Connecticut
Research Outline

Table of Contents
Records Of The Family History Library
Archives And Libraries
Bible Records
Biography
Cemeteries
Census
Church Records
Court Records
Directories
Emigration And Immigration
Gazetteers
Genealogy
History
Land And Property
Maps
Family History Library Catalog
Military Records
Naturalization And Citizenship
Newspapers
Periodicals
Probate Records
Public Records
Taxation
Town Records
Vital Records
For Further Reading
Comments And Suggestions

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Connecticut. As you read this outline, study the United States Research Outline (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

The library's major holdings of Connecticut records include vital, church, census, cemetery, probate, land, newspaper, military, family, and local history records. We are continuing to acquire additional records.
The following archives, libraries, and societies have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

- **Connecticut State Library**
  
  231 Capitol Avenue  
  Hartford, CT 06106  
  Telephone: 860-566-4301  
  Fax: 860-566-8940  

- **National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston)**
  
  380 Trapelo Rd.  
  Waltham, MA 02154  
  Telephone: 617-647-8100  
  Fax: 617-647-8460

- **Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.**
  
  P.O. Box 435  
  2106 Main Street  
  Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435  
  Telephone: 860-569-0002

- **Connecticut Historical Society**
  
  1 Elizabeth Street  
  Hartford, CT 06105  
  Telephone: 860-236-5621  
  Fax: 860-236-2664

- **New England Historic Genealogical Society**
  
  101 Newbury Street  
  Boston, MA 02116-3007  
  Telephone: 617-536-5740  
  Fax: 617-536-7307

- **Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc (Stamford Genealogical Society)**

**Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Connecticut in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- **USGenWeb**
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.

- **Roots-L**
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly-updated research coordination list.
  For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline* (30972), 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch™
The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch™. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

**BIBLE RECORDS**

The Connecticut State Library has collected, copied, and indexed over 25,000 Bible records. Some are bound in a set of 26 volumes while others are filed alphabetically by surname in file cabinets. The index was microfilmed in 1949 and is at the Family History Library (films 002875-82).

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains Bible records from Connecticut. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline. These DAR Bible records are partially indexed by E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. II. (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984; FHL book 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184).

**BIOGRAPHY**

Employees of the Stamford Public Library System are indexing biographical material from local histories for the Connecticut Biography and Portrait Index. Currently, there are more than 150,000 entries. It can be searched for a nominal fee by writing to: Harry Bennett Branch Library, 115 Vine Road, Stamford, CT 06905.

The best collection of biographical works is at the Connecticut Historical Society. The Family History Library also has a fine collection. Representative biographical encyclopedias for Connecticut include:


**CEMETERIES**

The *Charles R. Hale Collection* of cemetery inscriptions (1640s-1930s) and newspaper death notices (1796-1865) is at the Connecticut State Library and on microfilm at the
Family History Library (on 360 FHL films beginning with 003076). It consists of an extensive card index and 59 typed volumes of inscriptions, arranged by town, from more than 2,000 cemeteries. Additional description of this collection is in the “Vital Records” section of this outline.

The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of cemeteries in Connecticut are listed in Kemp's *Connecticut Researcher's Handbook* (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline). This book also lists the number, volume, and page citations for each cemetery included within the Hale collection.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection also contains tombstone inscriptions from Connecticut cemeteries. This collection is described in the “Genealogy” section of this outline.

**CENSUS**

Federal

Federal census records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The United States Research Outline provides more detailed information regarding these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses of Connecticut from 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 to 1920. The 1890 census was destroyed.

The library has book, film, and microfiche indexes of the 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, and 1860 censuses. The Connecticut State Library and the Family History Library also have an index to the entire 1790 to 1850 censuses (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - CENSUS - INDEXES). The page numbers of this index do not always match those on microfilms at the National Archives and the Family History Library. A soundex (phonetic) index is available for part of the 1880 census and all of the 1900 and 1920 censuses.

**Mortality schedules exist for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880.** The schedules are at the Connecticut State Library and the Family History Library (FHL films 234536-37).

The Connecticut State Library also has a special military census taken in 1917.

Colonial

A reconstructed census of over 2,300 heads of families recorded in tax lists and other records is Jay Mack Holbrook, *Connecticut 1670 Census* (Oxford, Massachusetts:
CHURCH RECORDS

The Congregational Church was predominant in early Connecticut and was the state church until 1818. Other prominent churches in the state are the Methodist and Episcopal churches (colonial period), and the Roman Catholic and Baptist churches (19th century).

More than 600 churches have deposited their records with the Connecticut State Library. Most of these records are on microfilm at the Family History Library. Some of these records are indexed in a card index prepared by the Connecticut State Library. This index was microfilmed in 1949 (FHL films 0002806-74). A useful guide to this collection is List of Church Records in the Connecticut State Library (Hartford: Connecticut State Library, 1976; FHL book 974.6 A1 no. 14; film 1033856 item 9).

To learn about church records existing in 1942, see Guide to Vital Statistics in the Church Records of Connecticut (New Haven, Connecticut: Connecticut Historical Records Survey, 1942; FHL book 974.6 K23g; film 924002 item 2; fiche 6051300).

The Family History Library has an extensive microfilm collection of records of the Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, and Methodist Episcopal churches. Published histories are available for denominations such as Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Latter-day Saint (Mormon), and Universalist.

Many denominations have collected their records into central repositories. You can write to the following addresses to learn where their records are located.

**Baptist**

**American Baptist**
Samuel Colgate Historical Library
1106 South Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14620-2532
Telephone: 716-473-1740
Fax: 716-473-1740

**Congregational**
Connecticut Historical Society
1 Elizabeth Street
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone: 860-236-5621
Fax: 860-236-2664

**COURT RECORDS**

Major Connecticut courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

1636-1784 General Court (General Assembly after 1637) was the highest state court throughout the colonial era. It handled many criminal and civil cases. After 1750 it
relinquished most of its judicial responsibilities. Many of the General Assembly records were published in *The Public Records of The Colony of Connecticut* (1636-1776), 15 vols. (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1850-1890; FHL book 974.6 N2c; films 908423-30; fiche 6051120). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - PUBLIC RECORDS.

1630s-1961 Town and borough courts had jurisdiction over civil matters in towns. Justice of the peace courts (1686-1961) handled similar matters in areas without a town court. Many of these records are at the Connecticut State Library. These courts were succeeded by circuit courts.

1638-1711 Particular Court was the primary court of jurisdiction for all matters of law, including appeals from town courts. This was succeeded by the Court of Assistants (1665-1711). The published records of this court are in the *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* (described above).

1666-1855 County courts had jurisdiction over civil disputes and minor criminal cases as well as chancery and divorce matters. From 1855-1870 this court's duties were taken over by the town and justice courts and the Superior Court.

1711-pres. Superior Court replaced the Court of Assistants and holds countywide sessions as the principal trial court for major civil and criminal cases.

1869-pres. Courts of common pleas replaced county courts and were reorganized in 1975 to include the circuit court.


For more information concerning Connecticut court records, see the *Guide to Archives in the Connecticut State Library* (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline). Also see Dwight Loomis and Joseph Gilbert Calhoun, Judicial and Civil History of Connecticut (Boston: Boston History Co., 1895; not available at Family History Library).

**DIRECTORIES**

The Family History Library has directories of major cities in Connecticut. Two examples of the library's holdings are:

- Hartford

  1799-1860  FHL fiche 6043938-76  
  1861-1935  FHL film 1376910—  

- New Haven

  1840-1861  FHL fiche 6044225-45  
  1861-1935  FHL film 1377137—  
  1909, 1938, etc.  FHL book 974.67 E4p

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People


Many Irish and German immigrants began coming in the late 1840s. French-Canadian immigration began after the Civil War and continued through the rest of the nineteenth century. Late in the century most immigrants came from the southern and eastern countries of Europe, including Italy, Hungary, Poland, and Russia.

The Records

The major port of entry to New England is Boston. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Boston for 1820 to March 1874 and 1883 to 1935 (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION). The following indexes are also available:
1820-1874. These years are indexed in the *Supplemental Index . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports* . . . (listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES).


The Massachusetts State Archives also has Boston passenger lists for 1848 to 1874 and 1883 to 1891. This includes records for the nine years missing from the National Archives records. The 1848 to 1891 index (above) is an index to the state lists but can also be used for the National Archives records.

Incomplete 19th century passenger lists for Bridgeport, 1870 (FHL film 830231), Fairfield, 1820 to 1821 (FHL film 830232), Hartford, 1837 (830234), New Haven, 1820 to 1873 (FHL film 830235), New London, 1820 to 1847 (FHL film 830236), and Saybrook, 1820 (FHL film 830246) are available at the Family History Library and the National Archives. These are found in Copies of Lists of Passengers Arriving at Miscellaneous Ports . . . *Atlantic and Gulf Coasts* . . . listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. For indexes to these lists, see *Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists . . . Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports* . . . listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

Also consult passenger lists of other New England ports and for ports in Canada. Records of Canadian border entries from 1895 to 1954 are on 937 films at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL films 1472801—). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Names of colonial immigrants listed in published sources are indexed in P. William Filby, *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, 15 vols. (Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-; FHL book 973 W32p). The first three volumes are a combined alphabetical index published in 1981. Supplemental volumes and cumulative indexes have been published.

More detailed information on U.S. immigration sources is in the United States Research Outline.

Records and books on ethnic groups, such as African-Americans, French-Canadians, Jews, and Swedes are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - MINORITIES.

**GAZETTEERS**

Several helpful gazetteers of Connecticut have been published. Two of these are:


**GENEALOGY**

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person.

**Manuscript Collections**

The Family History Library has copies of significant sources such as the Frank T. Calef and other collections of Mayflower and Puritan descendants, the Charles D. Parkhurst manuscripts for New London, and compiled genealogies for early families in Fairfield, Hartford, New Haven, and other areas.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1970 and 1971 at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and is on 24 microfilms at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL film 844451). The collection is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - COLLECTED WORKS.

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has many important manuscript collections. The society's card catalog is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL films 544065-77; 543525-30; 543567).

**Published Sources**


Cutter's Nine Genealogy Series (Fallbrook, Calif.: Ireland Indexing Service, 197?; FHL book 974 D2ci; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737).


Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical-Biographical Index*. Vols. 1-186. Middletown, Conn.: The Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-. (FHL book 973 D22am Ser. 2.) This is a continuing series. As of 1997, surnames A-Walker have been indexed. An earlier version in 48 volumes was published as The American Genealogical Index, 1942- 51. (FHL book 973 D22am; films 1425577-86.)


**HISTORY**

The following important events in the history of Connecticut affected political jurisdictions, family movements, and record keeping:

1633-1636 Puritans from Massachusetts established settlements on the Connecticut River at Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford.

1638 The New Haven colony was established. New London was founded soon after.

1662 A British royal charter established Connecticut as a colony separate from Massachusetts.
1740  By this date all of present-day Connecticut had been settled and organized into incorporated towns, the basic governing units.

1786-1800  Connecticut relinquished its claims to western lands, except for the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania which Connecticut claimed until 1799, and the Western Reserve in Ohio which it claimed until 1800. Connecticut settlers remained in both areas.

1788  Connecticut ratified the Constitution to become a state.

1840s  As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving into Connecticut.

1861-1865  Connecticut furnished 60,000 troops to the Union Army during the Civil War.

In addition to the sources mentioned in the “For Further Reading” section, an especially helpful source for studying the history of Connecticut is Charles W. Burpee's, Burpee's *The Story of Connecticut*, 4 vols. (New York: American Historical Co., 1939; FHL book 974.6 H2b).

**LAND AND PROPERTY**

Land in colonial Connecticut was granted by the Connecticut General Court. Most of these grants were to proprietors. Proprietors' records are at the Connecticut State Archives or at the town halls. Later deeds, mortgages, releases, and other related documents were recorded by the town clerk and are at the town halls. Most are indexed by grantor and grantee. There is no statewide index.

The Family History Library and the Connecticut State Library have microfilm copies of many proprietors' and town records from the earliest years to the mid or late 1800s. Some are as recent as the 1900s. They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the name of the town. From Hartford, for example, the library has 117 microfilms of proprietors' records (1639-1753), deeds (1678-1901), and general indexes (1639-1865).

**MAPS**

The Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Historical Society, Yale University, and Wesleyan University have major map collections. The Family History Library has Connecticut maps for 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1850, 1862, 1878, 1884 and 1917. The library also has Hartford and New Haven city ward maps dating from 1850 to 1899 (FHL film 1377700; Hartford —fiche 6016650-54, New Haven —6016688-94).
FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG

The library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog found at the library and at each Family History Center. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:

  *UNITED STATES* - CENSUS
  *CONNECTICUT* - PROBATE
  RECORDS
  *CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD* - CEMETERIES
  *CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD, WILTON* - VITAL RECORDS

- The *record type* you want to search, such as:

  *UNITED STATES* - CENSUS
  *CONNECTICUT* - PROBATE
  RECORDS
  *CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD* - CEMETERIES
  *CONNECTICUT, FAIRFIELD, WILTON* - VITAL RECORDS

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

MILITARY RECORDS

The U.S. Military Records Research Outline (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are found at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The United States Research Outline provides more information on the federal records.

An important source of military records is the Connecticut State Library. Their records include extensive militia records, orderly books, private papers, and other military records from the colonial period to World War I. Many of these are also at the Family History Library.

Colonial Wars (1675-1775)

Selected papers of the wars between 1675 and 1775 have been filed at the Connecticut State Library. Microfilm copies are at the Family History Library. The index is on FHL film 003590. For rolls of Connecticut men in the French and Indian War, see Collections.
of the Connecticut Historical Society, vols. 9 and 10 (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1905; FHL book 974.6 B4c; films 897070 item 3 and 897071). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - HISTORY.

Revolutionary War (1775-1783) to Mexican War (1846-1848)


Supplementary sources for the Revolutionary War are volumes 8 and 12 of Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society (FHL book 974.6 B4c; volume 8 is on FHL film 897070 item 2; volume 12 is on film 897072). These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - HISTORY.

The Connecticut State Library and the Family History Library have a 37-volume set of service rolls for the Revolutionary War on microfilm. Indexes to service records of each war between 1775 and 1848 are at the Family History Library. The pension files for the Revolutionary War are also at the National Archives and the Family History Library.

Civil War (1861-1865)

An index to compiled military service records is at the National Archives and the Family History Library (FHL films 821909-25). The service and pension records have not been microfilmed and are only at the National Archives. A published roster is Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1889; FHL book 974.6 M2c; film 982124). Item 2 on film 982124 is a supplement.

Spanish-American War (1898)


World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men ages 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for Connecticut, see:
To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map, see:


**NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

Naturalization records were filed in the city courts, superior courts, and the courts of common pleas. Many pre-1906 records are indexed and located at the Connecticut State Library. Some are in the county courts.

The National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston) has some local court records for New Haven County, and the cities of Ansonia, Hartford, and Meriden. It also has applications filed in U.S. circuit and district courts from about 1842 to 1955.

New England naturalization records for 1791 to 1906 were copied and indexed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s. Some of the records are more recent than 1906. The index gives the name and location of the court, the date of naturalization, and the volume and page number (or certificate number) of the naturalization record. The copies and index are at the National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston). The National Archives in Washington, D.C. and the Family History Library have microfilm copies of the index 1791-1906 (FHL films 1429671-787).

For records after 1906, contact the National Archives—Northeast Region (Boston) or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**NEWSPAPERS**
Marriage and death notices published in Connecticut newspapers for the period 1796 to 1865 have been indexed in the Charles R. Hale Collection, described in the “Cemeteries” section of this outline (FHL film 003076-398).

The Hartford Times published a genealogical queries section at various times from 1901 to 1967. Indexes to surnames and copies of clippings for some years are at the Family History Library (on 9 FHL films beginning with 1421780). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - GENEALOGY.

PERIODICALS

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Connecticut research are:

**The American Genealogist**, 1939-. Published by David L. Greene, P.O. Box 398, Demorest, GA 30535-0398. (FHL book 973 B25aga.)

**Connecticut Ancestry** (formerly: Stamford Genealogical Society Bulletin). 1958-. Published by Stamford Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 249, Stamford, CT 06904-0249. (FHL book 974.6 B2s.)

**Connecticut Maple Leaf**. 1983-. Published by the French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, P.O. Box 929, Tolland, CT 06084-0928. (FHL book 974.6 F25c.) This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - MINORITIES.

**The Connecticut Nutmegger**, 1968-. Published by Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., P.O. Box 435, 175 Maple St., Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435. (FHL book 974.6 D25n.)


PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records in Connecticut are kept by probate district courts. In many cases a probate district consisted of a larger community and several nearby smaller towns. Sometimes a probate district crossed county boundaries. The Connecticut Researcher’s Handbook describes each district (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

The Connecticut State Library has numerous files of wills, bonds, letters, and other probate documents. The Family History Library has most of the pre-1880 packets arranged by district and then by surname on 1,622 microfilms. These packets can include
wills, codicils, bonds, applications and petitions, inventories, court orders, court returns, distributions, accounts of administration, receipts, and miscellaneous probate records. The districts are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - PROBATE RECORDS.

The Connecticut State Library's index to these records for 1641 to 1948 is also at the Family History Library (FHL films 166000-66). This is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT - PROBATE RECORDS - INDEXES.

You can obtain copies of other records from the local probate district offices. Many of the records of these local offices have also been microfilmed and are at the Family History Library. These are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CONNECTICUT, [COUNTY], [TOWN], - PROBATE RECORDS. From the Hartford District, for example, the library has records for the years 1649 to 1917 on 52 microfilms.

Other published records are in The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut (see the “Public Records” section of this outline).

PUBLIC RECORDS

Many early General Assembly acts, petitions, Council of Safety journals, and other documents relating to probates, land grants, and military service are in:


TAXATION

The Family History Library has some tax records for the state. These are included in the town records (see the “Town Records” section of this outline). Also see Holbrook's Connecticut 1670 Census (described in the “Census” section of this outline).

TOWN RECORDS
In New England the town clerk is the principal record keeper on the local level. The earliest records are called proprietors’ records.

Town records may contain births, marriages, deaths, burials, cemetery records, appointments, earmarks, estrays (stray animals), freemens' oaths (men eligible to vote), land records, mortgages, name changes, care of the poor, school records, surveys, tax lists, town meeting minutes, voter registrations, and “warning outs” (of town).


The Family History Library has microfilms of many Connecticut town records from the creation of the town to the early 1920s.

VITAL RECORDS

Town Records

Birth, marriage, and death records were kept by each town clerk. These are described further in the “Town Records” section of this outline. Many of the births and marriages recorded in the town records have been extracted and are listed in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

State Records

State registration of vital statistics began in 1897 and was generally complied with by 1915. The Family History Library has not obtained these records. For copies of state records, you can contact:

Department of Public Health
Vital Records Section
410 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105
Telephone: 860-509-8000
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 340-308 11 VRS
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
The current fees for this service are listed in *Where to Write for vital Records: births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also contact the Vital Records Section (address given above) for current information.

State your relationship to the individual you want information about and the reason you want the information.

Birth records are considered confidential and can only be searched by (1) the individual, his mother, or father; (2) an attorney; or (3) a member of a genealogical society in Connecticut. You may wish to write to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., for help in searching birth records. There will be a fee for this service.

Delayed registrations of births were kept by the town clerk and have the same restrictions as other vital records.

**Other Sources**

There are several collections and other sources which contain vital records:

- **Barbour Collection.** This collection consists of abstracts of town, church, and other original records from the earliest time to the 1850s. Most towns are included. The index is incomplete, however, and is known to contain errors. The collection is on 98 microfilms at the Family History Library (beginning with FHL film 002887), and the births are indexed in the IGI.

- **Charles R. Hale Collection.** This collection includes newspaper notices of marriages and deaths and cemetery inscriptions. The Family History Library has this collection on 360 rolls of film (see the “Cemeteries” section of this outline).

- **Bowman Collection.** This is a card index to Connecticut vital records in Massachusetts, 1800 to 1900 (FHL films 002884-885).


- **Index to the Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin**, Vols 1-8. This is an index at the Connecticut State Library and is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL film 002886.) It indexes the names found in the *Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin* (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1934-; FHL book 974.6 H25c).
**International Genealogical Index**: This indexes many of the births and marriages recorded in the town records. It is available at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

**Divorce Records**

Divorce proceedings are usually kept by the clerk of the superior court where the divorce was granted. The Connecticut State Library has some early divorce records. The Family History Library does not have copies of many divorce records.

**FOR FURTHER READING**

For more detailed information about research and records of Connecticut, see:


Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

## Connecticut Historical Background

### History

Effective family research requires some understanding of the historical events that may have affected your family and the records about them. Learning about wars, governments, laws, migrations, and religious trends may help you understand political boundaries, family movements, and settlement patterns. These events may have led to the creation of records that your family was listed in, such as land and military documents.

The following important events in the history of Connecticut affected political boundaries, family movements, and record keeping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1633-1636</td>
<td>Puritans from Massachusetts established settlements on the Connecticut River at Windsor, Wethersfield, and Hartford.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1638</td>
<td>The New Haven colony was established. New London was founded soon after.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1662</td>
<td>A British royal charter established Connecticut as a colony separate from Massachusetts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740</td>
<td>By this date all of present day Connecticut had been settled and organized into incorporated towns, the basic governing units.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1786-1800</td>
<td>Connecticut relinquished its claims to western lands, except for the Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania, which Connecticut claimed until 1799, and the Western Reserve in Ohio, which it claimed until 1800. Connecticut settlers remained in both areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1788</td>
<td>Connecticut ratified the Constitution to become a state.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840s</td>
<td>As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving into Connecticut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1865</td>
<td>Connecticut furnished 60,000 troops to the Union Army during the Civil War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1917–1918</td>
<td>More than 26 million men from the United States ages 18 through 45 registered with the Selective Service for World War I, and over 4.7 million American men and women served during the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930s</td>
<td>The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940–1945</td>
<td>Over 50.6 million men ages 18 to 65 registered with the Selective Service. Over 16.3 million American men and women served in the armed forces during World War II.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950–1953</td>
<td>Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950s–1960s</td>
<td>The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your ancestors will become more interesting to you if you also use histories to learn about the events that were of interest to them or that they may have been involved in. For example, by using a history you might learn about the events that occurred in the year your great-grandparents were married.

**Historical Sources**

You may find state or local histories in the Family History Library Catalog under Connecticut or the county or the town. For descriptions of records available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on [Family History Library Catalog](#). The descriptions give book or film numbers, which you need to find or to order the records.

**Local Histories**

Some of the most valuable sources for family history research are local histories. Published histories of towns, counties, and states usually contain accounts of families. They describe the settlement of the area and the founding of churches, schools, and businesses. You can also find lists of pioneers, soldiers, and civil officials. Even if your ancestor is not listed, information on other relatives may be included that will provide important clues for locating your ancestor. A local history may also suggest other records to search.

Most county and town histories include separate sections or volumes containing biographical information. These may include information on 50 percent or more of the families in the locality.

In addition, local histories should be studied and enjoyed for the background information they can provide about your family’s lifestyle and the community and environment in which your family lived.

About 5,000 county histories have been published for over 80 percent of the counties in the United States. For many counties there is more than one history. In addition, tens of thousands of histories have been written about local towns and communities. Bibliographies that list these histories are available for nearly every state.

For descriptions of bibliographies for Connecticut available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on [Family History Library Catalog](#). Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Local histories are extensively collected by the Family History Library, public and university libraries, and state and local historical societies. Two useful guides are:


**State History**


**United States History**

The following are only a few of the many sources that are available at most large libraries:

descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history. 


*Dictionary of American History,* Revised ed., 8 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976. (FHL book 973 H2ad.) This includes historical sketches on various topics in U.S. history, such as wars, people, laws, and organizations.
Connecticut Statewide Indexes and Collections

Guide

Introduction

In the United States, information about your ancestors is often found in town and county records. If you know which state but not the town or county your ancestor lived in, check the following statewide indexes to find the town or county. Then search records for that town or county.

The indexes and collections listed below index various sources of information, such as histories, vital records, biographies, tax lists, immigration records, etc. You may find additional information about your ancestor other than the town or county of residence. The listings may contain:

• The author and title of the source.
• The Family History Library (FHL) book, film, fiche, or compact disc number. If the words beginning with appear before the film number, check the Family History Library Catalog for additional films.
• The name of the repository where the source can be found if the source is not available at the Family History Library.

What You Are Looking For

• Your ancestor's name in an index or collection.
• Where the ancestor was living.

Steps

These 2 steps will help you find information about your ancestor in statewide indexes or collections.

Step 1. Find your ancestor's name in statewide indexes or collections.

On the list below, if your ancestor lived between the years shown on the left, he or she may be listed in the source on the right.

1580–1900s

Ancestral File
International Genealogical Index
Family History Library Catalog – Surname Search
Connecticut Statewide Indexes and Collections

1600–1700  Torrey, Clarence Almon. New England Marriages prior to 1700. (FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14.) Lists 17th century marriages of Colonial New England with residence, name of wife, approximate date of marriage. You can also check the original data with sources. (FHL films 929494–500.) By looking up the sources on the films you might find information as late as 1960. About 60,000 names.

1600–1700  Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. Supplement to Torrey’s New England Marriages Prior to 1700. (FHL book 974 V2t supp.) About 1,360 names.

1600–1700  Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. Second Supplement to Torrey’s New England Marriages Prior to 1700. (FHL book 974 V2t supp. 2.)

1600–1700  Williams, Alicia. Torrey Bibliography: Key to Reference Abbreviations in the Original Manuscript, New England Marriages prior to 1700 by Clarence Almon Torrey. (FHL book 974 V23w.) Alphabetical listing of Torrey’s source notes indicating title, author(s), publication dates, and manuscript titles.

1600–1920  Filby, P. William, ed. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index. (FHL book 973 W32p.) This indexes published information which mentions passengers to America to about 1920.


1600–1995  Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Ancestry Service: With Husband-surname Index. (FHL book 974.6 D2ca.) Several volumes. The set of records above this is more comprehensive and includes the charts. Use it if possible.

1600–1850  Barbour, Lucius A. Barbour Collection: Connecticut Vital Records Prior to 1850. (FHL films beginning with 2887.) An alphabetical index to births, marriages, and deaths found in town records up to 1850. Most of the births have been extracted and are listed in the International Genealogical Index.


1600–1700  Colket, Meredith. Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants From Europe, 1607–1657. (FHL book 973 D2cmb 1985.) Lists emigrants from Europe to the colonies in the first 50 years; gives names, dates, brief information, and sources. By looking at the sources, you might find family genealogies as late as 1984. About 3,000 names.

1600–1691  Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620–1691. (FHL book 974.4 H2s.) Has biographical sketches of persons who were alive at the time of 1634 tax list. About 3,600 names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1600–1900</td>
<td>Index to American Genealogies: and to Genealogical Material Contained in All Works, Such as Town Histories, County Histories, Local Histories, Historical Society Publications, Biographies, Historical Periodicals and Kindred Works. (FHL book 973 D22m 1900; film 599811 item 2; fiche 6051301.) Known as Munsell's Index. A later volume includes a supplement for 1900 to 1908. Indexes genealogies, town, and county histories. About 55,000 names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1940</td>
<td>Rider, Fremont, ed. The American Genealogical-Biographical Index. (FHL book 973 D22am, ser. 2 vols. 1–181; film 844942 item 1 has vol. 10.) A major index to compiled genealogies of New England. See the Key Title Index to the American Genealogical-Biographical Index for FHL call numbers (FHL book 973 D22am Index; fiche 6088377) ed. Pat Clark. About one million names.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1896</td>
<td>The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. See index. (FHL book 974 B2ne; films beginning with 1704726; Compact disc # 33.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1940</td>
<td>Greenlaw, William Prescott. The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. (FHL book Q 974 D22g, vols. 1–2.) A published card index for books printed 1900 to the 1940s where there are three generations of information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1940s</td>
<td>Index Cards to Vital Records of Connecticut Churches at the Connecticut State Library. (FHL films 2806–2874.) This is an alphabetical index.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1948</td>
<td>Bible Records from Connecticut, Index Cards. (FHL films 2875–2882.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1984</td>
<td>Worden, Jean D. American Genealogist Index to Subjects in Volumes 1–60 Index. (FHL book 973 D25aga.) This is an index to names in volumes 1–60.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1995</td>
<td>The American Genealogist. (FHL book 973 D25aga; FHL films beginning with 1425624.) A periodical. Donald Lines Jacobus was the first publisher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1914</td>
<td>Cutter, William R. New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial. (FHL book 974 D2c 1913, vols. 1–4; films 164668–89.) Contains genealogical, personal, and ancestral history of prominent New England families; well indexed; also, see the index above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600–1914</td>
<td>Cutter, William R. New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation. (FHL book 974 D2c 1914, vols. 1–4; FHL films beginning with 962340; fiche 6051510–12.) This is a different set of families than the source just above; contains genealogical, personal, and ancestral history of prominent New England families; well indexed; also, see the Cutter Index . . . above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


1600–1846 Hinman, Royal R. *A Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of The Colony of Connecticut* (FHL book 974.6 D2hra; film 908908 item 2.) Has information to the year 1846 about families with surnames A to Z.

1600–1846 Hinman, Royal R. *A Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of The Colony of Connecticut With the Time of Their Arrival in the Country and Colony, Their Standing in Society, Place of Residence, Condition in Life, Where From, Business, as Far as is Found on Record.* (FHL book 974.6 D2hra 1852–1856; film 186114; fiche 6051124.) Has information to the year 1846 about families with surnames Abbe to Danielson.

1600–1800 Bailey, Frederic W. *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800.* (FHL book 974.6 K2bf; FHL films beginning with 924061.)

1600–1970 Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of The Bibles and Family Records of the United States 45,000 References as Taken From Microfilms at the Genealogical Society of Utah.* (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.) Includes pensions and bounty land warrants; the index is in vol. 4. About 400,000 names.

1600–1948 Daughters of the American Revolution. *Genealogical Collection.* (FHL films beginning with 844451.) Partly indexed in Kirkham's book above. Most volumes have their own index.

1600–1948 Hale, Charles R. *Hale Collection.* (FHL films beginning with 3076.) Index to cemetery inscriptions.


1700–1848 Connecticut Adjutant General. *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the I. War of the Revolution; II. War of 1812; III. Mexican War.* (FHL films book 974.6 M2ca; film 1036328 item 4; fiche 6046698.) The book has one or more indexes for each of these three wars.

1700–1783 White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992 vols. 1–4.) Includes pensions and bounty land warrants; the index is in vol. 4. About 400,000 names.

1700–1868 DAR Revolutionary War Burial Index. (FHL films 1307675–82.) Alphabetical; prepared by Brigham Young University from DAR records; often lists name, birth date, death date, burial place, name of cemetery, company and/or regiment, sometimes gives the place of birth, etc. About 67,000 names.


1700–1835 The Pension Roll of 1835. Indexed edition. (FHL book 973 M24ua 1992 vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 has the index; vols. 1–4 list Revolutionary War soldiers; gives county of residence; state of service; often gives age; often has data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s to 1835.
1700–1840  *A General Index to a Census of Pensioners For Revolutionary or Military Service, 1840.* (FHL book 973 X2pc index; film 899835 items 1–2; fiche 6046771.) Lists Revolutionary War pensioners whose names are on the 1840 census lists. After using the general index, go to the original book (FHL book Ref 973 X2pc 1967; film 899835 item 3). This book gives town of residence, the name of the head of household where they were living, and age of pensioner or their widow.

1700–1900  Mather, Frederic G. *The Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to Connecticut.* (FHL book 974.6 H2m pts. 1–2; film 164690.)


1740–1920  Census indexes, 1790–1860, 1880, 1900, and 1920. See What to Do Next, and click on Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.

1740–1900  White, Virgil D. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files.* (FHL book 973 M22i vs. 1–3.) Gives soldier and spouse. About 150,000 names.

1796–1865  Hale, Charles R. *Hale Collection.* (FHL films beginning with 3250.) Index to marriage notices in newspapers.


1800–1865  *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, [1861–1865].* (FHL book 974.6 M2s; film 982124.) See also supplement, film 982124, with corrections and additions.

1800–1865  United States. Veterans Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.* (On 544 FHL films beginning with 540757.) This is a card index to pension applications of Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans; copies of the original files may be ordered from the National Archives.

1800–1933  United States. Veterans Administration. *Veteran’s Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933.* (On 2539 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) Lists veterans and wives who received pension payments for Civil War, and the War with Spain. About two million names.

1850–1898  *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States in the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and China Relief Expedition, From April 21, 1898 to July 4, 1904.* (FHL book 974.6 M2co; film 1036755.)


1878–1918  United States Selective Service System. Connecticut. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* (On 68 FHL films beginning with 1561876.) Men ages 18 to 45 are listed alphabetically by county or draft board.

For ideas on ways your ancestor’s name might be spelled by indexers or in collections, see Name Variations.

**Step 2. Copy and document the information.**

The best method is to:

- Make a photocopy of the page(s) with your ancestor’s name.
- Document where the information came from by writing the title, call number, and page number of the index or collection on the photocopy. Also write the name of the library or archive.
Where to Find It

Family History Centers and Family History Library

You can use the Family History Library book collection only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, but many of our books have been microfilmed. Most of our films can be requested and used at our Family History Centers. To locate the address for your nearest Family History Center, click here.

For information about contacting or visiting the library or a center, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.

Libraries and Archives

You may be able to find the books at public or college libraries. If these libraries do not have a copy of the book you need, they may be able to order it from another library on interlibrary loan.

To use interlibrary loan:

• Go to a public or college library.
• Ask the librarian to order a book or microfilm for you through interlibrary loan from another library. You will need the title of the item and the name of the author.
• The library staff will direct you in their procedures. Sometimes this is free; sometimes there is a small fee.

You can find addresses and phone numbers for most libraries and archives in the American Library Directory, published by the American Library Association. The American Library Directory is available at most public and college libraries.
Maps
Computer Resources

MapQuest Maps
Summary: Must know address, city, state, and zip code; more recent maps

Animap
BYU FHL – on computer
Summary: Has each state with maps. Shows county boundary changes and allows marking of cities and finds distances.

Google Maps
Summary: Has address finder, allows keyword searching, and allows street, satellite, or terrain views

Geology.com Maps
Summary: Has Relief, Elevation, Drainage, Political and Road Maps for each state.
Connecticut Maps Bibliography

Mic/Gen Ref - G 1201.F7 A5 1991

**Summary:** Shows the townships in a particular county for each state except Hawaii and Alaska. Maps start after 1930.

**Evaluation of Connecticut Maps:** pp. 123-130. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Mic/Gen Ref - F 93.D46x 1985

**Summary:** Map of Connecticut - 1635-1660 of Connecticut and New Haven Colonies.


**Summary:** The previous map was copied from page 96 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the towns, the date it was formed and parent town, the county the town is found in, and the date probate records began. The section on Connecticut also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Mic/Gen Ref - G 1201.E6225 J33x 1970z Vol. 1

**Summary:** List of Counties for each state.

**Evaluation of Connecticut maps:** Maps are of the revolutionary period, 1804, 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp. 7 -13.


**Summary:** Shows changes in boundaries in United States from Colonial days up to 1909. Civil war maps and information.

**Evaluation of Connecticut maps:** State historical information, 1790-1900 map, p. 64; 1823 map, p. 89; 1909 map, p. 207.

Summary: Connecticut maps and information on pages 45-52. Includes maps comparing Connecticut to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.


Summary: History of Federal Censuses, records, and completeness. U.S. Maps from 1790 - 1920 showing U.S. boundary changes. Maps of each state for each census year beginning when the state was created up through 1920.


Map Collection on the 2nd floor of the old section of HBLL library. One map drawer for the state of Connecticut.

G3180 - G3184 State maps 1800s up to 2000. Many of the maps show county boundaries and county seats, railroad lines, private land grants, population, etc. Some maps include information about what was happening that year.

To find more maps, search the byline for Connecticut maps, atlases, and gazetteers.
Gazetteers

A gazetteer of the states of Connecticut and Rhode-Island microform: written with care and impartiality, from original and authentic materials, consisting of two parts ... : with an accurate and improved map of each state / by John C. Pease and John M. Niles. Pease, John C. (John Chauncey), 1782-1859. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH4129.

A geographic dictionary of Connecticut / by Henry Gannett. F92 .B9x

Connecticut place names / by Arthur H. Hughes and Morse S. Allen. F92 .H83
Connecticut Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

Guide

Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Connecticut residents are included in censuses from 1790 through 1920.

- The 1790 through 1840 censuses give the name of the head of each household. Other household members are mentioned only by age groupings of males and females.
- The 1850 census was the first federal census to give the names of all members of the household.

For more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses, see Background.

What You Are Looking For

The information you find varies from record to record. These records may include:

- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives that may have lived nearby.

Steps

These 5 steps will help you use census records.

Step 1. Determine which censuses might include your ancestors.

Match the probable time your ancestor was in Connecticut with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.

Example of a time an ancestor was in Connecticut.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Connecticut census years</th>
<th>1790</th>
<th>1800</th>
<th>1810</th>
<th>1820</th>
<th>1830</th>
<th>1840</th>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1860</th>
<th>1870</th>
<th>1880</th>
<th>1890</th>
<th>1900</th>
<th>1910</th>
<th>1920</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1850</td>
<td>1860</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This person would be included in Connecticut censuses from 1850 to 1870.

(The 1890 census was mostly destroyed.)
Step 2. Determine a census to start with.

Start with the last census taken during the life of your ancestor. The censuses from 1850 to 1920 give more information and include the name, age, and birthplace of every person in the household.

The censuses from 1790 to 1840 give the name of the head of household and the number of males and females in age groups without their names.

The censuses for 1930 and later are available from the U.S. Census Bureau only. For ways the census can help you find your ancestor's parents, see Tip 1.

Step 3. Search the census.

For instructions on how to search a specific census, click on one of the following years:

1790 1800 1810 1820 1830 1840 1850
1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920

For information about archives and libraries that have census records, see Where to Find It.

Step 4. Search another census.

Repeat Steps 2 and 3 until you search all the censuses taken during the life span of your ancestor. Each census may contain additional information.

If you skip a census taken when your ancestor lived, you risk missing additional information such as names of in-laws or other relatives who may have lived with or near the family. Those names and relationships may help you identify earlier generations.

For other information about how to search the census, see Tips.

Step 5. Analyze the information you obtain from the censuses.

To effectively use the information from the census, ask yourself these questions:

• Who was in the family?
• About when were they born?
• Where were they born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1850 to 1920.)
• Where were they living—town or township, county, and state?
• Where were their parents born? (Birthplaces are shown in censuses for 1880 to 1920.)
• Do they have neighbors with the same last name? Could they be relatives?

For more about comparing information in several censuses, see Tip 3.

Tips

Tip 1. How can the census help me find my ancestor's parents?

Searching the census taken closest to the time the ancestor married has the best possibility of finding your ancestor and spouse living close to their parents and other family members.
Tip 2. How can I understand the information better?

Sometimes knowing why the census taker asked a question can help you understand the answer. Detailed instructions given to census takers are in the book *Twenty Censuses: Population and Housing Questions 1790-1980*, updated as *200 Years of U.S. Census Taking*, both by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Tip 3. How can comparing information in more than one census help me?

Comparing censuses indicates:

- Changes in who was in the household, such as children leaving home or the death of grandparents or a child.
- Changes in neighbors. Remember, neighbors might be relatives or in-laws.
- Changes about each individual, such as age.
- Movement of the family within Connecticut to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Connecticut if the family no longer appears in the census for Connecticut.

You will eventually want to know every country, state, county, township, and town where your ancestor was located. You can then check information in other records for those places. A careful check of all available federal census records can help you identify those places.

The age and estimated birth date of an individual may vary greatly from census to census. Often ages are listed more accurately for young children than for adults.

Background

Description

A census is a count and a description of the population of a country, colony, territory, state, county, or city. Census records are also called census schedules or population schedules.

Early censuses are basically head counts. Later censuses give information about marriage, immigration, and literacy. United States censuses are useful because they begin early and cover a large portion of the population.

What U.S. Federal Censuses Are Available

Censuses have been taken by the United States government every 10 years since 1790. The 1920 census is the most recent federal census available to the public; the 1930 census will be released in 2002. In 1885 the federal government also helped 5 states or territories (Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Mexico, and Dakota Territory) conduct special censuses.

The Connecticut 1890 census was destroyed by fire.

Types of Census Schedules

The following census schedules are available for Connecticut and were created in various years by the federal government:

- **Population schedules** list a large portion of the population; most are well-indexed and are available at many repositories.
• **Mortality schedules** list those who died in the 12 months prior to the day the census was taken, for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

• **1840 pensioners' schedules** list people who were receiving pensions in 1840. Included were men who fought in the Revolutionary War or in the War of 1812 or their widows.

• **Agricultural schedules** list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

• **Manufacturing or industrial schedules** list data about businesses and industries for the 1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

### How the Censuses Were Taken

People called enumerators were hired by the United States government to take the census. The enumerators were given forms to fill out and were assigned to gather information about everyone living in a certain area or district. Enumerators could visit the houses in any order, so families who are listed together in the census may or may not have been neighbors. The accuracy of the enumerators and the readability of their handwriting varies.

After the census was taken, usually one copy was sent to the state and another to the federal government. Sometimes copies were also kept by the counties. Few of the state and county copies survived.

### When the Censuses Were Taken

Census takers were supposed to gather information about the people who were part of each household on the following dates:

- 1790 to 1820: First Monday in August
- 1830 to 1900: 1 June (2 June in 1890)
- 1910: 15 April
- 1920: 1 January
- 1930: 1 April

If your ancestor was born in the census year, your ancestor should only be listed if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should only be listed if he or she died after the census date.

The census may have actually taken several months to complete and may reflect births and deaths after the census date.

### Censuses from 1930 to the Present

U.S. Federal Censuses from 1930 to the present are confidential. The 1930 census will be available in 2002. You may ask the U.S. Census Bureau to send information about:

- Yourself.
- Another living person, if you are that person's "authorized representative."
- Deceased individuals, if you are "their heirs or administrators."

You may request information for only one person at a time. There is a fee for each search. To request information, you must provide the person's name, address at the time of the census, and other details on Form BC-600, available from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For the address of the U.S. Census Bureau, see Where to Find It.
Colonial, State, and Local Censuses

Colonial, state, and local governments also took censuses. Nonfederal censuses generally contain information similar to and sometimes more than federal censuses of the same time period. For the colonial period, there is a 1670 colonial census substitute, Connecticut 1670 Census.

Connecticut became a state in 1788. Connecticut has no state censuses, except for a 1917 military census at the Connecticut State Library.

Colonial, state, and local censuses may be available on the Internet, at Family History Centers, at the Family History Library, and in state and local archives and libraries.

Where to Find It

Internet

Many Internet sites include census records, census indexes, or information about censuses. You may find the following sites helpful:

- Connecticut GenWeb and USGenWeb have links to indexes and records and may have links to archives, libraries, and genealogical and historical societies.
- CensusLinks on the ‘Net includes links to Internet sites that have United States and Canada censuses and indexes. It includes information about censuses and how to use them, a Soundex calculator, census forms you can print, an age calculator, and more.
- Browse Categories on this screen has links to records and indexes that are available on the Internet.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the Connecticut Research Outline lists Internet addresses for several Connecticut archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Connecticut census records, and the Internet sites may list what other records they have.

Family History Centers

Many Family History Centers keep copies of some census microfilms. Family History Centers can borrow microfilms of a U.S. Federal Census from the Family History Library. A small fee is charged to have a microfilm sent to a center.

You may request photocopies of U.S. Federal Censuses from the Family History Library. Staff at the Family History Center can show you how to request this service.

Family History Centers are located throughout the United States and other areas of the world. See Family History Centers for the address and phone number of the center nearest you.

Family History Library

The Family History Library has complete sets of the existing U.S. Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1920. No fee is charged for using census microfilms in person.

For a list of indexes and other census records, click on Family History Library Catalog in the Select from the list of titles to see descriptions of the records with the film or book call numbers. Use that information to obtain the records at a family history center or at the Family History Library.

For information about contacting or visiting the library, see Family History Library and Family History Centers.
National Archives

Copies of the existing federal censuses from 1790 to 1920 are available in the Microfilm Research Room in the National Archives Building and at the 13 Regional National Archives. The National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Call 301-824-3699 for rental information. For information on how to order photocopies of census records from the National Archives, click here.

College and Public Libraries

Many college libraries have copies of the census microfilms, particularly for their own states. Many larger public libraries have copies of the census soundex and populations schedules. Smaller public libraries may be able to obtain the records through interlibrary loan.

State Archives, Libraries, and Historical Societies

The Archives and Libraries section of the Connecticut Research Outline lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Connecticut archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Connecticut census records, and the Internet sites may list what other records they have.

U.S. Census Bureau

To request information from the 1930 census and later censuses, you must provide your relative's name, address, and other details on Form BC-600, available from:

The U.S. Census Bureau
P.O. Box 1545
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Telephone: 812-218-3300

Genealogical Search Services

Many genealogical search services will search the census for a fee. These sources can help you find a genealogical search service:

- CyndisList lists many companies and individuals who do research and mentions publications about how to hire a professional genealogist.
- Advertisements in major genealogical journals may help you find a researcher.
Census

Connecticut 1670 census / by Jay Mack Holbrook. CS 49 .Z99 C8 1670

Heads of families at the first census of the United States taken in the year 1790. Connecticut. CS 49 .z99 C8 1790

Connecticut 1800 census. Paleographers and editors, Gary Ronald Teeples, Ronald Vern Jackson. CS 49 .z99 C8 1800 no.2

An index to the 1800 Federal census of Connecticut, compiled by Lowell M. Volkel. CS 49 .z99 C8 1800

Connecticut 1810 census index / editors, Ronald Vern Jackson, Gary Ronald Teeples. CS 49 .Z99 C8 1810

Connecticut 1820 census index / editors, Ronald Vern Jackson, Gary Ronald Teeples. CS 49 .z99 C8 1820

Connecticut 1830 census index / editors, Ronald Vern Jackson, Gary Ronald Teeples. CS 49 .z99 C8 1830

Connecticut 1840 census index / editors, Ronald Vern Jackson, Gary Ronald Teeples. CS 49 .z99 C8 1840

Connecticut 1850 census index / editors Ronald Vern Jackson [and] Gary Ronald Teeples. CS 49 .z99 C8 1850

Connecticut 1850 mortality schedule / editors and compilers, Ronald Vern Jackson, Wylma Winmill, Shirley P. Zachrison. CS 49 .z99 C81 1850

1860 Connecticut census index: heads of households and other surnames in households index / compiled by Bryan Lee Dilts. CS 49 .z99 C8 1860

Connecticut 1860/ authors and paleographers Ronald Vern Jackson ... CS 49 .z99 C8 1860 nO.2

Connecticut 1860 mortality schedule / editors and compilers, Ronald Vern Jackson, Wylma Winmill, Shirley P. Zachrison. CS 49 .z99 C81 1860

Connecticut 1870 census index / edited by Raeone Christensen Steuart. CS 49 .z99 C8 1870 Yol.1-2

Connecticut 1870 mortality schedule / editors and compilers, Ronald Vern Jackson, Wylma Winmill, Shirley P. Zachrison. CS 49 .z99 C81 1870
CONNECTICUT


Van Dusen, Albert E. Puritans Against the Wilderness: Connecticut History to 1763. Chester, CT: Pequot Press, 1975. F 94 .S45 (vol. 1)

Fairfield County Fairfield County was created in 1666 (original county).

Last updated 4/03
CONNECTICUT

Alvord, John W.  Historical Address: Delivered in the First Congregational Church in Stamford, Connecticut, at the Celebration of the Second Centennial Anniversary of the First Settlement of the Town.  New York: S. Davenport, 1842.  Fiche F 97 .SB A4


Burr, William.  Early Recollections of Fairfield Life.  Fairfield, CT: (no publisher), 1913.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 4100


Last updated 4/03
CONNECTICUT


Schenck, Elizabeth H. The History of Fairfield, Fairfield County: From the Settlement of the Town in 1639 to 1818. New York: Elizabeth H. Schenck, 1889-1905. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 4810 also F 104 .F2 S3 1889 (Special Collections)


Hartford County Hartford County was created in 1666 (original county).


Last updated 4/03


Norton, Alice J. *Compounce, 1846-1902*. Bristol, CT: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Press, c1902. F 104 .S73 N8 1902


Litchfield County  Litchfield County was created in 1751 from Hartford and Fairfield counties.


Calhoun, Newell M.  Litchfield County Sketches.  Norfolk, CT: Litchfield County University Club, 1906.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 3801


Daughters of the American Revolution.  Honor Roll of Litchfield County Revolutionary Soldiers.  Litchfield, CT: Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter, Daughters of the American revolution, 1912.  F 102 .L6 D2
Middlesex County  Middlesex County was created in 1785 from Hartford, New London, and New Haven counties.

Last updated 4/03


New Haven County  New Haven County was created in 1666 (original county).


Beach, Joseph Perkins.  History of Cheshire, Connecticut, from 1694 to 1840, including Prospect, which, as Columbia parish, was a Part of Cheshire until 1829.  Cheshire, CT: Lady Fenwick Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, (Meriden, CT: Press of the Journal Pub. Co.) 1912.  F 104 .C5 B3 also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 4061


Dexter, Franklin B.  New Haven in 1784.  New Haven, CT: (no publisher), 1885.  Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 3753


Last updated 4/03


Sharpe, William C. History of Seymour, Connecticut, with Biographies and Genealogies. Seymour, CT: Record Print, 1879. (See BYU Online Catalog for book call number) also Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 3797


New London County New London County was created in 1666 (original county).


Arms, Hiram P. Historical Notes of Congregational Churches in New London County, Connecticut from 1836 to 1869: Presented to the Conference at Montville, October 12th, 1869. Norwich, CT: Wilcox & Davis, 1869. Fiche CS 43 .G46x LH 3808


Last updated 4/03


Last updated 4/03
Tolland County | Tolland County was created in 1785 from Windham County.

Cole, J. R. | History of Tolland County, Connecticut including its Early Settlement and Progress to the Present Time: a Description of its Historic and Interesting Localities; Sketches of its Towns and Villages; Portraits of Some of its Prominent Men, and Biographies of Many of its Representative Citizens. New York: W.W. Preston & Co., 1888. | Fiche Z 1236 .L5 1917 No. 11331-11332


**CONNECTICUT**


**Windham County** Windham County was created in 1726 from Hartford and New London counties.


**Other Sources to Check for General County/Local Histories**

Last updated 4/03


Halverson, Frank Douglas and Eva H.T. Halverson.  County Histories of the United States Giving Present Name, Date Formed, Parent County, and County Seat.  [Salt Lake City, 1937].  E 180 .H35


Other Connecticut Resources

Cyndi’s List Connecticut Resources
http://www.cyndislist.com/ct.htm

Geneasearch Connecticut Site
http://geneasearch.com/states/connecticut.htm

Connecticut State Library
http://www.cslib.org/

Connecticut’s Gen Web Site
http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctgenweb/

Rootsweb Connecticut Resources
## Hale Collection

**Author**  
Hale, Charles R.

**Title**  
Hale Collection.

**Publication Information**  

**Format**  
360 microfilm reels; 35 mm.

**Notes**  
Microfilm of typescript at the Connecticut State Library.

**Contents**  
Charles R. Hale Collection of vital records (newspaper notices and cemetery inscriptions) with surname index to cemetery inscriptions referring to places and newspapers; index to death notices from newspapers (not included above); index, marriages by newspapers; general index to marriage notices arranged alphabetically; cemeteries by localities; newspapers.

| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | AA - ALB | 0003076 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | ALBE - H. ALLEN | 0003077 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | R. ALLEN - ALW | 0003078 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | AMA - ARMOUR | 0003079 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | ARMS - ATWO | 0003080 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | ATWOR - BAB | 0003081 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BABCO - BACKER | 0003082 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BAKU - H. BARBER | 0003083 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | 1. BARBER - BARRO | 0003084 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BARRO - BEACH | 0003085 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BEACH - BEEBE | 0003086 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BEEBE - BEM | 0003087 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BEN - BENNETT | 0003088 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BENNETTE - BIEGE | 0003089 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BIGGS - BLAIR | 0003090 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BLAIS - BOLJ | 0003091 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BOLL - BOU | 0003092 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BOU - BRADLEY | 0003093 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BRAI - BRI | 0003094 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BRIN - BROW | 0003095 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | ,BROW - BROWS | 0003096 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BRU - BUL | 0003097 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BUL - BURNS | 0003098 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BURNS - BUTT | 0003099 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | BUTT - CAN | 0003100 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CAN - CART | 0003101 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CART - CHA | 0003102 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CHAL - CHAS | 0003103. |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CHAS - CLAP | 0003104 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CLAP - CLARK | 0003105 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CLARKE - COG | 0003106 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | COG - COLLINS | 0003107 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | COLLINSO - COO | 0003108 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | COOK - COS | 0003109 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | COS - CRO | 0003110 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CRO - CURTIS | 0003111 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | CURTIS - DAR | 0003112 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | DAR - DEA | 0003113 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | DEA - DES | 0003114 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | DET - DOL | 00031.1.5 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | DOC - DOO | 00031.1.6 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | DOO - D. DRA | 00031.1.7 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | E. DRA - DUN | 00031.1.8 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | DUN - DZW | 00031.1.9 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | EA - T. ELD | 0003120 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | U. ELD - ENS | 0003121 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | ENS - FAX | 0003122 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | FAY - FINW | 0003123 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | FIO - FOL | 0003124 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | FOL - FOX | 0003125 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | FOX - FREN | 0003126 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | FREN - FZA | 0003127 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GA - GAT | 0003128 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GAT - GIL | 0003129. |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GIL - GaL | 0003130 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GOL - GOU | 0003131 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GOU - GRE | 0003132 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GRE - GRISWOLD | 0003133 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | GRISWOU - HALL | 0003134 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HALL - HAM | 0003135 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HAM - HARR | 0003136 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HARR - HAU | 0003137 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HAV - HAEF | 0003138 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | REF - RIG | 0003139 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HIK - HIT | 0003140 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HIT - HaLL | 0003141 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HaLL - HaS | 0003142 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HaS - HOWW | 0003143 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HOWW - HUC | 0003144 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HUDD - HUNT | 0003145 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HUNT - HUS | 0003146 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | HUT - ISV | 0003147 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | ITA - JAC | 0003148 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | JAD - JNO | 0003149 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | JOA - JOHNSON | 0003150 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | JOHNST - JUDS | 0003151 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | JUDS - KELL | 0003152 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | KELL - KENZ | 0003153 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | KEO - KINGS | 0003154. |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | KINGS - KLO | 0003155 |
| Surname index, Death and Inscriptions | KLU - KTO | 0003156 |
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  SWE - TAY ----------------------- 0003211,
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  TAY - THOMP -------------------- 0003212
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  THOMP - TILT ------------------- 0003213
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  TIM - TRA ---------------------- 0003214
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  TRA - TURN --------------------- 0003215
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  TURN - UNW --------------------- 0003216
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  UOV - VYT --------------------- 0003217
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WAA - WAR --------------------- 0003218
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WAR - WATE -------------------- 0003219
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WATE - WEA --------------------- 0003220
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WEB - WEBS --------------------- 0003221
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WEBS - WELL --------------------- 0003222
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WELL - WET --------------------- 0003223
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WETO - WHI --------------------- 0003224
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WHI - WHITN ------------------- 0003225
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WHITO - WILK ------------------- 0003226
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WIL - WILLI --------------------- 0003227
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WILLI - WILS ------------------- 0003228
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WILS - WOO --------------------- 0003229
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WOO - WOOS --------------------- 0003230
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  WOOT - YALE ------------------- 0003231
Surname index, Death and Inscriptions  YAN - ZYW --------------------- 0003232
Index to Deaths, Connecticut Journal and New Haven ----------------- 0003233
              Post-Boy  A - L
Index to Deaths, Connecticut Journal and New Haven ----------------- 0003234
              Post-Boy  M - Z
Index to Deaths, Connecticut Press  A - H -------------------------- 0003235
Index to Deaths, Connecticut Press  I - Z -------------------------- 0003236
Index to Deaths, Fairfield county miscellaneous  A - P ------------ 0003237
Index to Deaths, Fairfield county miscellaneous  P - Z ------------ 0003238
Index to Deaths, Hartford Evening Press  S - Z --------------------- 0003239
Index to Deaths, Middlesex county miscellaneous ------------------- 0003240
              A - Z and Middlesex Gazette  A - G
Index to Deaths, Middlesex Gazette  G - Z -------------------------- 0003241
Index to Deaths, New England ReI. Herald  A - Z ------------------- 0003242
Index to Deaths, New Haven county miscellaneous  A - Z ---------- 0003243
Index to Deaths, New London county miscellaneous  A - Z ------- 0003244
Index to Deaths, New London Gazette  A - Z ------------------------- 0003245
Index to Deaths, New London Weekly Chronicle  J - Z ------------- 0003246
Index to Deaths, Norwich Aurora  A - Z --------------------------- 0003247
Index to Deaths, Norwich Courier  S - Z --------------------------- 0003248
Index to Deaths, Windham county miscellaneous  A - Z ------------ 0003249
              and Winsted Herald Calendar  A - Z
Index to marriages, Connecticut Journal and New ------------------ 0003250
              Haven  Post-Boy  A - I
Index to marriages, Connecticut Journal and New ------------------ 0003251
              Haven  Post-Boy  I - Z
Index to marriages, Connecticut Press  A - G ---------------------- 0003252
Index to marriages, Connecticut Press  H - Z ---------------------- 0003253
Index to marriages, Danbury Times  A - F ------------------------- 0003254
Index to marriages, Danbury Times  G - Z ------------------------- 0003255
Index to marriages, Fairfield county miscellaneous  A - J 0003256.
Index to marriages, Fairfield county miscellaneous  K - Z 0003257
Index to marriages, Hartford Evening Press  A - D ---------------- 0003258
Index to marriages, Hartford Evening Press D - Z -------------- 0003259
Index to marriages, Middlesex county miscellaneous A - F -------------- 0003260
Index to marriages, Middlesex Gazette G - Z ---------------------- 0003261
Index to marriages, New Haven county miscellaneous H - Z ------- 0003262
Index to marriages, New London County miscellaneous A - G ---------- 0003263
Index to marriages, New London Gazette G - Z --------------------- 0003264
Index to marriages, New London county miscellaneous -------------- 0003265
Index to marriages, New London Gazette A - F --------------------- 0003266
Index to marriages, New London Gazette G - Z --------------------- 0003267
Index to marriages, New London Weekly Chronicle A - Z ---------- 0003268
Index to marriages, Norwich Aurora A - Z ----------------------- 0003269
Index to marriages, Norwich Courier G - Z --------------------- 0003270
Index to marriages, Windham county miscellaneous -------------- 0003271
Surname index of marriages AAYRE - ANDREWS --------------------- 0003272
Surname index of marriages ANDREWS - BABCO --------------------- 0003273
Surname index of marriages BABCO - BARNER ---------------------- 0003274
Surname index of marriages BARNES - BEDWORTH ------------------ 0003275
Surname index of marriages BEEBE - BILLIOM --------------------- 0003276
Surname index of marriages BILLS - BOUGHTON --------------------- 0003277
Surname index of marriages BOUKER - BROOKS --------------------- 0003278
Surname index of marriages BROOKS - BUNN ----------------------- 0003279
Surname index of marriages BUNNEL - M. CAMP --------------------- 0003280
Surname index of marriages N. CAMP - CATING --------------------- 0003281
Surname index of marriages CATLIN - D. CLARK ------------------- 0003282
Surname index of marriages E. CLARK - COMSTOCK ---------------- 0003283
Surname index of marriages COMSTOCK - CROUSE ------------------ 0003284
Surname index of marriages CROUTON - DEMING ------------------- 0003285
Surname index of marriages DEMING - DUNHAM --------------------- 0003286
Surname index of marriages DUNHAM - FARNSWORTH ---------------- 0003287
Surname index of marriages FARNUM - FRANKLYN ------------------ 0003288
Surname index of marriages FRANKS - GEAR ----------------------- 0003289
Surname index of marriages GEAR - GRANGER ---------------------- 0003290
Surname index of marriages GRANISS - M. HALL ------------------- 0003291
Surname index of marriages N. HALL - HASTINGS ------------------ 0003292
Surname index of marriages HASWELL - L. HINE ------------------- 0003293
Surname index of marriages M. HINE - G. HOWARD ---------------- 0003294
Surname index of marriages H. HOWARD - HURLBUT ----------------- 0003295
Surname index of marriages HURLBUT - JOLE ---------------------- 0003296
Surname index of marriages JONAS - KINGSBURY ------------------- 0003297
Surname index of marriages KINGSBURY - LESSIN ------------------ 0003298
Surname index of marriages LESTER - LYNDGREEN ------------------ 0003299
Surname index of marriages LYNEBURG - McGREGORY --------------- 0003300
Surname index of marriages McGREGORY - MITCHELL --------------- 0003301
Surname index of marriages MITCHELL - NEVILL ------------------- 0003302
Surname index of marriages NEVIN - OZ ------------------------ 0003303
Surname index of marriages PACHETA - PECK --------------------- 0003304
Surname index of marriages PECK - PONDEXTER ------------------- 0003305
Surname index of marriages POMEROY - PRIOR ------------------- 0003306
Surname index of marriages Pritchard - Roberts ---------------- 0003307
Surname index of marriages ROBERTS - ST. JOHN ----------------- 0003308
Surname index of marriages SALE - SHAW ------------------------ 0003309
Surname index of marriages SHAWCROSS - SMITH ----------------- 0003309.
Surname index of marriages SMITH - SQUIRE ------------------- 0003310
Surname index of marriages SQUIRE - STOW ------------------ 0003311
Surname index of marriages STOWE - THOMPKINS ----------------- 0003312
Surname index of marriages THOMPSON - TULLE ------------------ 0003313
Surname index of marriages TULLER - WALDON ------------------ 0003314
Surname index of marriages WARDWELL - WELLS ---------------- 0003315
Surname index of marriages WELLS - WILCOX ------------------ 0003316
Surname index of marriages WILCOX - M. WISE ----------------- 0003317
Surname index of marriages WISEMAN - ZWANGIGER -------------- 0003318
Cemetery inscriptions of Ansonia, Ashford, Avon ------------ 0003319
and Barkhamsted, Andover
Cemetery inscriptions of Beacon Falls, Berlin, --------------- 0003320
Bethany, Bethel, Bethlehem, Bloomfield and Hartford
Cemetery inscriptions of Hartford and Bloomfield ------------ 0003321
Cemetery inscriptions of Bolton, Bozrah, Branford, ---------------- 0003322
Bridgeport
Cemetery inscriptions of Bridgeport -------------------------- 0003323
Cemetery inscriptions of Bridgeport, Bridgewater ----------- 0003324
and Bristol
Cemetery inscriptions of Bristol, Brookfield, ---------------- 0003325
Brooklyn and Burlington
Cemetery inscriptions of Canaan, Canterbury, ---------------- 0003326
Canton, Chaplin and Cheshire
Cemetery inscriptions of Cheshire, Chester, ------------------ 0003327
Clinton, Colchester, Colebrook and Columbia
Cemetery inscriptions of Cornwall, Coventry, ----------------- 0003328.
Cromwell and Danbury
Cemetery inscriptions of Danbury and Darien ----------------- 0003329
Cemetery inscriptions of Darien, Derby, Durham -------------- 0003330
and Eastford
Cemetery inscriptions of East Granby, East Haddam, ---------- 0003331
East Hampton and East Hartford
Cemetery inscriptions of East Haven, East Lyme, -------------- 0003332
Easton, East Windsor and Ellington
Cemetery inscriptions of Enfield, Essex and Fairfield ------- 0003333
Cemetery inscriptions of Fairfield, Farmington, -------------- 0003334
Franklin and Glastonbury
Cemetery inscriptions of Goshen, Granby and Greenwich ------ 0003335
Cemetery inscriptions of Griswold, Groton and Guilford ------ 0003336
Cemetery inscriptions of Guilford, Haddam, Hamden, ----------- 0003337
Hampton and Hartford
Cemetery inscriptions of Hartford -------------------------- 0003338
Cemetery inscriptions of Hartford, Hartland, --------------- 0003339
Harwinton and Hebron
Cemetery inscriptions of Kent, Killingly, ------------------- 0003340
Killingworth and Lebanon
Cemetery inscriptions of Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, ----------- 0003341
Litchfield and Lyme
Cemetery inscriptions of Madison, Manchester and ----------- 0003342
Mansfield
Cemetery inscriptions of Marlborough and Meriden ------------ 0003343
Cemetery inscriptions of Meriden, Middlebury, --------------- 0003344
Cemetery inscriptions of Shefford, Simsbury and Stirling ---- 0003345
and Windsor
Cemetery inscriptions of Simsbury, Stafford, Stirling, ------ 0003346
Storrs, Stratford, Stonington and Suffield
Cemetery inscriptions of Suffield, Sterling, Sturbridge, ------ 0003347
Simsbury, Southbury, Southbridge and Sunderland
Cemetery inscriptions of Southbury, Southbridge, ------------- 0003348
Sunderland and Sutton
Cemetery inscriptions of Sutton, Swansea and Swansea ---------- 0003349
Cemetery inscriptions of Swansea, Tolland and Tolland ---------- 0003350
Cemetery inscriptions of Tolland, trades, Trumbull, ----------- 0003351
Trumbull and Torrington
Cemetery inscriptions of Torrington, Wilton and Winsted ------ 0003352
Wilton and Windsor
Cemetery inscriptions of Windsor, Wooster and Winsted -------- 0003353
Wooster and Woodstock
Cemetery inscriptions of Woodstock, Woonsocket and Woonsocket 0003354
and Woodstock
Cemetery inscriptions of Woodstock, Wykeham, Winsted, ------- 0003355
Wykeham and Winsted
Cemetery inscriptions of Winsted, Woonsocket, Woonsocket ------- 0003356
and Woodstock
Middlefield and Middletown
Cemetery inscriptions of Middletown and Milford 0003346

Cemetery inscriptions of Milford, Monroe, New Britain 0003347

Montville, Morris and Naugatuck
Cemetery inscriptions of Middletown and Milford 0003348
and New Haven
Cemetery inscriptions of New Haven 0003349

Cemetery inscriptions of New Canaan, New Fairfield 0003350
Cemetery inscriptions of New Canaan, New Fairfield 0003351
Cemetery inscriptions of New Haven and Newington 0003352
Cemetery inscriptions of New London and New Milford 0003353
Cemetery inscriptions of New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, North Branford and North Canaan 0003354

Cemetery inscriptions of North Haven, North 0003355
Stonington and Norwalk
Cemetery inscriptions of Norwalk and Norwich 0003356
Cemetery inscriptions of Norwich, Old Lyme and Old Saybrook 0003357
Cemetery inscriptions of Orange, Oxford, Plainfield, Plainville, Plymouth and Pomfret 0003358

Cemetery inscriptions of Pomfret, Portland, Preston, Prospect and Putnam 0003359
Cemetery inscriptions of Putnam, Redding, Plainfield, Rocky Hill, Roxbury, Salem and Salisbury 0003360
Cemetery inscriptions of Salisbury, Saybrook, Scotland, Seymour, Sharon and Shelton 0003361
Cemetery inscriptions of Shelton, Sherman, Simsbury, Somers, Southbury and Southington 0003362
Cemetery inscriptions of Southington, South 0003363
Cemetery inscriptions of Stratford and Sterling 0003364
Cemetery inscriptions of suffield, Thomaston, Thompson and Tolland 0003365
Cemetery inscriptions of Torrington, Trumbull, Union and Vernon 0003366

Cemetery inscriptions of Vernon, Voluntown, Wallingford, Warren and Washington 0003367

Cemetery inscriptions of Waterbury 0003368
Cemetery inscriptions of Waterbury and Waterford 0003369
Cemetery inscriptions of Waterford, Watertown, Westbrook, West Hartford and West Haven 0003370

Cemetery inscriptions of West Haven and Weston 0003371
Cemetery inscriptions of Westport, Wethersfield, Willington, Wilton and Winchester 0003372
Cemetery inscriptions of Winchester and Windham 0003373
Cemetery inscriptions of Windsor, Windsor Locks, Wolcott, Woodbridge, Woodbury and Woodstock 0003374

Summary list of cemeteries
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003375
American Mercury 1784-1832 0003376
American Sentinel and Witness 1823-1866 0003377
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003378
American Sentinel and Witness 1823-1866
Calendar 1845-1865
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003379
Christian Secretary 1823-1867
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003380
Christian Secretary 1823-1867
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003381
Christman Register 1812-1865
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003382
Connecticut Herald 1803-1851
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003383
Connecticut Herald 1803-1851
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003384
Connecticut Herald 1803-1851
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003385
Connecticut Observer 1825-1842
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003386
Connecticut Observer 1825-1842
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003387
Connecticut Observer 1825-1842
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003388
Connecticut Observer 1825-1842
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003389
Connecticut Observer 1825-1842
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003390
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003391
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003392
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003393
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003394
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003395
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003396
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003397
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003398
Connecticut Journal 1767-1835
Newspapers with death and marriage notices 0003399
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Courant 1764-1865
------------------ 0003400
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Courant 1764-1865
------------------ 0003401
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Courant 1764-1865
------------------ 0003402
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Courant 1764-1865
------------------ 0003403
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Evening Press 1856-1866
------------------ 0003404
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Evening Press 1856-1866
------------------ 0003405
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Times 1817-1866
------------------ 0003406
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Times 1817-1866
------------------ 0003407
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Times 1817-1866
------------------ 0003408
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Times 1817-1866
------------------ 0003409
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Times 1817-1866
------------------ 0003410
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Hartford Times 1817-1866
------------------ 0003411
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Litchfield Enquirer 1826-1866
------------------ 0003412
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Litchfield Enquirer 1826-1866
------------------ 0003413
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Middlesex Gazette 1785-1833
------------------ 0003414
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Middlesex Gazette 1785-1833
------------------ 0003415
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Middlesex Gazette 1785-1833
------------------ 0003416
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Middletown Constitution 1838-1866
------------------ 0003417
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Middletown Constitution 1838-1866
------------------ 0003418
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
New Haven Palladium 1829-1865
------------------ 0003419
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
New Haven Palladium 1829-1865
------------------ 0003420
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
New Haven Palladium 1829-1865
------------------ 0003421
Newspapers with death and marriage notices
New London Gazette 1765-1836
------------------ 0003422
General Index to Probate Records
All Districts in Connecticut 1641-1948

Aal - Raymond Amidon ---------------------------------------- 0166000
Amesbury - Ayshford ----------------------------------------- 0166001
Baba - Beoni Barned ----------------------------------------- 0166002
Beoni Barned - Anna M. Beck --------------------------------- 0166003
Anna M. Beck - Evanday Biggs ------------------------------- 0166004
Evanday Biggs - Joseph Borden ------------------------------ 0166005
Joseph Borden - Henry P. Briggs ----------------------------- 0166006
Henry P. Briggs - Burr Bulkley ------------------------------ 0166007
Abram Bulkley (Jr.) - Byxbe -------------------------------- 0166008
Cabbott - Lewis W. Case ------------------------------------- 0166009
Lewis W. Case - Byron J. Church ----------------------------- 0166010
Byron J. Church - Solomon Cole ------------------------------ 0166011
Solomon Cole - Horace H. Couch ------------------------------ 0166012
Horace H. Couch - Czyz -------------------------------------- 0166013
Daab - Paul Deppe ------------------------------------------ 0166014
Paul Deppe - Joshua Downs ---------------------------------- 0166015
Joshua Downs - Dzsanda ------------------------------------- 0166016
Eade - Ezekiel ---------------------------------------------- 0166017
Fabbri - Ithiel Field ---------------------------------------- 0166018
Ithiel Field - Isaac Frank ---------------------------------- 0166019
Isaac Frank - Fyler ----------------------------------------- 0166020
Gabb - David M. Gazlay -------------------------------------- 0166021
David M. Gazlay - Rose Gorman ------------------------------ 0166022
Rose Gorman - Gyursco -------------------------------------- 0166023
Haab - Huldah Hart ------------------------------------------ 0166024
Huldah Hart - Moses Herrick ------------------------------- 0166025
Moses Herrick - Griswold Holmes ----------------------------- 0166026
Griswold Holmes - Henry Frederic Hughes --------------------- 0166027
Henry Frederic Hughes - Hyot -------------------------------- 0166028
Iannucci - Izzo --------------------------------------------- 0166029
Jabs - Justison -------------------------------------------- 0166030
Kabel - Samuel Kerr ---------------------------------------- 0166031
Samuel Kerr - Kynokobeku ---------------------------------- 0166032
La - Richard Leeson ---------------------------------------- 0166033
Richard Leeson - Ezra Lathrop ------------------------------- 0166034
Ezra Lathrop - Lommer -------------------------------------- 0166035
Londeon - Lyvere ------------------------------------------- 0166036
Maass - Israel Marcy --------------------------------------- 0166037
Israel Marcy - Agnes Messick ------------------------------- 0166038
Agnes Messick - Morris W. Morehouse ------------------------- 0166039
Morris W. Morehouse - Mystic Woolen Co. --------------------- 0166040
Naake - Nymann ------------------------------------------- 0166041
Oakes - Oxley --------------------------------------------- 0166042
Pabodie - Orren Parker -------------------------------------- 0166043
Orren Parker - John Perriman -------------------------------- 0166044
John Perriman - Dwight W. Pond ------------------------------ 0166045
Dwight W. Pond - Pytko ------------------------------------- 0166046
Quagan - Quy --------------------------------------------- 0166047
Rabbeth _ Moses Robins
Moses Robins _ Cynthia Russell
Cynthia Russell _ Rynn
Saar _ Frank W. Scutt
Frank W. Scutt _ Zipporah Sill
Zipporah Sill _ Owen S. Smith
Owen S. Smith _ William J. Sprague
William J. Sprague _ Lawrence Stopa
Lawrence Stopa _ Szuster
Tabarini _ Ruth Taylor
Ruth Taylor _ Sumner Topliff
Sumner Topliff _ Tytla
Ucatt _ vyborny
waag _ Lyman Warner
Lyman Warner _ Buthena Wheeler
Buthena Wheeler _ Christopher H. Williams
Christopher H. Williams _ Orrin E. Woodworth
Orrin E. Woodworth _ Wysocki
y _ Zwick and Miscellaneous
**Probate Records**

In addition to the Index to Probates listed further under other documents the BYU library has the following:

A digest of the early Connecticut probate records.  
Manwaring, Charles William  
F 93 .M29 vol.2

A digest of the early Connecticut probate records, vol. 1  
Z 1236 .L5 1971 no. 11726.

Town and probate records 1904  
CD 3140 .A3
Barbour Collection
Connecticut Vital Records Prior to 1850

Compiled under the supervision of Lucius A. Barbour and Lucius B. Barbour.

Alphabetically arranged by towns, with general index arranged under surnames.

| General index | Aa - Alk | 0002887 |
| General index | All - Andr | 0002888 |
| General index | Ands - Az | 0002889 |
| General index | Ba - Bale | 0002890 |
| General index | Balf - Barr | 0002891 |
| General index | Bars - Bed | 0002892 |
| General index | Bee - Ber | 0002893 |
| General index | Bes - Blaj | 0002894 |
| General index | Blak - Bow | 0002895 |
| General index | Box - Bri | 0002896 |
| General index | Bro - Brown, I-N | 0002897 |
| General index | Brown, N - Burl | 0002898 |
| General index | Burm - Bz | 0002899 |
| General index | Ca - Carz | 0002900 |
| General index | Cas - Chapl | 0002901 |
| General index | Chapman - Ci | 0002902 |
| General index | Cl - Cn | 0002903 |
| General index | Co - Con | 0002904 |
| General index | Coo - Coz | 0002905 |
| General index | Cra - Crz | 0002906 |
| General index | Cu - Cz | 0002907 |
| General index | Da - Daz | 0002908 |
| General index | De - Diz | 0002909 |
| General index | Do - Dov | 0002910 |
| General index | Dow - Dz | 0002911 |
| General index | Ea - Ec, Ee - Ez | 0002912 |
| General index | Edg - Edz | 0002913 |
| General index | Fa - Fis | 0002914 |
| General index | Fit - Foz | 0002915 |
| General index | Fra - Fz | 0002916 |
| General index | Ga - Gaz | 0002917 |
| General index | Ge - Gon | 0002918 |
| General index | Goo - Gray | 0002919 |
| General index | Gre - Gz | 0002920 |
| General index | Ha - Harp | 0002921 |
| General index | Harre - Haw | 0002922 |
| General index | Hax - Hill, L | 0002923 |
| General index | Hill, M - Holm | 0002924 |
| General index | Holn - Hoz | 0002925 |
| General index | Hu - Hunting | 0002926 |
| General index | Huntington - Hz | 0002927 |
| General index | Ia - Johnson, F | 0002928 |
| General index | Johnson, G - Jz | 0002929 |
| General index | Kina - Kz | --------------------------------- | 0002930 |
| General index | La - Led | --------------------------------- | 0002931 |
| General index | Lee - Lon | --------------------------------- | 0002932 |
| General index | Looby - Lz | --------------------------------- | 0002933 |
| General index | Ma - Marr | --------------------------------- | 0002934 |
| General index | Mars - Merril | --------------------------------- | 0002935 |
| General index | Merrim - More | --------------------------------- | 0002936 |
| General index | Moor - Mz | --------------------------------- | 0002937 |
| General index | Na - Norz | --------------------------------- | 0002938 |
| General index | Nos - Ow | --------------------------------- | 0002939 |
| General index | Pa - Parka | --------------------------------- | 0002940 |
| General index | Parke - Paz | --------------------------------- | 0002941 |
| General index | Pea - Pek | --------------------------------- | 0002942 |
| General index | Pel - Pf | --------------------------------- | 0002943 |
| General index | Pha - Poq | --------------------------------- | 0002944 |
| General index | Por - pz | --------------------------------- | 0002945 |
| General index | Q - Rice | --------------------------------- | 0002946 |
| General index | Rich - Robz | --------------------------------- | 0002947 |
| General index | Roc - Roz | --------------------------------- | 0002948 |
| General index | Ru - Saz | --------------------------------- | 0002949 |
| General index | Sca - Sez | --------------------------------- | 0002950 |
| General index | Sha - Si | --------------------------------- | 0002951 |
| General index | Sk - Smith, D-G | --------------------------------- | 0002952 |
| General index | Smith, H - So | --------------------------------- | 0002953 |
| General index | Spa - Staz | --------------------------------- | 0002954 |
| General index | Ste - Stq | --------------------------------- | 0002955 |
| General index | Stra - Sz | --------------------------------- | 0002956 |
| General index | Ta - Thz | --------------------------------- | 0002957 |
| General index | Ti - Ts | --------------------------------- | 0002958 |
| General index | Tu - V | --------------------------------- | 0002959 |
| General index | W - Was | --------------------------------- | 0002960 |
| General index | Wat - Wels, A-L | --------------------------------- | 0002961 |
| General index | Wels, M - White | --------------------------------- | 0002962 |
| General index | Whitf - Wille | --------------------------------- | 0002963 |
| General index | Williams - Wit | --------------------------------- | 0002964 |
| General index | Wod - Woz | --------------------------------- | 0002965 |
| General index | Wr - Z and Miscellaneous | --------------------------------- | 0002966 |

| Vital records | Andover - Burlington | --------------------------------- | 0002967 |
| Vital records | Canaan - Cornwall | --------------------------------- | 0002968 |
| Vital records | Danbury - Ellington | --------------------------------- | 0002969 |
| Vital records | Fairfield - Griswold | --------------------------------- | 0002970 |
| Vital records | Groton - Hartford | --------------------------------- | 0002971 |
| Vital records | Hartland - Killingworth | --------------------------------- | 0002972 |
| Vital records | Lebanon - Lyme | --------------------------------- | 0002973 |
| Vital records | Madison - Montville | --------------------------------- | 0002974 |
| Vital records | Naugatuck - Newtown | --------------------------------- | 0002975 |
| Vital records | Norfolk - Oxford | --------------------------------- | 0002976 |
| Vital records | Plainfield - Prospect | --------------------------------- | 0002977 |
| Vital records | Redding - Sherman | --------------------------------- | 0002978 |
| Vital records | Simsbury - Sterling | --------------------------------- | 0002979 |
| Vital records | Stonington - Thompson | --------------------------------- | 0002980 |
| Vital records | Tolland - Washington | --------------------------------- | 0002981 |
| Vital records | Waterbury - Wethersfield | --------------------------------- | 0002982 |
| Vital records | Willington - Woodstock | --------------------------------- | 0002983 |
Newspapers with death and marriage notices

New London Gazette 1765-1836
New London Weekly Chronicle 1848-1867

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Norwich Aurora 1839-1866

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Norwich Aurora 1839-1866
Norwich Bulletin 1858-1865
Norwich Courier 1796-1865

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Norwich Courier 1796-1865

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Stamford Advocate 1830-1867
Waterbury American 1844-1867

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Waterbury American 1844-1867
Winsted Herald 1853-1867
Danbury Farmer's Journal 1790-1793
New Englnd Republican 1804-1805
Republican Farmer 1810-1857
Connecticut Courier 1814-1824
Bridgeport spirit of Times 1830-1832
Bridgeport Messenger 1831-1832
Bridgeport Republlicant 1839-1852
Bridge Port Tri-Weekly Standard 1850-1854

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Bridgeport Daily Standard 1861-1866
Freemans's Chronicle 1783
Religious Inquirer 1821-1835
Episcopal watchman 1831-1835
New England Review 1834-1840
Hartford Patriot and Democrat 1835-1836
Congregationalist and No. Watchman 1836-1840
Charter Oak 1839-1848, Hartford Evening
Courier 1839-1840, Connecticut Fountain 1848,
The Republican 1849-1852, Hartford Daily Post
1865-1866

Newspapers with death and marriage notices
Litchfield Weekly Monitor 1784-1807, Litchfield
Witness 1805-1807, Litchfield Gazette 1808-1809,
Litchfield Republican 1819-1852,
Litchfield Miscellany 1821-1822, Litchfield
American Eagle 1822-1826, Litchfield Democrat
1833-1834, Litchfield Sun 1835-1839, Litchfield
Mercury 1840-1842, Litchfield Democrat and
Watchman 1844, Litchfield Sentinel 1865,
Housatonic Republican 1857-1862, American
Telegraph 1796-1800, Rainbow and Oasis 1850-1860,
Middletown News and Advertiser 1851-1854,
Middlesex Republican 1857, East Haddam Journal
1860-1862, Clinton Advertiser 1861-1862,
Connecticut Gazette 1755-1768, New Haven

THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER
1. Connecticut - Vital records
2. Connecticut Cemeteries
3. Connecticut Newspapers
This is an index to naturalization documents in courts in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont from 1791 to 1906.

CONTENTS
Index cards are arranged by state and then by name of petitioner, arranged according to the Soundex system. Index gives name and location of the court that granted the naturalization, date of naturalization, and volume and page (or certificate) number of the naturalization record.

Connecticut
Connecticut A000 (Isaac) - A536 (Zacharis) -------------- 1429671
Connecticut A540 (Antonio) - B346 (William) -------------- 1429672
Connecticut B350 (Albert) - B565 (Solomon) -------------- 1429673
Connecticut B600 (Abel) - B646 (Vincenzo) -------------- 1429674
Connecticut B650 (Abraham) - C165 (Vincenzo) -------------- 1429675
Connecticut C166 (Angelo) - C452 (Zygmont) -------------- 1429676
Connecticut C453 (Alexander) - C616 (William) -------------- 1429677
Connecticut C620 (Abraham) - D126 (John) -------------- 1429678
Connecticut D130 (Absalom) - D451 (Virgilio) -------------- 1429679
Connecticut D452 (Adam) - E146 (Martin) -------------- 1429680
Connecticut E150 (Andrew) - F400 (Wladyslaw) -------------- 1429681
Connecticut F410 (Adam) - F640 (William) -------------- 1429682
Connecticut F641 (Alfred) - G424 (Martin) -------------- 1429683
Connecticut G425 (Abraham) - G620 (Zaharia) -------------- 1429684
Connecticut G621 (Abraham) - H230 (Wolf) -------------- 1429685
Connecticut H232 (Andrew) - H532 (William) -------------- 1429686
Connecticut H533 (Philip) - J212 (Wolfe) -------------- 1429687
Connecticut J213 (Allan) - K216 (Youkle) -------------- 1429688
Connecticut K220 (Adam) - K456 (William) -------------- 1429689
Connecticut K460 (Agnes) - K651 (William) -------------- 1429690
Connecticut K652 (Abe) -------------- 1429691
Connecticut L400 (Adam) - M165 (Leonidas) -------------- 1429692
Connecticut M200 (Abraham) - M252 (Zuzanna) -------------- 1429693
Connecticut M253 (Abraham) - M425 (William) -------------- 1429694
Connecticut M426 (Andreas) - M520 (Wicenta) -------------- 1429695
Connecticut M521 (Albert) - M635 (Wilhelm) -------------- 1429696
Connecticut M636 (Adamo) - N654 (Giuseppe) -------------- 1429697
Connecticut N655 (Alof) - P200 (Zigemond) -------------- 1429698
Connecticut P210 (Alfred) - P622 (Yadwiga) -------------- 1429699
Connecticut P623 (Adam) - R216 (William) -------------- 1429700
Connecticut R215 (Andrew) - R500 (William) -------------- 1429701
Connecticut R600 (Frederick) - S266 (Joseph) -------------- 1429702
Connecticut S300- (Fageraas) - S415 (William) -------------- 1429703
Connecticut S416 (Aaron) - S531 (William) -------------- 1429704
Connecticut S532 (Aaron) - T463 (Luigi) -------------- 1429705
Connecticut T500 (Albin) - V542 (Ursula) -------------- 1429706
Connecticut V453 (Adolfe) - W424 (Wladisaw) -------------- 1429707
Connecticut W426 (Abram) - Z660 (John) -------------- 1429708

(W425 is not available at this time)
Rhode Island
Rhode Island A100 Alphonse) - C166 (Francesco) -------------- 1429709
Rhode Island C200 (Alexander) - D515 (William) -------------- 1429710
Rhode Island D516 (Alexander) - G652 (Thomas) -------------- 1429711
Rhode Island G653 (Albert) - L122 (Ernest) -------------- 1429712
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name 1</th>
<th>Name 2</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>L123 (Carl)</td>
<td>M352 (Gregor)</td>
<td>1429713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>M355 (Hezekiah)</td>
<td>P563 (Santino)</td>
<td>1429714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>P600 (Alfred)</td>
<td>S536 (William)</td>
<td>1429715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>S540 (Andrew)</td>
<td>Z653 (Gaprial)</td>
<td>1429716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>A535 (William G.)</td>
<td>A536 (A.) - B226 (Pietro)</td>
<td>1429717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>B230 (A.T.) - B356 (William)</td>
<td>B360 (Abraham) - B460 (Xavier)</td>
<td>1429718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>B461 (Agapit) - B616 (Xavier Leroy)</td>
<td>B620 (A. Bernard) - B626 (Zotique)</td>
<td>1429719</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>B630 (A.M.) - B650 (Woolf)</td>
<td>B651 (A.I.) - C161 (Micheli)</td>
<td>1429720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>B651 (A.I.) - C161 (Micheli)</td>
<td>C162 (Angelo) - C300 (Zephirin)</td>
<td>1429721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C162 (Angelo) - C300 (Zephirin)</td>
<td>C310 (Alonso) - C451 (William)</td>
<td>1429722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C310 (Alonso) - C451 (William)</td>
<td>C452 (A.J.) - C500 (Woolf)</td>
<td>1429723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C452 (A.J.) - C500 (Woolf)</td>
<td>C510 (Alex) - C552 (William T.)</td>
<td>1429724</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C510 (Alex) - C552 (William T.)</td>
<td>C553 (James) - C623 (Zenas)</td>
<td>1429725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C553 (James) - C623 (Zenas)</td>
<td>C624 (A.) - C645 (Zoel)</td>
<td>1429726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C624 (A.) - C645 (Zoel)</td>
<td>C646 (Geo. A.) - D145 (William)</td>
<td>1429727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>C646 (Geo. A.) - D145 (William)</td>
<td>D146 (Antonio F.) - D300 (Zecharian C.)</td>
<td>1429728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>D146 (Antonio F.) - D300 (Zecharian C.)</td>
<td>D312 (George D.) - D466 (Joseph)</td>
<td>1429729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>D312 (George D.) - D466 (Joseph)</td>
<td>D500 (A.J.) - D536 (William L.)</td>
<td>1429730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>D500 (A.J.) - D536 (William L.)</td>
<td>D540 (A.H.) - D626 (William)</td>
<td>1429731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>D540 (A.H.) - D626 (William)</td>
<td>D630 (Alexander) - E516 (William H.)</td>
<td>1429732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>D630 (Alexander) - E516 (William H.)</td>
<td>E520 (Alexander) - F324 (Thomas)</td>
<td>1429733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>E520 (Alexander) - F324 (Thomas)</td>
<td>F325 (Albert E.) - F452 (William J.)</td>
<td>1429734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>F325 (Albert E.) - F452 (William J.)</td>
<td>F453 (Albert E.B.) - F626 (Zephaniah)</td>
<td>1429735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>F453 (Albert E.B.) - F626 (Zephaniah)</td>
<td>F630 (Abraham) - G163 (William R.)</td>
<td>1429736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>F630 (Abraham) - G163 (William R.)</td>
<td>G164 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>1429737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>G164 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>1429738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>1429739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>1429740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>1429741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>G636 (Andreas) - G423 (Timothy)</td>
<td>1429742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Petitioner</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>G424 (Abram)</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1429743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>G562 (Abram)</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1429744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>G651 (Abby)</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1429745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>H210 (David)</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1429746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>H410 (Frank G.)</td>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
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6. Rhode Island - Naturalization and citizenship - Indexes
7. Vermont - Naturalization and citizenship - Indexes
8. National Archives microfilm publications; M1299