

DCGS Genealogy 101

Session II: Reaching Out Further to Collect Data

Links: <http://www.doverdutchessgenealogy.com/Links.html>
Email: vlarobardier@optonline.net

Hello, I am Valerie LaRobardier. Welcome, and welcome back to those of you who were at the first session last week for Mary Colbert's excellent presentation on beginning genealogy. I'd like to thank Mary for that lesson, and also a big thanks to Mary Ann Zatlukal, our VP of Education, for getting this program organized.

Today we are going to get specific about searching census, court and vital records. For ease of use I have only one link needed for this talk, and that is this page which has a list of all the links pertaining to this talk.

We are covering a lot of ground today, and it is not possible to do it all justice. What I am trying for here is to give you a glimpse of the many different sources available for clues, and suggest new ways in which even familiar sources can give additional information. If you wish to learn more about any of these methods, just indicate it on the suggestion sheet to be passed around at the end of the class.



DCGS and FHL

- Library @ 204 Spackenkill Road [between Rte 9 and Red Oaks Mill]
- Our collection specializes in Dutchess County and regional genealogy
- Access to Family History Center materials, ordering and viewing LDS microfilms
- Meet third Tuesday of Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar and May
- Our talks range in subject from local interest to general how to
- Our membership is made up of those focusing on Dutchess County and those living here who just want to fraternize with like-minded individuals

More than Dutchess County Genealogy

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Record Groups

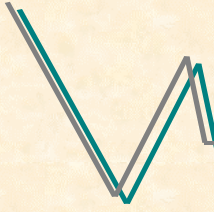
- What is a record group?
- Don't get stuck on a one dish menu.
- Gaps and lost records—how variety can help.
- 1750—limited church records and no census—where do I look?

Record groups are used to classify types of records used in genealogy, such as census, vital, newspaper. When you are first starting out it is easy to master the group you feel most comfortable with and then not go outside your comfort zone. If you do that you may miss many clues. Sometimes your ancestor left tracks in only one group, and you may need to visit them all to locate him or her.

Many times conflicting data and inconsistencies can be resolved by getting a well rounded variety of records.

Sometimes when there are gaps, due to damaged town records or missing federal census, other groups can be used to fill these gaps.

When you get back before 1790 in an area where church records did not survive, land and probate records may be the only clues you will find for your ancestor. It takes years to master court record research, and I have not fully done so myself, but gaining even a beginner's expertise in this area offers rewards well worth the effort.



Sidebar on Citations

- Document your work by recording your sources!
- Twofold purpose
 - Establish veracity
 - Allow others to follow your path

The reason you hear experienced genealogists harp on documenting your sources so much is that most of us started out not doing so and regretted the difficulty we caused ourselves later.

Citations are used to evaluate the veracity of the genealogy presented. This is important to others, as it allows them to evaluate the strength of your research.

If your readers wish to look up the reference, possibly to learn more to take it in a new direction that was not important to you, they will need to be able to retrace your steps.

Ability to retrace steps is also valuable to you the researcher. The day may come that you rethink some of the links in a branch of your tree. Or another may challenge your research. Which links are solid and which might deserve a harder look? The number and quality of your citations will help you evaluate this.

Also, you may wish to go back to the same source later as you discover it relevant to another area of your research.

Sidebar on Citations

Frank J. Doherty, *Settlers of the Beekman Patent Dutchess County, New York: An Historical and Genealogical Study of all the 18th Century Settlers in the Patent* (Pleasant Valley, NY: Frank J. Doherty, 1990+), Vol 1: Historical Records, p 48.

Here you see how one family tree software program – Legacy – helps to build the citation by asking you to fill in the blanks and then

Turning it into a proper citation.

Notice here that this is not quite a proper citation because I entered the author as Frank J Doherty rather than Doherty, Frank J. Still, it does the job. Anyone else can easily find the passage.



I'll Do It Later!!

- Recording these citations is time consuming and tedious.
- Sometimes you collect data that is used much later or you may find out it is irrelevant and never gets used.

The reason we all begin not documenting our work is because those pesky citations are so tedious and when we are on a roll finding exciting new data we don't like to be interrupted with housekeeping tasks like writing down the source.




A method that works great for me is to always print the title page, whether it be a library book or a book I find on line or CD. Then I give it a brief name, which most genealogy software programs ask you to do. I use green ink for this so it will stand out—it's not a note and not a correction. Make sure the name begins with the most important keyword, such as the place name or family name, **** such as Cass County MI History, not History of Cass County. **** Then, be consistent about labeling your reprints of pages from that source with the same name, also in green ink. I keep this accordion file to the right of my monitor and put all my title pages there as soon as I print or copy them. That way, if two months down the road some of the data becomes useful, I have the citation info at my fingertips.

Give the title page a quick check before you file it—sometimes the publisher and year follows on a second page—make sure you note it on the title page.

I wish I had started out also noting where I found the book—ancestry, heritage quest, a specific library....it often happens that later you realize a source is valuable and want to return to it to pull down more records. This makes it easier to get back to it.

One last word—ancestry usually provides their own source citation, but also gives the original printed work's information. The same is true of genealogical literature collections found on CD's. I always use the original printed work information. The name of the game is making it so others can follow your path, and if the CD is no longer available or they do not subscribe to ancestry, those custom citations will not do much good.



Note Taking

- Machine copies not subject to human error
 - Photocopies
 - Scans, digital photos
- Note taking performed by researcher
 - Transcriptions
 - Abstracts
 - Extracts
 - Translations

There are various methods of capturing the document's data. Whenever possible I try to backup the bottom four with one of the top two.

Photocopies, scans, digital photos are all great in that they preserve the original document so that you may study it again in its entirety whenever you like. The disadvantage is that the handwriting is difficult, the language may be unfamiliar, and the legibility can be faded or damaged. You or another must struggle through it to gain meaning, using one of these note taking methods.

Transcription = verbatim copy duplicating spelling, punctuation and all other aspects. The data is then only as good as the skill of the transcriber allows.

Abstracts summarize every important detail.

The problem here is deciding what those important details are. Also imperfect understanding of legalese may prevent you from abstracting correctly

Extracts pull out verbatim, a portion of the document, a mini-transcription. Use quotation marks. This may be part of an abstract.

Translations [self explanatory]

Genealogy, like most skills, is one that requires a great deal of hands on to master. If you wait until you know everything you need to get the job done, you are unlikely to ever reach the hands on stage. For this reason I advocate making several passes through the learning curve. First learn the minimum, then attempt to use it. Once you do that you will have better understanding as you make your next pass through the learning material.



Classifying Records

- Census
- Military
- Vital
- Land
- Probate
- Newspaper
- Directory
- Cemetery

One traditional set of record group divisions.

Distinctions Blurred

CITATION FOR JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT.—The people of the State of New York, to Eliza Fenquet, William P. Mooers, Hannah Boynton, John B. Meers, Lucy Morgan, Lily Morgan, Sarah P. Fuller, Margaret P. Myers, Henry K. Averill, Jr., Sylvester B. Miller, Moss Platt Fuller, Daisy Fuller, Elizabeth Fuller, Margaret F. Platt, Candace E. Hathaway, Carrie D. Palmer, all residing at Plattsburgh, Clinton county, N. Y.; Miller, Woolsey Hubbell, Mary Platt Chicago, Ill.; Joseph Miller, Henry A. Miller, Mary Wood, Kitty Low, Mary C. Havens, William Havens, Mrs. F. F. residing at Malone, Franklin Co., N. Y.

County Court identified

Executor identified

Plattsburgh Sentinel
24 Feb 1882

Notice re estate of
Mary Platt Hathaway

at Plattsburgh, Clinton county, N. Y.; The Home for the Friendless of Northern New York, at Plattsburgh, Clinton Co., N. Y.; The Woman's Union Missionary Society of America, at New York city, New York; and to all persons interested in the estate of Mary Platt Hathaway, late of Plattsburgh, Clinton county, deceased, as creditors, legatees, next of kin, or otherwise, send greeting: You and each of you are hereby cited and required personally to be and appear before our Surrogate of the county of Clinton, New York, at his office in Plattsburgh, on the 8th day of May, 1882, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, then and there to attend the judicial settlement of the accounts of Edmund Hathaway, as executor of the said Mary Platt Hathaway, deceased.

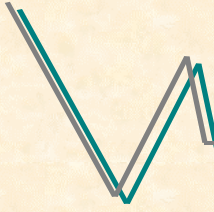
Sometimes it is difficult to classify a record. Is this a probate record or a newspaper record? As you see it comes from the Plattsburgh Sentinel, but it is also a legal notice published for heirs of Mary Platt Hathaway to respond to the settlement hearing. This is a wonderful record, giving names of her relatives and many friends. We also have the executor identified and the location of the courthouse where the records may be found. What a great discovery!



Classifying Records

- Enumeration lists
 - Census
 - Tax Lists
 - Directories
- Birth, Marriage and Death
 - Civil Registrations
 - Church Records
 - Cemetery Records
 - Private Collections
- Court
 - Land Records
 - Probate Records
 - Civil and Criminal Proceedings
 - Mortgages
 - Bankruptcies
- Military
 - Rosters, payroll, muster rolls
 - Pensions
- Newspaper
 - Valuable Secondary Source

No matter how you classify the records there will be some documents that seem to fit in more than one section.



Classification Simplified

- Census
- BMD
- Military
- Legal—usually subdivided
- Heritage
- Genealogies

I prefer a simplified classification that I use for all my binders and files.

Census – all census records and similar that establish residency

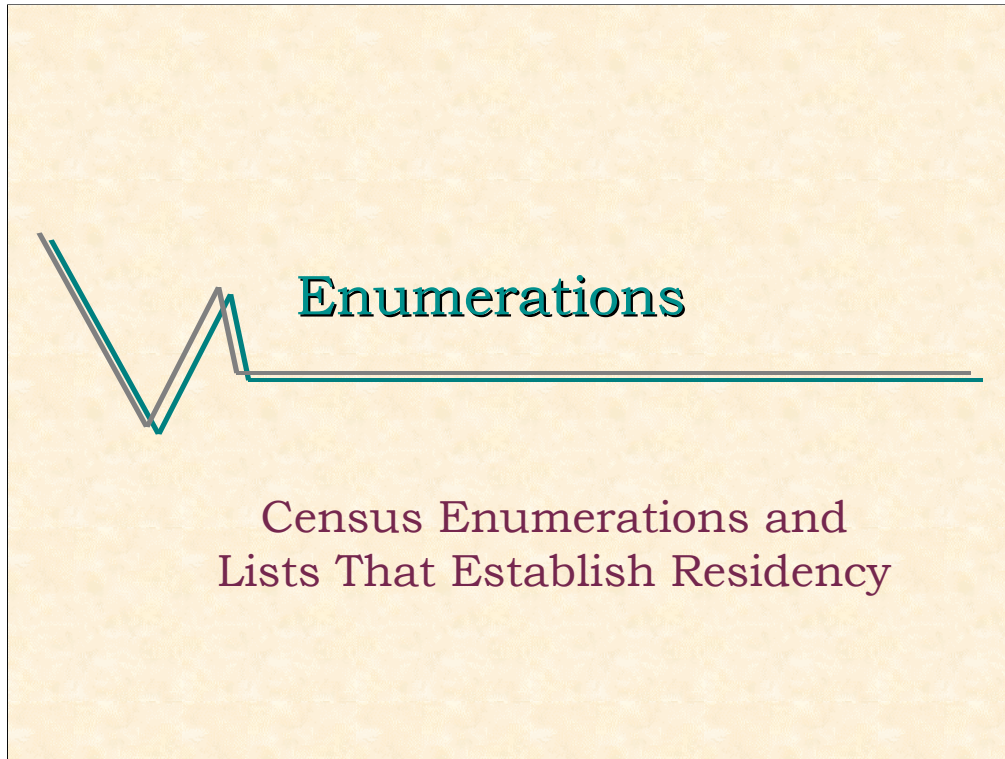
BMD – what we normally call vital records, no matter where it comes from, whether it be an actual civil registration, church record, headstone transcription, or obituary.

Military – pensions, muster rolls, pay stubs, DAR lineage charts

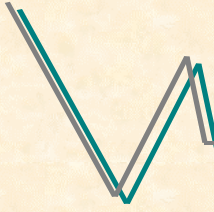
Legal—usually subdivided, Deeds and Probate at minimum

Heritage—local history books, biographical reviews

Genealogies—undocumented trees from on line or printed works. These are not sources, but depending on the quality of the work, can be used as research outlines. Just be very critical and analytical here—it is possible to put together individuals with citations that are well researched in and of themselves, but not for the individual they are applied to. This is the topic of an entire talk that we do not have time to explore today, but we do have plans for Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer to cover it at our Fall Seminar in October. As soon as we have finalized the date and time there will be registration information on our web site.



Moving on, let's start with census and related records. You want to start with the census because that is an area that covers wide geography with plentiful on line free search capabilities. Use the census to determine a narrower area to focus other types of research that are not so easily done on line.



Enumeration Types

- US Federal Census
- State Census
- Foreign Countries' Census
- Tax Lists
- Poll Books
- Freeman Lists

These include: ****

US Federal Census

State Census

Can you think of others?

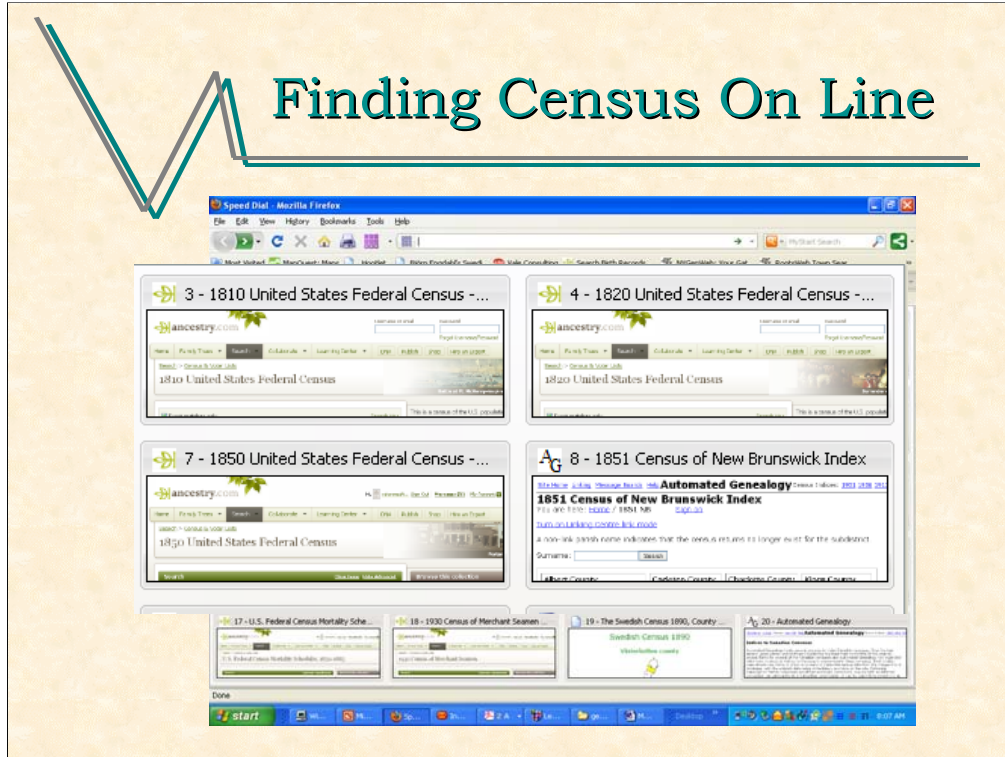
Foreign Countries' Census

Tax Lists

Poll Books

Freeman Lists

Finding Census On Line



Heritage Quest is available free with your library card anywhere in Dutchess County.

I use Firefox as a browser, and have added the extension application speed dial which allows me to bring up many links of a similar nature at the click of a button. Then I just pick the one I need to go to the web site. This saves a lot of time.



Census Milestones

Occupation	1820 & 1840	Category count occupation
	1850—1870	Given for males over 15 yrs old
	1880+	Given for each person
Birth	1850	Name, age and POB given for each person
	1880	POB given for parents
Relationships	1880	Given with respect to HOH
	1850—1870	Marital status reported if within the yr
	1880+	Marital status reported for all
Immigration	1900	Marital status and length of marriage, number children and how many still living is listed
	1820—1830	Count of foreigners not naturalized
	1870	Foreign born parentage is noted
	1900—1930	Year of immigration and whether naturalized
Military	1840	Name and age for Rev War pensioners
	1910	Survivors of Union or Confederate Army or Navy
	1930	Veterans of any war y/n and what war or expedition

Every decade gives slightly different information; you have a handout that gives each census in detail, but here are the basic “firsts” that we look for. The big years are 1850, for listing every person by name and giving their age and POB, 1880 for giving relationships and parents POB, and 1900 for telling how long the couple was married, how many children the mother had had, and how many were still living.



State & Special Census

- Every state did/does not conduct state census.
- Those states that do have may not have done it every ten years.
- Customarily this was done at the mid-mark, i.e. 1855, 1865....



State & Special Census

- In addition to filling in missing periods in the family's time line, the state and special census are valuable because they often give additional information such as county of birth and how long in area or where moved in from.
- Many county genweb sites have transcribed these local census records and annotated them with material from other sources.

Family Group Sheets

526

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Concord in the County of Concord State
of New Hampshire enumerated by me, on the 25th day of June, 1880. Sheel W. Child Ass't Marshal
Post Office Boston

Serial Number	Name	Sex	Decemered.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value or Estate Owned.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year with the year immediately preceding.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.		
			Age	Male	Female		Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	David M. Mason	M	6						N.H.				
2	Rebecca	F	1						"				
3	Wm. H. Kniffith	M	46			Farmer			"				
4	Caroline	F	19			House-keeper			"				
5	205 208 Alon. Bancroft	M	51			Farmer	200	400	N.H.				
6	Clara	F	45						"				
7	John	M	22			Farmer			"				
8	Maria C.	F	15						"				
9	Conley C.	F	12						"				
10	Caroline C.	F	4						"				
11	Callent C.	M	1						"				
12	206 217 Geo. M. Suggs	M	54			Farmer	1000	500	"				
13	P. I.	F	36						"				

Here you see how the every name census is arranged like a family group sheet, first HOH, then wife, then children, making it easy to envision the family unit and extract data.

Census Data Form

1800 CENSUS WORKSHEET

STATE: ME
 COUNTY: CUMBERLAND
 TOWN: HARTFORD
 HOH: NATHAN SWAN

DESIGNATION	YOB RANGE	# NAMES	
		MALE	FEMALE
	1791-1800	0	0
10-15	1785-1790	2	0
	1775-1784	1	0
26-44	1756-1774	0	0
45+	ART OR BEF 1755 1710-1755	1	1

NEIGHBORING FAMILIES, NOTES

ERDMOND (?) MISH
 ? CUSHMAN

LYDIA + DANIEL ARE OLD ENOUGH
 TO BE GROWN + OUT OF HH

1. First transfer the row of tick marks onto the columns

2. Then fill in the family members from what data you glean from later census etc.

3. Note neighbors

4. HOH, location and Source

5. Add comments about missing family members or marks that you cannot identify.

I have designed a set of data extraction forms to make this job easier.

This sample does not show it, but I also put the page and row number in the blank space at the upper left corner.

Don't be content with one or two decades...try to find every census for the family.



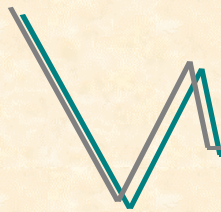
Narrow The Birth Range

Name/Census	YOB Min	YOB Max
[wife] Agard 1790 ¹	1700	1775
Roder Agard 1800 ²	1756	1774
Rhoda Lacey 1810 ³	1720	1765

1. In 1790 the females were not given an age range; this range was judged from ages of children and husband.
2. Her 1800 mark was in the 26 to 45 yr old column.
3. Her 1810 mark was in the 45+ range; min YOB based on likely upper limit of 90 yrs old.

This sample uses three consecutive censuses to construct a list of birth ranges for Rhoda.

Then, choosing the **highest minimum value and the lowest maximum**, look how her birth range can be narrowed to a 9 year period for the twice widowed Rhoda, maiden name unknown.



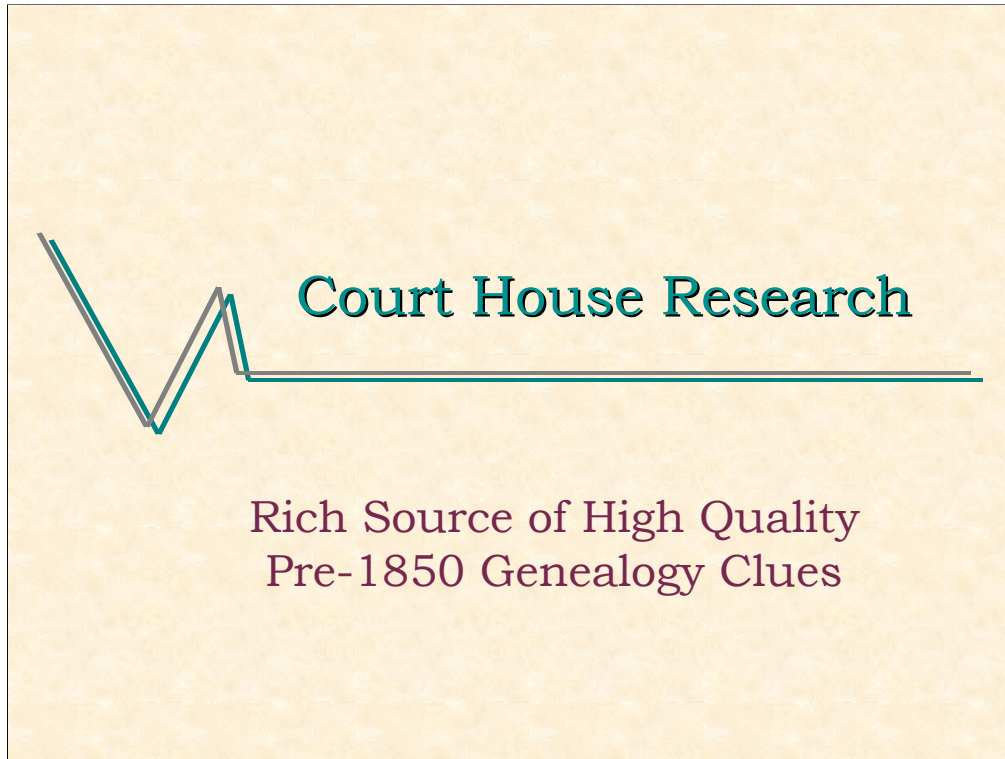
Narrow The Birth Range

Name/Census	YOB Min	YOB Max
John Tallman 1810 ¹	1785	1794
John Talman 1800 ²	1795	1804
John Tallman 1810 ³	1781	1790

1. Age 16 – 25
2. Age 16 – 25
3. Age 40 – 49

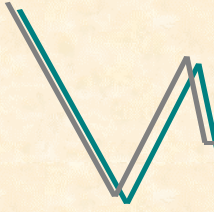
Remember it is not an exact science. Age ranges were not always reported accurately.

What do you think this one means?



Because of its difficulty this record group is often looked at last.

However, since prior to 1850 90% of the male population owned land, these records are an excellent way to find clues for your ancestor.



Before You Go

- Explore the area's history and geography
- Find the courthouse and call ahead
- Do your homework, plan your strategy
- Check your supplies – pack a buddy if needed
- Dress appropriately
- Get plenty of rest and have breakfast!

I would try researching near your home first. If you do not have any research to do in the area, choose a query from a message board and research those names. If you are successful the lister will appreciate your help. If you find nothing, you will still have gained valuable experience.

Call ahead—I copied down a list that was taped to the reference counter at the Kent CT Town Hall that showed all the places Kent Probate records were found for various periods. From 1755-1787, the period I was interested in, were to be found in Sharon, but when I got there I was told all those probate records had been moved in Canaan. This was not too big a deal for me as I had other things to lookup in Sharon, and it was nearby, but you don't want to have this happen after you have driven 200 miles.

Review your notes and know what you are looking for.

Check your supplies—make sure you have enough paper, forms, pencils [ink is not allowed in some locations], a dust rag and flashlight, magnifying glass, lightweight cotton gloves, post it flags, empty file folders. Some courts allow digital photos and some don't even allow the camera past the metal detectors. Some have copy machines that accept cards and some change and some you pay at the counter and can even write a check. Some day it might all be uniform but for now that is one of the questions you ask when you call ahead.

The books are heavy and are stored both up high and down low. Some places are dusty. Wear serviceable clothing and comfortable shoes. If you are not up to lifting take someone with who is...possibly a grandchild. High school students can stay occupied with ipod and cell phone for many a long hour without getting bored...texting and music being as beloved by them as genealogy is by you. What a fortuitous development!

History & Geography

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MPH
 General Public Health
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 Education
 Human Services
 BS
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 Business
 MS
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Results for City: hopewell State: ny

City	State	County
HopewellCenter	NY	Ontario
HopewellJunction	NY	Dutchess

Town Name (required)

 State Abbreviation (optional)

Familiarize yourself with your target area before you do any on site research.

Roots web has a search box for locating the present county for most existing towns.

There are many other web sites that will assist you. As you narrow your scope you may want to purchase some books on the area, but these web sites give you a wealth of information to assist you in narrowing the scope. Depending on the number of volunteers and quality of content submitted these local sites can also be rich in data, most often biographies and vital records, as well as individual town histories.

US GenWeb

The USGENWEB Project

Land of the Free ...Genealogy

★ HOME ★ ABOUT US ★ STATES ★ PROJECTS ★ RESEARCHERS ★ VOLUNTEERS

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Keeping Internet Genealogy Free

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Site Navigation
Home Page

Welcome to The USGenWeb Project! We are a group of volunteers working together to provide free genealogy websites for genealogical research in every county and every state of the United States. This Project is non-commercial and fully committed to free genealogy access for everyone.

Organization is by county and state, and this website provides you with links to all the state genealogy websites which, in turn, provide gateways to the counties. The USGenWeb Project also sponsors important Special Projects at the national level and this website provides an entry point to all of those pages, as well.

Clicking on a State Link (on the left) will take you to the State's website. Clicking on the tabs above will take you to additional

County Spotlight

Project Archives

Comments and administrative-type problems should be emailed to the **National Coordinator**. For complaints regarding a specific web site within

X Find: public land act

Next Previous Highlight all Match case Reached end of page, continued from top

Gen web...each state has a web site linked to this page, and county pages linked to their state page.

DCGS Communities

DUTCHESS COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Home | Membership | Meetings & Events | Publications | Library Info | Vital Records | Queries & Searches | Links

Dutchess County Communities

Over time, areas in Dutchess County have been referred to by various names. If you are looking for a Dutchess County ancestor but the area with which they are associated does not appear in our Registrar table, check this page to see if you can find the area. If so, the link will take you to the page for the municipality that currently holds records for that area. *Be sure to make note of that municipality's name for future reference.*

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A
[Amenia \(Town of\)](#) (original town, present bounds since 1818), [Amenia \(Village of\)](#), [Ameniaville](#), [Amenia Union](#), [Annandale](#), [Annandale-on-Hudson](#), [Arlington](#), [Arthursburg\(h\)](#), [Attlebury](#)

B
[Bear Market](#), [Bangall](#), [Barrytown](#), [Baxtertown](#), [Beacon \(City of\)](#) (1913 incorporated Fishkill villages of Matteawan & Fishkill Landing), [Beaman Corners](#), [Bare Market](#), [Bear Market](#), [Beekman \(Town of\)](#) (original town, present bounds since 1827), [Beekman \(Village of\)](#), [Beekmanville](#), [Beekman Furnace](#), [Bethel](#), [Billings](#), [Bloomvale](#), [Brinckerhoff](#), [Brinckerhoffville](#), [Bulls Head](#)

C

X Find: Next Previous Highlight all Match case Reached end of page, continued from top

Our web site has a page under the vital records menu that gives location names, both existing and past, and tells what town they are/were found in.



World GenWeb



The WorldGenWeb Project

MAIN MENU

- [Home](#)
- [Advisory Board](#)
- [Country Index](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [How To Get Started](#)
- [Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Special Projects](#)
- [Web Links](#)
- [Whats New](#)
- [WorldGenWeb Archivers](#)

Welcome to the WorldGenWeb Project

The WorldGenWeb Project is a non-profit, volunteer based organization dedicated to providing genealogical and historical records and resources for world-wide access!



Click on the map above to see Regions

If you would like to learn more about this project, please read our [About Us](#) page.

LATEST UPDATES

- [BALLUFF, John C.](#)
- [BALLIN, Albert](#)
- [BALLERINO, S. A.](#)
- [ARNOT, Ernst Moritz](#)
- [ALBERS, John](#)

WHO'S ONLINE

We have 161 guests online

Other countries outside the US also have genweb sites.



ALHN



[Member Information](#) [Mission Statement](#) [States](#) [Topics](#)

Welcome to the **American Local History Network**, a central point of entry into independent, genealogical and historical web sites. If you are interested in hosting an American Local History **state** or a **topic**, we welcome your participation. If you are interested in hosting a county please email the state coordinator. Thank you for stopping by ALHN we hope you enjoyed your visit and look forward to seeing you again.



The American Local History Network is another great source of local history enrichment.

The Red Book



Click to **LOOK INSIDE!**

Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources, 2nd Edition (Red Book: American State, Country & Town Sources) [Hardcover]
Alice Eichholz (Editor)

★★★★☆ (16 customer reviews) | Like (0)

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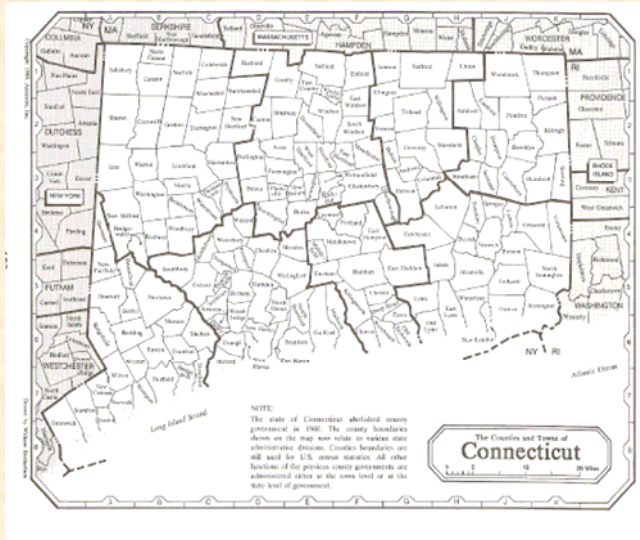
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The Red Book is a source no American genealogist should be without. For each state it gives information on what records are available and in what repositories. It is available in the library or you can buy your own copy. Used editions are available at Amazon.com for under a dollar, believe it or not!

The Red Book



Each state has an informational section and a county map. For states such as CT that do not use counties as government centers the map also shows townships in each county.

The Red Book

CONNECTICUT

Town	Map Town Address	Date Formed	Parent Towns	County	Probate Person	Town	Map Town Address	Date Formed	Parent Towns	County	Probate Person
01	Bridgeport 41 State St. S. P.O. Box 214 Bridgeport 06702	1824	New Albany	Litchfield	New Bedford 1787 Woodbury	02	Columbia Norman Hall 323 Jonathan & South Hill Ave. Columbia 06207-1156	1834	Madison	Yale	John Cow 1854 Palmer
03	Bristol City Hall 111 N. Main St. P.O. Box 114 Bristol 06010-0114	1783	Farmington	Hartford	Bristol 1833 Farmington	03	Canterbury 25 Pine St./P.O. Box 97 Canterbury 06703-0097	1743	—	Windsor	Samuel 1847 Lambert
05	Brookfield 100 Parsons Rd. P.O. Box 516 Brookfield 06805-516	1780	Brookley/New Milford Warren	Fairfield	Brookfield 1850 Warren	04	Coventry 112 Main St. Coventry 06230-3415	1712	—	Windham	Coventry 1847 Adams
07	Brooklyn 4 South Deer Rd. P.O. Box 350 Brooklyn 06254-0350	1786	Plainfield/Coventry	Windham	Brooklyn 1833 Plainfield	06	Eastford 41 West St. Eastford 06026-2142	1851	Windsor/Windsor	Windham	Richardson
09	Eastington 230 Spaulding Hwy. Eastington 06023-1321	1834	Bristol	Ashtab	Eastington 1833 Farmington	08	Danbury City Hall 155 Deer Hill Ave. Danbury 06810-7705	1687	—	Fairfield	Danbury 1744 Scribble
08	Canaan 101 Main St. P.O. Box 47 Canaan 06026-0047	1776	—	Windsor	Canaan 1846 Warren	09	Deep River 134 Main St. Deep River 06417-2808	1826	Jay/Yorktown, unincorp. 1943	Madison	Deep River 1943 Schrock
09	Canterbury 1 Howard St.	1732	Plainfield	Windham	Canterbury 1835 Plainfield	05	Durham City Hall	1676	—	New Britain	Durham 1858 —

For many states you will find a table for the townships providing the Town Hall Address, County, Date formed, location on the county map, and earliest year for both vital records and town records.

The Red Book

Map	County Address	Date Formed Parent County/ies	Deeds	Surrogate's Court
P11	Onondaga 401 Montgomery St., Rm. 200 Syracuse 13202	1794 Herkimer	1784	1796 401 Montgomery St., Rm. 209 Syracuse 13202-2173
A6	Ontario 20 Ontario St. Canandaigua 14424	1789 Montgomery	1789-1915*	1789-1926* 27 N. Main St.

The counties are listed for all states, showing when the county was formed, the parent county if applicable, the beginning year for deeds and for surrogate records. In this case we see that if my ancestor lived in Syracuse but migrated from NY to MI in 1792, then we need to look not in Onondaga Co but rather Herkimer.



Court System

- Divisions vary depending on type of record.
- Make a location to time period chart for your ancestor, to the best of your knowledge.
- Consult the Red Book for time frames and record locations.
- Keep an open mind – sometimes legal transactions for a prior location were handled after moving.

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Make a location to time period chart for your ancestor, to the best of your knowledge.

Consult the Red Book for time frames and record locations.

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Directories On Line

New York State Unified Court System

4th Judicial District
Clinton County, N.Y.

Clinton County Courts
137 Margaret Street

Street (NYS Route 9).

Cathy Williams, Chief Clerk
Ph: (518) 565-4658
Fk: (518) 565-4688

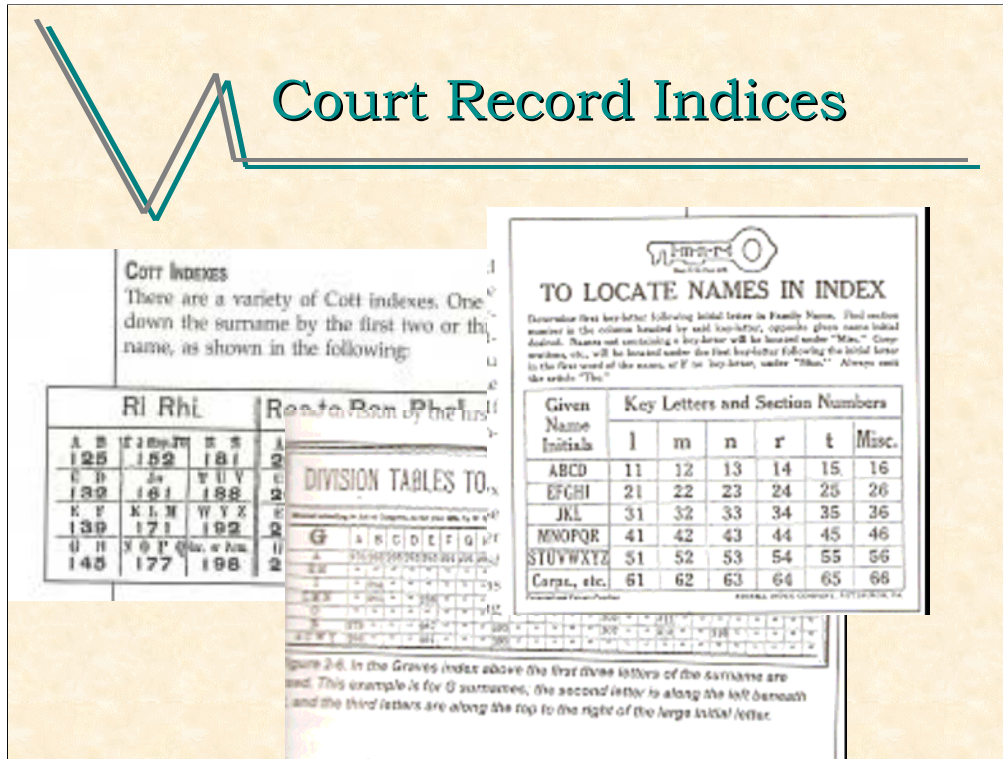
Surrogate's Court
Hon. Kevin K. Ryan
Debra Bubbio, Chief Clerk
Ph: (518) 565-4630
Fk: (518) 565-4769

Clerk's Office Hours
Monday through Friday 9-5:00 p.m.

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Use google search to find contact information for your court. This shows how NY is divided into districts that contain more than one county. I found these directories by using “Clinton County NY Surrogate Court” in the google search box

Court Record Indices



Many records in the courthouse are indexed in one book with the document in a box or another book. If you think about it, these indices were kept in ledgers by hand. For many records, one page for all the surnames beginning with each letter certainly wasn't going to cut it. Over the years different methods of indexing were developed. They all consist of ways to narrow down the number of names on each page...and each page could still grow to several pages all with the same page number. Two problems with this is the complexity of the system and the fact that your ancestor's page number depended on the first three letters in the name. So you sometimes need to check more than one ledger page for alternate spellings. The system used in Dutchess County Courthouse records room is very intuitive and can be navigated without any training. Some of these indices look like Greek and you may never come across an example of every one of them. My advice would be to always take a copy of this book *Courthouse Research for Family Historians* with you and learn by doing. This book is so valuable I have two copies—one for the house and one for the brief case.



Land Ownership

- More than just Deeds
 - Mortgages
 - Rent ledgers
 - Lis pendens
 - Surveys and plats
 - Boundary disputes
- Feudal system and leasing
- Metes and bounds vs. public lands
- Before you begin searching

A few considerations to cover before we actually go to the courthouse:

More than just Deeds

Mortgages

Rent ledgers

Lis pendens

Surveys and plats

Boundary disputes

Feudal system and leasing

Metes and bounds vs. public lands

Before you begin searching



Minimum Vocabulary

Grantee	Buyer, person to whom property is transferred. Party of the second part.
Grantor	Seller, person transferring ownership to another. Party of the first part.
Quitclaim	This only states that the person signing relinquishes claim on the property.
Deed of trust	A debt is involved.
Surety	One who guarantees payment of the debt.
Release of dower	Many states required that a wife sign permission to transfer her dower. Check local laws for time frame and applicability.
Indenture	In the case of land records, the deed.

There are certainly many many more terms to learn. Glossaries are available on line and in the Courthouse Research book. My advice would be to look them up as you need them, and then again if you forget them, and eventually you will master the terms needed. Here are a few you should know for all land research.

Grantee Buyer, person to whom property is transferred. Party of the second part.

Grantor Seller, person transferring ownership to another. Party of the first part.

Quitclaim This only states that the person signing relinquishes claim on the property.

Deed of trust A debt is involved.

Surety One who guarantees payment of the debt.

Dower - A wife's interest in her husband's property, inheritable at his death. English probate law set this at 1/3. "Her thirds" was a phrase used for this. In the U.S. it was common for a woman to formally relinquish her dower claim on land sold by the husband. This further guaranteed that the property was clear of all obligations. In some areas the lack of a dower relinquishment at the time of sale was proof that the man was single or widowed. See also *jointure*.

Land records often reveal the name of a man's wife. The English common law system of "dower rights" for a widow was followed in the American colonies and continued in most U.S. states well into the 19th Century. Dower rights entitled a widow to 1/3 of her husband's estate upon his death. No written will had to specify that amount. As a result of the dower rights of a married woman, early land deeds will almost always mentioned the name of a man's wife because she had a legal interest in any land being sold or purchased. In fact, a woman had "veto power" over the sale of land by her husband. Under the English system, a married woman could not own land in her own name, but with her dower rights, she could veto the sale of the land. Many early deed transcripts will include an affidavit in which a wife was interviewed privately by the court clerk to determine if she was in favor of the sale or not.



Early Land Ownership

- King of England granted land to groups of wealthy speculators [Company].
- Speculators authorized local individuals or agents [Proprietors] to sell land, set aside common areas, etc.
- Profit was expected. Settlers to generate this profit were induced by promise of free land.

The speculators, sometimes referred to as Companies, usually stayed in England and granted land rights on blocks of land to individuals or agents [Proprietors] who could sell land, set aside common areas, and so forth.

This was a profit business, and to make a profit required a variety of settlers who were induced to come to the colonies by promise of free land. Land ownership followed the laws of England. After the Revolutionary War, land held by the Crown was now owned by the new US Government.



Land Grant Documents

- Warrant
- Survey
- Patent

Some documents you may encounter.



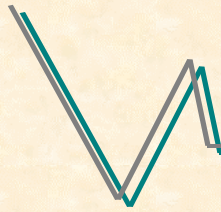
Warrants

- First document in land grant process
- Authorized tract to be set aside for grant or sale
- General land description
- Issued by a government agency
- Bounty land warrants were used to pay soldiers

Warrants are records that can confirm that your ancestor did indeed receive a land grant, it is the first document in what may be several records relating to a land grant to a private party.

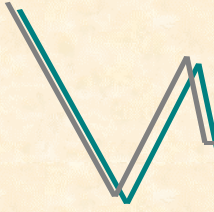
This was the first document in the land grant process. A warrant authorizes a tract of land to be set aside for a land grant or sale. It may describe the land in general terms, such as "200 acres of land West of the New River". A governmental agency issued a warrant, e.g., the King of England, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Proprietor of Maryland, the State of Connecticut, or the United States Federal Government if the land were located in one of the thirty Public Land States after 1787.

Warrants were issued by Colonial, State, and Federal Governments as payment to soldiers for service in various wars, including the Colonial Wars of the 18th Century, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. These "bounty-land" warrants indicated a certain number of acres of land without describing the land precisely. The warrant certificate had a cash value based on the location of the land and the number of acres involved. Warrants could be assigned (sold) to someone other than the person granted the warrant before the land was surveyed.



Surveys

- Exact location and boundary description
- Chain bearers can provide clues
- Metes and bounds
- Timeline:
 - 1785 Land Ordinance set up rectangular survey system
 - 1787 Northwest Territory created
 - 1796 Land Ordinance changed section numbering system [earlier system used principally in Ohio]



Metes and Bounds

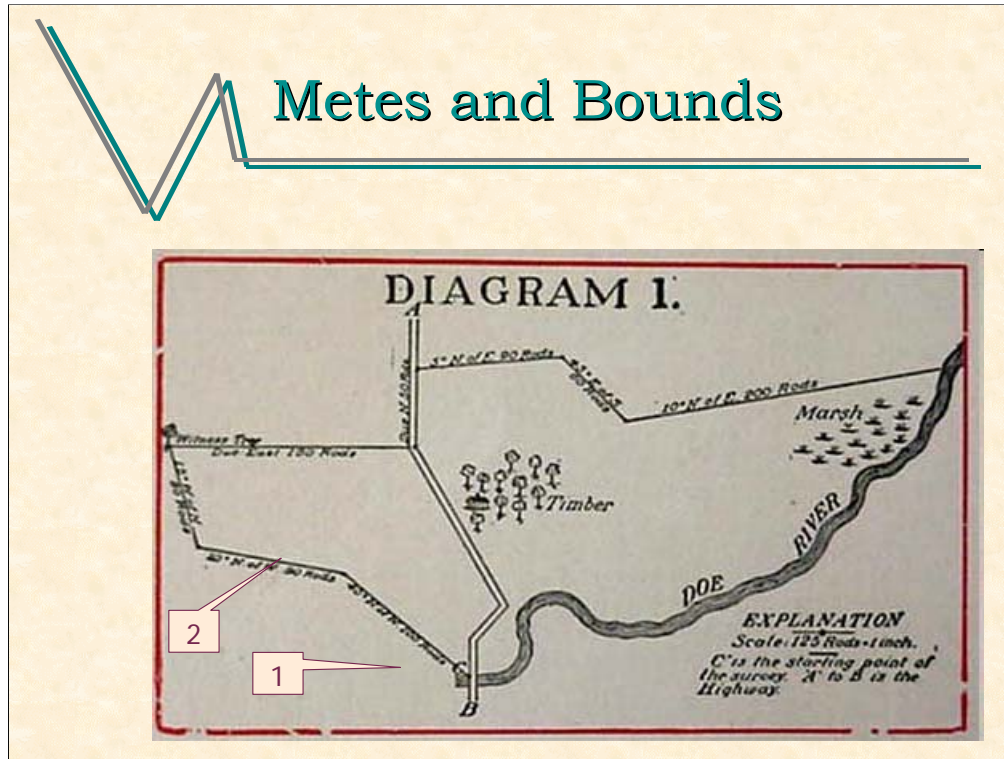
- Original surveying system brought from England
- Used in the original 13 Colonies
- Physically describe starting point and then goes around property bounds using compass headings from point to point

Original surveying system brought from England

Used in the original 13 Colonies

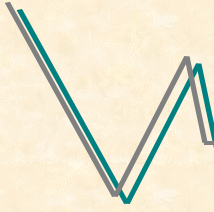
Physically describe starting point and then goes around property bounds using compass headings from point to point

Metes and Bounds



"Beginning at a stone on the Bank of Doe River, at a point where the highway from A. to B. crosses said river (see point marked C. on Diagram 1); thence 40 degrees North of West 100 rods to a large stump; then 10 degrees North of West 90 rods; thence 15 degrees West of North 80 rods to an oak tree (see Witness Tree on Diagram 1); then due East 150 rods to the highway; thence following the course of the highway 50 rods due North; then 5 degrees North of East 90 rods; thence 45 degrees of South 60 rods; thence 10 degrees North of East 200 rods to the Doe River; thence following the course of the river Southwesterly to the place of beginning."

This plan has resulted in endless confusion and litigation, as landmarks decay and change, and it is a well-known fact that the compass-needle varies and does not always point due North. This may have been bad news for those embroiled in lot line disputes, but it is good news for you, as these civil proceedings may yield more clues regarding your ancestors.



Public Land System

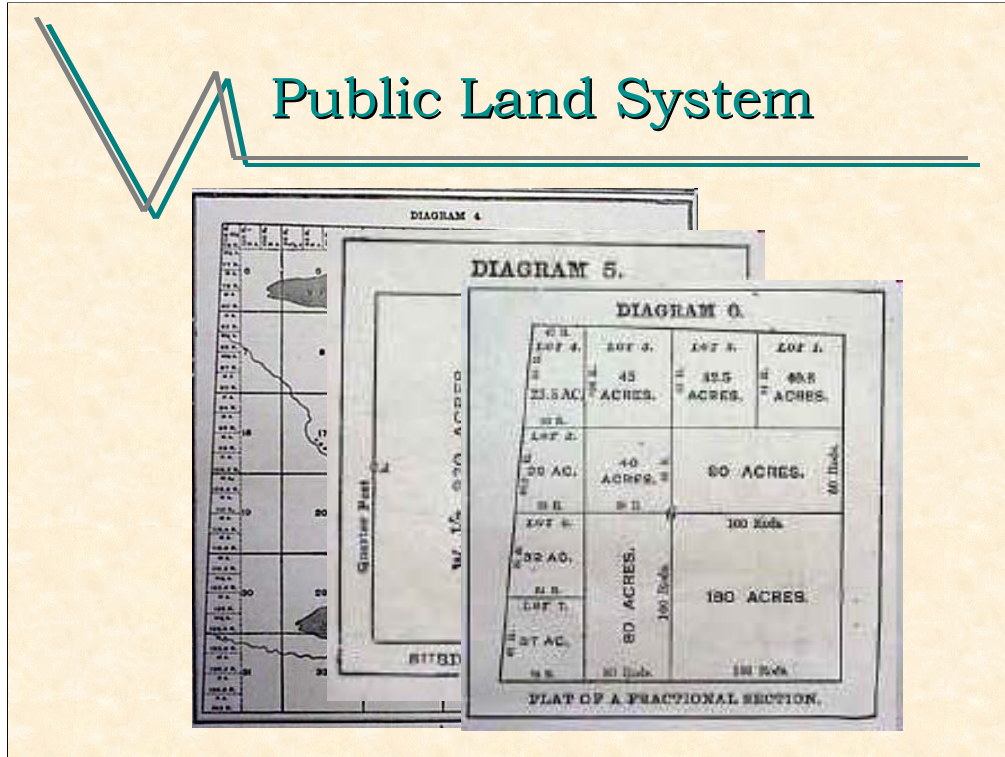
- Rectangular grid.
- Thinking of a table, the townships are rows, ranges are columns.
- Grid is divided into quadrants, numbering east, west, north and south out from the center point.
- Thinking of graphing grid and math, the x axis is for range numbering and the y axis is for township numbering.

There is a handout in your packet describing this system.

As a caution, Canada uses the Dominion Land Surveying System. It is very similar, but section numbering is reversed, so that whereas our section 1 is in the NE corner of the township, in Canada it will be in the SE corner.

Sometimes it is useful to plot out your ancestor's land along with potential kin to see if they were neighbors, something that may not be readily obvious from the verbal description.

Public Land System



We don't have time to get into detail on this topic today but there is a link provided to review it in greater detail.



Which Is Which?

STATE LAND STATES USE METES AND BOUNDS

State Land States are the original thirteen states plus five states whose bounds were taken from the original thirteen, i.e., Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maine, and West Virginia. Upon annexation to the Union, both Texas and Hawaii retained ownership of their public lands and became State Land States.

Twenty U.S. States retained ownership of their lands and set up a General Land Office for the issuing of land grants.

PUBLIC LAND STATES USE RECTANGULAR SURVEY

In 1787 the United States Government created the Territory Northwest of the Ohio River and the "Public Domain" of the United States was born. Public Domain areas today comprise a total of thirty (30) states, which are called "Public Land States".

Land in the thirty Public Land States was sold by the United States Federal Government.

You have a handout in your packet that summarizes this information.

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What Time Frame?

- WHEN did your ancestor live in the area?
- WHEN did individual land ownership become customary in the area?

-24-

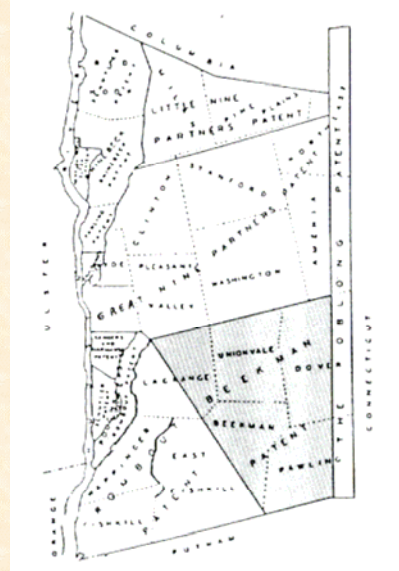
LIVINGSTON ACCOUNT BOOK: 1767-1784: con'd

<u>Page</u>	<u>Name/Date</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>DR</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
	Price, Daniel 1767-1783 rent	24	4	2	
18	Haber, Christlaen jr 1767-1774 rent	25	4	2	in 1772 Abraham Rypen- bergh helped pay
	Niver, David 1774-1783 rent above farm	25	4	2	
	Brusie, Andries 1766 rent				

Kelly, Arthur C. M. *Settlers and Residents Vol. 3, Part 1: Town of Livingston 1710-1899*.
Rhinebeck, NY: Kinship, c1978.

Not only is it important to know what type of state your ancestor lived in, but when you narrow your search to the county you should look at the history of land ownership for that area. The lords or the patents leased land to farmers and merchants. For example, if your ancestors lived in some of the Columbia County NY towns before 1800 and their name was not Livingston you are not likely to find much in the way of deeds or mortgages in their name. In this case look in the rent ledgers. In this transcription found in

Use Google Search



You might often find patent maps for your area by using google search.

Court House First Stop

Index to Deeds, Ontario County, NY, 1789-1845, Haas-Hazard

Copyright: Ontario County

[Return to Home Page](#)

YEAR	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	GRANTOR LAST	GRANTOR FIRST	LIB	PAGE
1806	Haas	Frederick	Loomis	Jerome	11	62
1811	Haas	Frederick	Smith	Thomas	15	261
1834	Haas	Frederick	Huston	James	55	362
1843	Haas	Frederick	Rees	James	73	340
1835	Haasze	Joseph	Ralph	Stillman	57	84
1835	Haasze	Joseph	Seymour	Charles	57	216
1812	Hackets	George	Connecticut	State Of	17	273
1813	Hackett	Gideon	Johnstone	Sir John	19	12
1839	Haddock	James	Fitch	Joshua	65	111
1818	Hadsall	James	Hadsall	John	24	418
1808	Hadsall	John	Cogshall	William	13	33
1809	Haff	Simeon	Morgan	Abner	14	152
1812	Haffman	John	Hornby	John	17	38
1832	Hagadorn	Jonathan	Wheeler	Andrew	53	78
1844	Hagaman	Howland	Eldridge	John	77	231
1837	Hagaman	William	Nottingham	James	62	399
1816	Haggerty	Hannah	Turner	Enoch	25	425
1819	Hagorty	John	Granger	Pierce	34	447
1842	Hahn	Frederick	Case	William	72	218
1836	Haight	Benjamin	Ayrault	Nicholas	60	427
1842	Haight	Benjamin	Academy	Canandaigua	73	148

For land records your first stop at the courthouse will be the grantor and grantee indices. Each book generally covers a period of years for the alphabet letter. You will find one indexed by grantees and one by grantors. Keep your ancestor's brief form timeline chart with you and refer back to it.

Make a List

GRANTEE OR GRANTOR INDEX HITS @ <i>For Reels</i>		
RESEARCH DATE: <i>28/00/2010</i>	PROJECT: <i>HULLER</i>	YEAR
GRANTEE	GRANTOR	LIB PG
<i>BARNETT HULLER</i>	<i>DODGE & ONS COYSRS</i>	<i>1780 8/10</i>
<i>BURNET HULLER</i>	<i>JAMES MONTGOMERY</i>	<i>1782 7/422</i>
<i>GUARDON HULLER & ONS</i>	<i>JOSEPH THORNE SH#</i>	<i>1807 19/731</i>
<i>BURNET HULLER</i>	<i>S. DODGE & ONS COYSRS</i>	<i>1809 20/519</i>
GRANTOR GRANTEE		
<i>BURNETT HULLER</i>	<i>JOSEPH DOUGHTY JR</i>	<i>1797 15/82</i>
<i>JOHN + MARGARET HULLER & ONS</i>	<i>CORNELIUS ETIAMS & ONS</i>	<i>1810 10/11</i>
<i>SARAH HULLER</i>	<i>JOHN PUGSLEY</i>	<i>1816 25/623</i>
<i>GUARDON & MATTHIAS HULLER</i>	<i>JOHN PUGSLEY</i>	<i>1820 28/324</i>

Using the grantee and grantor indices make a list of the entries you want to look up in the deed books. If you run out of time you can go back and finish up using this list. Be careful to list the names as they appear—grantee or grantor.

What Do Deeds Reveal?

LAND RECORDS DATA		PROJECT / LINE	POSTED?
RESEARCH DATE:		REPOSITORY OR PRINTED SOURCE OR WEB SITE:	
23 NOV 2010		MILLER POK REC R71	
LIB	PG	INDEX YR	GRANTOR/S
25	263	1816	SARAH MILLER
			GRANTEE/S
			JOHN PUGSLEY
NOTES			
RECORDED DATE: TRANSACTION DATE: 01 SEP 1815			
<p>SARAH MILLER OF STANFORD BEING THE DAUGHTER & HEIR OF STEPHEN PUGSLEY LATE OF STANFORD DISD JOHN PUGSLEY ALSO THEIR LAND IN NORWICH, CHENANGO, NY NEXT TO SHERRARD TO LINE</p>			

In your packet you should find a blank Land Records Data form that you can duplicate for abstracting the data. Remember, if possible, you want to also have a photocopy to attach to this form. In addition to the actual abstract you have spaces to fill in relevant citation details as well as a section to record your conclusions—your own interpretation of what the facts reveal—in this case you should note that Sarah’s maiden name is Pugsley and that she and John are likely siblings. There is a lookups section to note what you want to find next to expand on this document—in this case I want to look for Miller’s and Pugsley’s in Chenango County.

Where Do I Go Next?

"the said.." [sometimes "sd."] means that the person or place was mentioned earlier in the document. Samuel Pugsley is mentioned just the once????

LAND RECORDS		PROJECT / LINE		POSTED?
DATA		MILLER		✓
RESEARCH DATE:		REPOSITORY OR PRINTED SOURCE OR WEB SITE:		
23 Nov 2010		PDR REC R77		
LIB	PG	INDEX YR	GRANTOR/S	GRANTEE/S
28	324	1830	GURDON & MATTHIAS G. MILLER	JOHN PUGSLEY
NOTES				
RECORDED DATE:		TRANSACTION DATE: 11 SEP 1921		
GURDON MILLER & SARAH HIS WIFE AND MATTHIAS MILLER OF TOWN OF NEWBURGH, ORANGE, NY				
JOHN PUGSLEY OF STANFORD, DUTCHESS, NY				
ESTATE OF STEPHEN PUGSLEY DATE OF STANFORD BORDERING LAND OF SAID SAMUEL PUGSLEY				
RECORDED W/ AFFIDAVIT FROM ORANGE CO				

Here we find confirmation that Sarah Pugsley is the wife of Gurdon Miller. It looks like Matthias G Miller is definitely a person of interest. And this is the first clue that Gurdon and Sarah ever lived in Orange County. So I want to look at the 1810 through 1830 census of Newburgh and check for deeds in Orange County as well.

Something curious I noticed here...**** Samuel Pugsley is called "the said Samuel Pugsley". Said is used when the person or place is previously referred to in the document. For my purposes this did not impact the data, but I make a note of it anyway just in case it ties into something later.



Estates

Wills, Probate Proceedings,
Inventories, Guardianships



Probate Proceedings

- Wills are but a part of it
- Intestate—dying without a will [also in testate]
- The probate packet
- Proving a will
- Letters of administration [letters testamentary]

You may not find a will for your ancestor—sometimes that does not matter as the probate proceedings may include depositions, affidavits of heirship and more. But not always. Recently I read in SBP that Pelatiah Brewster died in Southfields, Orange, NY bef 25 Feb 1806 when letters on his estate were granted to Jesse Marvin, son-in-law. Excitedly I rushed off to Goshen to expand on my find. What I found was a form in the Letters book, one page, that said that Letters to the estate of Pelatiah Brewster were granted 25 Feb 1806 to Jesse Marvin, his son-in-law. That was the extent of the information. But this is not always the case. Either way, many times your ancestor will be found in the probate records whether or not they left a will, so do not assume the will is the be all and end all.

To prove a will means to submit proof that the will is valid, such as affidavits or witness statements, that are accepted by the presiding court—probate has a wider meaning and refers to all of the processes

Letters of administration - An order received from the probate court that gives the Administrator, Executor/Executrix or Personal Representative of an estate the legal authority to locate, manage, invest, spend, and distribute the assets of an estate.



The Will

- Original, transcription, abstract
- Administrator vs Executor
- “In the name of God, amen”

You may find wills copied in the clerk’s hand or in original form..depending on time frame and location. Abstracts will be found in books and periodicals outside the courthouse.

The executor is named by the testator in the will, while the administrator is named by the court if there is no will. They serve the same function, to administer the estate in compliance with existing local law, and, where applicable, according to the provisions of the will.

Wills that begin with an oath are not written by Quakers or any religion that does not believe in swearing oaths.



Who Inherits and How?

- Heirs at law – heirship succession [spouse, surviving children, grandchildren only of children who are deceased, parents....etc.]
- Naming the children
- Primogeniture [abolished 1777 GA, 1784 NC, 1785 VA, 1786 MD + NY, 1791 SC, 1798 RI*—check local laws for others]
- Per stirpes or per capita
- Daughters

* From 1718 to 1728 Rhode Island law specified the estate would descend to all children with the eldest son receiving a double portion.

Heirship succession specifies the order of inheritance and has changed very little over time. Check to see who signs off on the distribution of property.

Do not assume omitting a child meant they did not belong in the family or that they were disinherited. Naming the children was not required by law. If the testator named some and omitted others or left them a very small sum, it could mean they were disinherited, but much more often it signified that the testator had already previously given the child their share by transferring land or other possessions.

Primogeniture was based on the common law of England and stated that the eldest son inherited any real property not otherwise devised. So the eldest may not have even been mentioned, since his portion was declared thus by law. This was practiced in the southern states, NY and RI, and abolished roughly in the last quarter of the 18th century.

Per stirpes - a method of dividing an estate in which descendants of a deceased person share as a group in the portion of the estate to which the deceased would have been entitled. So if the deceased had three children they are each entitled to 1/3rd. If one child was deceased and had four children, each of those four would receive 1/12th.

Local laws varied with respect to daughters inheriting land in the case of intestate probate.

If a father had enough property he may have included daughters and sons in law. Daughters may have inherited household furniture or livestock. Amounts advanced to them while the father was alive were deducted from the portion they received upon his death.

Unmarried daughters were provided for—in addition to bequests the will usually designated they could live in the family home until they married.

Inventories

Dolls Cents

One Bond & mortgage against Pierce & Barker
dated October 12th 1825 of the amount of 1500 Dollars with
the conditions of payment as follows 300 Dollars on the 1st
day of May 1826 and the residue in five equal annual
payments thereafter with interest annually on endorsement
March 13th 1826 of 300 Dollars one other endorsement November
19th 1827 of 150 Dollars one other endorsement December
3rd 1827 of 150 Dollars one other endorsement August 23rd
1830 of 300 Dollars leaving the sum due of — 1024 00

Disinterested parties were assigned to appraise the estate property. Many such inventories contained an accounting of debts owed to and by the decedent, providing additional names to research.

Inventories

2 Barrels	50
1 Basket	8 1/2
1 Portable Furnace	25
Jug and Oil	50
2 Pails	1 1/2
3 Large Tin Milk Pans	1 00
3 Do Do ID	12 1/2
1 BD Tubble	50
1 Do Cherry	75
2 Butter Tubs	62 1/2
3 Jugs	09
1 Jack	12
1 Tin Wash Dish	06
1 Pair of Shoes	56
3 Silver-plate Plates	

The inventory appraised common household items and clothing as well

Inventories

A List of articles not appraised there being a Widow

1 Picture	6 Plates Liverpool ware
6 Silver Spoons	1 Britannia Tea Pot
1 Sugar Dish	1 Table
6 Chairs	6 Pictures with Frames
1 Bedstead	6 Tea Cups with Saucers
1 Under Bed St.	1 Case containing plaid images
1 Feather Bed	1 Large Spinning Wheel
4 Sheets	2 Family Bibles
2 Whole Blankets	15 ^{or} Volumes of Miscellaneous Books
2 Plaid Blankets	1 Picture and Frame
1 Coverlet	1 Loom
Curios Curtains	1 Quilting Wheel

This inventory includes a list of articles not appraised there being a widow. This is of interest as it gives a more complete picture of your ancestor's household, plus these items were passed down, perhaps for several generations.

Ancestor Belongings

*6 Plates Liverpool ware
1 Britannica Tea Pot*



You might have a little fun googling your ancestor's possessions to see what they looked like:

Liverpool ware plate...these also came with painted designs and can be had today for less than \$20 a plate.

Britannica tea pot – many varieties. Britannica metal is sometimes referred to as pewter.

Pay special attention to tool collections as this helps document your ancestor's occupation. A favorite reference of mine is this book on tools and trades. If your ancestor had a trade requiring training, you may want to check apprenticeship records for clues of his parentage.



Guardianships

- Not just for orphans
- Notice of a minor choosing a guardian
- Entailed property
- Next friend, *guardian ad litem*
- “Infant”

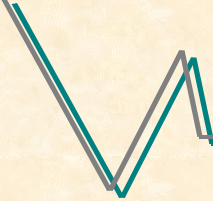
Guardianships were appointed for minors under 21 to look out for their financial interests. Depending on local laws, the guardian may be required to be a non-relative of the deceased parent. A non-minor may also have needed a guardian if they were judged incompetent due to senility, mental illness or even habitual drunkenness. [we may want to think about re-instituting this custom]

A minor could choose the guardian at age 14, thus fixing their age between 14-21. In the case of a guardian being appointed during probate and then later the child choosing their own guardian the age range can be narrowed as the child likely filed soon after turning 14.

Entailed property has had the normal rules of inheritance altered to specify who would inherit that property. Imagine the case of a widow remarrying and moving several states away to relocate with her second marriage. It would not make sense to keep that property for her young child. In this case there would be paperwork requesting permission to sell the entailed land. Permission was likely to come with the requirement that the proceeds would be used to purchase land for the child in the new location, thus preserving the intent of the testator.

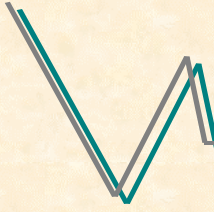
Next friend and guardian ad litem would be appointed to act on behalf of the minor or incompetent individual temporarily, but would not have the power of guardian, rather they would be to act on behalf, perhaps to file a petition.

The term infant here means a minor, not a baby.



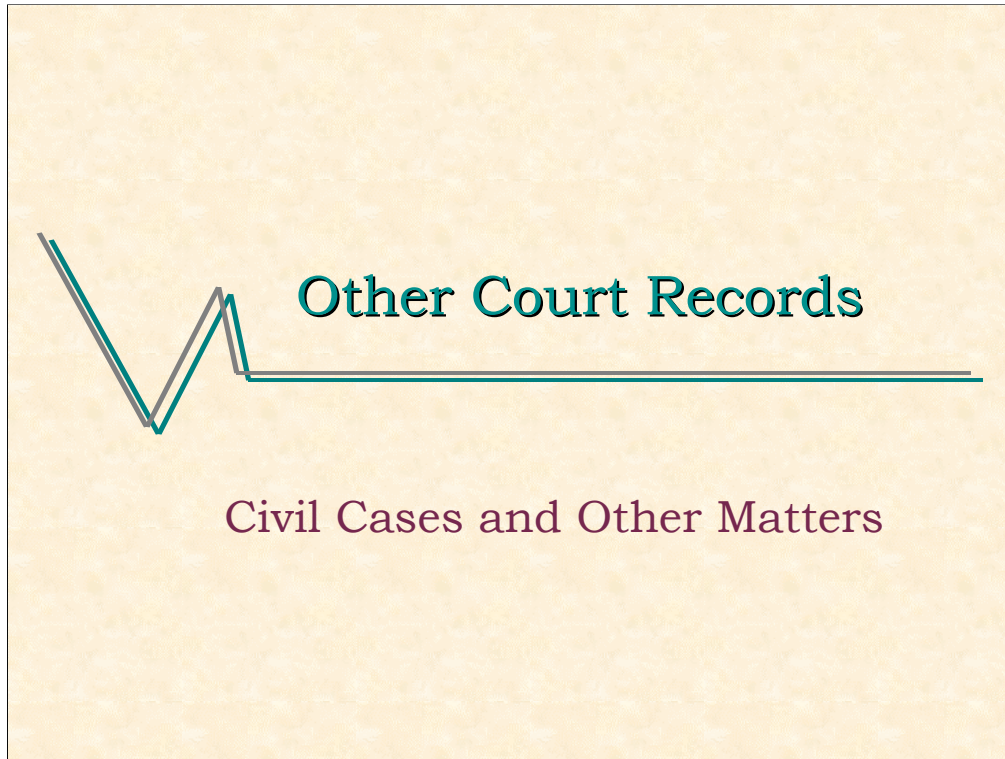
Relinquishment

- If the person(s) with first right to administer an estate chose to give up that right you will find a signed relinquishment.
- This was often the widow, who might specify a choice for alternate administrator.
- In this case you may not find the name of the widow anywhere else in the file.

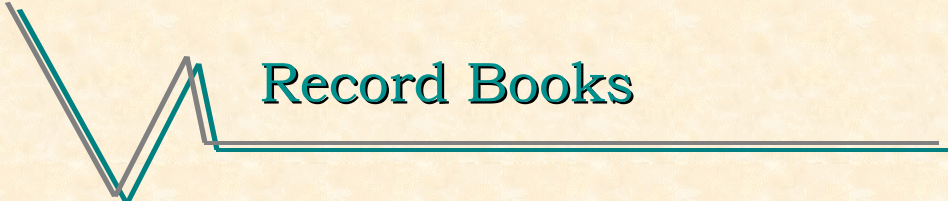


Renunciation

- This document renounces the terms specified in the will in favor of the inheritance dictated by law.
- For example, say a man with no children leaves his wife a 1/3 of his estate, but intestate law allowed her 1/2 since they had no children.
- These renunciations can sometimes indicate family troubles.



In addition to land and probate records there are many other types of court records that are of value to the genealogist. We don't really have time to get into these today, but I want to just give you a few lists to give you an idea of what might be found.



Record Books

- Bond books
- Court minute books / Journals
- Court order books
- Dockets
- Execution books
- Fee books
- Judgment books
- Indictment record
- Jury register

Civil and criminal proceedings may contain records for your ancestor. Even if he kept his nose clean legally he may have appeared as a witness or jury member. In state land states where metes and bounds surveys could sometimes be ambiguous, property line disputes were common, and you may gain clues from these cases.



Types of Documents

- Affidavit
- Answer
- Bastardy bond
- Bill
- Certified copy
- Citation
- Complaint
- Decree
- Deposition
- Exemplified copy
- Injunction
- Judgment
- Memorial
- Show cause order
- Summons
- Writ

One thing of special interest is the bastardy bond. You may think the father's name in the case of an illegitimate child is unknown, but in some states this is not the case. When a pregnancy was reported the mother was questioned, and the father named would be summoned and required to post a bond to guarantee his support of the child. If the mother refused to name the father, a member of her family posted the bond. If she could not get anyone to post it she might have been confined. Each locality was required to support their own poor and incompetents. This was one way of limiting the liability of this expense to the public. In New England those that appeared likely to become a burden were "warned out" of the town if they had not been born there. Some places habitually warned out newcomers even if they did not appear poor. These warnings out for many New England towns have been published as collections and are also a valuable source to establish residence for a family on the move.



Other Records

- Name changes
- Tax records
- Foreclosures
- Road records
- Coroner's records
- Voter registrations
- Naturalizations
- Divorces



We have already seen how newspapers can be a source of legal records. They can give us data for all of the other record groups as well.

The first newspaper was printed in Boston in 1690 by Benjamin Harris – *Public Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestic*. It was short and consisted of only one issue claiming that he would issue the paper once a month, or, if any glut of occurrences happen, oftener. It received a very bad reaction from the govt bureaucracy who issued warnings against future publications without license. The next paper was printed in 1704, the *Boston News-Letter*.

The *Boston Gazette* and the *New England Courant*, and the *New England Journal* followed in 1719, 1721 and 1727 in Boston. The *American Weekly Mercury* was published in Philadelphia beginning in 1719. The *New York Gazette* appeared in 1725 followed by the *Maryland Gazette* in 1727 and the *Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1728. So, very early on there is quite a bit of genealogical information that you can search in the comfort of your home by browsing the collections on ancestry, genealogy bank or newspaper archives. I love searching the newspapers because you never know what you are going to find.



The Case of Ibrook Miller

From the 1811 *Burlington Sentinel*: PATIENCE MILLER of St. Albans Franklin Co., VT brought her petition to this Court stating, that on the 10th day of March 1799 at Plattsburgh in the state of New York, she was lawfully married to IBROOK MILLER, then of said Plattsburgh, now of Quebeck, in the province of Lower Canada, with who she lived in the due observance of the marriage Covenant until the 10th day of December 1807, when the said IBROOK willfully deserted her and has ever since absented himself from her, wholly neglecting to perform any of the duties enjoyed by the marriage contract & also treated her with intolerable severity &c. praying this Court to grant her a bill of Divorce, from the said IBROOK. To be published , etc. and he to make answer. etc.,.

Franklin County, Supreme Court - Dec Term 1810.

Ibrook Miller appears in the 1800 census of Plattsburgh, Clinton, NY, but not afterwards. From the Burlington [VT] Sentinel we learn that in Dec of 1810 Patience Miller of Franklin County VT sued Ibrook for divorce, they having married Plattsburgh March of 1799, claiming he treated her severely, deserted her and went to "Quebeck", Lower Canada. **** The article tells you what courthouse is likely to find more information, but from the newspaper article you know at minimum a petition was filed. He appears to have returned [to the US at least, whether or not to Patience I cannot say] as he appears on the list of Vermont War of 1812 Pensioners, and apparently was buried in Vermont.

Ibrook Disappears Again

*Bennington
Banner*
28 Oct 1975

Trial may tackle query 'When does life begin?'

BOSTON (UPI) — The legal question of when life begins may be answered this winter when four Boston doctors go on trial for "grave robbing," their attorney predicted in an interview.

"This case holds great precedent-setting potential because it asks 'when does a fetus become a human being,'" said attorney Neil L. Chayet, who is preparing arguments for the suit to be heard in Suffolk County Superior Court.

The Boston City Hospital doctors were indicted April 11, 1974, after an eight month grand jury investigation. They were charged under the little-used 1814 "grave robbing" law following a series of fetal tissue experiments in 1971-72.

The experiments, which sought to determine which drugs could be given expectant mothers to treat congenital diseases in fetuses, had the approval of both the hospital

and the women who had requested the abortions.

The double-barrelled indictments charge the four "did willfully remove and convey away...the remains of human bodies without being lawfully authorized," and were each accessories to the removals.

The legal action against Drs. Leonard Berman, David Charles, Leon Sabath and Agneta Philipson was triggered by the June 1973 publication of their experiment's results in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The indictments, alleging illegal dissections of fetal tissue on Dec. 17, 1971, Jan. 24, June 2, June 8, July 31, Aug. 17 and Oct. 5 of 1972, insist the actions were unauthorized and performed on fetuses more than 20 weeks old.

"The major focus of this case will be the fact that these were doctors doing things doctors regularly do in the conduct of medical practice," Chayet told

UPI in an interview.

"But any case which deals with the definition of human body is certainly capable of setting a lot of precedent," Chayet said. A hearing is scheduled for early January in Suffolk County Superior Court on the case.

It was the probe into the "grave robbing" case which uncovered the evidence used to indict and eventually convict on a manslaughter charge Dr. Kenneth Edelin, Boston City Hospital's chief of obstetrics. The conviction is under appeal.

The last major prosecution under the archaic state "grave robbing" law was in 1837 in Westhampton when William Slack and a Mr. Kingsley dug up the body of Ibrook Miller and sold it for \$50 to a doctor. The conviction was overturned by the state Supreme Court because the indictment did not specify the sale was made for the purpose of dissection.

We learn this through the benefit of some 140 years elapsed time. It seems Ibrook took off again, this time after he died. In 1975 the *Bennington Banner* ran a news story about a trial of four doctors who were charged with grave robbing, stating "the last major prosecution under the archaic state grave robbing law was in 1837 in Westhampton when William Slack and a Mr. Kingsley dug up the body of Ibrook Miller and sold it for \$50 to a doctor."

And so it is that we fill in the gaps in Ibrook's colorful story.



Newspapers Reported:

- Birth notices
- Marriage notices
- Death notices and obituaries
- Political news, appointments
- Local society and visitor news

Vital records reported in the local newspapers can fill in where church records are missing. Many historical and genealogical societies have extracted this information and posted it on their county genweb sites and/or published it in their quarterly journals.

Obituaries are a rich source as they supply maiden and relatives' names and biographical details.

If your ancestor served in an elected or appointed civic official capacity this too would be published.

At one time nearly everything that went on found its way into the newspaper. If your in-laws moved to Florida, when they returned for a visit it would be reported, along with where they were staying. We have the same thing now on face book, but I wonder if it is being archived and will these details be available in the same way to genealogists 200 years from now? This is something I worry about, along with never printed email vs letters and digital day planners vs diaries. The genealogist of the future will have full access to the facts...when born, married and died, as well as where the ancestors lived....but what is happening to the colorful daily life details of the average individual...will this only exist for those who were lucky enough to have a family historian making scrapbooks and archiving photos?



Nathaniel K Leavitt

- Born ca 1799 Amherst, Hillsborough, NH, brother of Mary Leavitt Hutchinson. “Died in Cali.”
- Information came in expanding on Andrew Leavitt that he lived in Albany and had a father named Nathaniel who had been an agent for the Hutchinson Family Singers.

Here is another example showing how sometimes a newspaper article will provide the clue that completes the story. This is true even when the information presented is not completely accurate, as in this case, where an obituary may not get the facts right on dates or places that are distant.

Updating a surname society genealogies, we had one child of Andrew Leavitt and Sarah Hastings for whom we had no information other than birth date of before 1774, and that he died in CA. Searching for him in CA had turned up no results. He was a brother of Mary Leavitt, of Hutchinson Family fame. The *Hutchinson Family Singers* were a 19th-century American family singing group who became the most popular American entertainers of the 1840s. This family is important historically, aside from our genealogies, as they wrote and performed songs for social change that helped the anti-slavery and other movements, much like Peter, Paul and Mary or Bob Dylan in our time.

Meanwhile, we had an unhooked line that went back to an Andrew Kimball Leavitt sent in by a descendant, and we were trying, unsuccessfully, to place him. This Andrew was a somewhat colorful character, a theater performer. The descendent learned that he had lived in Albany and had a father Nathaniel. We also learned that the Hutchinsons had an “Uncle Nat” who met them when they performed in Albany and became their agent. Using this intel we were able to find both Nathaniel and Andrew in the Albany directories. Nathaniel disappears from the Albany scene before 1850, and we suspected he may have been a 49er but could not find any evidence to support that.

The Link Is Found

Daily Evening Bulletin,
(San Francisco, CA)
November 21, 1855

Came to CA in 1849

Born in NY not strictly correct

56 Yrs old agrees with census ranges

Local Intelligence.

SUICIDE.—Mr. Nathaniel K. Leavitt, an old resident of this city, and formerly an efficient member of the police department, committed suicide yesterday, at his feed store, corner of Powell and Pacific streets, by hanging himself. Recently Mr. L. has been very much in depressed spirits, and had on one or two occasions expressed his determination of self-destruction. He had been married three times—his second wife coming with him to this State in 1849, and soon after absconding from him. Afterwards, he married his third wife, who followed the example of the second. These events preyed so much on his mind as to cause partial insanity, and in this state he committed the fatal deed. The deceased was born in New York, and was 56 years of age. He leaves two daughters and one son. He was always noted for his industry and integrity, and had the respect and esteem of all who knew him.

Why the big career change?

We did not know about his third wife.

What become of the 3rd dau?

Then one of our researchers, running a search in a database that had previously come up empty, found this obituary providing enough information to be sure we had the right person. ****

He arrived in CA soon after he disappeared from NY. ****

It says he was born in NY...this likely was reported by a relative or acquaintance who did not know that he originally came from NH. ****

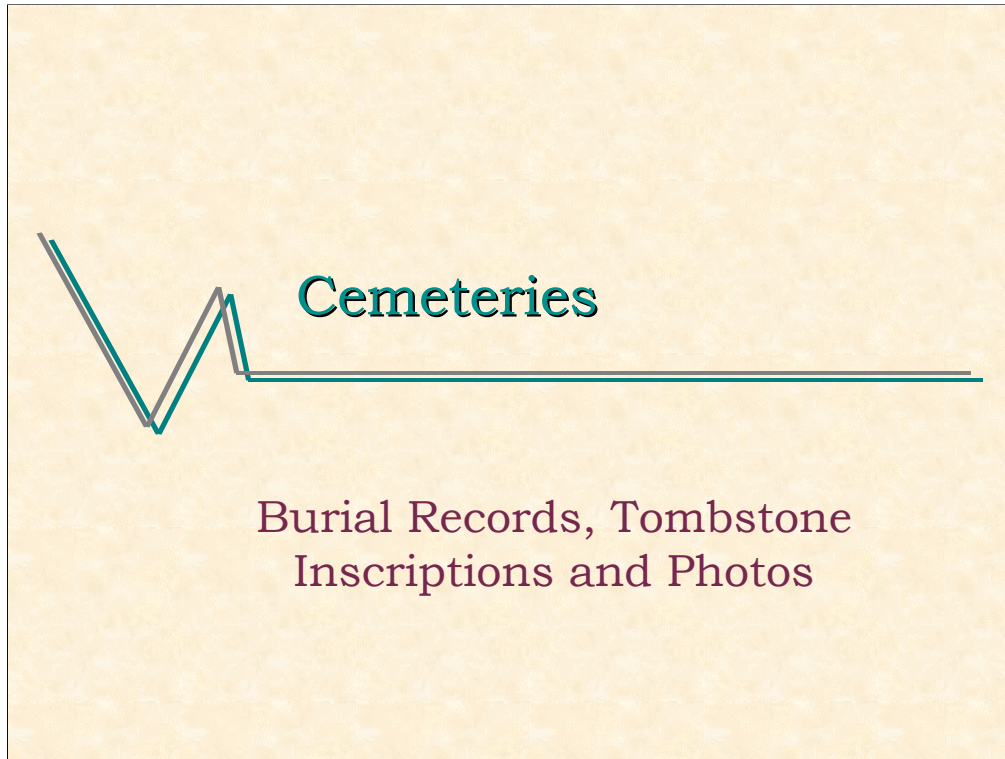
His age matches the previous decades' tick marks. ****

The only thing we wonder about is the dramatic career change...whereas before he had been a hairdresser and business manager, here he is a policeman and feed store owner. We can explain this away...note it says efficient member of the police department...this could be a desk position for a retiree, and the feed store may have been purchased when he arrived. ****

We learn new information...that he had a third wife, and that both his second and third wives left him. ****

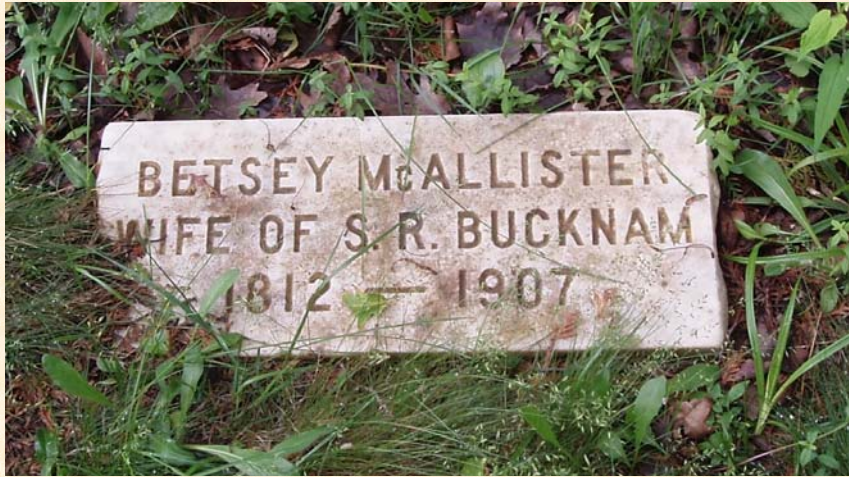
The 1840 for Albany showed three females aged 10-13, so one must have remained in NY or died.

This was a very unhappy ending for Nathaniel, but finding the story provided us with a happy ending to our search for what became of him. Since Nathaniel could be tied to both his NH family who were documented as to line, and to his son Andrew, the ancestor of our unlinked member, it also provided a happy ending for that member who now knows how he fits in the family tree.



Obviously cemetery records deal in reporting death, but in another way they also give birth, marriage and military information.

Marriage Clues In Stone



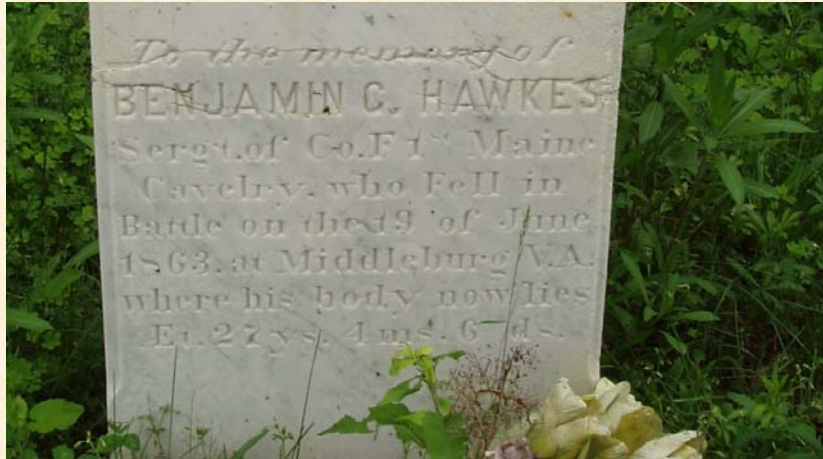
Beyond the obvious fact of death, many stones reveal additional information. Here we see an example of maiden name listed on the stone. It does not say when or where the couple married, but still it is a marriage record of sorts

Military Clues In Stone



Flags indicate service and the metal military markers are added to show which war.
**** Sometimes the inscription will also give service information.

Those Buried Elsewhere



Sometimes the inscription will also give service information. This stone gives the record for the son of Russell Hawkes “Benjamin C Hawkes, Sgt Co F Maine Cavalry who fell in battle on the 19th of June 1863 at Middlebury VA where his body now lies.”

AEt means age at death, and can be used to calculate the approximate birth date.

Who Lies Here?



Sometimes the stone has no inscriptions. This can be less useful as you really do not know for sure who it is. But if you have a written record that your ancestor is buried there, and nearby stones appear to be related, it is certainly possible that this is your ancestor's grave

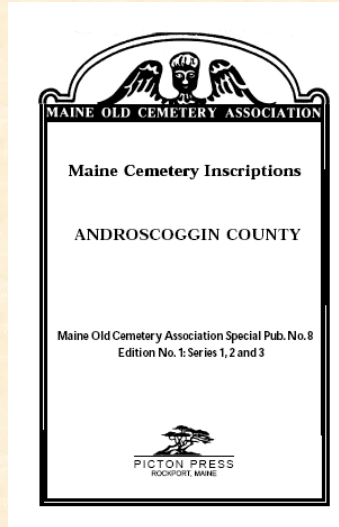
Missing Clues



Sometimes a stone is missing or damaged. Here we see that.... “ J M Robinson.....
Died”

Well, we sort of hope that was the case prior to his burial here, but beyond that we wish we could see his birth or death dates...the stone has been badly patched.

Cemetery Associations



In the case of missing or degraded stones transcriptions and cemetery records are valuable substitutes. Transcriptions are often available on line at county gen web sites, or in published works put out by historical societies, cemetery associations or private individuals. Once the cemetery reading is published the data is somewhat protected

Monument Records

Skowhegan Monumental Works Order No. 3009


Sold to Hackett, Charles Fallsackett, Chas. L. & Mary
 Street Dr. ~~1/2~~ Co. ~~1/2~~ 11 St.
 Town The Forks

Set at address Cem Decow 12/30/25
 Mr. Hackett agrees to pay one half of bill for tab. June 10, 25 the bal in four m. from that date.

Terms: *1/2 m. in advance in case of Hackett if he will be no foundation if truly no record foundation will be removed as will the stone if not done in 10 days*

AGENT
 C. E. Patten
 Date 12/30/25
 Book
 Sheet
 Page
 Design 4238
 Cap
 Die 2-6 x 2-6 x 2-0 Bran
 Base or Plinth
 Bottom Base 2-0 x 1-0 x 0-8 Marble
 Design 4238
 Wife Husband (raised on top)
 MARY L. Charles L.
 His wife
 1894-1924 1847-19
 Stone not forgotten
 Hackett (raised in panel at bottom)

12/30/25



Another valuable source is the records of the monument company. These are not always published, but when they are they provide valuable information. This sample record comes from the Marble Records Index, published by the Maine Old Cemetery Association. Original records are copied and bound and made available at selected libraries.

Cemetery Records

146 T R. Russell, Jr. No 149	R. Robinson, Jr. No 196
1 w/ J. S. Rurrell	4 1 Cora A. Robinson
7 w/ Frank Merriman	" 2 Spaulding Robinson
2 w/ wife of J. S. Rurrell	" 3 Ruth B. wife of E. P.
3 w/ child of wife Ethel Russell	" 3 children of Ethel Robinson
4 w/ Fritz J. Russell	" 4 5 children of E. B. Robinson
5 - Ethel S. - (Fritz's wife)	" 6 E. B. Elmer Robinson
6 Jennie Morrison, widow of Frank Gave to be buried for Jennie Morrison wife of Frank M.	4 4 Arthur J. Robinson 4 5 E. B. Edwina M. Robinson (Edw. B.)

Here you see an actual record page from the cemetery journal showing who is buried in each plot. This one is arranged roughly alphabetically, according to the plot owner, but the plot numbers are given so that you can tell who is buried near whom. Sometimes these records are kept on index cards called plot cards.

Cemetery Plot Maps

7	KERVIN Kervin Mary Douglas	CRDNE Gilbert Gertrude	TIDD Percy Sarah	PUTNAM Ervin Phillis Rooker Dale										
6	TAYLOR Carley Roana Weadell	TAYLOR Grace Clayton Catherine	MCKISSICK	Hutchinson Stone Foot Stone Dale	LAND John Yvette									
5		MERRITT Ruth Earle Baby			TIDD ? Doubt Check notes under Doubt									
4	TIDD William Edna TIDD Hope	PERRY Marceline	GLIDDEN Luther Lula B. Lula	GLIDDEN Lula	McCONNELL James Isabelle	HEANY Frank Ruth								
3	NIGHTINGALE John Alice	PIKE Harry Irene	ESTABROOK Arthur Mildred	ESTABROOK Guy Mary	ALWARD Carl Hattie									

Another way you may come across recording this information is a map showing the burials by plot going down each row.

Find A Grave

Lois Ann "Addie" Tallman

Memorial Photos Flowers Edit

[Learn about sponsoring this memorial...](#)

Birth: 1837
Dutchess County
New York, USA

Death: Jan. 18, 1865
Chautauqua County
New York, USA

You swept us off our feet with your beauty, prettier than all your sisters. You never had a chance to experience the Joys and Pains of Romance.

'Addie' is buried next to her father.

Family links:
Parents:
[John James Tallman \(1805 - 1883\)](#)
[Sarah Ann Newton Tallman \(1807 - 1857\)](#)

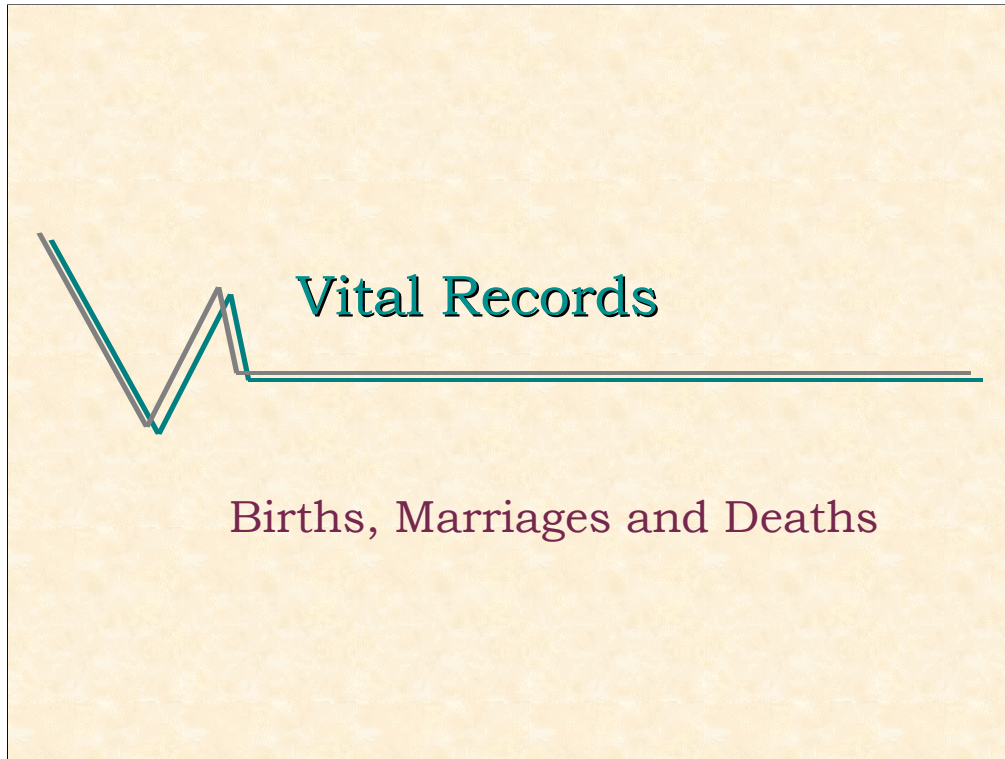
Burial:
[Magnolia Cemetery](#)
Magnolia
Chautauqua County
New York, USA
Plot: Lot 043-8 Old



Added by: [Jon Tallman](#)



If the cemetery is too distant for a visit you may be able to find it on county web sites or find a grave. Keep in mind that the biographies and information provided in addition to that on the stone is going to be only as good as the submitter. This particular example is very good, but such is not always the case. Some time back I was assisting an American living in Asia with his New England research. It seems a distant cousin of his who belonged to both SAR and SUVCW wanted to join the General Society of the War of 1812. He found a name in the rolls that was roughly the same as their ancestor, and had both his and his wife's stones removed and replaced. The original stones had initials only for the first names, and the wife's first name had never been documented. The new stones showed given names and dates and were dedicated in a full dress ceremony with American Legionnaires present. The audacity of this fraud enraged my client and the loss of the original gravestones saddened both of us.



For our purposes we will include civil registrations, church records, town records and newspaper vital records.



Where Are They Found?

- Consult the Red Book
- Google individual states, counties and towns
- Gen web usually provides a directory
- Find your own local sources

Registration of vital statistics was not mandatory in most locations



The site of the Church of Latter Day Saints has a great learning section where you can download and use research guides for nearly any geographical area. Lets look at one for vital records.

FamilySearch.org

The screenshot displays the FamilySearch.org interface. At the top, the logo and navigation menu are visible. The main content area is titled "RESEARCH GUIDANCE" and "Connecticut, United States | Birth | 1633-1775". Below this, there are three tabs: "Historical Background", "For Beginners", and "Search Strategy". The "Search Strategy" tab is selected, showing a list of 17 numbered links for further guidance. On the left side, there is a sidebar with a "Search Strategy for: Connecticut, United States | Birth | 1633-1775" section, including a link to "Description of this time period" and instructions to review the Historical Background and For Beginners information. At the bottom of the sidebar, there are two navigation links: "Go back to Event/Time Period" and "Go back to Select a Place".

Search Strategy for: Connecticut, United States | Birth | 1633-1775
[Description of this time period.](#)

Review the Historical Background and For Beginners information at the right. Then select a record type in the Search Strategy tab. The types of records are listed in the order recommended by the staff at the [Family History Library](#).

- Go back to [Event/Time Period](#)
- Go back to [Select a Place](#)

RESEARCH GUIDANCE
Connecticut, United States | Birth | 1633-1775

Historical Background | **For Beginners** | **Search Strategy**

Search Strategy [\(click here for a printable version\)](#)

- [1. The Basics on How to Search for Ancestors in the United States](#)
- [2. United States Previous Research, Part 1](#)
- [3. Genealogical Collections](#)
- [4. Town Records](#)
- [5. Land Transactions, Person to Person](#)
- [6. Church, Baptisms, Marriages, Buxals, Minutes, etc.](#)
- [7. History](#)
- [8. Wills, Administrations, and Inventories](#)
- [9. Tombstone and Sexton Records](#)
- [10. Genealogical and Historical Magazines](#)
- [11. Family Bible](#)
- [12. Census, Population Schedule](#)
- [13. Military Pensions](#)
- [14. Land Transactions, Government to Person](#)
- [15. Military Records](#)
- [16. Civil and Criminal Court Records](#)
- [17. Minority Histories and Records](#)

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Here you see the sub-section for CT Birth records 1633-1775 with very detailed information.

FamilySearch.org

Church Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Minutes, etc.: Church records


[Description of these records](#)

Review the guide at the right to learn how to search these records.

What are you looking for


A church record of your ancestor's baptism.


What to do next

 Find sources in the [Family History Library Catalog](#)

← Go back to [Search Strategy](#) and select the next recommended record.

→ [Why go to the next record?](#)

 Search related [Web Sites](#)

 See other [Research Helps](#)

Step 2. Determine which denomination your ancestor attended during that time.

To determine which denomination your ancestor belonged to, consider:

- Family traditions and artifacts.
- Which country your ancestor came from.
- Family histories.

For the relationship between national origin and religious denomination, see [Tip 1](#).

For further suggestions on how to determine which church your ancestor attended, see [Tip 2](#).

[Return to top of page](#)

Step 3. Find the records of your ancestor's church.

For records available at the Family History Library, click on **Family History Library Catalog** in the window to the left. State records will be shown automatically.

To find town records:

- Click on the **Town** tab.
- Select the town of your ancestor.

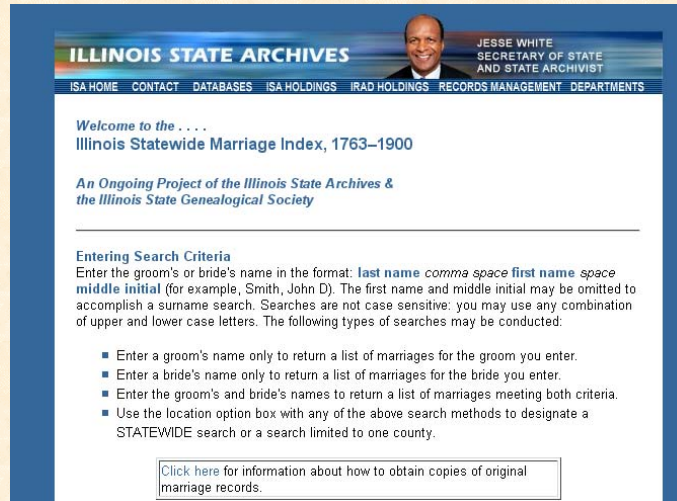
If you do not find church records for the town, check for church records for the county by clicking the county tab. You may also need to check for records for the state.

If the records you need are not in the Family History Library Catalog, see [Tip 3](#).

[Return to top of page](#)

Drilling down you find a step by step process.

State Web Sites



ILLINOIS STATE ARCHIVES

JESSE WHITE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND STATE ARCHIVIST

ISA HOME CONTACT DATABASES ISA HOLDINGS IRAD HOLDINGS RECORDS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS

Welcome to the . . .
Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763–1900

*An Ongoing Project of the Illinois State Archives &
the Illinois State Genealogical Society*

Entering Search Criteria
Enter the groom's or bride's name in the format: **last name comma space first name space middle initial** (for example, Smith, John D). The first name and middle initial may be omitted to accomplish a surname search. Searches are not case sensitive; you may use any combination of upper and lower case letters. The following types of searches may be conducted:

- Enter a groom's name only to return a list of marriages for the groom you enter.
- Enter a bride's name only to return a list of marriages for the bride you enter.
- Enter the groom's and bride's names to return a list of marriages meeting both criteria.
- Use the location option box with any of the above search methods to designate a STATEWIDE search or a search limited to one county.

[Click here for information about how to obtain copies of original marriage records.](#)

Many states offer specialized sites for vital records searching...these however are limited to civil registrations kept by the government and would not include church or family Bible records.

State Web Sites

Marriage History Search Form

To search on Bride's and/or Groom's name type the name as Last Name space First Name (I.e: 'Smith Jane' for a brides name or 'Smith John' for a grooms name.)

Brides Name:

Brides Town:

Grooms Name:

Grooms Town:

Marriage Dates: To:

Submit Query: Reset Form:

To order a copy of a specific marriage record 1892-1922, send an [e-mail](#) request. We will confirm and indicate the actual fee by e-mail. The basic fee for searching and copying marriage records is \$7.00 for a plain copy and \$15.00 for a certified copy.

[For marriage records for 1923 and later, contact Maine Department of Human Services, Office of Data Research and Vital Statistics at 207-287-3181 or U.S. mail at 11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.]

This database, created as a convenient index to original records, may not reflect the official information on those records. To correct an error, contact Jeffrey Brown at the Maine State Archives (see below). We will check the official record, then make changes that match the information on the record.



There is a wealth of free information out there, though it may take a while to find it for your chosen area. Here are a few examples for NY and New England.

FHL Hazard NY Quaker records search form

NY Quaker Records

last name	first name	event	meeting	note	year	month	day	call number	volume	page	id
Wiatt	John	gct	Oblong	New York MM; see also O 373 Vol 3.2 pg 20	1783	7	14	O 373	3.2	20	1380
Wing	John	gct	Oblong	Saratoga MM; see also O 373 Vol 3.2 pg 40	1784	5	17	O 373	1.7	168	1418
Weaver	Joseph	gct	Oblong	Swanzy MM; see also O 373 Vol 3.2 pg 57	1784	12	13	O 373	1.7	194	1448
Wing	Jonathan	gct	Oblong	Crick MM with 3 s: John, Daniel & Malon. See also O 373Vol 3.2 pg 158	1796	1	18	O 373	1.2	52	1666
Wilkerson	Jonathan	rocf	Oblong	Smithfield MM; see also O 373 Vol 3.2 pg 198	1800	11	11	O 373	1.2	298	1757
Wing	Jacob	gct	Oblong	Oswego MM; see also O 373 Vol 3.2 pg 274	1831	12	12	O 373	1.4	222	1942
Wing	John	gct	Oblong	Ninepartners MM with w Lucy. See also O 373 Vol 3.2pg 282	1841	7	12	O 373	1.4	310	1963
Wanzer	Jane	rocf	Oblong	Cedar Crick MM VA	1859	6	13	O 375	2.1	102	1983
Walter	Joseph	rocf	Oblong	Mamansak MM	1760	6	16	O 373	1.6	157	1385

There is a wealth of free information out there, though it may take a while to find it for your chosen area. Here are a few examples for NY and New England.

Hazard project typical search results



Robert Billard's Dutch Reformed Church record transcriptions

Marriages 1639-1801

New Amsterdam DRC Marriages 1639-1801

-Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York
-Samuel S. Purple

-Dates show Banns registration NOT marriage date until 9/20/1673

-10

1639 11 Dec: Egbert van Borsum, jm van Embden; Annetje Hendricks, jd van Amsterdam
1639 18 Dec: Borger Jorissen, jm van hersberg, in Silesien; Engeltje Mans, jd van Coynoste, in Sweden
1640 11 Feb: Theunis Nyssen, jm van Bunninck, Uytr; Phaebea Faelix, jd van Jarleston, in Engelt
1640 26 Aug: Paulus Janszen, van Vlissingen, wid Neeltje Cornelise; Tryntje Herens, jd van Jenepeeren
1640 16 Sep: Thomas Sander, jm van Amsterdam; Sara van Gorcum
1640 04 Nov: Roelant Hackwart, jm van Brandtfort, Schotlant; Janneken Jans, jd van Amsterdam
1640 18 Nov: Michiel Paulus, jm van dermonde in Vlaenderen; Maria Rappalje, jd van N. Nederlt
1640 02 Dec: Pieter Wolfertszen, jm van Amersfoort; Hester Simons, van Amsterdam, wid Jacques de Vernuis
1641 09 Jun: Isaacq de Foreest, jm van Leyden; Sara du Treux, jd van N. Nederlt
1641 28 Jul: Albert Pieterszen, jm van Hamburg; Marritje Pieters, jd van Copenhagen
1641 28 Jul: Ulderick Cleen, jm Uyt Hessen; Aefje Pieters, jd van Amsterdam
1641 18 Aug: Laurens Pieters, jm van Tonsbergen, in Noordvegen; Annette Pieters, jd van Brutseen, in Duytslant
1641 18 Aug: Jan Harmenszen, jm van Lemmet, Vrieslt; Annetje Pieters, jd van Housen in Duytslant
-11
1641 25 Aug: Hans Schroder, van Mansvelt, wid Lysheth Jans; Aeltie Jans, wid Harmen Jans
1641 01 Sep: Egbert Wouters, jm van Yselsteyn; Engel Jan van Broestede, wid Jan Janszen
1641 15 Sep: Barent Janszen, jm van Stockholm; Styntie Pieters, jd als voren
1641 17 Nov: Thomas Halen, jm van Cloester; Anna Mitfort van Bristol, wid Willem Cuyck
1641 24 Nov: Jan Fort Orangien, wid Magdalena van Angola; Marie Grande, wid Jan Premier
1641 22 Dec: Jan Jacobszen Corpenel, jm van Haerlem; Jacomyntie Mennes, jd als voren
1641 28 Dec: Dirck Janszen, jm van Amsterdam; Jannetje Theunis, jd als Voren
1641 28 Dec: Oben Reddenhasen, jm Uyt Graefschap Waldeck; Geertie Nonnincks, wid Tjerck Hendrickszen
1642 01 Jan: Phillip Gerritszen, jm van Haerlem; Maria Lievens

Here you see a typical DRC transcription page from Bob's site...this one for New Amsterdam DRC Marriages 1639-1801.

Free Software Helps

1729 May 25; Arent Ploeg, Rachel Brink; Annaatjen; Jan Pietersz Oosterhout, Elisabeth Brink [2]
1774 Dec 25; Arent Pootman, Clara (Catarina) vedder; Christiaan; [4]
1709 Jun 12; Arent Pootman, Lysbet Akkerman; Jannetie, m. Thomas Harris; [4]
1708 Oct 10; Arent, Sara van eps; Lysbeth, m. Gysbert Marselis; [4]
1762 Jul 11; Arent Schermerhorn Jr., Jacomyntje van Gyseling; Andreas; [4]
1785 Dec 28; Arent Stevens, Maria Cryster in; Nicholas (b); [4]
1787 Oct 30; Arent Stevens, Maria Cryster in; Johannes (b); [4]
1789 Sep 11; Arent Stevens, Maria Cryster in; Adam Cryster (b); [4]
1722 Aug 24; Arnout de Graaf, Arlaantje vander volgen; Neeltje, m. Takerus van der Bogart; [4]
1722 Aug 12; Ary Roos, Geesjen Oostrander; Lea; Arent Oostrander, Geertruy Maas [2]
1724 Feb 23; Ary Roos, Geesjen Oostrander; Anna; Cornelis Wesbroek, Antjen Roos [2]
1725 Sep 05; Ary Roos, Geesjen Oostrander; Rachel; Zalomon van Berwilligen, Rachel Oostrander [2]
1727 Nov 05; Ary Roos, Geesjen Oostrander; Catrina; Willem Traphagen jr, Catrina Winnen [2]
1724 Sep 29; Arie Rosa, Geesje Oostrander; Ebert; Jacobus Rosa, Oltje van Netze [2]
1737 Jan 02; Ary Roosa, Geesjen Oostrander; Petrus; Ary Oosterhout, Pieter Oostrander, Racheltjen Dingman, Margriet Bogardus [2]
1729 Jul 01; Arie Rosa, Geesje Oostrander; Jacobus; Jacobus Ostrander, Lea Rosa [2]
1742 Jan 17; Arie Rosa, Geesje Oostrander; Johannes; Jan van Terwilge, Jacomyntje van der Merken [2]
1719 Jun 28; Ary Rosa, Johanna de Hooges; Margrita; Jan van Etter, Eva de Hooges [2]
1722 Feb 04; Ary Roosa, Johanna de Hooges; Maria; Hendrik M; Schoonmaker, Rachel Schoonmaker [2]
1725 May 16; Ary Roosa, Johanna de Hooges; Zamuël; Johannes Kip, Margriet van Etten [2]
1685 Sep ??; Ary Rosa, Maria Pels; Engeltje; Gerard Aartzen, Weyntie [2]
1682 Jun 04; Ary Rosa, Weyntie Aendriaanz d'Jong; Weyntie; Heyman Rosa, Margriet Claasz Rooseveld [2]
1721 Dec 10; Aris Van Steenberghe, Beertjen Swart; Maria Salm; Thomas a Steenberghe, Zara van Steenberghe [2]
1723 Dec 01; Aris Van Steenberghe, Beertjen Swart; Thomas; Cornelis d'Lameeter, Margriet van Steenberghe [2]
1725 Oct 10; Aris Van Steenberghe, Baartjen Swart; Thomas; Henderikus a Steenberghe, Johanna a Steenberghe [2]
1727 Oct 15; Ares Van Steenberghe, Beertjen Swart; Johannes; Abraham van Steenberghe, Jacomyntjen Swart [2]
1729 Sep 07; Aris van Steenberghe, Beertjen Swart; Catrina; Cornelis de Lameeter, Margriet van Steenberghe [2]
1734 Mar 31; Aris van Steenberghe, Beertjen Swart; Elisabeth; Theuns Swart, Aagjen van Vlied [2]
1736 Nov 07; Aares van Steenberghe, Beertje Swart; Benjamin; Benjamin van Steenberghe, Rachel Selland [2]
1710 May 07; Aart van Wagene, Marytje Louw; Petrus; Jan Heremans, Elisabeth Olanstan [2]
1714 Nov 21; Aart Van Wagening, Marytjen Louw; Johannes; Johannes Louw, Christina Vas [2]
1721 Dec 31; Aard Van Wadenind, Marvten Louw; Petrus; Jan Freer, Rebekka van Wadenind [2]

Bob also provides a downloadable software application that searches over all his files and groups the results of your search into likely family units

MA VR 1600 – 1850

FAQs	How to use	Contact	Towns	Surnames
Forum	Early Vital Records of Massachusetts			Donations

From 1600 to 1850

The Massachusetts




Vital Records Project

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries several towns and agencies compiled the vital records of over 200 Massachusetts towns and cities. Using the town records, church records, private records, gravestone inscriptions and newspaper articles, one of the finest collections of published vital records was produced. These came to be known collectively as the "Tan Book" series. These records generally comprise all of the known records from the earliest times to about 1850.

The Massachusetts Vital Records Project, in an ongoing effort, presents here the transcriptions of over 1,500,000 records from over 150 of those towns. Indexed by town and by surname, the transcriptions provide genealogists with an easy to use interface to search for their roots in Massachusetts. For proper documentation the project also provides the images of the books from which the transcriptions are done.

There are two ways to search the vital records transcription. Start by selecting from one of these two links or the links in the Navigation Bar at the top of the page.

Another ongoing transcription project



VR Indexed by Towns

Home	How to use	Contact	Towns	Surnames
Forum	Index of Towns by County Last Updated: 13 Jan 2011			Explanations
Barnstable County				
★ Barnstable	★ Falmouth ✓			
Berkshire County				
★ Adams	★ Great Barrington ✓	★ New Ashford ✓	★ Savoy	
★ Alford ✓	★ Hancock	★ New Marlborough	★ Sheffield	
★ Becket ✓	★ Hinsdale ✓	★ North Adams	★ Stockbridge	
★ Cheshire	★ Lanesborough	★ Otis ✓	★ Tyringham ✓	
★ Clarksburg	★ Lee ✓	★ Peru ✓	★ Washington ✓	
★ Dalton ✓	★ Lenox	★ Pittsfield	★ West Stockbridge ✓	
★ Egremont	★ Monterey	★ Richmond ✓	★ Williamstown ✓	
★ Florida	★ Mount Washington	★ Sandisfield ✓	★ Windsor ✓	
Bristol County				
★ Attleborough ✓	★ Mansfield ✓	★ Norton ✓	★ Taunton ✓	
★ Dartmouth ✓				


Typical town index on the MA Vital records project

Drill Down to the Page

[Home](#)[Great Barrington
Index](#)[Contact](#)[Back to
Transcriptions](#)[Great Barrington
Index](#)[Great Barrington
Image of Page 26](#)[Next Image](#)**26****GREAT BARRINGTON MARRIAGES.**

BURGHARDT, Catherine and George Stanley, Mar. 28, 1793.* C.R.1.
Charles A. and Laura M. Bates, negroes, Nov. 12, 1837.* C.R.2.
David and Phebe Grinold, [June] 26, 1834.* C.R.2.
Eleanor and Aaron Day, Apr. 23, 1807.*
Fitie and Amos Church, Mar. 2, 1808.*
Hannah and Oliver Ingersoll, Oct. 6, 1774.* C.R.2.
Hannah Maria and Peter Race Markham, Dec. 25, 1832.*
Hendrick Jr. and Hannah Spoor, Oct. 7 [1773].* C.R.2.
Henry and Mary Van Deusen, ——— [rec. between Apr. 30,
1814, and May 1, 1815].*
Isaack and Mrs. Rachel Harriot Van Deusen, Mar. 27, 1836.*
C.R.2.
Jacob and Margetun Grinuotes [?], May 6, 1830.* C.R.2.
John 2d and Jerusha Hurlbert, Mar. 28, 1802.* P.R.1.
Lamber and Fitie Van Deusen, Dec. 14, 1785.* C.R.2.
Lambert and Marv Houke. Jan. 16, 1782.* C.R.2.

Drill down to the actual book page



Ray Brown's Place

Rays Place
Explore New England's Past

About this website.
This is a collection of things that I have found to copy and add to the Internet. Here you will find over 5,000 pages of history and genealogy records. I have spent much time going to libraries in New England and New York to get these for your use. Most of these and much more may also be found at [Ancestry.com](#) . The local histories are really good as they talk about a lot of people in areas where no records were kept in the early years. If you do not find what you need here be sure to check [Ancestry.com](#) .
Ray

Sections of Rays Place
(over 7,000 pages and growing)

- History
 - History files
 - Biographies (Moved to [OnlineBiographies.info](#))
 - Town histories for from several states

Ray Brown's Place, a great resource for New England history and genealogical records




Ray's Town Index

Wethersfield, CT Vital Records 1634 - 1868
From the Barbour Collection as found at the CT State Library
Transcribed by Coralynn Brown

- [Surnames Starting with A](#)
- [Surnames Backus to Bedford](#)
- [Surname Belding](#)
- [Surnames Belknap to Bridgen \(except Blinn\)](#)
- [Surname Blinn](#)
- [Surnames Briggs to Bulkeley](#)
- [Surnames Bull to Byrne](#)
- [Surnames C to Churchill](#)
- [Surnames Cinnamon-Cinamon to Crampton](#)
- [Surnames Crane to Custin](#)
- [Surnames Starting with D except Deming](#)
- [Surname Deming](#)
- [Surnames E to Fowler](#)
- [Surnames Fox to Fvler](#)
- [Surnames Starting with G \(Excepy Goodrich & Griswold\)](#)
- [Surname Goodrich](#)
- [Surname Griswold](#)
- [Surnames Hagen to Haveland](#)
- [Surnames Havens to Hubbel-Hubbell](#)
- [Surnames Hudson to Hutchinson](#)
- [Surnames Starting with I, J & K](#)
- [Surnames Starting with L](#)

Typical town index at Ray's Place



Dunham Family Site

DUNHAM - WILCOX - TROTT - KIRK


[This site is named in honor of my Grandparents,
but you will find more than 5100 data files for CT, MA, RI, NJ, NY & MI
including over 400 will & probate files, 300 deeds &
over 300 gravestone photos from Middlesex Co., CT,
in the Reference Data section with additions being made weekly.
If you find something useful, would you please take a moment
to look at my [Lost Souls](#) section and see if you can help?]

In Memory of Doris E. DUNHAM, 1916-2007

The site is still under construction, but the FreeFind search engine is now working! Please let me know if you find any broken links.

[Search ^THIS^ site](#) powered by [FreeFind](#)

Dunham family site – the researcher has literally thousands of records transcribed and posted here



Dunham State Index

REFERENCE DATA

[What's New](#)

LAST
UPDATE
5 Mar 2011

★ = NEW
SINCE
1 JUN 2008

[Connecticut - Click Here](#)

[Massachusetts - Click Here](#)

[New England - Click Here](#)

[New Hampshire - Click Here](#)

[Vermont - Click Here](#)

[Maine - Click Here](#)

State links at the Dunham site



County Directory

- [Windsor, Hartford Co., CT, Inscriptions, Late 1600s - Early 1800s](#)

Litchfield County

- [The Bench & Bar of Litchfield Co., CT, biographical sketches](#)
- [Barkhamsted, Litchfield Co., CT, Early Town Information](#)
- [Barkhamsted, Litchfield Co., CT, Military](#)
- [Bridgewater, Litchfield Co., CT, Old Cemetery](#)
- [Cornwall, Litchfield Co., CT, Early Inhabitants & Tax Lists to 1748"](#)
- [Cornwall, Litchfield Co., CT, Wilcox Cemetery](#)
- [Gaylordsville, Litchfield Co., CT, Cemetery](#)
- [Goshen, Litchfield Co., CT, Barbour - A-Y](#)
- [Lanesville, Litchfield Co., CT, Cemetery](#)
- [New Milford, Litchfield Co., CT - Marriages](#)
- [New Milford, Litchfield Co., CT, Gallows Hill Cemetery](#)
- [New Milford, Litchfield Co., CT, Genealogies](#)
- [Sharon, Litchfield Co., CT, Barbour - A-Z](#)
- [Torrington, Litchfield Co., CT, Marriages, 1747 - 1808](#)
- [Torrington, Litchfield Co., CT, Marriages 1820-1874](#)
- [Torrington, Litchfield Co., CT, Freemen, 1777 - 1850](#)
- [Torrington, Litchfield Co., CT, Baptisms, 1744 - 1775](#)
- [Winchester, Litchfield Co., CT, Proprietors](#)
- [Woodbury, Litchfield Co., CT, Abstracts From the *Woodbury Reporter*, 1877-1879](#)

Typical state directory at the Dunham site

Sharon CT VR

Sharon Vital Records from Barbour: 1668-1852 - A-B
Transcribed by Coralynn Brown

ABEL, ABELS, ABLES, ABELL

- Adeline M, m Frederick BRINTON of Sharon, Nov 25, 1841, by Rev H F Pease, of the M E Ch.
- Affia", dau David & Chloe, b Sept 4, 1783 ("Arnold copy has "Assia")
- Alice, m David SIMONS of Sharon, June 18, 1764
- Andrew, son David & Alice, b Mar 27, 1765
- Andrew C, m Rhoda M PECK of Sharon, Dec 31, 1843, by Rev Fitch Reed
- Assia", dau David & Chloe, b Sept 4, 1783 ("Affia in Van Alstyne's book)
- Azel, son David & Chloe, b Nov 30, 1779
- Catharine, died Aug 3, 1850, age 22
- Charlotte S, m Charles F LOCKWOOD of Sharon, Sept 12, 1847, by G L Brownell
- Chloe Ann, m Charles BEECHER, Dec 2, 1830, by Rev Frederick Gridley
- David, m Chloe SACKETT, Nov 30, 1778
- Gilbert, laborer, age 28 & Jane, age 24, had dau _____ b Dec 22, 1856
- Gilbert, laborer, age 32, & Kate, age 27, had son _____ b Aug 24, 1859
- Hiram J, son A Curtis, carpenter, age 35 & Rhoda A, age 30, b Oct 18, 1855
- Ira H, m Almira HINE of Sharon, Sept 10, 1826, by David L Perry
- Oliver S, m Charlotte H. KEENE of Sharon, Nov 24, 1841, by Rev H F Pease, of the M E Church

Drill down to individual town transcriptions...the ones for this location were taken from Barbour which can also be found on Ancestry.



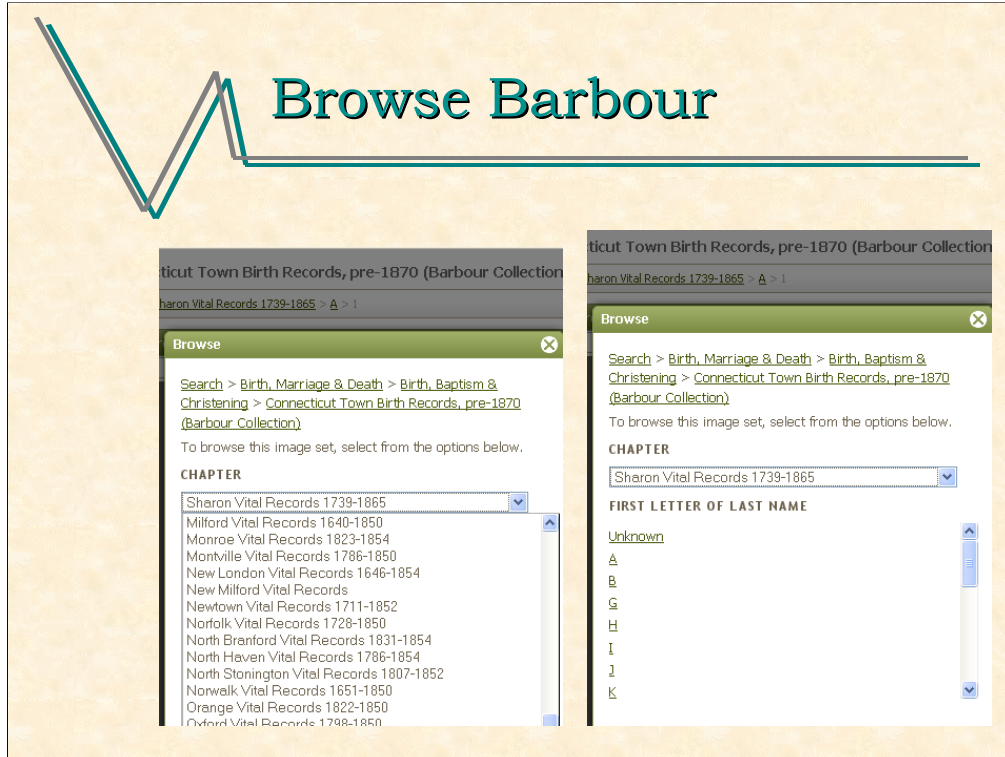
Barbour Collection

SHARON VITAL RECORDS 1739 - 1865

	Vol.	Page
ABEL, ABELS, ABLES, ABELL, Adeline M., m. Frederick BRINTON, b. of Sharon, Nov. 25, 1841, by Rev. H. F. Pease, of the M. E. Ch.	LR22	480
Affia*, d. [David & Cloe], b. Sept. 4, 1783 *(Arnold copy has "Assia")	LR8	62a
Alice, m. David SIMONS, b. of Sharon, June 18, 1764	LR5	255
Andrew, s. David & Alice, b. Mar. 27, 1765	LR6	55
Andrew C., m. Rhoda M. PECK, b. of Sharon, Dec. 31, 1843, by Rev. Fitch Reed	LRR22	467
Assia*, d. [David & Cloe], b. Sept. 4, 1783 *(“Affia” in Van Alstons’ book)	LR8	62a

Once I find a record here I locate it in the actual Barbour volume by going on ancestry.com, because I want to see who else in the family has records on the same page.

It is worth noting here that ancestry’s latest “improvement” to their search engine failed to find many of these records.



In this case I had to find the page using the browse bar at the top of the image, which is always available once you get into the collection. It keeps getting harder and harder to find the collection, so I keep a link to it in my favorites. Over the years I have found browsing to be the most effective way to find the records in this collection anyway provided you know the town. If you cannot find it on ancestry, don't give up. There are gaps in the images.



Subscription Sites

- Americanancestors.org NEHGS
- Ancestry.com
- Footnote.com
- Heritage Quest

Heritage Quest is free with your library card. I cannot be without ancestry. With all its flaws it is still the fastest way to find a variety of records and historical information. American Ancestors, formerly New England Ancestors is easily the best site, IMHO, for New York and New England records, and they are expanding. The sources are very high quality. They have Great Migrations, Torrey's Marriages, Settlers of the Beekman Patent [not every volume that has been published] the NEGR,



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See, [Names, Names & More Names](#) to help locate colonial families.
- * [KINSHIP Book Catalog](#) - books which contain valuable vital records and historical information. [Order](#) from us to assist your study of New York State families and local history.
- * [CD Genealogy Research Disks](#) - technology has allowed us to gather information for easy research. Our new Baptism & Birth CD, produced with *Ancestry* offers information from many of our books, other CD's, produced with Broderbund for Family Tree Maker, include many of our books. See especially the *Marriage records*, *Revolutionary War records* and others.

Once you are sure you are in the right region you may wish to purchase record collections and finding aids.

Art Kelly, who puts together and publishes our Dutchess Quarterly has a nice collection of VR books and CD's particularly useful to our region



Hope Farms Press

My 20 or so indices/TOCs and the excerpts from the many books can be searched through links found in the Genealc Hub. Until other publishers allow the use of their copyrighted material in this manner, if I have the book in stock, I'm happy to check the index for the number of hits your name gets. If I don't have it in stock - I'm sorry to say I can't help you.

For Genealogical Information and the NYGenWeb Ulster and Greene County pages click --> [Genealogy Top](#)

A Reminder:

There are less specific titles in [County & Town](#) and [Geographic Regions](#) that have **much** genealogical information.

181	2.00	.Vital Records of Queen Anne Chapel (Episc) Ft Hunter NY 1735-17	\$12.00	Buy Now!
L157	2.00	A Crocker Genealogy, Volume 2	\$21.00	Buy Now!
9506	2.00	A GENEALOGY PRIMER AND SOURCES LISTING	\$20.00	Buy Now!
AVR01pi	2.00	American Vital Records/Baptist Register 1832-1834	\$12.50	Buy Now!
A534	2.00	Association of Municipal Historians of New York State Cemeteries	\$100.00	Buy Now!
CG01	2.00	Cantine Genealogy #57	\$9.50	Buy Now!
117VR	2.00	Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chatham Village, NY	\$7.00	Buy Now!
118VR	2.00	Evangelical Lutheran Church, Poestenkill, NY	\$7.00	Buy Now!
EMP01	12.00	Even More Palatine Families - 3 vols	\$195.00	Buy Now!

Hope farms has a large genealogy and history collection also.



Ancestorstuff.com is a genealogy book store on line with offerings for every state and many foreign countries

DCGS Genealogy 101

- Next Week: Computer in Genealogy
- Beyond: Field trip to FHL
- And....??? Your choice



Janice Parker and Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer will speak next week. I hope to see you all there.

Please take a moment to let us know your interests for future workshops.