VITAL RECORDS
OF
CHARLESTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
TO THE YEAR 1850
From Charlestown's "Ancient Volume" I of vital records, a representative page (76, transcribed on pages 103 and 104 of this book). While not one of the more difficult examples, this page does show blots, bleed-through, and Wyman's marginal notations.
VITAL RECORDS
OF
CHARLESTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
TO THE YEAR 1850
VOLUME I

COMPILED AND EDITED BY
ROGER D. JOSLYN
FELLOW, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
BOSTON
1984
Vital records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, to the year 1850.

Includes index.

1. Charlestown (Boston, Mass.)—Genealogy. 2. Boston (Mass.)—Genealogy. 3. Registers of birth, etc.—Massachusetts—Boston. I. Title.

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Copyright © 1984 by the New England Historic Genealogical Society
to

Barbara, David, and Christopher

who gave their time
The Revd. Mr. Prentice has not sent to the Office one Certificate of Marriage for almost 14 years past tho often requested + never sent the Fees either for Recording or paying the Clerk of the Sessions. So I cant return the Marriages to him the Fault laying at the Ministers Door.—Seth Sweetser T. Clr.

——Charlestown Vital Records
"Ancient Volume 1," page 131
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FOREWORD

Because Charlestown was incorporated into Boston in 1874 it was not included in the initial series of Massachusetts vital records published during the first quarter of this century by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and others. Now, thanks to the generosity of the special publications fund created by Mr. John Brooks Threlfall and the commitment of an able scholar, Mr. Roger D. Joslyn, the Society is proud to publish the vital records of this ancient colonial town.

John Eliot, minister to the Indians at Natick in the 1600s, referred to Charlestown as New England's "haven-town." Anyone who studies the history of colonial Massachusetts appreciates how accurately this defines Charlestown's role as a seaport community. Like Boston, Charlestown succored thousands of Englishmen who came to America in the Great Migration of the 1630s and afterwards. They stayed in Charlestown for a few months or several years, then many moved to other towns. Some early Charlestown inhabitants built new communities in the wilderness nearby, including Malden and Woburn. Today, many Americans have ancestry that traces to the haven-town. With Vital Records of Charlestown, the search for these early forebears is made easier.

This book was made possible through the generous philanthropy of Jack Threlfall. Himself a distinguished genealogical scholar and Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, Jack is an engineer and builder and resides in Madison, Wisconsin. Through his own extensive research he has learned how crucial the primary record is to genealogical scholarship. The Threlfall Fund is accordingly designed to promote the publication of primary records. The Society is deeply grateful to Jack for understanding the true basis of genealogical research and his willingness to fund the publication of primary records.

The Society is also grateful to Roger D. Joslyn for the meticulous care he has given to this project. Also a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, Roger spent many months in search of the early records containing birth, marriage, and death dates on Charlestown's founders. He was equally careful to compare manuscripts, discarding those that were later transcriptions of the original documents. The result is a volume of vital records that scholars can trust.
No work on Charlestown vital records would be complete without mentioning the role of Miss Anne Borden Harding. For many years Associate Editor of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Miss Harding has made numerous contributions to twentieth-century genealogy. It was she who impressed upon me more than a decade ago the importance of Charlestown's records and their value in print to the genealogical community. Without her good judgment and encouragement Charlestown's vital records would still lie in manuscript.

**Vital Records of Charlestown** is further testimony to the deep commitment to excellence that has characterized the endeavors of the New England Historic Genealogical Society since its founding in 1845. We at the Society are proud to be part of this great tradition.

Ralph J. Crandall
Director
EXPLANATORY NOTES

This book contains nearly 16,000 civil vital record entries of Charlestown, Massachusetts—births, marriages, and deaths from the 1630s to the late 1790s and intentions of marriage from 1726 through 1849. Church, cemetery, and other private records of these events are not included (but see below) nor are Charlestown events recorded in other towns. A second volume will complete the Charlestown civil vital records through 1849.

The information in this book was compiled from the following three major sources:

- the Massachusetts Bay Colony records, containing the earliest Charlestown records;
- the Middlesex County, Massachusetts, records, mostly copies of town records, but also providing many events not found in the town books; and
- the Charlestown town records, consisting of the "Ancient Volume" 1 of births, marriages, and deaths and three volumes of marriage intentions.

In the nineteenth century a transcript of Charlestown births, marriages, and deaths to about 1800 was made from the above sources as well as from church and a few cemetery and private records. This transcript provided the first source for the compiling of this book, after which all the entries were proofread against the original records. Several original records can no longer be read, either in part or in whole, in which cases the transcript information has been substituted and so designated.

First mentioned by name in 1630, the town of Charlestown became a city in 1847. In 1873 it was annexed as part of the City of Boston and about this time the above-mentioned transcript of vital records was completed. By orders of the Charlestown City Council in June 1869 and April 1870, Charlestown town and city books of "archival" material were collected, sorted,
arranged, and bound into volumes. Under the direction of Henry H. Edes, the Charlestown books of births, marriages, deaths, and intentions of marriages became part of the following numbered "Charlestown Archives," all now in the custody of the Registry Division in Boston City Hall:

1  "Ancient Volume" 1 - Parts I & II - births, marriages, deaths
2  Volume 2, Parts I & II - births, marriages, deaths
3  Transcript of Volume 1 and other records
4  Transcript of Volume 2
5  Births 1843-1849
6  Births 1849-1866
7  Births 1867-1873
8  Marriages 1843-1848
9  Marriages 1849-1862
10  Marriages 1862-1873
11  Deaths 1843-1849
12  Deaths 1849-1860
13  Deaths 1861-1873
14  Intentions of Marriage Volume 1 1725-1826
15  Intentions of Marriage Volume 2 1826-1849
16  Intentions of Marriage Volume 3 1849-1858
17  Intentions of Marriage Volume 4 1858-1864
18  Intentions of Marriage Volume 5 1864-1873

Additionally, four unnumbered volumes index births 1843-1873, marriages 1843-1873, deaths 1843-1873, and intentions of marriage 1725-1873.

During the 1930s, members of the Works Project Administration made transcripts of Archives volumes 3 through 13. The WPA workers typed the births, marriages, and deaths onto forms printed with columns. In order to fill each column in transcribing an entry, original records were modified and missing information supplied, such as for the columns "Sex, Col[or]," and "Place of Birth." Also, numbered months in early records were not only changed to names, but "1st month" incorrectly given as January, and so forth.

With regard to the designation "original record," it must be noted that no original civil document of a Charlestown birth, marriage, death, or intention of marriage before 1788 can be found among extant re-
Explanatory Notes

cords. From the manner in which entries were made in the Charlestown town books, it is supposed that the town clerks received in writing or orally from parents, ministers, justices, and others, the information to be recorded. This information was then entered into the Charlestown books more or less in the order it was received.

A significant gap in the Charlestown records exists between the death of Town Clerk Seth Sweetser in 1778 and the time Samuel Payson assumed the position in 1787. No deaths occurring after 1777 were entered. Only one marriage, dated 1784, is found for this period, probably entered after 1787, as perhaps were some of the births for 1779 through 1786. A partial explanation might be that Charlestown was without a settled minister from June 1782 until January 1787.* There is also a four and a half year gap in the marriage intentions from 1782 to 1787. A number of events for this period were recorded by Town Clerk David Dodge much later in the second book of town vital records and will be published in Volume 2 of The Vital Records of Charlestown.

While the recording of births, marriages, and deaths was required by Massachusetts law, one reason for some events not being entered in the town books was that the information was never submitted to the clerk. One Charlestown clerk went so far as to write in the town book his frustrations of trying to obtain a minister's records of marriages (see pages 423 and 426).

Before the calendar change in 1752, Charlestown town and Middlesex County clerks were inconsistent about double-dating. No attempt has been made to correct or amend such dates transcribed for this book, although it may be possible to deduce some of them from the chronology of neighboring entries. Only a few indications of "old stile" and "NS" (New Style) are found, and the practice of the clerk in recording other calendar-change events is not indicated.

As stated above, Charlestown church, cemetery, and other non-civil vital records are not included in this

book. A small exception has been made for some marriage records, as detailed on page 753. Also, there is the unique 1832 entry in the "Ancient Volume" 1 of Charlestown vital records made by Town Clerk David Dodge of a 1756 baptism (see page 426).

Researchers can find a sampling of non-civil vital record material among the following published and manuscript records:

Church Records

Records of the First Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1632-1789, printed under the care of James Frothingham Hunnewell (Boston, 1880). Included among the records were baptisms from 1632, marriages from 1687 through 1697, admissions from 1632, and renewers of the covenant from 1665. Much of the information in this volume for the period 1632 through 1768 was published earlier by Hunnewell as "The First Record-Book of the First Church in Charlestown, Massachusetts," in Volumes 23 through 33 of The New England Historical and Genealogical Register (1869-1879).

James F. Hunnewell, A Century of Town Life: A History of Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1775-1887 (Boston, 1888). In this volume, Hunnewell completed the publishing of the First Church records of baptisms and marriages from 1789 through 1832, deaths for 1789 through 1797, and admissions for 1789 through 1819. The original church records for 1789 through 1833 are now missing.* Apparently these records were unavailable to Wyman when he compiled The Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown.

An unindexed copy of records of the Second Congregational Church of Charlestown for the period 1817 through 1827 is with the Boston Public Library.

City Registrar. This church was known as the New Church in Charlestown from 1818 to 1837 and then became the Harvard Church.

An unindexed copy of records of this same church after it became the Harvard Church (Unitarian), for the period 1840 through 1889, is also with the Boston City Registrar.

Following is a list of other churches which existed in Charlestown prior to 1850, together with the years of each church's records as noted in Carroll D. Wright, Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties (Boston, 1889), pages 66, 137, and 138.

First Baptist, 1801-1885
High Street Baptist, 1844-1863; extinct
Winthrop (Congregational), 1832-1885
Church of the Pilgrims (Congregational); existed 1844-1852, but no records noted; extinct
Monument Square (Methodist Episcopal), 1847-1885
Trinity (Methodist Episcopal), 1873-1885; earlier records burned
Saint John's (Protestant Episcopal), 1841-1885
Saint Mary's (Roman Catholic), 1829-1885
Universalist, 1810-1885

Cemetery Records

In 1845, Thomas Bellows Wyman compiled a record of the grave markers in the Phipps Street Cemetery that dated through 1799. This record was kept in the Harvard College Library but it was lost in 1951.

James F. Hunnewell also made a transcription of Phipps Street Cemetery markers in 1888. This list was arranged alphabetically by surname, but like Wyman's record, it did not include information from markers for persons who died after 1799.

"Inscriptions on Old Burial Hill (Phipps Street Burial Ground) Charlestown Mass. 1622 to 1952," compiled and arranged by William R. J. Griffin (Charlestown, 1952), typescript, at The New England Historic Genealogical Society. There is also a large manuscript compilation of grave marker inscriptions from this
cemetery, purchased by the Society in 1919. There is no title page, but it is spine-labeled "The Phipps Place Burying Ground - Old Burial Hill" and Griffin believed it was the work of E. N. and A. Coburn, noted in Hunnewell's Bibliography (see below). Charlestown Burying Ground inscriptions, The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 5(1851):175, 176.

Other Records

Many original Charlestown town and city records are in the Boston Public Library. The "Charlestown Archives" volumes which contain material other than vital records have been microfilmed and are available in the microtext section of the Library.

Thomas Bellows Wyman's Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown is to date the largest work on the town, but for other historical information one should examine several other works. Besides Hunnewell's A Century of Town Life mentioned above, The History of Charlestown, Massachusetts, by Richard Frothingham, Jr. (Boston, 1845), while small, is perhaps among the better works concerning Charlestown's history into the mid-nineteenth century.

For works about Charlestown published before this century, see James F. Hunnewell, Bibliography of Charlestown, Massachusetts and Bunker Hill (Boston, 1880). A supplement to this bibliography appears in Hunnewell's A Century of Town Life, pages 261-300 (see page xii).

Information in newspapers, Bibles, and private journals and registers can substitute for and supplement civil vital records.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book was by no means the work of one person and very special thanks are extended to the following:

To William H. Schoeffler, Esq., goes much of the credit for this volume. Bill not only accomplished most of the proofreading but offered many helpful comments and suggestions.

To Robert C. Anderson, F.A.S.G., for his continued support, valuable suggestions, and some of the proofreading.

To Dr. Ralph J. Crandall, the Society's Director, for seeing the great importance of this project and supporting it through to the end.

To Edward W. Hanson, Director of Publications for the NEHGS, not only for his great assistance with all the details for publication, but also for his patience.

To Joanne Prevost Anzalone, former Boston City Registrar, her successor, Judith A. McCarthy, and the Registry staff for their help and support in accessing Charlestown records.

To Virginia Hurley, former Project Director of Boston's Society Engaged in the Restoration of Vital Archives (SERVA) and a driving force behind that group. Her efforts have been a major step in preserving the old Boston records.

To the late Paul P. Sostek, senior assistant clerk of the Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Superior Court, who always provided friendly advice and access to the records under his protective care.

To Ralph Lavalle and other Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Registry of Probate personnel, particularly for their assistance in locating the "lost" volumes of early probate records.


And to John Brooks Threlfall, F.A.S.G., whose generous contribution helped make this book a reality.
The role of The New England Historic Genealogical Society in the publication of Massachusetts vital records has been a great one. Such records for over two hundred cities and towns have been published in book form since 1886, many of which the Society has helped publish. Unfortunately, the publication of vital records fell off sharply after the first half of this century, with less than a dozen books appearing in print over the last two decades.

During the time of America's Bicentennial, there were discussions between Dr. Ralph J. Crandall, then editor of the Society's Register, myself, and others about filling the void of unpublished vital records of Massachusetts cities and towns. Charlestown, an extremely important place historically since colonial times, was one of the many places suggested to begin to fill this void.

One of the earliest settlements in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Charlestown is also historically important as a port for the importing and exporting of goods and the immigration and emigration of persons, as the residence of many prominent families, and as an important neighbor of Boston with an ever growing population. A town from the 1630s, it became a city in 1847, only to be absorbed twenty-six years later as part of the City of Boston.

For records of Charlestown births, marriages, and deaths, researchers have long relied on Thomas Bellows Wyman's Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown, published in 1879, shortly after the compiler's death. Fortunately, this much-used work was recently (1982) reprinted by New England History Press of Somersworth, New Hampshire. Wyman is found to have been very accurate in his transcriptions. Many of the readings that differ from his are probably because of what the ravages of time have done to the pages for over a hundred years.

While many have found it helpful that Wyman organized into family groups the persons he found mentioned in
The usual transcribing problems one might expect with old records were definitely encountered in compiling this book. Time has taken its toll on the old pages, which are faded, worn, spotted, torn, and blotted with ink. Many entries have been altered, corrected, and erased. There are also incomplete and duplicate entries. Where necessary, editorial remarks have been added to note some of these difficulties (see below). The only recordings of many seventeenth- and a few eighteenth-century events never entered or no longer in the Charlestown books are found at the provincial and county levels. Town entries for which there are county duplicates with significant differences are so noted in this book.

In the early days not only were spelling and abbreviating erratic, but clerks were inconsistent. In one single entry the same name could be spelled out once and abbreviated the next, or it might be spelled out differently the second time. For the name Nathaniel, eleven different abbreviations were found (see pages xxiii and xxiv). Handwriting differed too, not only from clerk to clerk, but many clerks varied their handwriting considerably. In one entry the letter e is found formed three different ways. When the county clerk entered records sent in by the town clerk, he more often than not expanded abbreviated names or changed full names to abbreviations, and he altered the spelling of many names, such as Marie to Mary, Myer to Miar, Frodingham to Frothingham, and Lawthrop to Lathrop. For many pages of Charlestown records, the date of the event or the surname or surnames involved were also written along one side. While these provided a cross-check for some difficult entries, differences between the entry and marginal date or name were also found.

Clerks were likewise inconsistent about punctuation, which has been supplied in this book where needed for clarity, as shown in the format examples below. A few original entries contain parentheses, ( ). These are not to be read as editorial additions to the transcriptions. The use of parentheses in early records
is not clear, although one guess is that the clerk was noting from his personal knowledge additional information which was not shown on the original document he was given to record. Dashes appear in a few entries, and these have been transcribed as found.

For this book, all names of persons and places are given exactly as they appear in the record books from which they were transcribed, except that modern capitalization has been applied. Titles of persons to whom a record refers have also been copied verbatim, although those for other persons have not (see page xxv). Where a mark over a consonant indicated it should be doubled, the second letter has been added. For example, Dañon and Dañon have been expanded to Dammon. A flourish was sometimes used at the end of a first name abbreviation, such as Beniamj~ or Jonath~. These marks are not raised letters and they have not been interpreted for this book, so that these examples are simply transcribed as Beniamj. and Jonath. In earlier times, i and j and u and v were interchangeable, but they have been transcribed verbatim. Editorial abbreviations have been kept to a minimum, with b. for born, m. for married, d. for died, and dau. for daughter. An ampersand (&) has been used in place of the word and and the plus sign (+). With the exception of all-number dates, which have been transcribed as found, all other dates are given as name of month, day, year, with the names of months over three letters shown in standard abbreviations. For some deaths, causes and ages were recorded, and all ages in this book should be read in years, unless otherwise noted. Modern spelling is used for all other words in the vital record entries. Below are examples of some representative records from the "Ancient Volume" 1, followed by the form used in this book.

John Phillips, son of Andrew Phillip Junr. & Elizabeth his wife born April 30 1709

John Phillips, son of Andrew Phillip Junr. & Elizabeth his wife, b. Apr. 30, 1709.

***

Mr. Francis Norwood + Mr. Esther Foster sd Norwood of Gloucester + sd Foster of Charlestown wer
joyned in marriage by the Rev'd Mr. Simon Bradstreet Septem't 12. 172,

Mr. Francis Norwood of Glocester & Mrs. Esther Foster of Charlestown, m. by Rev. Mr. Simon Bradstreet, Sept. 12, 172<6> [torn].

***

Thomas Tarball Junio'r late of Groaten now of Charlstowne deceased the 27th day of April, 1678 of S.P. [This record can be seen in the frontispiece of this book.]

Thomas Tarball Junior, late of Groaten, now of Charlstowne, d. of smallpox, Apr. 27, 1678.

It has been necessary to include certain editorial remarks for many of the vital record entries, such as those that are now illegible, incomplete because of torn pages or ink blots, or altered beyond a clear reading. Where a county duplicate of a town record differs significantly from the town entry, the difference and the record source are given. All such editorial additions are given between brackets, [ ]. A list of the editorial remarks and abbreviations follows, with cross-references to those which are explained more in detail elsewhere in this book.

[altered] entry changed
[blank] blank spot
[blotted] ink blot
[Co. Rec.] County Record Book (see pp. 11-13)
[Co. Mar.] County Marriage Book (see pp. 12-13)
[dup.] duplicate
[i.e.] that is
[illegible] not readable
[sic] as it appears
[torn] torn page
[Mercy?] questionable reading
[Pro.] Probate Volume 6 (see p. 12)
[1st Ch.] First Church of Charlestown (see p. 753)
<  >

as in Dodge/Wyman transcript; no longer legible in original (See p. 33)

eameled
Sept. [blank], 1653
Sept., 1653
"first day"
"last day"

word or words lined out
space for day is blank
no space left for day
entered as 1
entered as is
TABLE OF ABBREVIATED NAME EQUIVALENTS

Most given name abbreviations are obvious, but some may not be. To guide the reader, the following is a table of the many given name and a few surname abbreviations to be found in this book and the names to which they refer.

### Given Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abig, Abigll.</th>
<th>Abigail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abra., Abram</td>
<td>Abigail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexa., Alexadr., Alexandr.</td>
<td>Abraham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexdr., Allexandr., Allexr.</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andr., Andw.</td>
<td>Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnab.</td>
<td>Barnabas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benjn.</td>
<td>Bethia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butha.</td>
<td>Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cha., Char., Chars.</td>
<td>Christopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christo., Christopr., Xopher, Xophr.</td>
<td>Constant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consta.</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danl., Danll.</td>
<td>Edmund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebenez., Ebenezr., Ebenr., Ebenzr., Ebr.</td>
<td>Edward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edm.</td>
<td>Eleazer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed., Edd., Edw., Edwd., Edw'd</td>
<td>Eleazer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ezek.</td>
<td>Ezekiel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geo.</td>
<td>George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Han., Hana., Hanh., Hanna.</td>
<td>Hannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hen.</td>
<td>Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepph., Hepzib.</td>
<td>Hepzibah/Hepzibah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humphr.</td>
<td>Humphrey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ja., Jas., Js.</td>
<td>James</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jan
Jer.
Jno., Jo.
Joana.
Johana., Jona., Jonata.,
  Jonath., Jonatha., Jonathn.
Jos., Jose., Josh.
Josh.
Katha., Kathe., Kather.,
  Kathern., Kathr.
Lar., Laur.
Margt.
Marth.
Math.
Nat, Nat., Nath., Natha.,
  Nathal., Nathall., Nathanil.,
  Nathanll., Nathl., Nathll.,
  Nathnll.
Nicho.
Philn.
Rand.
Ri., Ric., Rich., Richd.,
  Richrd.
Robrt., Robt., Robtt.
Sam, Sam., Saml., Samll.
Solom., Solomn., Solomo.
Steph., Stephn., Stepn.
Susana., Sussa., Sussana.
Thad.
Thankfl.
Tho., Thoms., Thos.
Timo.
Waltr.
Will., Willm., Wm.
Xopher, Xophr.
Zach., Zachh., Zech, Zech.,
  Zechar., Zechh.

Surnames

Chamb.
Chapn.
Frosthengh.
Gennr.
Whitem.

Jane
Jedediah
Jeremiah
John
Joanna
Jonathan
Joseph
Josiah
Katherine
Lawrence/Laurance
Margaret
Martha
Mathew/Matthew
Michael
Nathaniel
Nicholas
Philemon
Randoll
Richard
Robert
Samuel
Solomon
Stephen
Susannah
Thaddeus
Thankfull
Thomas
Timothy
Walter
William
Christopher
Zechariah

Chamberlain
Chapman
Frothingham
Jenner
Whittemore
TITLES OF NON-PARTICIPANTS

Titles of persons to whom a vital record relates—a child, parent, bride, groom, deceased—are given verbatim in this book. Titles of other persons, such as masters of servants, justices, ministers, and so forth, have been standardized with the following abbreviations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asst.</td>
<td>Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col.</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commr.</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dep. Gov.</td>
<td>Deputy Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ens.</td>
<td>Ensign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esq.</td>
<td>Esquire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gov.</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hon.</td>
<td>Honorable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.P.</td>
<td>Justice of the Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just.</td>
<td>Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt.</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magist.</td>
<td>Magistrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj.</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min.</td>
<td>Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past.</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev.</td>
<td>(the) Reverend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt.</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wor.</td>
<td>Worshipful</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
various vital and other records, those seeking the precise information have had to consult the original volumes which came into possession of the Boston City Registrar in 1874. Access to these records in the past has been quite difficult. More significant to the study of persons in Charlestown records is that Wyman's cutoff date was 1818, creating a void to 1850, the traditional date to which most Massachusetts vital records have been published. Little is widely available to the researcher that covers this void of over three decades. Also, Wyman was not consistent with his cutoff, and he did not include in his work the names of many persons found in the records prior to 1818.

This book, then, and the one to follow, will not only provide the student of Charlestown history and genealogy with a near verbatim transcript of vital records, but will also close the gap of over three decades for which the records have not been available in print.

Roger D. Joslyn, F.A.S.G.
VITAL RECORDS
OF
CHARLESTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
TO THE YEAR 1850

VOLUME II
PART 1
in memory of

Robert Moody Sherman, F.A.S.G.
(1914-1984)

and

Ruth Wilder Sherman, F.A.S.G.
(1929-1992)

genealogical scholars and valued friends
All persons are enjoined to touch these pages with very scrupulous care as these Records are Venerable and the texture of the paper has become some impaired by Age.

from loose sheet found in Volume 2 - Part II
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Charlestown ...................................................... 1207
This second volume of *Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts*, includes over 17,650 entries covering births, marriages, and deaths roughly 1800 through 1849. Some events for the 1700s and 1800s will be found in this volume, as will "out of town marriages" prior to 1800, and some burials for 1848-1849 recorded by the City of Charlestown. Essentially, this volume picks up where Thomas Bellows Wyman's *Genealogies and Estates of Charlestown* left off. And, compared to the earlier records, the information in this volume provides considerably more detail with regard to occupations, causes of death, and residences of persons from other communities, as reflected in the subject index.

All of the record volumes from which the material in this book was taken are kept by the Boston City Registrar in the Archives Room at City Hall, with the exception of some original marriage intentions and returns for the 1840s found in the manuscript collection of the Society. All the material is from civil records, although there are entries in the town books which refer to baptisms or family Bibles.

Aside from the marriage intentions and returns mentioned above, no other original returns of births, marriages, and deaths through 1849 have been located for Charlestown. Original returns—from 1788 for marriages, 1817 for deaths, and 1833 for births—were evidently with the Boston City Registrar in 1889,* but these have since been lost or destroyed.

As for Volume I of Charlestown vital records, the entries in this book for the period prior to 1843 were taken from a nineteenth-century transcript and then compared with the original records. This and the 1843-1849 material were thoroughly proofread and care taken to indicate interpretive readings (for information about the editorial process, please refer to pages ix-xiv of Volume I and pages xiv-xvi of this volume).

In 1843 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts first provided printed forms to the cities and towns for the

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recording of vital records. At the end of the registration period--originally 1 May through 30 April, then 1 May through 31 December, and finally 1 January through 31 December--the city and town clerks were to make a copy of their records and send them to Boston.* These state copies through 1900 are now at the Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point, Boston, and on microfilm at the Society. As they are copies, they have not been compared for this book except where the original Charlestown volumes have illegible or questionable entries, and in those cases the missing information supplied from the state copy is identified Mass VRs, with the appropriate volume and page number.

*Acts and Resolves Passed By The Legislature of Massachusetts In The Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842 (Boston, 1842), 544-45; Acts and Resolves Passed By The General Court of Massachusetts, In The Years 1843, 1844, 1845 (Boston, 1845), 261-63; Acts and Resolves Passed By The General Court of Massachusetts, 1849 (Boston, 1849), 142-44.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In one way or another, all the persons acknowledged in Volume I contributed to the production of this book; however, particular mention of the following is again needed:

To William H. Schoeffler, Esq., who focused his sharp eyes as proofreader;
To Edward W. Hanson, Donald M. Nielsen, Jane Fletcher Fiske, F.A.S.G., and Gary Boyd Roberts for their help and for keeping the project coordinated and moving along, and for kindly extending the "deadline," as was done for Henry H. Edes over a hundred years earlier.
To Judith A. McCarthy, Boston City Registrar, and her staff, for their continued help and support in accessing the old Charlestown records.

I also thank J. Worth Estes, M.D., Professor of Pharmacology, Boston University School of Medicine, for his assistance with identifying and indexing causes of death.

And last but far from least, all of us interested in Charlestown are grateful to John Brooks Threlfall, whose generosity helps make possible books such as this one.
With this second volume of Charlestown Vital Records the original town and city entries are brought into print to the year 1850, the traditional ending date for the publishing of Massachusetts vital records.

Charlestown existed as a separate Massachusetts city for only another quarter century, becoming part of Boston in 1873. Someday, perhaps a third volume can be produced which will complete the publication of Charlestown Vital Records.

In the meantime, the availability of the two volumes of vital records should assist students of Charlestown history and genealogy, reducing the wear and tear on the disintegrating old volumes. Those wishing to check the original books will, it is hoped, find the published records accurate.

Roger D. Joslyn, F.A.S.G.
EDITORIAL REMARKS AND ABBREVIATIONS

For editorial method, see Volume I, pages xix-xxii. Editorial remarks used in this volume are as follows:

[altered] entry changed
[blank] blank spot
[blotted] ink blot
[dup.] duplicate
[i.e.] that is
[illegible] not readable
[sic] so it appears
[torn] torn page
[Mary?] questionable reading
< > as in transcript; no

entry changed

blank spot
ink blot
duplicate
that is
not readable
so it appears
torn page
questionable reading
as in transcript; no
longer legible in
original
word or words lined out
or erased in original
space for day is blank
no space left for day

The following abbreviations are used:

Ave. avenue
b. born
Bapt. Baptist
bur. buried
Cem., cem. cemetery
Ch. church
Cong. Congregational
 Ct. court
d d.
dec. deceased
div. divorced
day female
Hon. Honorable
int. intention
Ln. Lane
lt. lieutenant
m months
m., mar. married
M. E. Episcopal
nat. native
Pl. place
res. residence
sing. single
Soc. Society
St. street
Univ. Universalist
unmar. unmarried
w weeks
wid. widow, widower
y years
TABLE OF ABBREVIATED NAME EQUIVALENTS

For the majority of these, refer to Volume I, page xxiii. Additional abbreviated names which appear in this book are the following:

Given Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Equivalent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abil.</td>
<td>Abigail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abrm.</td>
<td>Abraham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absm.</td>
<td>Absalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexr.</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archd.</td>
<td>Archibald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barta.</td>
<td>Bartholomew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ber.</td>
<td>Bernard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridg., Bridgt.</td>
<td>Bridget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cath., Cathn.</td>
<td>Catherine/Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathe.</td>
<td>Catherine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan.</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eben.</td>
<td>Ebenezer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elbr.</td>
<td>Elbridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elijh.*, Elisa., Elish., Elizh.</td>
<td>Elisabeth/Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elnr.</td>
<td>Eleanor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ephm.</td>
<td>Ephraim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esth.</td>
<td>Esther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Francs.</td>
<td>Francis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georg.</td>
<td>George</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josha.</td>
<td>Joshua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michl.</td>
<td>Michael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Millect.</td>
<td>Millecent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathanl.</td>
<td>Nathaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nehemh.</td>
<td>Nehemiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat.</td>
<td>Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solo., Solon., Soln.</td>
<td>Solomon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilm.</td>
<td>William</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This abbreviation was created by the clerk's transcribing error of the letter s or z to j.
(non-participant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capt.</td>
<td>Captain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Col.</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commr.</td>
<td>Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr.</td>
<td>Doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ens.</td>
<td>Ensign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esq.</td>
<td>Esquire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gov.</td>
<td>Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hon.</td>
<td>Honorable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.P.</td>
<td>Justice of the Peace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Just.</td>
<td>Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt.</td>
<td>Lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magist.</td>
<td>Magistrate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj.</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Min.</td>
<td>Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past.</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev.</td>
<td>(the) Reverend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt.</td>
<td>Sergeant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Charlestown vital records were presented in a different format in the town's Volume 2, which covered the period from the 1780s to the early 1840s. Instead of the more or less chronological sequence of entries seen in the "Ancient Volume" 1, the town clerks arranged births and deaths by initial letter of surname. Pages were assigned in advance for each initial letter and entries were made chronologically as the information arrived (the births of two or more children of a couple might be entered at one time). In some cases not enough space was allowed, so entries for some letters were continued on a later or earlier page. Several times an entry was made on the wrong page and was either crossed out and reentered on the correct page or left as is and a cross-reference made by the clerk (for example, "See on M."). Marriages were recorded as returns came in from ministers and justices of the peace. These returns might cover single events or a month's or season's listing of marriages performed.

The half-century or so after the American Revolution was a period when recording of vital records in New England slacked off considerably, particularly with respect to births and deaths. Thanks to the wisdom of David Dodge, Town Clerk from 1825 to 1847, Charlestown's records are much "more complete" than those for other places. From the town residents he sought, either in person or by letter, copies of their "family records" which he then copied into Volume 2, as is quite evident from the grouping of family births, often including the birth dates of father and mother, sometimes with the parents' date of marriage as well. If any births and marriages of a family then resident took place outside Charlestown, those places were usually noted and thus the movements of a family can be learned. Some entries within a family group out of chronological sequence are editorially marked [sic?], as it has not been determined if the clerk wrote them out of order or entered the wrong year. Additionally, it is clear some births were entered after the death of a parent, such as those for the Cole family on page 60 of this book.

The pages of Volume 2 - Part I were silked by the Emery Process, as those for the "Ancient Volume 1" had been. Because the records of Volume 2 are not as old as those in the "Ancient Volume," fewer entries presented reading problems, aside from handwriting that was difficult
CHARLESTOWN VITAL RECORDS

and sometimes inconsistent. Nevertheless, some names or dates, apparently clear when transcribed in the 1870s, cannot now be read, and in those cases information from the transcript is placed between angle brackets, < >. Curiously, two entries are found in the transcription volume which are not found in the original—obviously entered after 1873 by Boston City clerks. These two entries appear in this book and are properly identified. Still other entries were made after Charlestown became a part of the City of Boston, as evident from their post-1873 recording dates.

The section designated in these pages as Charlestown Volume 2 - Part II is from a rebound book containing pages from three separate early books. In 1840 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed a law requiring town and city clerks to submit annual returns of births, marriages, and deaths for a centralized, state-wide collection of vital records in Boston, commencing in 1841. To coincide with the new law, Charlestown began a new set of vital record volumes in 1841, designated volumes 3, 4, and 5. Here were entered the births, marriages, and deaths respectively for the early 1840s, until the Commonwealth provided printed forms in 1843.* Entries made in volumes 3 and 5 for births and deaths were on pages assigned by the first letter of a surname, and marriages in Volume 4 were entered in groups as returned by officiants. In many cases the births of two or more children of a couple were recorded at the same time. In addition, several pre-1841 and some eighteenth-century events were entered into these volumes.

In Volume 4 were also entered the "out of town" marriages. As directed by a Massachusetts law of 1857, town and city clerks were to copy those records of marriages prior to 1800 in which either party was then resident in another Massachusetts town and send a copy of the applicable records to the clerks of the towns of the parties' "out of town" residence. The clerks receiving these records were to enter them "into a book to be kept for that purpose."** The intent of this law is unknown.

Town volumes 3, 4, and 5 were broken up, the few used pages being removed and bound together into a separate volume and new pagination made, continuing after the last numbered page of volume 2. Volumes 2, 3, 4, and 5 are now Charlestown Archives Volume 2, Parts I and II. All pages either blank or on which were entered no vi-

*Acts and Resolves Passed By The Legislature of Massachu-
setts In The Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842 (Boston, 1842), 544-45.

**Acts and Resolves Passed By The General Court of Massachu-
setts, In The Year 1857 (Boston, 1857), 454.
tal records were evidently removed before rebinding into the two parts. For this book the new pagination of Part II is given in brackets, [ ], followed by the original page numbers from volumes 3, 4, and 5 in parenthesis, ( ).

In original town Volume 2 - Part I were recorded over nine thousand births, marriages, and deaths onto 367 pages. Some eleven hundred additional events were recorded onto 126 pages in Part II.

Late in 1872, being "fully alive to their dangerous condition, to say nothing of the unspeakable inconvenience experienced by inquirers in endeavoring to find the information sought," Henry H. Edes brought the matter of Charlestown Volume 2 of vital records to the attention of the City. Consequently, the City Council authorized the volume to be copied "by some suitable person," the expense "not exceeding the sum of Two hundred dollars." On 30 December 1872 Edes was contracted to "copy or cause to be copied...upon Whatman’s linen paper and bound in the best manner in full russia leather...all the entries contained in the original Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth volumes...." The births and deaths were to be arranged alphabetically and an index made of the names of brides and grooms in the marriage records. The project was to be completed by 1 January 1874, but when by 1 October 1873 he realized "the labor involved in carrying out the foregoing Contract is greater than at first supposed," Edes was granted an extension to 1 July 1874. The transcription was made by Miss S. B. Kidder and supervised by Edes, who noted at the time the original Volume 2 was a "di-lapidated volume" of poor paper, the entries having no chronology, and that many of the dates were "wholly obliterated, or worn off, by constant use." To arrange the births and deaths together "under their proper alphabetical head" took "a vast amount of labor." As in the transcript of the "Ancient Volume" 1, cross-references to the page numbers of town Volume 2 on which the original entries could be found were noted in Edes’s transcription.

Also in this transcription volume--distinguished as Charlestown Archives Volume 4--were included records of death from the United States Marine Hospital in Charlestown and from a diary kept by Commissary Richard Deven.* Deven’s original diary is at the Massachusetts

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*"[T]he keeper of any alms house, work house, house of correction, prison or hospital, and the master or other commanding officer of any ship, shall give...notice of every birth and death, happening among the persons under his charge;...", (The Revised Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Passed November 4, 1835 [Boston, 1836], 182).
Historical Society in Boston, but it was not compared for this book. The location of the Marine Hospital original records could not be determined.