Conflict and Community in Colonial New England

Class 3: Finding Primary Sources and Manuscripts

David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

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Meet today's presenter



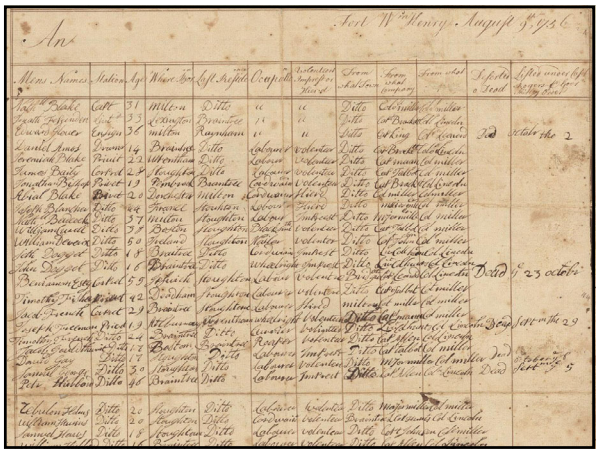
David Allen Lambert

Chief Genealogist

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
  - Strategies
  - Records
  - New England Repositories
- **Q&A** (30 mins.)

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Pre-1775

- MUSTER ROLLS
- CORRESPONDENCE
- GRAVESTONES
- VITAL RECORDS
- PROBATE RECORDS
- FAMILY LETTERS & EPHEMERA

Strategies for researching your Colonial War-era ancestor

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Strategies

- Know your colonial war history
  - Who, when, and where
  - Determine if your ancestor fought
- Search for clues
  - Does the timeline fit?
  - Don't reinvent the wheel
- Refer to authoritative published sources
  - Corroborate with originals when available
- Adopt the regiment

Adopt the Regiment

- Locate the original muster roll(s) or transcription that mentions your ancestor(s)
- Determine who the Captain and Colonel of the regiment your ancestor served in
- Research the soldiers who served with your ancestors
- Look for correspondence, journals, and diaries
- Did they fight together again?

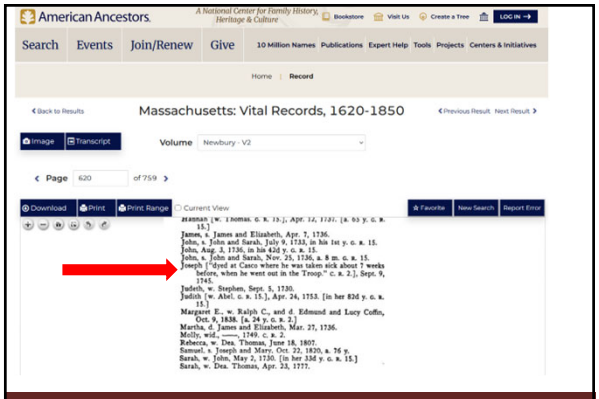


Vital and Town Records

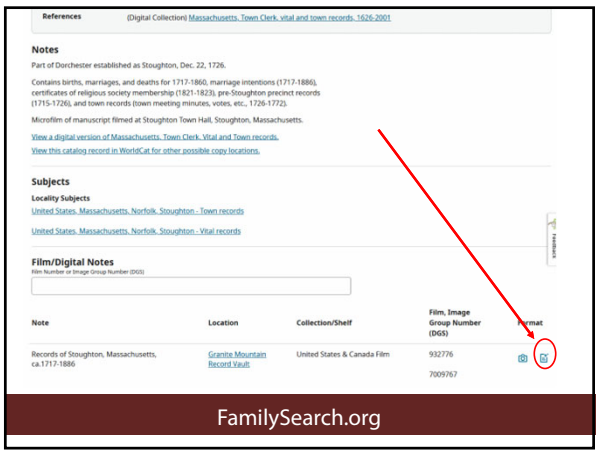
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Vital and Town Records

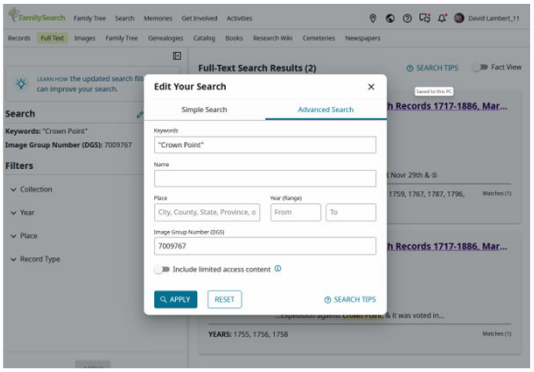
- Usually kept by New England towns from the beginning
- Why are they so important?
  - Comprised of many different types of records
  - Provide unique information
  - Track movements and migrations
  - Best source for impoverished ancestors
  - Vital record substitutes
  - Help distinguish individuals with same name
  - Give context to your ancestor's military life
  - Provide insight into community



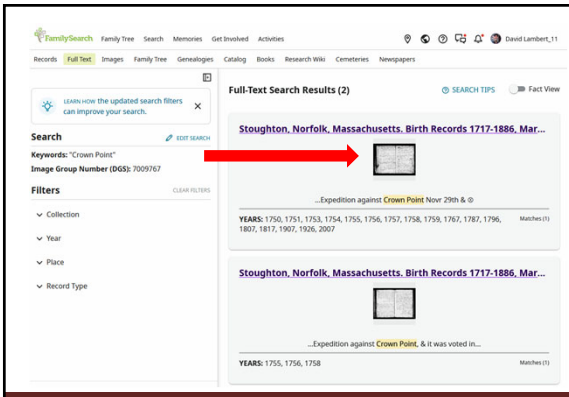
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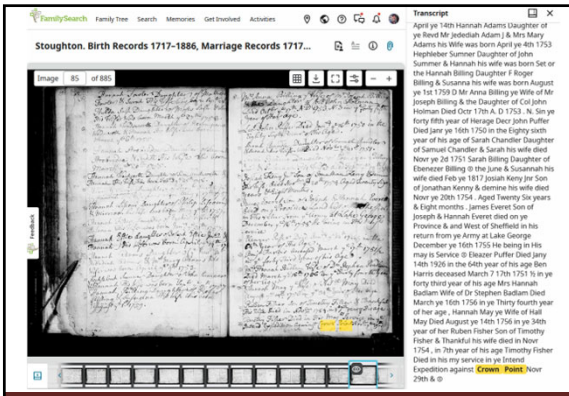
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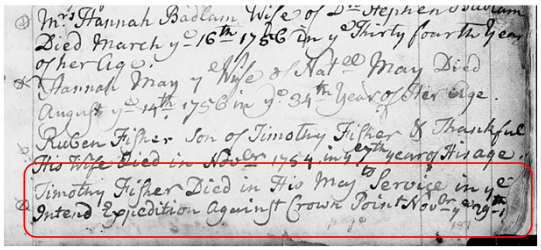
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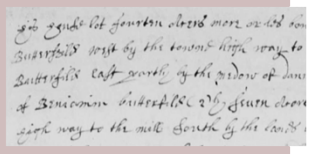


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Stoughton Mass Vital Records

Town Record Challenges

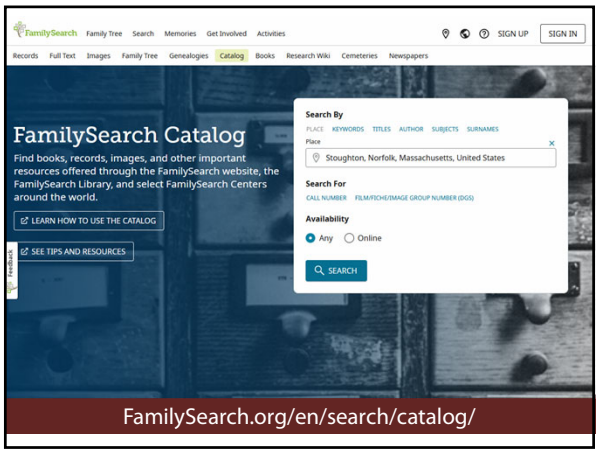


- Time consuming
- Usually, unindexed
- Poor handwriting
- Different formats
- Recorded in random order
- Difficult to access
- AI technology to the rescue?

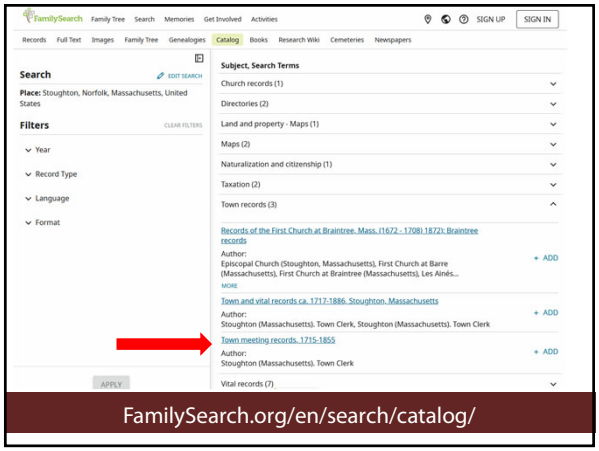
Types of Town Records

- Proprietors' Records
- Vital Records
- Land Grants
- Ear Marks
- Tax Records
- Treasurer's Records
- Warnings Out Records
- Military Records
- Poor Records

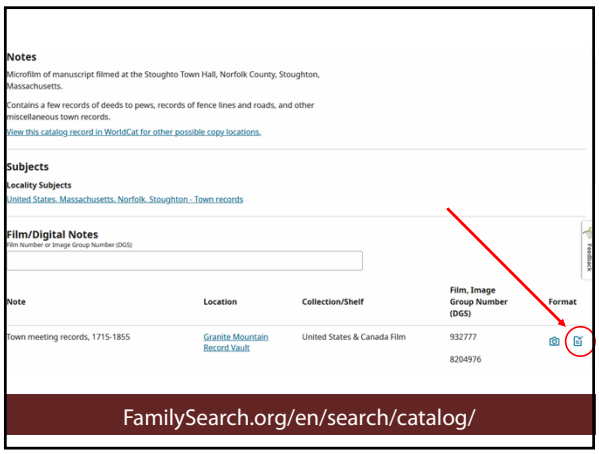
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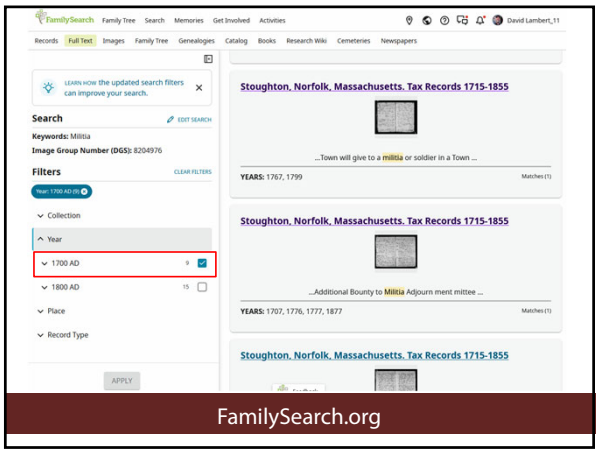
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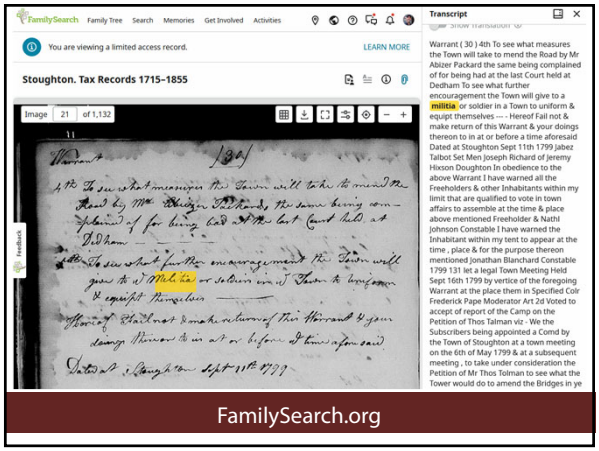
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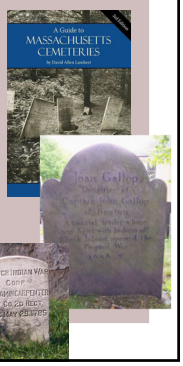


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Gravestones

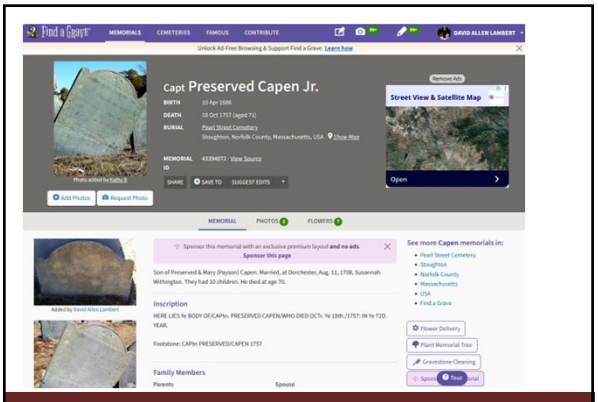
Gravestones

- Beyond vital information may include person's title and participation or death in a certain conflict
- Seek out cemetery transcriptions when the stone no longer exists!





FindaGrave.com



FindaGrave.com



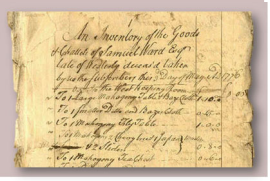


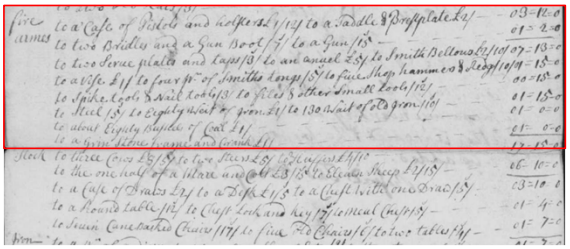
Capt. Preserved Capen (d. 1757)

Probate & Land Records

Probate Records

- Probate may reveal military rank of an ancestor
- Probate inventories may discuss military items in the possession of an ancestor

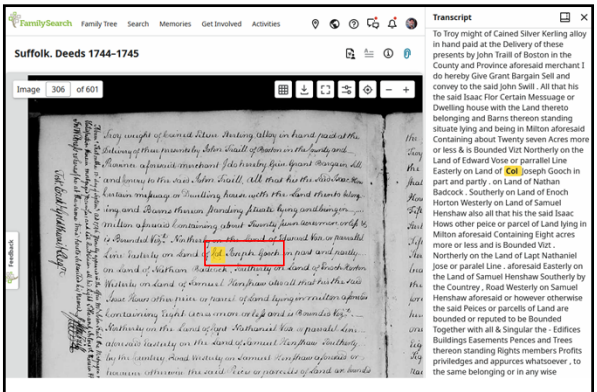




Joseph Huse Inventory (1745)
Essex County Mass Probate – American Ancestors

Land Records

- Rank can often be listed in land deeds.
- Land formerly or currently owned by someone in the military can be detailed
- A military title can often be used as the formal name of an individual decades after their last military service



Suffolk County Land Deed (1745)

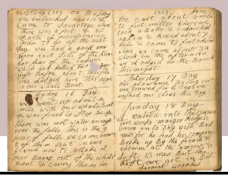
Tip

It can be easy to confuse a maritime ship Captain with the Captain of a Military Company

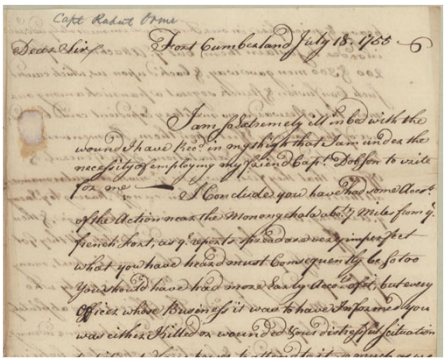
Correspondence & Diaries

Correspondence & Diaries

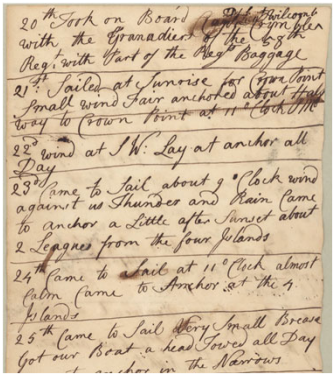
- Letters and diaries often make mention of other soldiers serving in the same company of the regiment
- Details of military battles and conflicts are often mentioned in period diaries and letters



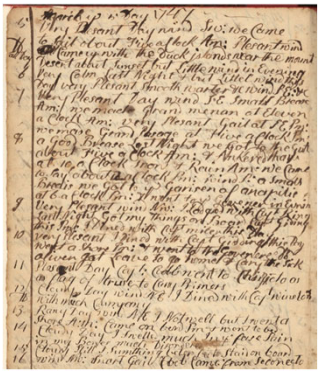
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Robert Orme, Fort Cumberland, to Gov. Robert Hunter Morris. – American Ancestors DLA



Journal of Joshua Moody (1762)
American Ancestors DLA



Diary of Dr. John Thomas (1747)
American Ancestors DLA

Samuel Sewall's Diaries

- Diary was compiled by Judge Sewall from 1674-1729
- Details of military actions from the King Philip's War through the Queen Anne's War
- Details regarding family members who were in the military
- In possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston



King Philip's War - 1675

- **September 18** – *Saturday, was that lamentable fight, when Capt. Latrop with sixty-four killed*
- **December 19** – *Sabbath day, that formidable engagement at Narraganset, 34 Engl*[ish] *put in one pit, 3 after Joseph Plummer, 26 gon already, 75 more pressed; advance towards Ipswich*

King William's War - 1690

- November 21 – 'Twas Tuesday, the 18th of November, that I heard of the death of Capt. Stephen Greenleaf, Lieut. James Smith and Ensign William Longfellow, Serjt Increase Pilsbury, who with Will Mitchell, Jabez Musgro, and four more were drown'd at Capte Britoon on Friday night the last of October.

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King William's War - 1697

- **December 10** – *Mr Jn^o Willard brings the Order for proclaiming peace here, which was done between 3 and 4 p.m. Eight or 10 Drums, Two Trumpets: Prisoners released.*

Military Records

Military Records

- Promotion of soldier to officer, etc.
- Militia Muster Rolls
- Petitions for payments for military service of veteran.
- Petitions for support from families who lost a veteran or were caring for a wounded soldier

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Muster Rolls

- Muster Rolls are lists of officers and non-commissioned soldiers in a militia company
- The earliest of muster rolls are simply name and residence and rank
- Later muster rolls can often be "Descriptive“
  - may provide age, physical description, and other details of service





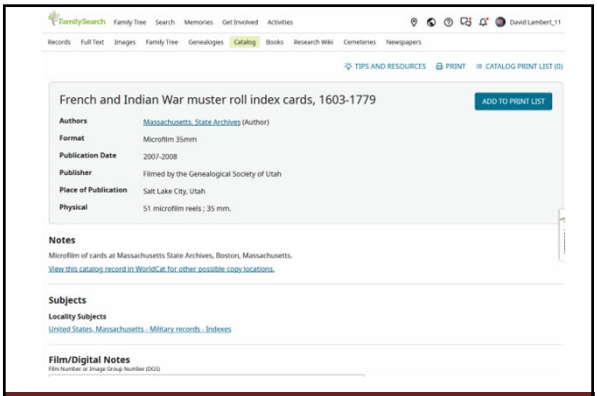
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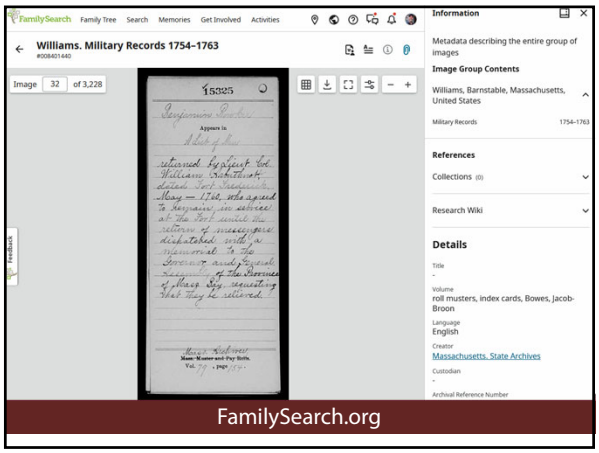
Massachusetts State Archives -sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcdigitalrecords/digitalrecordsidx.htm



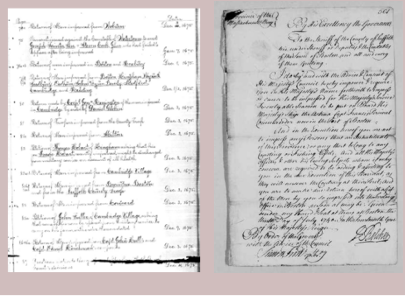
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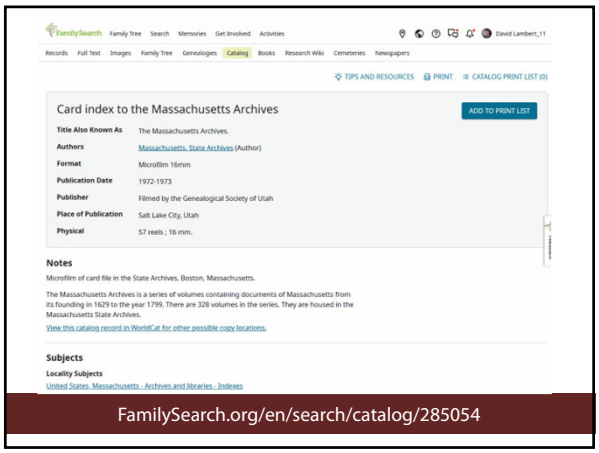


Massachusetts Archives Collection 1622 - 1788

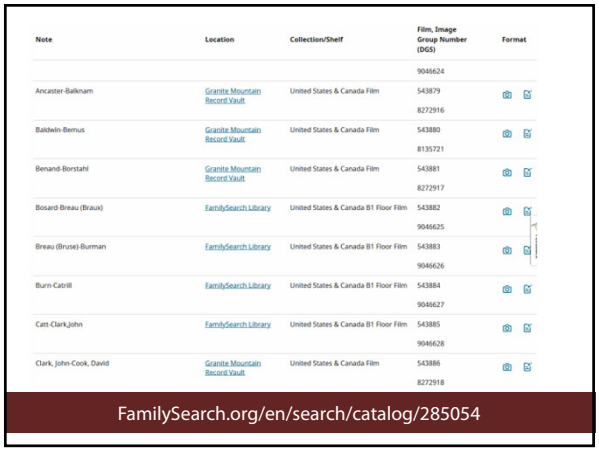


Mass. Archives Collection

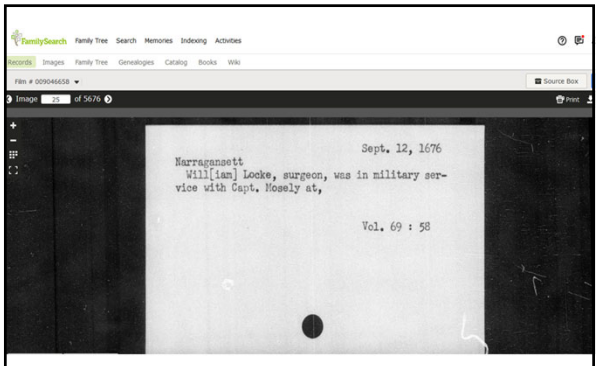
- **List of Men who served in British Military Organizations, 1710-1774** - Includes name, enlistment date, time in service, and amount of pay due; available on Massachusetts Archives Reels 91-99 (arranged chronologically)
- **Government Responses to petitions and claims** - Payment of individual military service or for losses as a result of hostile actions against or by Indians (17th century), Reels 67-80
- **Field Officers of Massachusetts Regiments, 1767-1774**
- **Records of officers of Militia Regiments, 1767-1774**



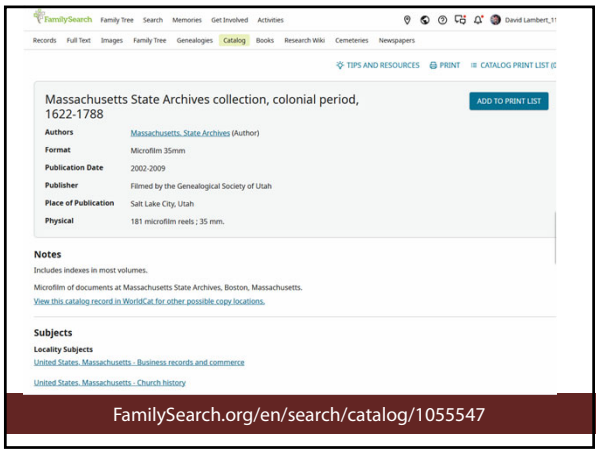
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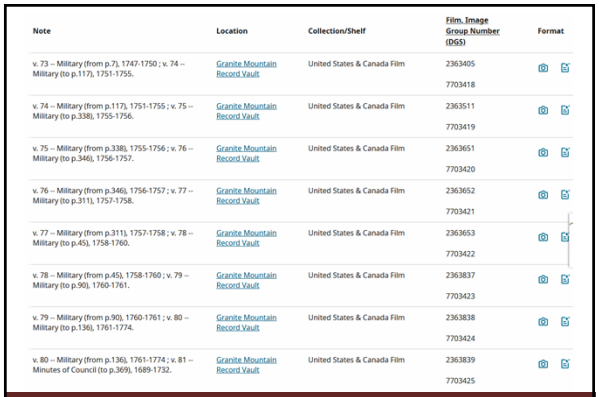
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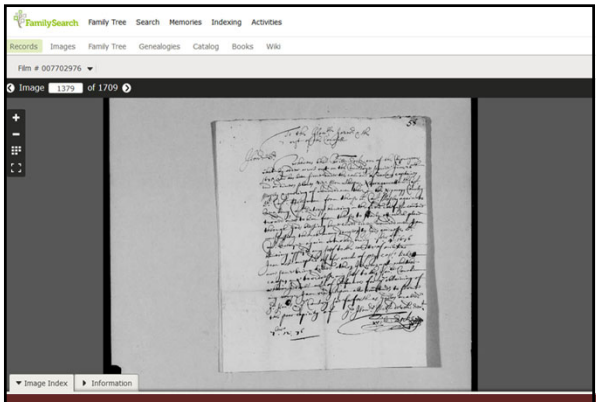
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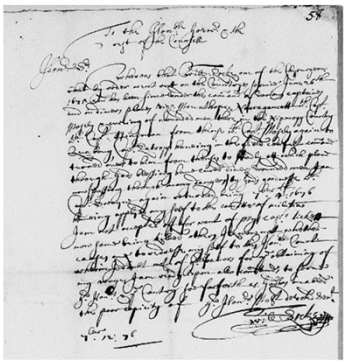
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Mass. Archives Series 69:58

XXVIII.

THE NARRAGANSET TOWNSHIPS, GRANTEES AND CLAIMANTS.

IT will be remembered that when, on December 19th, 1675, the forces of Massachusetts Colony were mustered on Dedham Plain, to march against the Narragansett fort, a proclamation was made to the soldiers, in the name of the Governor, that, if they conquered the country of the Narragansett Indians, that Narragansett country, which is their great seat, they should have a gratuity of land, besides their wages. We find that after they had so voluntarily performed the service, and the war was long past, the soldiers were not forgetful of their claim, nor the colony unmindful of its promise.

On June 4th, 1686, the following petition was presented to the General Court, then in session at Boston. The body of the petition, which was for the grant of land which had been promised, is not given here, but only the names contained upon the document:

Petition of those who were soldiers in Lynn, in the Nipnagg Country, and at the Narragansett Fort.

LYNN.

Wm. Bassett,	John Lynsey,	Samuel Johnson,
Timothy Brodo,	Andrew Townsend,	Jno. Farrington,
Jno. Burrill,	Samuel Graves,	Jno. Hathorne,
Phillip Kertland,	Samuel Graves,	John Richards,
Jno. Davis,	Daniel Goff,	Joseph Brodo,
Jno. Dillingham, Sr.	Samuel Kertland,	Joseph Collins,
John Edmunds,	Daniel Johnson,	Henry Skoales,
John Hawkins,	Joseph Mansfield,	
Wibber Hathorn,	Samuel Tarbox,	

SALEM.

Jeremiah Swaine,	James File Junr.	James Nicolls,
Samuell Lambson,	Samuell Dennes,	William Robbins,

SALEM.

Wm. Raymond,	John Raymond jr.	John Doddo jr.
	Wm. Doddo jr.	

Massachusetts Archives Collection
112:398

NARRAGANSET TOWNSHIPS. 407

SALEM VILLAGE.

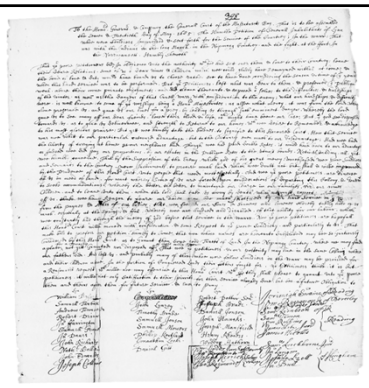
Joseph Herrick, Thomas Raymond,

IPSWICH.

Samuel Linckhorne jr. Joshua Lazell,
John Langor, John Bull,

Mass. Archives, vol. 112, p. 398.

Bodge's Soldiers in King Philip's War (1906)

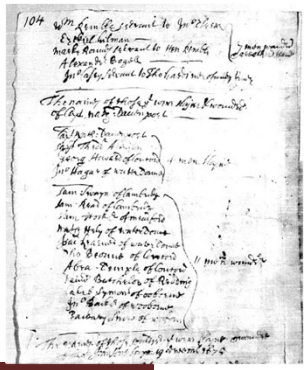


Mass. Archives Series 112:398

King Philip's War 1675-1676



Muster Roll without ranks



Listing of wounded and killed

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Town muster roll King Philip's War



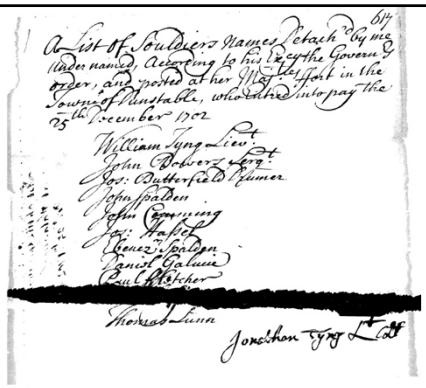
Letter regarding the fighting with the Narraganset

King William's War 1689-1697

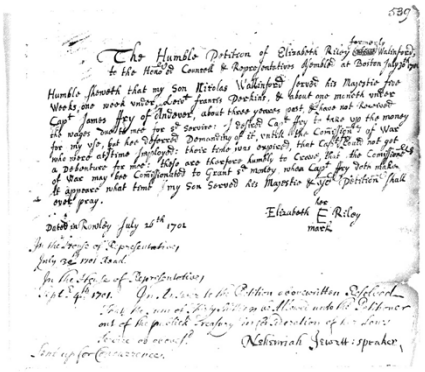


Sailor requesting share in privateering capture

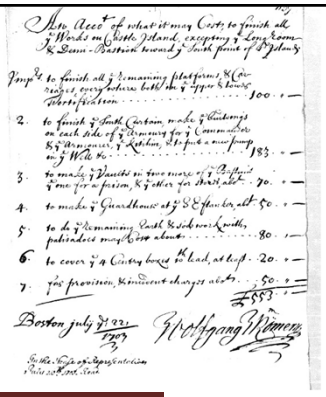
Queen Anne's War 1702-1713



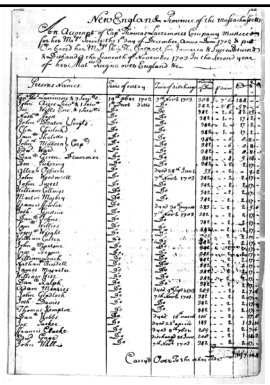
1702 – Detachment list for soldiers going to a fort at Dunstable, Massachusetts



1702 – Mother requesting the wages of her deceased son Nicholas Wallingford



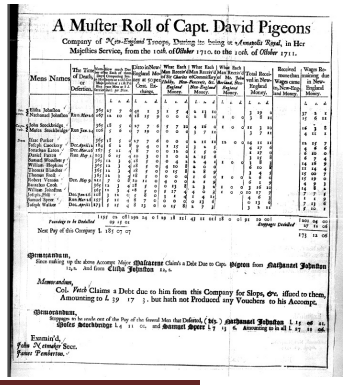
1703 - Military Construction Invoice



1702 – Muster Roll with ranks



1707 – Officer Parade Muster Roll

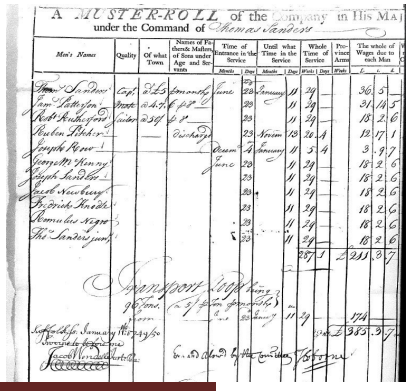


A Muster Roll of Capt. David Pigeons

Company of New-England Troops, During its being in Armada Royal, in Her Majesties Service, from the 10th of October 1710. to the 10th of October 1711.

1710/11 – Published Muster Roll

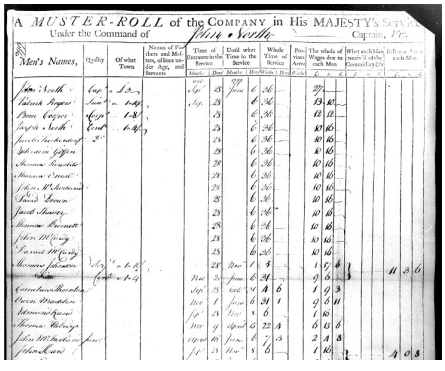
King George's War 1740-1748



A MUSTER-ROLL of the Company in His Ma
under the Command of Thomas Sanders

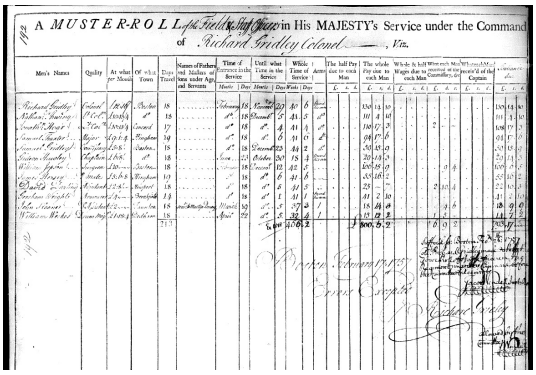
Naval Muster Roll

French & Indian War



A MUSTER-ROLL of the COMPANY in His MAJESTY'S
Under the Command of Captain, &c.

1757 – Company Muster Roll

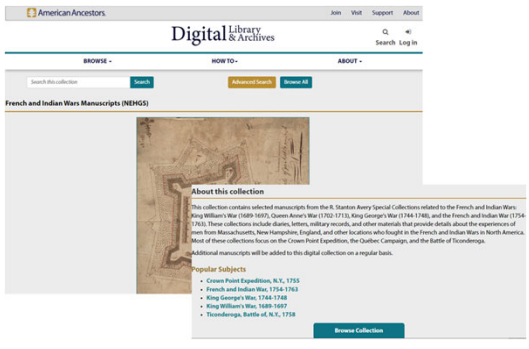


A MUSTER-ROLL of the Field & Staff Officers in His MAJESTY's Service under the Command of Richard Gridley Colonel &c.

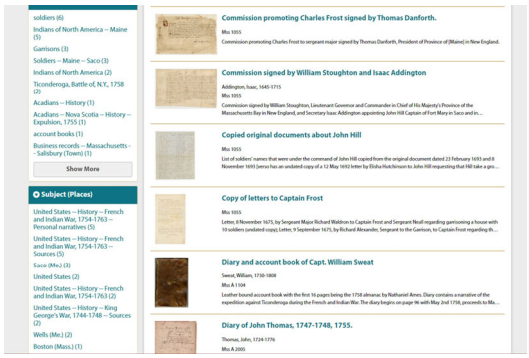
1757 – Muster Roll of Officers



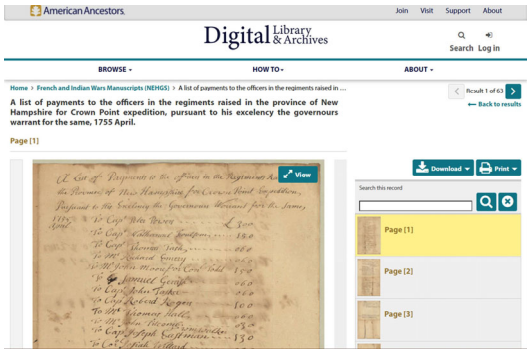
digital.AmericanAncestors.org/digital/



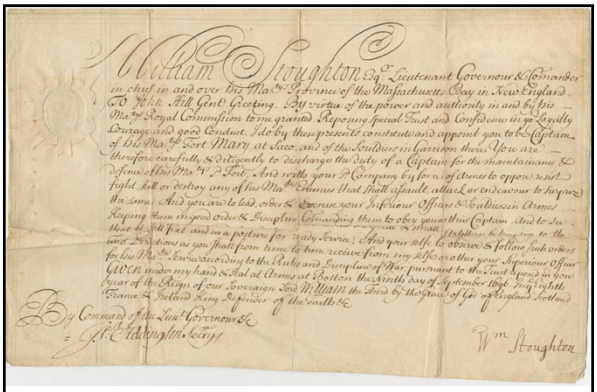
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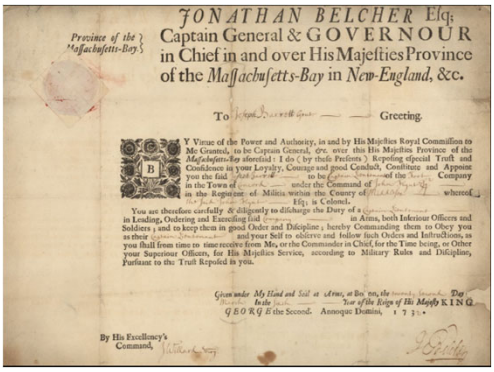
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1699 – Military Commission



JONATHAN BELCHER Esq;
Province of the Massachusetts-Bay } Captain General & GOVERNOUR in Chief in and over His Majesties Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* in *New-England*, &c.

To [illegible] Greeting.

Y Virtue of the Power and Authority, in and by His Majesties Royal Commission to Me Granted, to be Captain General, &c. over this His Majesties Province of the *Massachusetts-Bay* aforesaid: I do (by these Presents) Reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and good Conduct, Constitute and Appoint you the said [illegible] to be Captain of the [illegible] Company in the Town of [illegible] under the Command of [illegible] in the Regiment of Militia within the County of [illegible] whereof [illegible] Esq; is Colonel.

You are therefore carefully & diligently to discharge the Duty of a [illegible] in Arms, both Inferiour Officers and Soldiers; and to keep them in good Order and Discipline; hereby Commanding them to Obey you as their [illegible] and your Self to observe and follow such Orders and Instructions, as you shall from time to time receive from Me, or the Commander in Chief, for the Time being, or Other your Superiour Officers, for His Majesties Service, according to Military Rules and Discipline, Pursuant to the Trust Reposed in you.

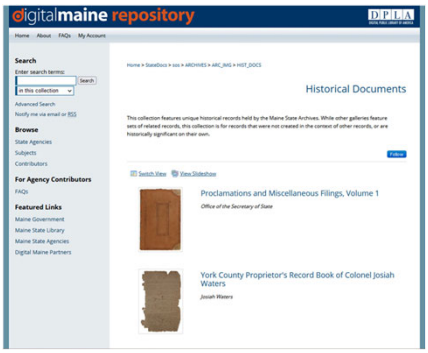
Given under My Hand and Seal at Arms, at Boston, the [illegible] Day of [illegible] In the [illegible] Year of the Reign of His Majesty KING GEORGE the Second. Annoque Domini, 1732.

By His Excellency's Command, [illegible]

1732 – Military Commission







digitalmaine.com/hist_docs/

Maine Historical Society – Portland, Maine

- Zebulon Harmon 18th Century Military MSS
- MSS on King Williams and King George's War including Muster Rolls





mainehistory.org/library_overview.shtml#manuscripts

Connecticut State Library & Archives



ctstatelibrary.org/state-archives/#

Records of the General Assembly

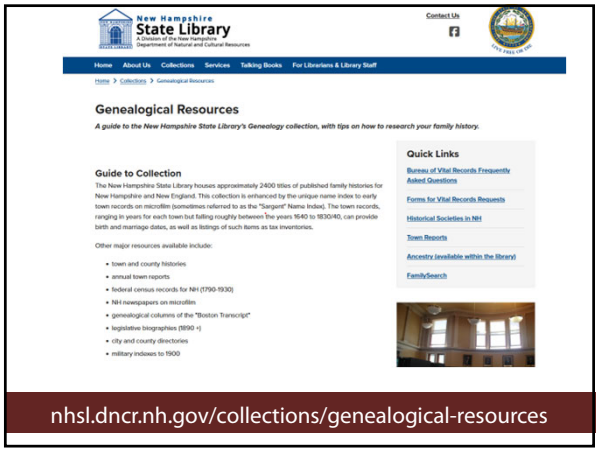
- Militia
  - 1st Series:1678-1757
  - 2nd Series: 1747-1786
  - 3rd Series, 1728-1820



Colonial War Collections

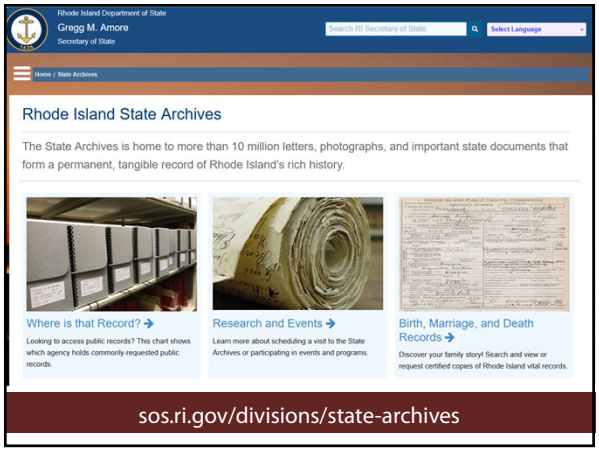
- King Philip's War
- King William's War
- War of Jenkins Ear
- French & Indian Wars (by campaign)
- Prisoner records

New Hampshire State Library



nhsl.dncr.nh.gov/collections/genealogical-resources

Rhode Island State Archives



Rhode Island State Archives

- Muster Rolls, Accounts and Correspondence relating to Crown Point Expedition from RI
- Misc. Documents relating to the French and Indian War. Including conflicts at Ft. George, Ft. Ontario and Ft. Schuyler
- List of Men in the Canadian Expedition and Crown Point Expedition

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Review & Tips

- Learn as much as you can about your colonial New England ancestor
- Learn as much as you can about your colonial ancestor's community
- What conflicts occurred during their lifetime?
- Does the geography align?
- Start to build a timeline of your ancestor's community and situate their life events in that timeline.

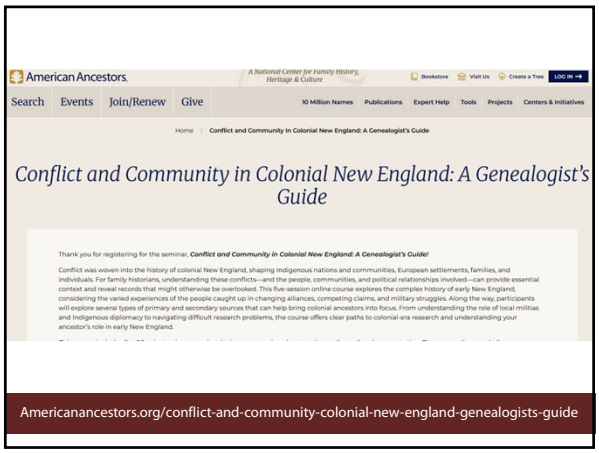


Consultations

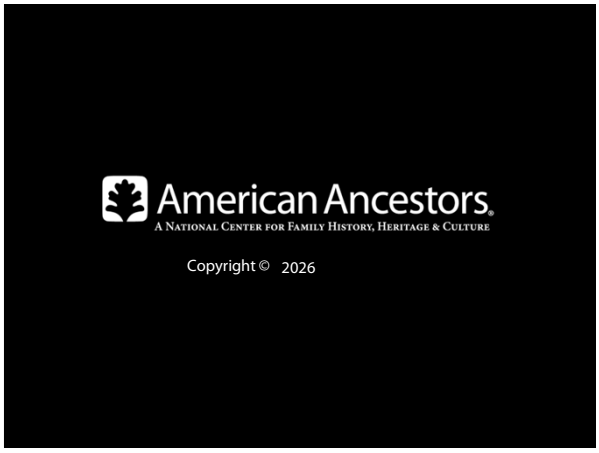
Book a one-on-one consultation with a genealogist and receive help with your family history research!

AmericanAncestors.org/Expert-Help/Consultations

SCAN ME


American Ancestors
A National Center for Family History, Heritage & Culture
Search
Events
Join/Renew
Give
Conflict and Community in Colonial New England: A Genealogist's Guide
Americanancestors.org/conflict-and-community-colonial-new-england-genealogists-guide


THANK YOU!
AmericanAncestors.org


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