









Define your Research Goal

What are your objectives?



- Looking for birth, marriage or death information?
- Determine a maiden name?
- Identify parents or other female relatives?
- Add context to your female ancestor's life?

Bryant and Taggart Family Papers, Mss 1148

Think Outside the Box

- Think about the types of records you'll need
- Who would have created such a record?
- How do I go about finding it?
- Look for material created by others



Joyce Grubaugh Holbrook Collection, Mss 1230

Gather Information on Your Ancestor

Huldah (Peaslee) Chase, 1776-1854				
Places Associated	Surnames Associated	Religion	Ethnicity	Societies
Seabrook/ Pittsfield, NH	Chase		English	
Salem, MA	Locke		English	
NH, Salem, MA	Bousley		English	

Gathering information on your ancestor will help to identify potential archives that could help you find more information

Archives

- Unpublished
- One of a kind, unique
- Lack bibliographic features
- Created by person, organization or govt. body
- Closed stacks, staff retrieves
- High security



Unpublished Materials in Archives

- Diaries/Letters/Personal Papers
- Photographs/Postcards/Scrapbooks
- Material Culture (samplers, quilts, clothing, etc.)
- Business/Society/Organizational papers
- Social Club Records/ School Yearbooks, etc.
- Video and Audio files
- Oral histories
- Genealogical Research Papers

Where to Find Archives

Cultural Institutions

- Libraries
- Museums
- Historic Houses
- Historical Societies
- Genealogical Societies

Other Locations to Consider

- Colleges
- Government Facilities
- Corporations
- Religious Institutions
- Social Clubs
- Personal Collections

Manuscripts at American Ancestors

Most popular

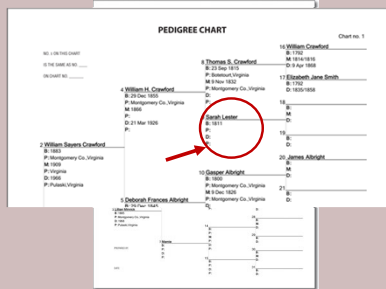
- Bible and family records
- Cemetery transcriptions
- Church records
- Town records
- Unpublished genealogies

Collections

- Genealogical research
 - Client research
 - Surname
 - Geographic
 - Ethnic
- Personal and Family papers
 - Letters
 - Diaries
 - Photos
 - School and business records
 - Genealogical research

Seeking names and dates

Filling in the blanks



Bible and Family Records

This is a handwritten Bible record for the Justin Alvord family. It lists the names of family members and their birth and death dates. The record is written in a cursive script on a piece of paper with a decorative border.

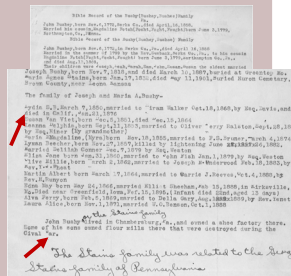
Bible record for the Justin Alvord family, Mss C 211

This is a handwritten family register for the Lemuel Drake family. It features a decorative header with the title "FAMILY REGISTER" and a small illustration of a family scene. The register lists the names of family members and their birth and death dates, written in a cursive script.

Lemuel Drake family register, Mss A 8897

Bible records

- Can record place of birth
 - Trace migration patterns of the family
- Identifies other family members
 - Widen focus of research
- Other information
 - Obituaries

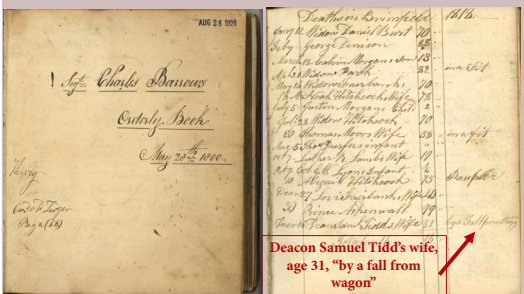


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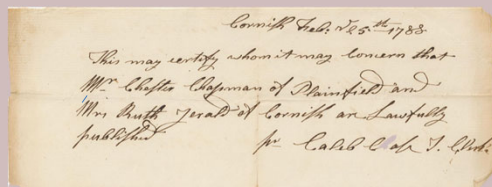
Book of Records by David Livermore (1769-1827) of Watertown, Mass., Mss A 8100

Orderly Book with deaths for Brimfield, Mass. 1817-1821, 1827-1834



Sgt. Charles Barrows Orderly Book, 1800-1835, Mss A 1932

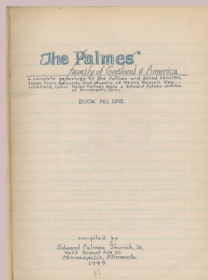
Marriage Intentions Cornish, New Hampshire



Joshua Wyman Wellman Papers 1720-1918, Mss 381

Unpublished Genealogies

- No published book on your family history?
- At American Ancestors:
 - New England core strength
 - Northeast and Midwest research
 - Atlantic Canada



QUESTIONS?

Genealogical Research Collections

- Types of Collections
 - Surname
 - Place
 - Client research
 - Ethnic groups
- Strengths and weaknesses
 - Original documents/letters
 - Extensive research of families
 - Transcription errors
 - Personal recollection may contain errors



Image from Inman Collection
SG INM 1 [228]

Tip

Trace Surnames and
Place names

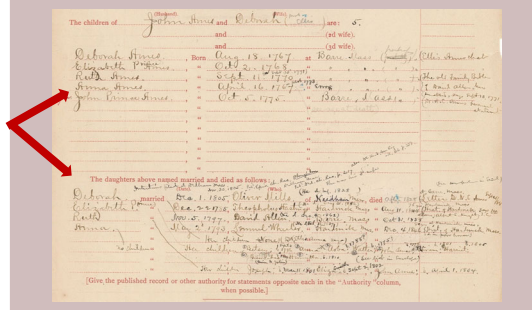
Surnames

- Follow the men!
- Search for collections with associated surnames
- Use our library catalog
 - Use keyword search feature



Image from Brotherton Indian Collection
(Rudi Ottery Papers), Mss 395

Surname Collections



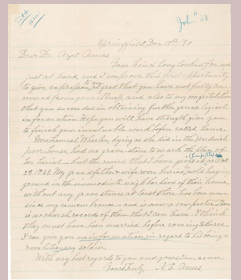
Azel Ames Papers, SG AME [214], tracing Desc. of William Ames, Braintree, Mass.

Genealogical correspondence

Letter dated 18 Dec 1890

“Mrs. Lemuel Wheeler
[Anna Ames], dying as
she did in the Hardwick
[Mass.] poor-house, had
no grave-stone to mark
the place of her burial...”

Anna (Ames) Wheeler,
c.1773-1846



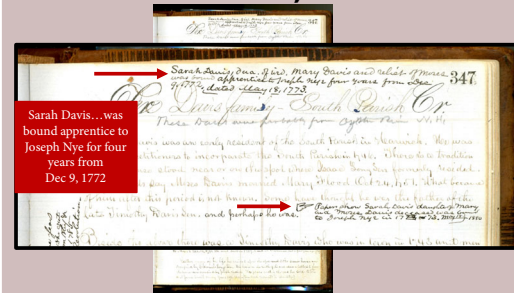
Geographic Locations

- Look for materials specific to a locality
- Collections of note at American Ancestors:
 - Josiah Paine - Harwich, MA families
 - Gilbert Doane - Families of Fairfield, VT
 - Wayne Charles Hart - Farmington, CT



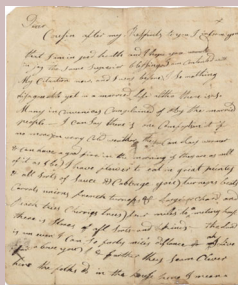
Image from Bertrand Chapman Family Papers, Mss H 30 (of Springfield, VT)

Moses Davis Family of Harwich, MA



Sarah Davis... was bound apprentice to Joseph Nye for four years from Dec 9, 1772

Albert Dunham Papers



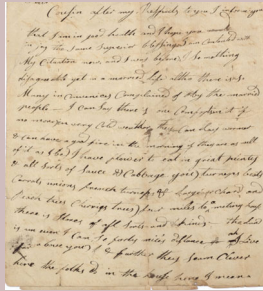
Albert M. Dunham papers, 1733-1984, Mss 90

- Descendants of John Dunham of Plymouth
- Genealogies, correspondence
- Albert Dunham's personal papers
 - Descriptions by female relatives documenting early life in Brattleboro, VT

Albert Dunham Papers

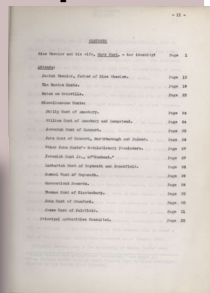
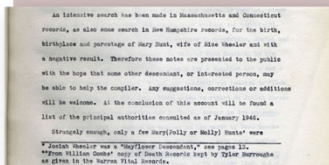
"Dear Cousin,
...I inform you I am in
good health.."

Letter to Esther (Barrows)
Dunham of Hillsborough
from Lydia Carpenter,
Brattleboro, VT
(late 18th century)



Women Record Keepers

- Winifred Lovering Holman,
1899-1989
 - Focused on Early New
England and mostly traced
male line



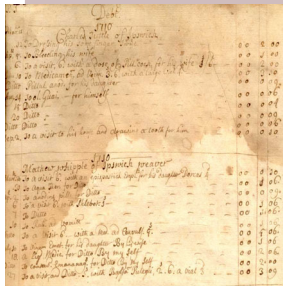
Mary (Hunt) Wheeler Mss A 5340

Tip
Chat up the
archivist!

Tip

Identify records of
Clergy, Justices of the
Peace, or Physicians

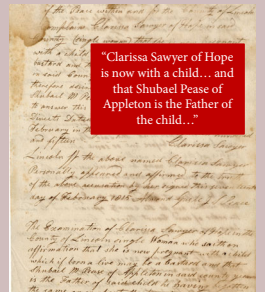
Physician's records



- Account book of Rev. Samuel Wigglesworth, 1710-1768 (Mss A 1044)
- Practiced medicine in Ipswich, MA 1710-1712
- Accounts mention treatment of females in household

Almond Gushee (1773-1859), Justice of the Peace

- Resided Hope, Maine
 - Heard cases in his home
- Court cases 1800-1815
- Four bastardy cases among papers
 - All women residents of Hope, Maine
 - All name the fathers of the children
 - Court order for the accused to appear before judge



"Clarissa Sawyer of Hope is now with a child... and that Shubael Pease of Appleton is the Father of the child..."





City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division

Guide to the Temporary Home for Women and Children records

This finding aid was prepared using the Archival Toolkit
With funding from a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC)

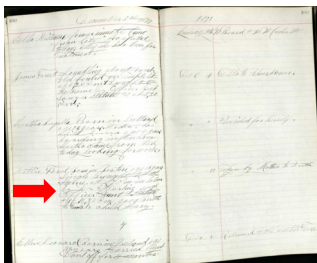
Repository:	City of Boston Archives and Records Management Division
Title:	Temporary Home for Women and Children records
Collection No.:	1720-001
Accession:	1857-1893
Quantity:	2.0 Cubic Feet (2 volumes)

TABLE OF CONTENTS	SERIES LIST
Related units	Series 1: Registers of inmates admitted
Scope and Contents note	Series 2: Inmates in custody
Historical note	Series 3: Record of inmates, admitted and added at the City Temporary Home
	Series 4: Inmate admission records

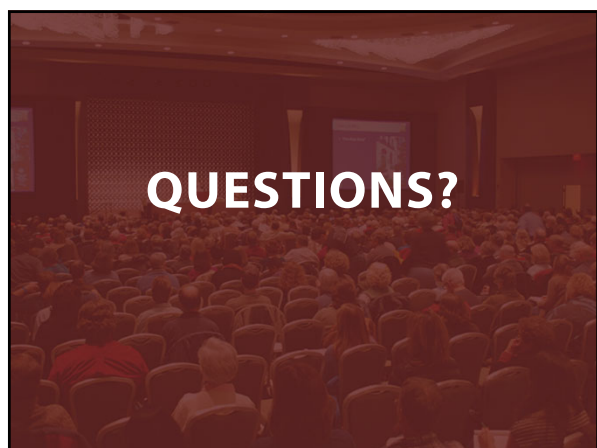
Historical note

The Overseers of the Poor in the Town of Boston, a commission established in 1773 by Act of the Legislature, were authorized to build the Temporary Home "for the use of the City of Boston," "for the use of the Overseers of the Poor." In 1857, the name of the Board was changed to Overseers of the Public Welfare. In 1871, the official name of the Department was changed to the Public Department. The Public Department was established as a separate agency by Chapter 184A of the Acts of 1893.

In 1871, the Board of Overseers of Public Welfare was established, and supervised the annual admission of inmates to the Temporary Home. The admissions were reported to the Board. The Board of Overseers of the Public Welfare, and others who were not present when the records were made for each person as they were admitted, recorded the date of admission of the inmate for the day, and then checked the next day. To supply this note the Board of Overseers, Overseers of the Poor, Police etc. made



Nellie Ford, age 18 yrs., admission record, 3 December 1877 and gave birth to a child Mary. Records of the Temporary Home for Women and Children: Series 1 - Registers of inmates Admitted, 1857-1893 with Gaps, available at the City of Boston Archives, West Roxbury, Massachusetts.



Personal and Family Papers at American Ancestors

Using Personal and Family Papers

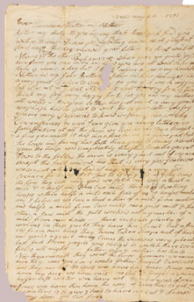
- Types of materials
 - Original records
 - Bible and family records
 - Correspondence
 - Diaries/scrapbooks/photos
 - School and business records
 - Genealogical research
- Strengths and weaknesses
 - Everyday life and work
 - Insight into women's lives
 - Eyewitness accounts to historical events
 - Records related to only that family



Photo of Elenore Filmore from the Marjorie Stewart Papers

Life in the Maine wilderness

- 1781 letter to 'Honored Father and Mother' from Olive (Hovey) Pope (1746-1829)
- Arrival in Wells, ME struggles with farm
- Husband away serving in Revolutionary War



Ivory Hovey Family Papers, 1732-1798, Mss 68

Finding Aid for Ivory Hovey Papers

Location	Call No.	Status
NEHGS Database	Mss 68	AVAILABLE
	Click here to search online database	
Manuscripts	Mss 68	AVAILABLE

Description 28 items.

Summary Correspondence, sermons, ecclesiastical council decisions, church records, vital records, and other papers, relating to family affairs and Hovey's congregations. Includes letters from his sons, Dominicus (b. 1740), Ivory III (b. 1748), and Samuel (b. 1750), written from Massachusetts and New York during the Revolution, describing the evacuation of New York (1783), Siege of Boston (1775-1776), reading of the Declaration of Independence to troops in New York, and the American retreat from Ticonderoga; letter (1781) from his daughter, Olive (Hovey) Pope (b. 1746), of Wells, Me., detailing wilderness life; notations of marriages and baptisms performed by Hovey in Plymouth and records and registers of First Congregational churches in Mattapoisett and New Bedford, Mass., Second Congregational Church in Plymouth, and United Church of Christ, Little Compton, R.I. Other persons represented include Othniel Campbell, Israel Cheever, Hovey's father, Ivory Hovey (1682-1759), Jonathan Moore, and Chandler Robbins.

Cite As: Ivory Hovey papers (Mss 68), R Stanton Avery Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Note: Additional Hovey family papers (1734-1901) are held by Pilgrim Society, Plymouth, Mass.

Catalog record, Ivory Hovey papers, Mss 68

Phyllis Gillingham Hansen Papers



- Descendants of Yeamons Gillingham (d. 1722) Frankford, PA
- Correspondence, genealogies, charts
- Recollections by female relatives

Gillingham women 1950's,
Richland Co., Wisconsin

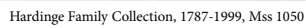
Hardinge Family Papers

- Sarah Ann Lillie (Bumstead) (Hardinge) Daniels (1824-1913)
- Abandoned by first husband, later divorced
- Takes odd jobs, moves frequently
- Becomes artist and patent holder to Pearlletta Pictures process

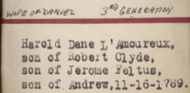


Pearlletta finish of Molly Fancher, the "Brooklyn Enigma"

(taken about 1862)



L'Amoureux Family Collection



Joyce Grubaugh Holbrook Collection, Mss 1230

[illegible]

Women at Work



"Aunt Susie in the middle, Ann Arbor, MI" Betty Lou Morris Papers

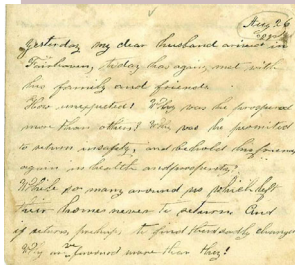
Smith College Class of 1895 Basketball Team



Hinckley Family Papers, 1796-1956, Mss 1063

What was life like...?

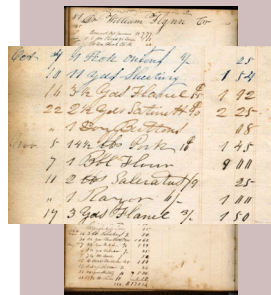
Diaries



Diary of Deidamia (Bourne) Swift, (1812-1888) Mss 658

"Why was he permitted to return in safety, and behold his friends again in health and prosperity? While so many around us which left their homes never to return..."

General Store, Cherryfield, Maine for the Year 1845



Account book for William Burnham & Sons, 1844-1849, Mss 465

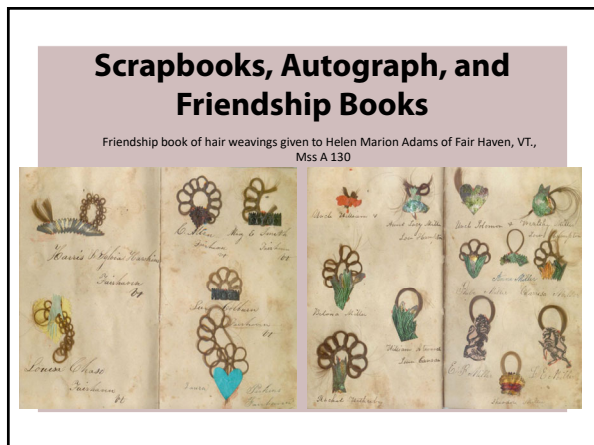
- Account under male names (William Flynn)
- Purchasing household items such as flour, ginger, 3 yds. of flannel, etc.
- Only widows listed separately
- Places ancestor in specific place at specific time

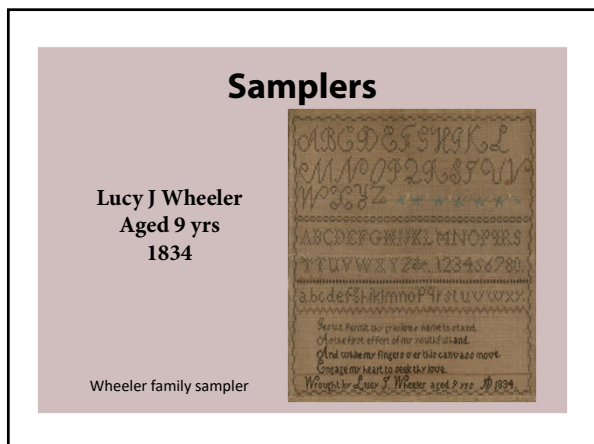
Katie McDonald

from Boston Police 1896 Mug book, Mss A 764









Accessing manuscript materials at American Ancestors

American Ancestors Library Catalog

- Information about all books & collections of the 3 repositories:
 - Brim-DeForest Library
 - R. Stanton Avery Special Collections (NEHGS)
 - Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center
- Searchable by title, author, subject, call number, and keyword
- Keyword search only searches the catalog & not the full text of an item



Tip

Start your search with our library catalog

[illegible][illegible]

Recently cataloged material related to women

- Deed of gift for enslaved female child named Venus
- Friendship Book of Fanny Gates, 1837-1844, Morristown, VT and Lowell, MA
- Letter by Catherine Bird, Lowell, Mass. to Asa Smith, Lincoln, Me.
 - Describes poor health, living in poverty
 - Requests financial assistance



Digital Library and Archive

- An online "virtual" library & archives for any type of researcher
- Browsable materials & some with searchable transcriptions
- Materials *not* indexed like a genealogical database



Unidentified young girl from Garret L. Bergen Papers, Mss C 1537



About Our Digital Library & Archives

This website contains digitized materials from the three repositories at American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society. The repositories include the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center, the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, and the Research Library. The site features digitized archival and published materials such as letters, diaries, photographs, newspapers, business records, genealogies, city directories, organizational records, and other sources for historians and genealogists. The contents focus on the study of family history in America and on the Jewish community in New England.

New to the site? Start here.

American Ancestors

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center
at New England Historic Genealogical Society



Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center

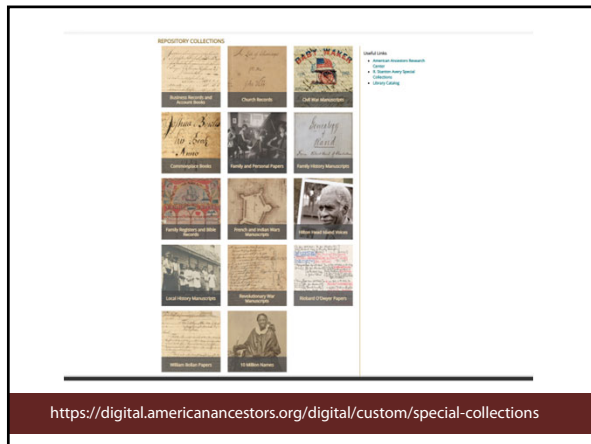


R. Stanton Avery Special Collections



Research Library

<http://digitalcollections.americanancestors.org/>

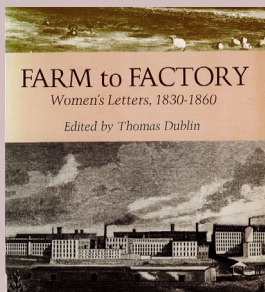




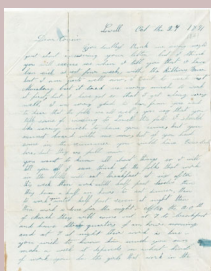


Published sources

- Examine sources used by authors
- Research for *Farm to Factory*
 - New Hampshire Historical Society
 - Merrimack Valley Textile Museum
 - University of Massachusetts [Lowell, Mass.]
 - Haverhill [Mass.] Public Library



Female worker at textile mills



"Dear Cousin,
...I will tell you all I can of the
folks that work in the Mills...we
eat our breakfast at six and work
till half past twelve..."

Letter by Charlotte ?, 1841 Oct 24, Lowell,
Mass. to Ellen Chapman, NH

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The Journal of... / Vol. 74, No. 3... / Mining the Fog.

JOURNAL ARTICLE
Mining the Forgotten: Manuscript Sources for Black Women's History

Deborah Gray White
The Journal of American History
Vol. 74, No. 3 (Jan., 1967), pp. 237-242

Published by: [Columbia University Press](#) on behalf of
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<https://www.jstor.org/stable/1909522>
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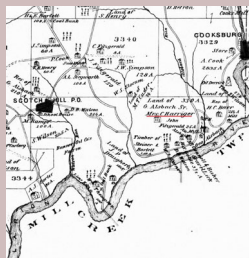
Article Thumbnails

Viewing page 237 of pages 237-242

Journal articles - JSTOR (www.jstor.org)

Focus on geographic area where ancestor last lived

- Local historical or genealogical society
- Local Libraries or Museums
- Colleges nearby
- Local newspapers or Society newsletters



1877 Map of Clarion County, PA

Schenectady County Historical Society



Visit About Calendar Programs & Sites Library & Research Give Join

About the Library

Originally housed in one of the rooms of the Schenectady History Museum, The Grems-Doolittle Library was expanded through a 3,000-square-foot addition to the building at 22 Washington Avenue in 1995. The library collects, preserves, and makes available materials that document the people, places, and history of Schenectady County and its environs.

Library holdings include books pertaining to local history, genealogies and family histories, periodicals, oral histories, diaries, newspapers, yearbooks, wills, naturalization records, maps, photographs, personal and family papers, and records of Schenectady County schools, businesses, churches, and other organizations. Guides to a number of our collections are available on our website. Our Grems-Doolittle Library Collections Shop also features highlights from some of our collections.

We invite you to visit us at 22 Washington Avenue in the Stockade Historic District in Schenectady. Visitors of all ages are welcome, and the library is staffed to help researchers find material on a variety of local history and genealogical research topics. Our Guide for Researchers page provides some basic information about using our library. Can't stop by? You can make a request for our staff and volunteers to conduct research on your behalf — visit our Research Requests page to find out more.

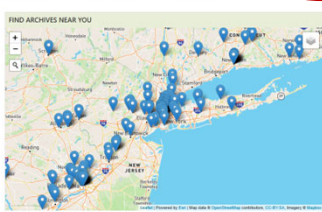
Local Library Archives (ex: <http://schenectadyhistorical.org/>)

ARCHIVEGRID

About ArchiveGrid | How to Search | Include Your Collections

"woman family work"

Search



United States
Alabama
Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware

ABOUT ARCHIVEGRID

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

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

LOOKING FOR DIGITAL CONTENT?

Some collection descriptions include links to images, sound recordings, or other online

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

Using online subject guides

- Sometimes called research guides, LibGuides, or topic guides.
- Curated collections of resources created by libraries, archives, universities, and research organizations.
- Freely accessible!
- Using subject guides:
 - Start with overview
 - Identify recommended databases
 - Explore primary sources





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- Feminism -- Illinois.
- Feminists -- Illinois -- Interviews.
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- Religion.
- Teachers -- Illinois -- Interviews.
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- Women in agriculture -- Illinois.
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- Women teachers -- Illinois -- Interviews.
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- Illinois -- Churches and religious affairs.
- Illinois -- Education -- Teachers.
- Illinois -- Medical affairs -- Nurses and nursing.
- Illinois -- Newspapers, periodicals, and journalism.
- Armbrust, Wilda Hayden -- 1914 -- Interviews.
- Bryden, Olive Leone -- 1896 -- Interviews.

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Browse by topic



Putting it all Together

Identify	Identify Archives that may have records that could reveal more about your ancestor's life.
Consider	Consider a variety of different types of archival material (letters, oral histories, photographs, material culture, etc.)
Utilize	Utilize records of other's whose lives may have been similar to learn more about the world of your ancestor.

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



SCAN ME

