 1:546-52], m. Plymouth 22 September 1658 Mary Willett [PCR 8:21], daughter of THOMAS WILLET.
- viii Son, d. Cambridge late in 1634 [WFS 3:177].

ASSOCIATIONS: One sister of Thomas Hooker, perhaps named Anna, married GEORGE ALCOCK, and another sister, Dorothy, married John Chester, and had with him LEONARD CHESTER.

Thomas Hooker

985

"Thomas Hooker spent a few years in the household of Francis Drake of Esher, Surrey, and made such a great impression that in his will of 13 March 1633A Drake made a bequest to 'Johanna Hooker, who now is in New England,' the daughter of Thomas Hooker [PC 45:3eager]. This Francis Drake was cousin of the JOHN DRAKE who made a brief appearance in New England in the early 1630s, and who also received a bequest in his will.

COMMENTS: At court 5 March 1646/5) Walter Grey was found guilty of "behaving to invade the affection of Mr. Hooker's maid" [RPG 155]. On 1 June 1654 Samuel Allen was ordered to pay Marston Hooker three loads of wood for the one he consumed he stole from her [RPG 127].

The last four children, according to the estimates made here, were born during a short span of time. Perhaps Samuel was born after the son who died in 1634.

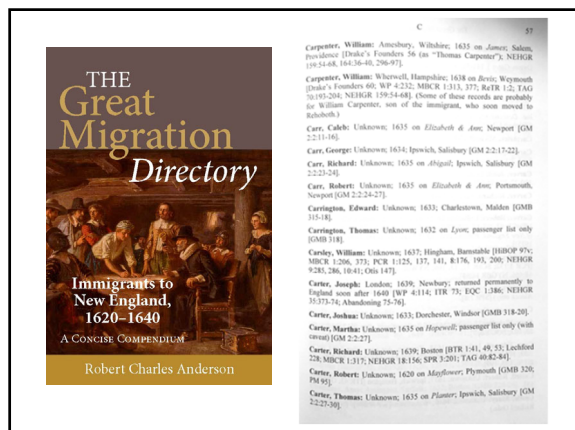
BIOGEOGRAPHIC NOTE: Mather wrote a lengthy biographical sketch of Thomas Hooker [Magalla 352-52]. Brief accounts of the life of Thomas Hooker have been published in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the *Dictionary of American Biography*. In 1977 Frank Shaf-Bates wrote a comprehensive, full-length biography of Hooker [Thmas Hooker: 1586-1647] (reprinted 1977).

— HOPKINS

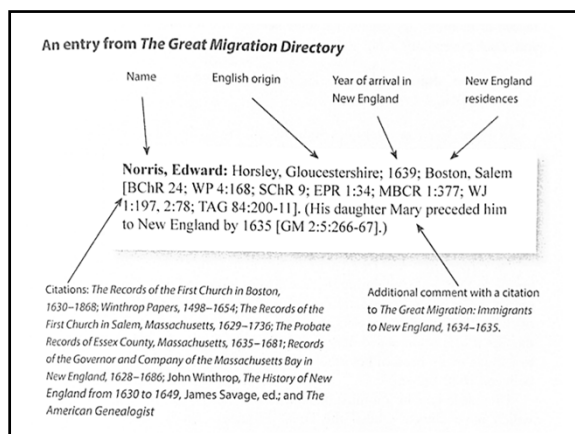
"Mr. Hopkins" was granted a covenant lot (probably one acre) in Cambridge, 4 November 1633 [CATR 6].

COMMENTS: In 1634 a John Hopkins appeared in Cambridge [CATR 9], and then made the move to Hartford, where he died in 1654. He was given the title of respect, did not hold land in Coward Row at the time of the Cambridge land inventory in 1635 [CaBOP 26, 46], and was not given to be the recipient of this grant of land. Mr. Edward Hopkins who arrived in Boston in 1637 soon moved to Hartford where he served for many years as Governor and Deputy Governor. He may have made a brief appearance in Cambridge in 1635, and then repented his neighbors in Hartford four years later, but this isolated record from 1635 may just as well be for some other "Mr. Hopkins" altogether.

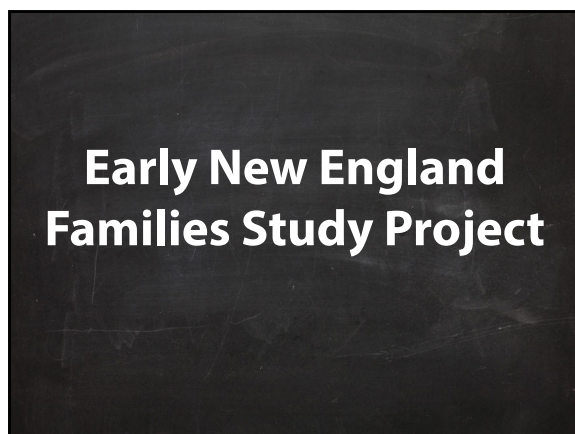
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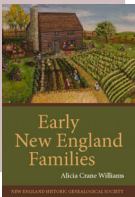
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39

Early New England Families

- Directed by Alicia Crane Williams
- Genealogical and biographical sketch for those who married in New England from 1641 to 1700 (uses Torrey as guide)
- Grouped by year of marriage
- Two published volumes
- ★ Searchable at AmericanAncestors.org
- New sketches posted online



40



AmericanAncestors.org/publications/early-new-england-research

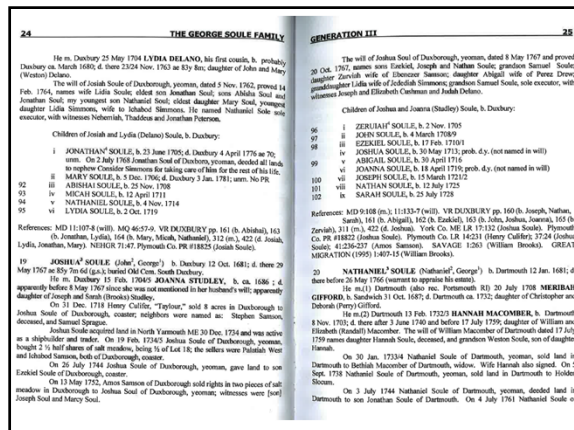
41

Mayflower Families

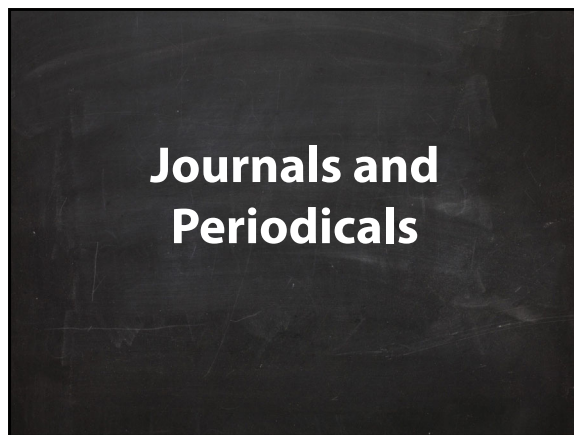
- Project provides well-documented lineages of the ship's passengers
- ★ At AmericanAncestors.org
 - Index of all the 5th Generation descendants, their spouses, and children
 - Searchable database at AmericanAncestors.org



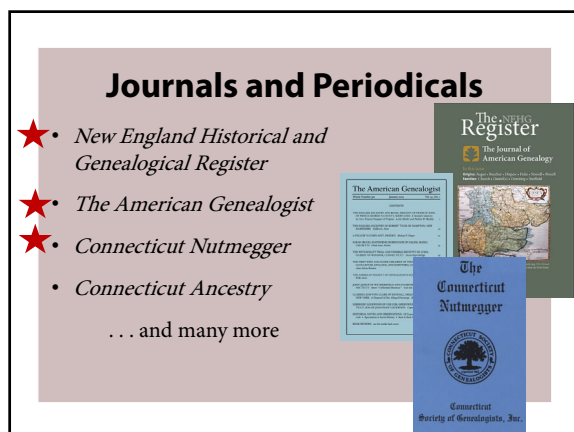
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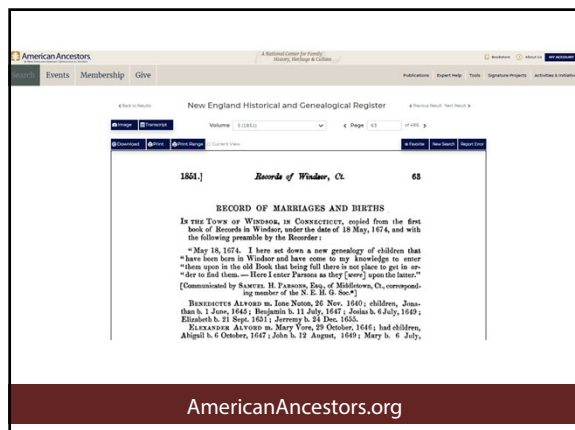
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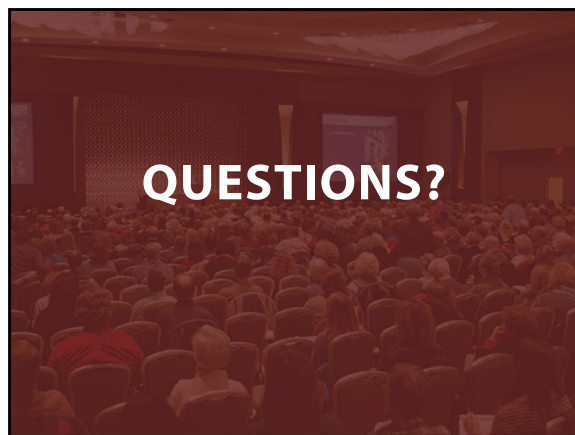
44



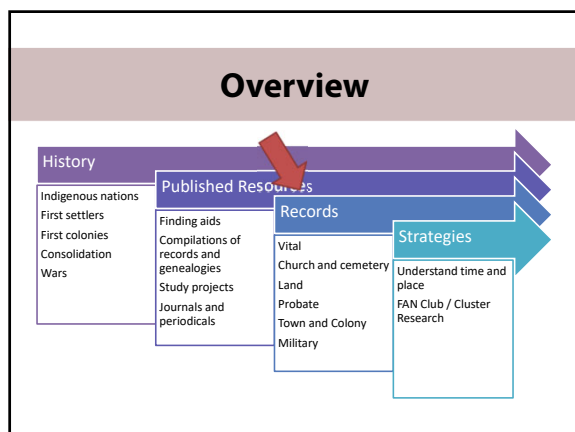
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46



47



48

Early Connecticut Records

- Vital and church records: birth, baptism, marriage, death, burial, gravestone
- Land records: grants and deeds
- Probate records: will, inventory, guardianship
- Town and Colony: meetings, actions, records, censuses
- Court: lawsuits, probate
- Military records: Colony, town militia

49

But First, Jurisdictions

50

Jurisdictions for Records

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town → State	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town → State	County	County
Massachusetts	Town → State	County	County
New Hampshire	Town → State	County	County
Rhode Island	Town → State	Town	Town
Vermont	Town → State	Town	Probate Districts

51

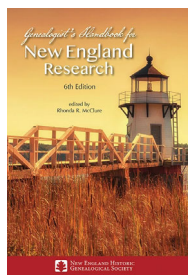
Overview of Colonial Government

- Colony
 - Fundamental Orders of Connecticut 1639
 - Connecticut Charter – 1662
 - General Court of Connecticut
- Towns
 - Selectmen
 - Elected officers (Town Clerk)
 - Responsible for vital records, town grants of land, Overseers of the Poor
- Courts
 - 1666 - Hartford, Fairfield, New Haven, and New London for probate and other affairs

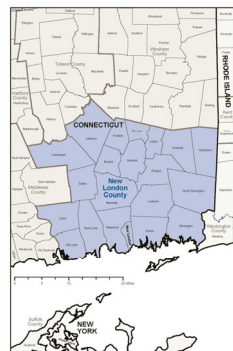
52

Tip
Learn about the town!

53

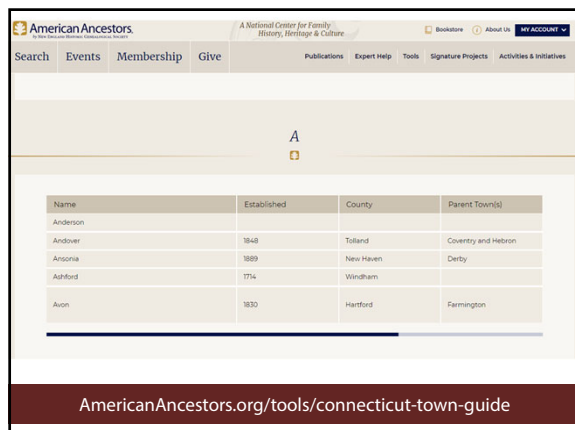


Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 6th Ed, Windham County Map, p. 82



54

[illegible][illegible]



A screenshot of the AmericanAncestors.org website. The header includes the site logo, navigation links (Search, Events, Membership, Give), and a user account section. Below the header is a large search bar with a magnifying glass icon. Underneath the search bar is a table with the following columns: Name, Established, County, and Parent Town(s). The table lists several towns: Anderson, Andover, Ansonia, Ashford, and Avon. At the bottom of the page, there is a red banner with the URL AmericanAncestors.org/tools/connecticut-town-guide.

Name	Established	County	Parent Town(s)
Anderson			
Andover	1848	Tolland	Coventry and Hebron
Ansonia	1889	New Haven	Derby
Ashford	1774	Windham	
Avon	1830	Hartford	Farmington

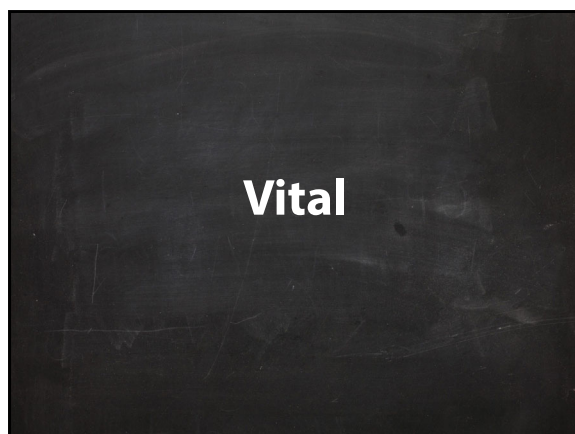
58



A screenshot of the FamilySearch.org Research Wiki page for Hamden, New Haven County, Connecticut Genealogy. The page has a sidebar with various navigation links and a main content area. The main content area includes a table of contents with links to various records and a brief history section. The brief history section states that Hamden is a town in New Haven County, Connecticut, United States Genealogy. It was originally settled by Puritans as part of the town of New Haven, Hamden was purchased by Theophilus Eaton and Reverend John Davenport in 1636 from the local Quinnipiac (Quinnipiack) Native American tribe. It remained a part of New Haven until 1786 when 1,400 local residents incorporated the area as a separate town, naming it after the English statesman John Hampden. The Farmington Canal, which ships traveled from New Haven northward, passed through Hamden between 1825 and 1848.

Contents [hide]
1 Brief History
2 Cemeteries
3 Church Records
4 City Directories
5 Land Records
6 Libraries and Historical Societies
7 Maps
8 Newspapers
9 Probate Records
10 Town Histories
11 Town Records
11.1 Town Clerk
12 Vital Records
12.1 Births
12.2 Marriages
12.3 Deaths
13 References

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Vital Records

- Kept by towns since earliest settlement of community
- Generally are well-kept, but not always complete
- Originals at Town Clerk's office or Connecticut State Library
- Barbour Collection provides easiest access to Connecticut Vital Records
- FamilySearch.org in process of digitizing original records

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Barbour Collection

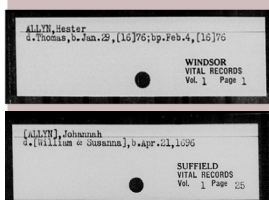
- Compiled under the direction of Lucius Barnes Barbour
- Statewide alphabetical **slip index** – available FamilySearch.org
- **Bound volumes** by town – available AmericanAncestors.org, Ancestry.com (\$), FamilySearch.org



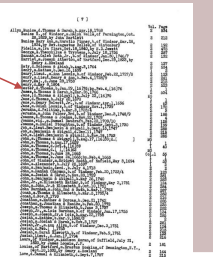
62

Barbour Collection

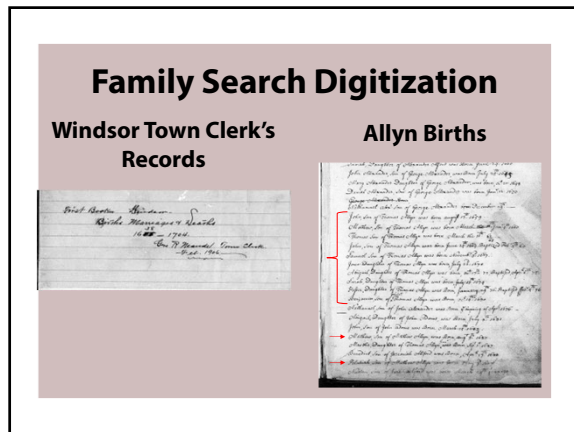
Slip Index (FS)



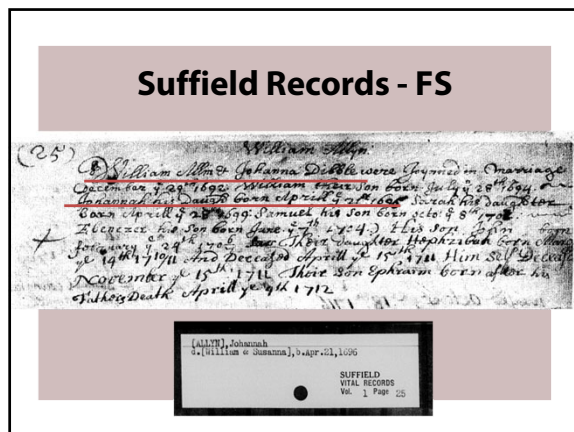
Town Page (AA)



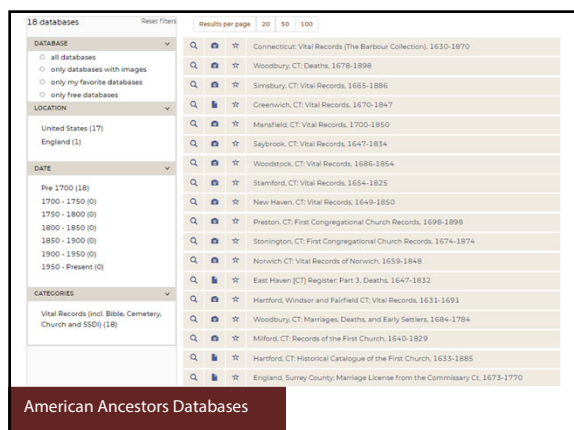
63



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Vital Record Pitfalls

- Not all VRs were recorded
- Sometime just “son” or “daughter” was recorded
- Events may have occurred in one town, but were recorded in another

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Church and Cemetery

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Tip:

Can't find a VR?
Use substitute sources!

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Church Records

- Baptisms, deaths, and burials
- Admissions of church members
- Disciplinary records
- Letters of dismissal



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Connecticut Church Records

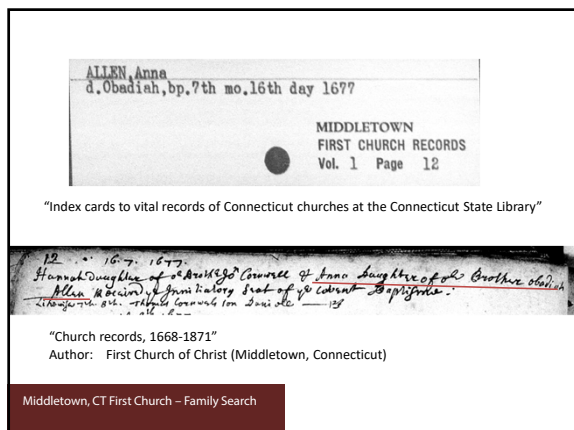
- Most complete holdings of church records are at the Connecticut State Library
 - Digital listing of their complete church record holdings online
- FamilySearch.org
 - “Index cards to vital records of Connecticut churches at the Connecticut State Library”
 - Index covers one quarter of all records held by Connecticut State Library
 - Check the FamilySearch.org catalog, by town, for digitized original record
 - “Connecticut, Church Records, 1660-1955”
 - “Connecticut, Marriages, 1630-1997”
 - “Connecticut, Births and Christenings, 1649-1906”

71

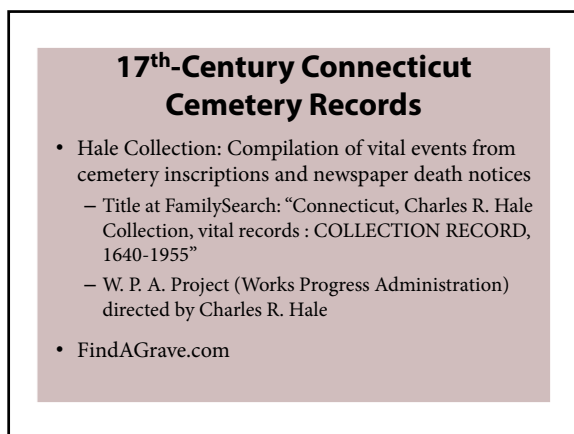
Connecticut Church Records

- “Connecticut, U.S., Church Record Abstracts, 1630-1920” – Ancestry.com
- Congregational Church Archives
 - Simsbury (1697)
 - Lebanon (1697)

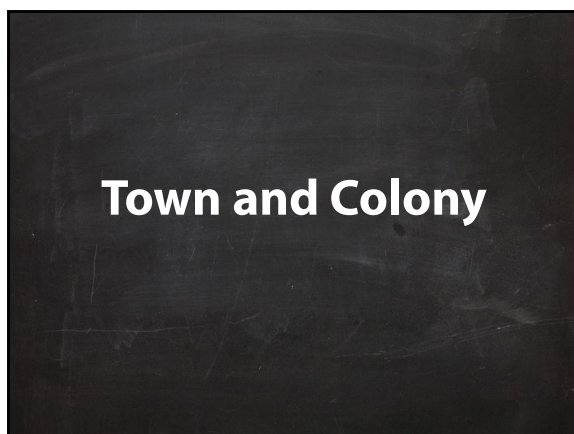
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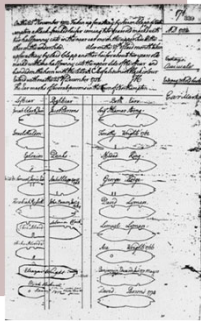


75

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)



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Why are Town Records Important?

- They are one of the most underutilized resources from 17th to 19th century
- 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

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Index to Connecticut Town Records

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION,
TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	4	1654-1900	No.....	No.
Land records.....	18	1654-1900	No.....	Yes.
Vital statistics.....	12	1804-1900	No.....	Yes.
School society.....	2			

Early vital statistics have been copied by present town clerk.

TOWN OF MILFORD, COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	6	1606-1900	No.....	No.
Land records.....	67	1620-1900	No.....	Vols. 1-30.
Vital statistics.....	7	1603-1900	Yes.....	No.
School society.....		1603-1900	In c o m p l e t e.	
Church (First Congregational).....				

a Very few entries from 1800 to 1847.

Index to Connecticut Town Records Annual report of the American Historical Association - 1906 v. 2

78

Where to Find 17th Century Town and Colony Records?

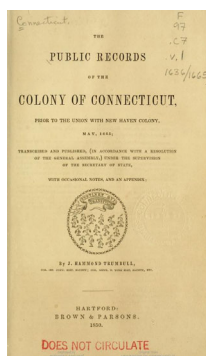
- Connecticut Archives index
 - “Towns and lands, 1629-1789”: 10 volumes
 - “Towns and lands, 1649-1820”: five volumes
 - Searchable by name
- Local town & city clerk's offices, or historical societies have originals
- Some town records have been imaged on microfilm or digitally from the FHL Library – use Catalog > Place Search

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Colony Records

- Available for
 - Colony of Connecticut
 - Colony of New Haven
 - Colony of Saybrook – vital records only
- Includes:
 - Minutes of colonial officials
 - Earliest mention of male inhabitants of colony

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Colony Records – Hathi Trust

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Land

82

Connecticut Land Deeds

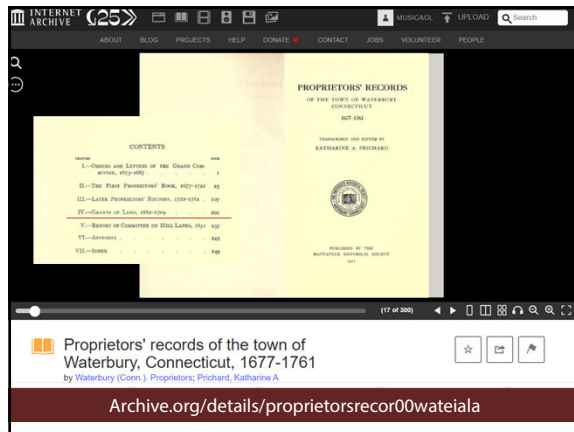
- Earliest land was granted by Connecticut General Court to town Proprietors
- Proprietors distributed land within town
- Records held by towns, digitized by FamilySearch.org
- No statewide or county index to deeds

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Where to Locate Proprietor Records

- Town Hall, Town clerk, tax office or assessor
- Libraries and Historical Societies
- Family History Library
- Published transcriptions
 - *Original distribution of the lands in Hartford among the settlers, 1639.*
 - *Proprietors' Records of the Town of Waterbury, 1677-1761*
 - Search HathiTrust.org or Archive.org for ancestor's town

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Other Published Sources

- Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut
 - Volume 1: 1636 – 1665
 - Volume 2: 1665 – 1678
 - Volume 3: 1678 - 1689
 - Volume 4: 1689 - 1706
 - HathiTrust.org or Archive.org
- Use Proprietor records to determine the earliest date of settlement for your family

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PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CONNECTICUT. 103

TOWN OF DERRY, COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	4	1629-1800	No.....	No.
Land records.....	80	1629-1800	No.....	Gen. index.
Vital statistics.....	9	1812-1800	No.....	Yes.
Religious.....	6			

* Prior to 1812 vital statistics were recorded in land and town records.
Land records, vols. 1 and 2 have been copied by Daughters of Revolution.
General index to vital statistics, 1812-1830; since then volume index.

TOWN OF DURHAM, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX.

Kind of records.	Volumes.	Years.	Missing.	Indexed.
Town proceedings.....	4	1720-1800	All prior to 1730.	No.
Land records.....	20	1600-1800	Yes.	Yes.
Vital statistics.....	3	1815-1800	Yes.	Yes.
Religious.....	3			
School records.....	1	1736-1812		
Proprietors.....				

* According to Fowler's history of Durham records existed back to 1602, but no trace can be obtained of them.
* Land records have index of grants; vols. 1-10 partial record of grants.
* Early book of land and proprietors' records contains early vital statistics; some found in town records.
* Vol. 1, land records, contains early proprietors' records; earlier proprietors' records are missing. (Fowler.)
* Miscellaneous records: Joint stock corporations, 1 volume; landmarks and dog register, 1; elections, 1; attachments, 17; surveys, 1; accounts with families of volunteers, 1; account book of sheep masters of Durham (town book), 1.

Inventory of Connecticut Town Records

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Probate

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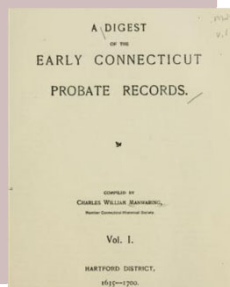
Connecticut Probate Records

- Proof of death (between date of will and probate)
- Family relationships, widow, legatees
 - Personal bequests
- Financial status, land ownership
- Be sure to confirm the accuracy and completeness of published records

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Where to Find 17th-Century Probate Records

- Charles Williams Manwaring, *A Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Volume 1 covers to 1700. Available at Archive.org
- AmericanAncestors.org ("Connecticut: Early Probate Records, 1635-1750")



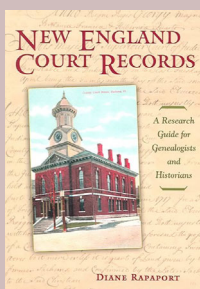
90

Courts

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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
 - Divorce
- Few images available; FHL Microfilm



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Particular Court 1639-1663

- First court to hear probate cases
- Published in *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Hartford, CT: Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society) vol. 22
- AmericanAncestors.org: "Connecticut: Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of CT, 1687-1688"

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Court of Particulars

Court fees
ye Clerk said:
March 17th
M^r Davis taking
bond—2 s 6

Attended
5th day

Jehoj: Bartlett being p'sented by ye Grand Jury ye 5th of yis Instant for being drunk, he was subhoed before yis Court and appeared; was Convicted by testimony of being drunke it being the second time./ This Court Doe sentence him, that he shall find two sufficient suertyes to be bound in ye sum of ten pounds, wth Condition of good behavior, and for want of such suertyes, to be sent to ye gaol./

Jere: Gillet and Jn^r Williams of Symsbury was p' sented by the grand Jury ye 5th June Instant for not proeing to meting was Summoned and appeared before yis p'sent Court, & ye Court hearing what they had to say for yemselves and they p'omising Reformation, ye Court so Cause to pass yis by

Nath Winchell of Winda' being p'sented by ye grand Jury in March Last, for neglecting ye publick ordis-
nances on ye Sabath, and withdrawing in time of Excer-
cise & making uproar in the Street/ was sumoussed and appeared before ye Court and being Convicted. The

An Inventory of the Estate of Daniell Gare Decesased was exhibited in Court and oath made that there was a true p'sentm' of the Estate to the Apriaⁿ so far as at p'sent is known and if more Come to knowledge she will Cause it to be added to the Inventory./ This Court grants administration on the Estate to the widow and desire and order Capt Caleb Standly and John Marsh ov'scers to assist the widow that the estate may be Improved for the best advantage that she may not be a Towne Charge./

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Court of Assistants

- Appeals court
- Also divorce, murder, witchcraft
- AmericanAncestors.org: "Minutes of the Court of Assistants, 1669-1711"

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A Court of Asisten^r at hartford may: 17: 1669.

upon the humble Petition of **Mary Barns** the wife of **Charls Barns** the [sic] shee might bee [word crossed out] Redleased from her matrimoniall Bond and Engagement to the said Barnes this Counte [sic] having duely Considered ~~tee~~ the that p'mises with the Evidences p'sented Doe finde y^e y^e said Barnes hath wilfully deser'd his wife at and that if the one of them if not both of both them haue Committed adultery and therefore doe Declare that they doe relese the said mary from her Coniugall relation matrimonial bond to the said Charls Barnes.

Court of Assistants - Divorce

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Military Records

- Two major conflicts: Pequot War and King Philip's War
- Few details for 17th century muster rolls
 - Mostly Colony records, originals at State Archives
 - Town records – local militia
- Military history chapters appear in many published town histories

Soldiers in King Philip's War
George Madison Dodge
with a preface by David Allen Lamborn

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PATTISON, EDWARD—Service mentioned. (Mason and Savage.) Enlisted from Wethersfield. (Tuttle, Dodge and Miller's War.) From Saybrook. (Tarbox.)

Probably came in the Christian, 1632. Sikes says that "his widow right soon caused several Indians to 'bite the dust.'" He was of New Haven 1639, a proprietor of Rehoboth, Mass., 1643, where his land was forfeited. Two children. (Savage, 1792; and Nash's Fifty Puritan Ancestors, p. 168.)

PHILLIPS, WILLIAM—Enlisted from Hartford. (Tarbox, Tuttle, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field.

Was early of Hartford where he died 1655. No children. (Tarbox, Savage and Manswaring, Vol. I, p. 143.)

PIERCE, JOHN—Enlisted from Hartford. (Tarbox and Tuttle.) Had a lot north of Soldiers' Field.

An early inhabitant of Hartford lost removed before 1639. In 1642 the town gave his land to William Clark. (Tarbox, Savage and H. T. V., p. 63.)

PLUMB, JOHN—Enlisted from Wethersfield. (Adams and Silver's Web.)

He came to Danvers, Mass., 1635, moved a second in which he probably came to Wethersfield, 1636, which some think was employed to carry Haver's soldiers in 1637. Removed to Stratford about 1642 and died 1648. Nine children. (Weth. Gen. Savage, Plumb's Plumb Family, p. 1; N. H. C. R., pp. 392 and 401, and Alexander, p. 567.)

PRATT, WILLIAM—Enlisted from Hartford. (Tarbox, Tuttle, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field.

An original proprietor of Hartford, removed to Saybrook, 1645. Was keeper of James 1720, 1666. Died about 1678. Eight children. (Tarbox, Whitelsey's Descendants of John Pratt, p. 9; Pratt's Pratt Family, pp. 42 to 51; Savage, Manswaring, Vol. I, p. 194, and Tuttle, p. 103.)

PURKAS, JOHN—Enlisted from Hartford. (Tarbox, Tuttle, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field. He had land in Hartford in the distribution of 1639, died 1642. Two daughters. (Tarbox, Weth. Gen. Savage, Manswaring, Vol. I, p. 30; C. R., Vol. I, p. 496, and Nash's Fifty Puritan Ancestors, p. 39.)

ROGERS, JAMES—Service mentioned. (C. R., Vol. II, p. 16.) Enlisted from Saybrook. (Tarbox.)

Came in the Increase, 1635, was of Saybrook, 1637, then of Stratford, of Milford, about 1645, and New London, 1656. Died 1668. Seven children. (Rogers' James Rogers and Descendants, pp. 27 to 38; Savage, Cuthbert, pp. 90 to 92 and 201 to 203; Pope, Pope's Story Ye Memorial at Milford, p. 18, and Abwater, p. 64.)

ROOT, THOMAS—Enlisted from Hartford. (Tarbox, Tuttle, Dodge, Stuart and Parker.) Had a lot in Soldiers' Field.

Was early of Salem, Mass., removed to Hartford about 1632, to Northampton, Mass., 1634, where he died 1694. Eight children. (Tarbox, Root's Root Genealogical Research, pp. 100 to 103; Savage and Tuttle, p. 103.)

ROSE, ROBERT—Enlisted from Wethersfield. (Adams and Silver's Web.)

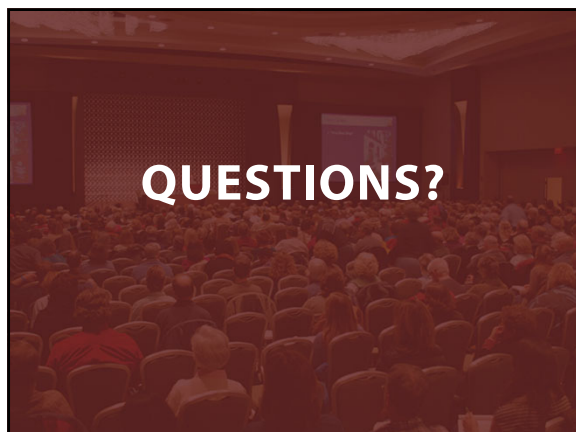
Came to New England 1634 and became one of the first settlers of Wethersfield 1634 or '5. Removed to Stratford 1642, where he died 1666. Two children. (Weth. Gen., Orcutt's Hist. Stratford, p. 1275; Savage and Abwater, p. 66.)

ROSE, ROBERT, JR.—Service mentioned. (Stratford Land Records, Book I, p. 232; and Orcutt's Hist. Stratford, p. 1293.)

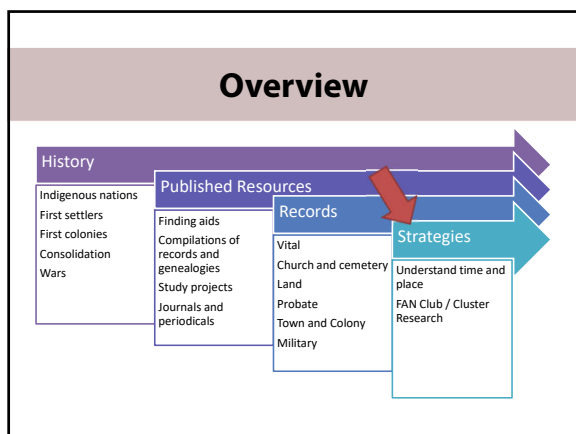
He was son of Robert and Margery Rose, came with his parents in 1634, and settled at Wethersfield. He removed to Stratford before 1654 and to Stratford about 1662, where he gave his son-in-law, Moses Johnson, 20 or 60 acres in 1679, that was "granted me for services in the Pequot war." He had a Colonial grant of 30 acres in 1668, with no mention of service, which grant was finally taken up by and confirmed to Thomas Weller.

Connecticut Soldiers in Pequot War

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Common Challenges

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

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General Considerations and Suggestions

- You may not find one “smoking-gun” record; you may need to build a case with multiple records
- Essential Strategy: Research the ancestors associates and neighbors (Cluster Research or FAN Club Research)
- Some records may be less reliable than others; seek originals if you can
- May need to have, and exhaust, several working theories

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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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Strategy for Sorting Common Names

- What makes each person unique?
 - Dates of vital events
 - Names of wife and children
 - Specific plot of land occupied
- Timeline valuable in common names situations

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Strategy for Finding the Maiden Name

- Who were the neighbors?
- Who are the associates of the husband?
- If the family were early settlers, where did they migrate from?
 - Earliest settlers of Woodstock were from Roxbury, MA
 - Ebenezer Grosvenor of Roxbury arrived in Pomfret, the town south of Woodstock, in 1699 and married Ann ??? In 1707
 - Correlation of births in Roxbury, MA settlers of Woodstock narrowed possible candidates to Ann Massey/Marcy and Ann Lyon

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And keep in mind . . .

- Terms of kinship may have different meanings in 17th-century:
 - 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” typically mean younger versus older and 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?

Schedule a consultation
consultations@americanancestors.org

Hire Research Services
research@americanancestors.org

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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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