# Massachusetts

## **Research Outline**

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This outline describes major sources of information about families from Massachusetts. Before reading this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology, 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. The major holdings include vital records; genealogies; local histories; censuses; and church, military, probate, land, and court records.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. These numbers may be used to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

A computer number is usually given. If you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer, the "Computer Number Search" is the fastest way to find a source

in the catalog.

### 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
MASSACHUSETTS - VITAL RECORDS
MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX - COURT RECORDS
MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX, SALEM - CHURCH RECORDS

• The record type you want to search, such as:

UNITED STATES - *CENSUS*MASSACHUSETTS - *VITAL RECORDS*MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX - *COURT RECORDS*MASSACHUSETTS, ESSEX, SALEM - *CHURCH RECORDS* 

The record types described in this outline are the record types used in the Family History Library Catalog

### **ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES**

The following archives, libraries, and societies have major collections or services helpful to genealogical researchers.

Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point

220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125 Telephone: 617–727–2816

• National Archives—New England Region

380 Trapelo Road Waltham, MA 02154 Telephone: 617–647–8100

Fax: 617-647-8460

• Massachusetts Historical Society Library

1154 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02215 Telephone: 617–536–1608

Fax: 617–536–1608

Peabody Essex Museum

132 Essex Street Salem, MA 01970

Telephone: 508-744-3390

Fax: 508-744-0036

• State Library of Massachusetts

State House, Room 341 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02133

Telephone: 617-727-2590

Fax: 617-727-5819

• New England Historic Genealogical Society

101 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02116

Telephone: 617–536–5740

Fax: 617–536–7307

• Boston Public Library

Copley Square Boston, MA 02117

Telephone: 617–536–5400

Fax: 617-536-4306

Two important inventories of Massachusetts records are:

Historical Records Survey. <u>Preliminary Edition of Guide to Depositories of Manuscript</u> <u>Collections in Massachusetts</u>. Boston: Historical Records Survey, 1939. (FHL book 974.4 A2hg; computer number 465031.) This work lists major manuscript collections and their locations.

Wright, Carroll D. *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns, and Counties.* Boston: Wright and Potter, 1889. (FHL book 974.4 A3cr; film 865449 item 2; fiche 6046869; computer number 311411.) Gives a brief description of the town records that existed in 1889 and which may still be available.

## **Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems are important tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. Computer networks serve as another type of 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

Look for computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Massachusetts in local, state, national, and international sources. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

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

USGenWeb

http://www.usgenweb.com/

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 nation.

• Roots-L

http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/

A quality list of sites and resources that 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<sup>TM</sup>. 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 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and Corbin collections contain Bible records. These are described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. The DAR collection of Bible records is partially indexed. See: Kirkham, E. Kay. *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*, vol. II. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1984. (FHL book Ref 973 D22kk v.2; fiche 6089184; computer number 298346.)

Another source for Bible records in Massachusetts is:

Lewis, Ella May Swint. *Bible Records for Massachusetts Families*. Springfield, Mass: Lewis, 1960. (FHL book 974.4 D2le; film 844508 item 3; computer number 93090.)

Additional Bible records have been published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and other genealogical periodicals (see the "Periodicals" section of this outline).

### **BIOGRAPHY**

*The American Genealogical-Biographical Index* (described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline) cites many references to biographies of Massachusetts residents. In addition, two comprehensive biographical encyclopedias are:

The American Historical Society. *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts, Biographical-Genealogical*, 13 vols. New York: The American Historical Society, ca. 1916. (FHL book 974.4 D3e; fiche 6046891; computer number 242505.) The Family History Library has volumes 1–4, 6, and 10–13 only.

Eliot, Samuel Atkins. *Biographical History of Massachusetts*. 10 vols. Boston: Massachusetts Biographical Society, 1911-18. (FHL book 974.4 D3eL; computer number 253130.)

Biographical sketches of many Plymouth Colony residents, including those who came on the Mayflower, are in:

Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620-1691*, Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1986. (FHL book 974.4 H2s; computer number 442131.)

See the "Genealogy" section of this outline for additional references to biographies and genealogies for Massachusetts ancestors.

### **CEMETERIES**

The Corbin collection and the Daughters of the American Revolution collection contain tombstone inscriptions from many Massachusetts cemeteries. These collections are described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. Many inscriptions are also in published town vital records. See the "Vital Records" section for more information about these sources.

A collection of index cards listing the burial place of Revolutionary veterans is in:

Daughters of the American Revolution. *Grave Locations of Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors of Maine and Massachusetts*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991. (FHL film 1307668–69; computer number 641518.) Lists birth, death, and burial information as well as the unit in which they served. Sometimes it will list the spouse and marriage date and place.

A county-by-county list of cemetery record transcripts is:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Family History Library. *Index to United States Cemeteries*, Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988. (FHL film 1206468–94; computer number 475648.) Film 1206475 includes Massachusetts among other states.

The Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog lists more of these records under:

MASSACHUSETTS - CEMETERIES
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - CEMETERIES
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - CEMETERIES

### **CENSUS**

### **Federal Censuses**

Most federal census records are at the Family History Library (records for 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920), the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* (30972) provides more detailed information about these records.

#### **Population Schedules**

Missing records:

- 1800 Suffolk County census is mostly lost.
- 1890 census was destroyed, except for a list of Civil War Union soldiers, which has a published index.

Statewide indexes to federal censuses:

- 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860: book indexes
- 1790–1850: microfiche indexes
- 1870 Hampden County: book index
- 1880 (partial), 1900, and 1920: Soundex (phonetic) indexes on microfilm
- 1910: *no* index for Massachusetts

Town indexes to federal censuses:

- Can sometimes help locate names missed in statewide indexes.
- Are sometimes listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN]-CENSUS

If an index is not available or omits a name:

- Look for the name in the census.
- In large cities first find the person's address in the city directory for the same year as the census (see the "Directories" section of this outline). Then look for that address in the census.

The following reference tools help determine which census schedule microfilm and enumeration district to search for specific addresses:

Kirkham, E. Kay. *A Handy Guide to Record- Searching in the Larger Cities of the United States.* Logan, Utah: Everton, 1974. (FHL book 973 D27kc; fiche 6010059-60; computer number 55656.) Includes ward maps and street indexes for Boston for 1850–1855, 1860, and 1877.

United States. Census Office. Census Descriptions of Geographic Subdivisions and Enumeration Districts.

1870(FHL film 1402859; computer number 299425)

1880(FHL film 1402861; computer number 299426)

1900(FHL film 1303022; computer number 117685)

1910(FHL film 1374005; computer number 176643)

1920(FHL film 1842708; computer number 687949)

Buckway, G. Eileen. *U.S. 1910 Federal Census: Unindexed States: A Guide to Finding Census Enumeration Districts for Unindexed Cities, Towns, and Villages.* Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1992. (FHL book 973 X2bu 1910; fiche 6101340; computer number 678265.) Lists all Massachusetts towns (or wards) with their 1910 census enumeration district numbers and FHL film numbers. Boston, Brockton, Cambridge, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Somerville, Springfield, and Worcester each have special instructions. These often include FHL book or film numbers for city directories.

Malmberg, Emil and Maurine. *Street Indexes to Unindexed Cities in the U.S. 1910 Federal Census.* Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1993. (FHL book 973 X2str 1910; fiche 6104151; computer number 709519.) Lists Boston street addresses with their corresponding page numbers, 1910 census enumeration district numbers, and FHL film numbers.

Marnier, Mary Lou and Patricia Rougham Bellows. *A Research Aid for the Massachusetts 1910 Federal Census*. Sudbury, Mass.: Computerized Assistance, 1988. (FHL book 974 X22m; computer number 496539.) This book gives the wards, precincts, enumeration districts, and starting page for each town. Includes maps. Refers to the National Archives microfilm numbers, which can be matched to Family History Library microfilm numbers.

*Mortality Schedules*. Mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 list those who died in the year before the census. These are at the Massachusetts State Archives, the National Archives, and the Family History Library:

1850 (FHL film 1421015–16; computer number 288912)

1860 (FHL film 1421017; computer number 459531)

1870 (FHL film 1421018–19; computer number 459539)

1880 (FHL film 1421020–23; computer number 459550)

*Master Indexes*. Some of the indexes mentioned above are combined into one master index of several census years, states, and census types, such as:

FamilyFinder<sup>TM</sup> Index and Viewer: Version 4.0 [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1997. (FHL compact disc no. 9, 1997 index; computer number 808500. Not available at Family History Centers. FamilyFinder is a trademark of Brøderbund Software, Inc.) A master index of Massachusetts 1790 to 1860 federal censuses.

Jackson, Ronald Vern. *AIS Microfiche Indexes of U.S. Census and Other Records*, Bountiful, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, 1984. (No FHL fiche number, but available at many Family History Centers.) Massachusetts census indexes for 1790, 1800, and 1810 are combined on Search 1. Separate Massachusetts indexes for 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 are on other searches.

## **State Censuses** (1855, 1865)

The original censuses are at the Massachusetts State Archives. The Family History Library has copies of:

Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth. *State Census, 1855–1865.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (On 68 FHL films; computer number 377373.) These records are arranged by county and town. They list an individual's name, age, state or country of birth, and occupation

### CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the major religious groups in Massachusetts were the Congregationalists, Roman Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians. The Congregational Church was the predominant church until the end of the 18th century. Many church records were published with the town vital records (see the "Vital Records" section of this outline).

1889 Church Records. There is a list of the churches in each town, the date of organization, kinds of records kept, years covered, and condition of the records as of 1889 in Wright's *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records* (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).

The Family History Library has many published and manuscript records of Baptist, Congregational, and Society of Friends congregations. A useful index of marriages recorded by early churches is:

Bailey, Frederic W. *Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800.* . . . 3 vols. in one, 1897–1914. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1968. (FHL book 974.4 V2b; film 874200; fiche 6051393; computer number 107407.) This book has records of marriages for more than 111 towns.

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 Historical Society 1106 S. Goodman Street Rochester, NY 14620 Telephone: 716–474–1740

An informative history is:

Brush, John Woolman. *Baptists in Massachusetts*. Valley Forge, Pa.: Judson Press, 1970. (FHL book 974.4 K2bj; computer number 228361.)

### Congregational

The Congregational Library 14 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108 Telephone: 617–523–0470

Fax: 617–523–0491

A historical perspective is found in:

Goodwin, John A. *The Pilgrim Republic: An Historical Review of the Colony of New Plymouth, with Sketches of Other New England Settlements, the History of Congregationalism, and the Creeds of the Period.* Boston: Tickner, 1888. (FHL film 1465570; computer number 413251.)

### **Episcopal**

The Diocesan Library and Archives
The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
138 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: 617–482–4826, ext. 504

Fax: 617–482–8431

For histories of the Episcopal church see:

Duffy, Mark J., ed. *The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts 1784-1984*. [Boston]: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 1984. (FHL book 974.4 K2e; computer number 302388.)

Tyng, Dudley. *Massachusetts Episcopalians*, 1607-1957. [Boston]: Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, [1960]. (FHL book 974.4 K2t; computer number 46294.)

## **Society of Friends (Quakers)**

Rhode Island Historical Society

121 Hope Street

Providence, RI 02906 Telephone: 401–331–8575

Fax: 401-751-7930

An informative history of Quakers in Massachusetts is:

Hallowell, Richard P. *The Quaker Invasion of Massachusetts*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1883. (FHL book 974.4 K2h; computer number 477766.) Illustrates the persecution the Quakers received from colonial authorities. Has examples of the strength and conviction of the Quakers' religious beliefs.

### Jewish

American Jewish Historical Society 2 Thornton Road Waltham, MA 02154 Telephone: 617–891–8110

Fax: 617-899-9208

#### Lutheran

New England Lutheran Archives Trinity Lutheran Church 292 Orange Street New Haven, CT 06510 Telephone: 203–787–6521

### Methodist

Boston University School of Theology Library 745 Commonwealth Ave.
Boston, MA 02215

Telephone: 617–353–3034

Fax: 617-353-3061

### **Presbyterian**

Presbyterian Historical Society 425 Lombard Street Philadelphia, PA 19147 Telephone: 215–627–1852

Fax: 215-627-0509

#### **Roman Catholic**

Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston 2121 Commonwealth Avenue Brighton, MA 02135

Telephone: 617–254–0100, ext. 108

Fax: 617–783–5642

### **Unitarian/Universalist**

Harvard Divinity School Library 45 Francis Avenue Cambridge, MA 02138

Telephone: 617–495–5770

Fax: 617-495-9489

### **COURT RECORDS**

Massachusetts courts that kept records of genealogical value include:

1620-1865	General Court. This was an appellate court that gave rulings on estates. Its records are at the Massachusetts State Archives. Some records of this court are in the Massachusetts Archives Collections described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline.
1636-1693	County courts or quarter courts. These courts were originally called inferior quarter courts. Most of the records of these courts are in county courthouses, and many are on microfilm at the Family History Library. These courts were replaced in 1692 by the superior courts of judicature, courts of common pleas, and courts of sessions. Superior courts replaced the courts of common pleas in 1859.
1692-pres.	Superior courts of judicature. These courts were replaced by supreme judicial courts in 1782. These were courts of appeals. The records are at the Supreme Judicial Court Building, 1300 New Court House, Boston, MA 02108.
1822-pres.	<i>District, police, and municipal courts</i> . The first district court was established in Boston in 1822. The records are in the various local courthouses.

A large and complex collection of court records from Massachusetts and a few counties in neighboring states is:

Massachusetts. County Court (Suffolk County). *County Court Files, 1629–1797*, Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah. (On 1630 FHL films; computer number 260045.) The records and their indexes cover the years 1629 to about 1860. Many original court records are at the Massachusetts State Archives.

Abstracts of pre-1860 Plymouth court records are in:

Konig, David Thomas, ed. *Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859: The Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace.* 16 vols. Wilmington, Del.: Michael Glazier,

Inc., 1978-1981. (FHL book 974.482 P2p; computer number 211655.) No index is currently available.

Transcripts of Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony records have been published by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff (see the "Land and Property" section of this outline).

For more information about court procedures and records, see:

- Wright's *Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records* (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline).
- *Law in Colonial Massachusetts*, *1630-1800*. Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1984. (FHL book 974.4 P3L; computer number 370886.)

### **DIRECTORIES**

Directories of heads of households have been published for major cities in Massachusetts. The Family History Library, for example, has copies of Boston city directories for:

1789-1860 FHL fiches 6043615-73 1861-1935 FHL films 1376557— 1905, 1909, 1941, 1951 FHL book Q 974.461 E4p; on 4 FHL films

Directories of several other Massachusetts cities and towns are also at the Family History Library.

### **EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION**

For information about immigrants, see:

- The *United States Research Outline* (30972). The "Emigration and Immigration" section lists national sources that include many references to Massachusetts settlers.
- Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline (34111). This introduces the principles, search strategies, and additional record types you can use to identify an immigrant ancestors's original hometown.

### **People**

*1600s.* Early settlers of Massachusetts generally came from England and Scotland and the other New England states. Plymouth Colony was first settled in 1620. From 1630 to 1642, fifteen to twenty thousand people settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

*Up to 1880.* Significant immigration from other European countries began in the 1840s, when many people came to work in the textile mills. Prior to 1880 about 95 percent of the overseas immigrants to Massachusetts came from Britain, Ireland, and northern Europe. The Irish were the largest immigrant group from the late 1840s through the rest of the 19th century. In the 1870s large numbers of Canadians, especially French Canadians, began to move overland into the state.

After 1880. A significant change in immigration patterns occurred after 1880. A wave of Italian and Portuguese immigration began in the late 1880s and reached its high point just prior to World War I. Russians, Russian Jews, and people from Poland and other Slavic countries came in large numbers in the early 20th century. In 1907, for example, 80 percent of the immigrants to Massachusetts were from southern and eastern Europe.

An especially helpful source on immigration and ethnic groups in Massachusetts is:

Thayer, Mrs. Nathaniel. "The Immigrants (1830-1929)" in vol. 4 of *Commonwealth History of Massachusetts*, pp. 142–71. Edited by Albert B. Hart. New York: The States History Company, 1930. (FHL book 974.4 H2ha; computer number 491141.)

#### Records

**Boston Passenger Lists**. Boston is the major port of entry to New England. The Family History Library and the National Archives have passenger lists for Boston from 1820 to March 1874 and from 1883 to 1943. See the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

*Indexes to Boston Passenger Lists*. These indexes are also available:

• Index for 1820-1874:

United States, Bureau of Customs. *A Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Atlantic & Gulf Coast Ports (excluding New York) 1820–1874.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Services, 1960. (FHL film 418161–348; computer number 216582.) This is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION - INDEXES.

• Index for 1848-1891:

Bureau of Customs. *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, 1820–1891: with index 1848–1891.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives Record Service, 1959–1960. (On 397 FHL films; computer number 217426.) This is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, SUFFOLK, BOSTON - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

-The 1848–1891 index (above) to the state passenger lists can also be used to access the National Archives records.

- -Boston passenger lists for 1848–1891 are also at the Massachusetts State Archives. These include records for the nine years missing from the National Archives records.
- -Passenger lists for 1874–1883 are not at the Family History Library.
  - Indexes for 1902–1940:

United States, Immigration and Naturalization Service:

- -Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels arriving at Boston, Jan. 1, 1902–Dec. 31, 1920
- -Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, Aug. 1, 1891–1935
- -Book Indexes to Boston Passenger Lists, 1899–1940

Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, 1944–1945, 1956. (On 597 FHL films; computer number 92077.)

*Other Passenger Lists*. Also consult passenger lists of other New England ports and for ports in Canada. For Canadian border entries from 1895 to 1924, see:

United States, Immigration and Naturalization Services. *St. Albans District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives Records Service, 1986. (On 400 films, beginning with FHL film 1472801; computer number 423848.) There are soundex indexes for 1895–1924 and 1924–1952. These records are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under UNITED STATES - EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

#### **Published Sources**

The following sources index names of immigrants to Massachusetts:

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index.* 11 vols. Detroit: Gale Research, 1981-. (FHL book Ref 973 W32p; some volumes are on microfilm; computer number 75625.) Indexes over 500,000 passengers to America from 1650 to mid-1980 in published passenger lists. Includes the immigrant's name, age, and year of arrival. Provides source list for all indexed passengers. The first three volumes are a combined alphabetical index that was published in 1981. Supplemental volumes have been issued annually.

Colket, Meridith B. *Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe* 1607–1657. Cleveland, OH: General Court of the Order of Founders and Patriots of America, 1985. (FHL book 973 W2cm; computer number 271331.) Includes a list of those who came to the Colonies during the first 50 years. Lists names, dates, and brief information about each immigrant and sources for further research.

Banks, Charles E. *Planters of the Commonwealth: Emigrants to New England in Colonial Times.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing, 1961. (FHL book 974 W2bf; film 874196; fiche 6046840; computer number 271004.)

Harris, Ruth-Ann M. and Donald M. Jacobs, eds. *The Search for Missing Friends*, 5 vols. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1989–1995. (FHL book 974.461 H29s; computer number 511791.) A list of thousands of immigrants who left Ireland from about 1830–1850. Families became separated and began putting advertisements in

the *Boston Pilot* searching for their relatives. These records include name, residence in Ireland, and various items of family information.

Anderson, Robert C. *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1623–1633.*Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, c1995. (FHL book, 3 vols., 974 w2A; computer number 106786.) Genealogical information about the early immigrants to New England. Each volume is indexed, with a cumulative index at the end of volume 3. Well documented with sources cited.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607–1776, and Emigrants in Bondage, 1614–1775.* [Novato, Calif.]: Brøderbund Software, 1996. (FHL compact disc no. 9 pt. 350 [does not circulate to Family History Centers]; computer number 784052.) A comprehensive list of about 140,000 immigrants to America from Britain. Includes Massachusetts immigrants. May show British hometown, emigration date, ship, destination, and text of the document abstract.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614–1775.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988. (FHL book 973 W2c 1988; computer number 490705.) An alphabetical list of English convicts transported to colonial America.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1661–1669.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1990. (FHL book 973 W2col 1661–1699; computer number 614339.) A list of those who emigrated from England to America, including those who were deported and those sold into labor. Compiled from English public records. Coldham, Peter Wilson. *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1700–1750.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992. (FHL book 973 W2col 1700–1750; computer number 649138.) A list of those who emigrated from England to America. Compiled from English public records. Usually gives name, age, occupation, residence, ship, destination, and precise source citation.

Bolton, Ethel Stanwood. *Immigrants to New England, 1700–1775.* Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1931. (FHL 974 W2b; film 874195 item 3; computer number 87360.) This list includes names, dates, place of origin, place of settlement, and some family information.

### **GAZETTEERS**

Several helpful gazetteers of Massachusetts have been published. Three of these are:

Guzzi, Paul. *Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities, and Towns in Massachusetts.* [Boston]: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1975. (FHL book 974.4 H2h 1975; computer number 229022; fiche 6051233; computer number 229231.) This lists the dates when towns were established or annexed, changes of town names, and extinct towns. Lindberg, Marcia W. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research.* 3rd ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 974 D27g 1993; computer number 741018; 1981 ed. fiche 6051401; computer number 58643.) Guide to the records in each New England State. Includes dates when towns and counties were established. Gives names and addresses for the county records and probate offices, libraries, and historical societies for each state.

Nason, Elias. *Gazetteer of the State of Massachusetts.* Boston: B. B. Russell, 1874. (FHL book 974.4 E5n; film 547258; fiche 6046886; computer number 237543.)

An alphabetical list of unincorporated villages and sections of cities and towns is in:

*The Decennial Census, 1915.* Boston: Wright and Potter, 1918. (FHL book 974.4 X2m; film 908760 item 1; fiche 6051394; computer number 254844.) See pp. 134-68. This is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS - CENSUS.

### **GENEALOGY**

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. These must usually be searched in person. The following are some of the major published and manuscript collections helpful for Massachusetts research.

### **Published Collections**

Many genealogies have been researched and published for the colonial states. Names of the earliest immigrants and settlers have been identified. Examples of numerous published collections are:

Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of the State of Massachusetts.* 4 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing, 1910. (FHL book 974.4 D2c; films 905528-29; fiche 6051241; computer number 115558.) This and other series by Cutter relating to Massachusetts and New England are indexed in:

Ireland, Norma Olin and Winifred Irving. *Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's Nine Genealogy Series.* Fallbrook, Calif.: Ireland Indexing Service, [197-]. (FHL book 974 D22i; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737; computer number 122007.) Greenlaw, William Prescott. *The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.* 2 vols. Boston: G. K. Hall, 1979. (FHL Ref book Q 974 D22g; computer number 40822.) This is an index to many local histories and genealogies published between 1900 and about 1940.

New England Historic Genealogical Society. *English Origins of New England Families: from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register,* First Series, 3 vols., 1984. Second Series, 3 vols., 1985. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing. (FHL book 974 D2e; First Series fiche 6047919; computer number 282008; Second Series fiche 6047922; computer number 343700.) Multi-generation genealogies several pages long. Pope, Charles Henry. *The Pioneers of Massachusetts,* 1900. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1965. (FHL book 974.4 D2p; film 924405 fiche 6046669; computer number 85046.) This includes genealogical information found in various local records for 1620–1650.

Rider, Fremont, ed. *American Genealogical- Biographical Index.* Vols. 1-186+. Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 1952-. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2; on 31 FHL films; computer number 49554.) This is a continuing series. An earlier version of

48 volumes was published as *The American Genealogical Index*, 1942-1951. Over 4 million brief citations (name, date, and source) to manuscripts, periodicals, books, and the *Boston Transcript*. The earlier version indexed 350 sources. The second version includes the original 350 sources and an additional 800 sources.

To help understand the source citations and to locate the original sources, use the colored pages in some volumes of:

Clark, Patricia L. and Dorothy Huntsman, eds. *Key Title Index to the American Genealogical-Biographical Index*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1990. (FHL book 973 D22am index; film 1698167 item 4; fiche 6088377; computer number 491052.) Lists sources that are at the Family History Library and their call numbers. Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, . . . 4 vols. 1860-62. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1965. FHL book 974 D2s; film 496426-28; computer number 266986.) Alphabetical list showing three generations of immigrants who arrived in America before 1692. Brief sketches and genealogies of the families, with dates.

#### Collections

*New England Historic Genealogical Society*. This society has several important manuscript collections. The society's card catalog is on microfilm at the Family History Library:

New England Genealogical Society (Boston, Massachusetts). *Genealogical Card Catalog, A-Z.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1970. (On 19 FHL films; computer number 338222.)

One of the Society's manuscript collections is:

Corbin, Walter E. *Corbin Manuscript Collection in New England Historic Genealogical Society.* [S.l.: s.n.], 1982. (FHL film 928633–92; computer number 152864.) This collection covers central and western Massachusetts and includes local histories, church records, town records, genealogies, and Bible and cemetery transcripts. It is helpful for the years 1650–1850.

### Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collections. See:

Daughters of the American Revolution (Massachusetts). *Genealogical Collection*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1971. (On 39 films, beginning with FHL film 859313; computer number 468271.) This important collection includes transcripts of many Bible, cemetery, church, obituary, and other records of individuals born about 1700–1900.

*Massachusetts Historical Society Collections*. Manuscript collections at this society are described in:

Catalog of Manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society. 7 vols. Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1969. (FHL book Q 974.4 A3m; computer number 253436.)

Massachusetts Archives Collections. See:

Massachusetts. State Archives. *Card Index to the Massachusetts Archives*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1972–1973. (On 57 films, beginning with FHL film

543878; computer number 73740.) These 328 volumes contain copies of historical documents from 1629 to 1799. They are at the Massachusetts State Archives. The Family History Library has only the card index to these volumes. The index is listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS - ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES - INDEXES.

Family History Library. This index is especially useful for New England research: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Genealogical Department, Library Division. *Old Surname Index File.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1976. (FHL films 1058446–85 and 1058322–3; computer number 142606.) This is a surname index of some manuscripts, periodicals, books, and films collected by the Family History Library before 1964.

## Mayflower Genealogies

Many records of Mayflower and Plymouth Colony families are at the Family History Library and other libraries. The Family History Library has obtained many published and microfilmed records from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. The society is currently involved in a project to identify five generations of descendants of the Mayflower passengers. Twelve volumes, representing 17 Mayflower passengers, have been published to date (FHL 974:4 D2mf; volumes 1–3 are on FHL fiche 6049584–6; computer number 22306). Also being prepared is *Mayflower Families in Progress*, representing four generations of 11 names. See this title in the Author/Title Search of the Family History Library Catalog.

Some Mayflower genealogies are in:

Genealogies of Mayflower Families: From the New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 3 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 974 D2gm; computer number 357458.)

The largest documented source on Mayflower genealogy by a leading Mayflower authority is:

Bowman, George Ernest. *Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants: The Bowman Files.* Boston, Mass.: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1983. (FHL fiche 6331448–71; computer number 262028.) Includes 232 microfiche cards grouped by family name, showing the descendants of the passengers.

Two helpful periodicals are *The Mayflower Descendant* and *The Mayflower Quarterly*, listed in the "Periodicals" section of this outline.

### **HISTORY**

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

1620-1691	The Plymouth Colony was established. It eventually spread over today's Plymouth, Barnstable, and Bristol Counties.
1630	Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded. It expanded to today's area of Essex, Middlesex, Old Norfolk (now part of New Hampshire), and Suffolk Counties.
1691	A new charter was granted to Massachusetts Bay Colony, uniting it with Plymouth Colony. Parts of Maine and Nova Scotia were also added to Massachusetts.
1775	The Revolutionary War began at Lexington and Concord.
1786	The Ohio Land Company was formed, resulting in the emigration of many Massachusetts residents to Ohio.
1788	Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the Constitution.
1820	Maine was separated from Massachusetts.
1830s-1840s	As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving to Massachusetts.
1861-1865	During the Civil War 146,000 men from Massachusetts served in the Union Army.

A good general history of Massachusetts is:

Hart, Albert Bushnell, ed. *Commonwealth History of Massachusetts: Colony, Province, and State.* 5 vols. New York: The States History, 1927-30. (FHL book 974.4 H2h; computer number 491141.)

A helpful bibliography of Massachusetts local histories is:

Haskell, John Duncan. *Massachusetts: A Bibliography of Its History.* Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 1983. (FHL book 974.4 H23m; computer number 276453.)

### LAND AND PROPERTY

### **Proprietor and Town Records**

During the colonial period, land was granted by the General Court to proprietors, who also granted land. These records are located at the Massachusetts State Archives and other repositories. The state archives also has records and papers relating to proprietary grants, land claims, grants of bounty lands to soldiers, boundary disputes, and surveyors' records.

After proprietors sold their land or a town was incorporated, town clerks recorded deeds and mortgages. These records are at the town halls; the Family History Library has copies of most of them.

Plymouth Colony records (1632–1701) are in:

Shurtleff, N. B. and David Pulsifer, eds. *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England.* 12 vols. Boston: William White, 1855-61. (FHL book 974.4 N2n; film 944128-29; fiche 6046866; computer number 93368.)

Massachusetts Bay Colony records (1628–1685) are in:

Shurtleff, Nathaniel B. *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England.* 5 vols. Boston: W. White, 1853-54. (FHL book 974.4 N2s; fiche 6046893; computer number 253457.)

### **County Records**

After a county was created, land records were recorded at county registry of deeds offices. Berkshire, Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, and Worcester counties have more than one office because they are divided into two or more land districts. Addresses of the offices are found in *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* (see the "Gazetteers" and "For Further Reading" sections of this outline).

The Family History Library has most county land records and indexes from the county's creation to the early 1900s. For example, see Suffolk County deeds:

Suffolk County (Massachusetts) Register of Deeds: Records of Deeds, 1639–1885; Indexes to Deeds, 1639–1920. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (On 1128 FHL films; computer number 350419.)

Boston and Suffolk County records (1629–1697) are in:

Suffolk Deeds. 14 vols. Boston: Rockwell and Churchill, 1880-1906. (FHL book 974.46 R2s; vols. 1-14 are on 5 films, beginning with FHL film 1033902; vols. 1-2, 4-7, 9-11, and 14 are on FHL fiche 6046903; computer number 83836.)

### **MAPS**

Many maps are available from the Massachusetts State Archives. The Family History Library has:

Atlases with Massachusetts maps for the years 1790, 1810, 1823, 1838, 1857, 1862, 1878, 1884, and 1917 (FHL film 002083; various computer numbers.) These maps appear on many items on this film.

Massachusetts, Harbor and Land Commission. *Massachusetts Town Boundary Atlases,* 1898–1916. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (FHL film 954154-56; computer number 184795.)

United States, Geographical Survey. *Topographic Maps of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.* Washington, D.C.: United States Geological Survey, 1950, 1964–1965. (FHL map 974 E7uss; computer number 122979.) Has topographical survey maps showing home sites, roads, lakes and streams, churches, cemeteries, etc. *Ward Maps of the United States Cities.* Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, [1975?]. (FHL fiche 6016577–6016590; computer number 181937.) Has city ward maps for Boston for 1800–1896.

### **MILITARY RECORDS**

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

Military muster rolls and other records are at the Massachusetts State Archives and the Adjutant General's Office. For Massachusetts the following sources are also very helpful:

United States. Army. Massachusetts Infantry. *Enlistments, Enrollments, Medical Examinations, Detachments, Oaths, Rosters, Election Returns, Discharges, Desertions, Resignations, etc.* Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1988–1991. (On 38 FHL films; computer number 537932.) Microfilm of the original in the National Guard Supply Depot in Natick, Massachusetts, Telephone: 508–875–0678. The films include detailed records of Massachusetts volunteers, militia and regular army. Records are available for enrollments, enlistments, muster rolls, medical records, discharges, casualties, hospital lists, and deaths. The records include those of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection in 1899, the 1916 war with Mexico, and World War I. Information is indexed by state, military division, and medical facility.

## **Colonial Wars (1620–1763)**

Numerous records of colonial wars have been published. The Family History Library has copies of most of them, including:

Doreski, Carole. *Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the Seventeenth Century Conflicts*. Boston: The Society of Colonial Wars in Massachusetts and the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1982. (FHL book 974.4 M24d; computer number 220742.)

Bodge, George M. *Soldiers in King Philip's War*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991. (FHL book 974 M2b; computer number 648350.) A concise history of the Indian Wars of New England from 1620 to 1677. Contains lists of soldiers, stories of battles, copies of ancient documents relating to the King Philip's War, 1620–1677.

MacKay, Robert E. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the French and Indian Wars*, 1744–1755. Boston, Mass.: Society of Colonial Wars, 1978. (FHL book 974.4 M2mc; computer number 103531.) Gives in-depth information about the years of turmoil among the French, Indians, and Colonists. It includes details about forming the militia force to combat the unrest.

## Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

A man born between 1730 and 1765 who lived in Massachusetts is probably listed in some form of military record. If he supported the rebellion, he may be mentioned in records as a rebel, patriot, or Whig. Those who opposed the rebellion were Loyalists or Tories.

For detailed records of the Revolutionary War, see:

*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War.* 17 vols. Boston: Wright and Potter Printing, 1896-1908. (FHL book 974.4 M23m; films 238343-59; fiche 6046890; computer number 253495.) Lists soldier's name, commander's name, county of enlistment, service dates, unit, age, and stature.

White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of the Revolutionary War Pension Files.* 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1990. (FHL book 973 M28g; computer number 534698.) Includes names, dates, places, battles fought, and some personal and family information.

United States. Veterans Administration. *Selected Records from Revolutionary War Pension & Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL film 840256-406; computer number 356373.)

United States. Veterans Administration. *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1969. (FHL films 970001-2670; computer number 178932.) 80,000 complete pension files alphabetical by surname.

White, Virgil D. *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records.* 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing, 1995. (FHL book 973 M22wv; computer number 755463.) Shows the name, rank, and unit of over 390,000 patriots. Transcripts of: United States. Adjutant General's Office. *General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary Ward Soldiers.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1942. (FHL film 882841-98; computer number 280117.)

The service records and pension files for Revolutionary War patriots are available at the Family History Library. For more information, see *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118). You can also use NATF Form 80 to obtain copies of the some records from the National Archives for a fee.

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

The following are good sources for those who fought in the War of 1812:

White, Virgil D., transcriber. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*. Waynesboro, Tenn., National Historical Publishing Co., 1992. (FHL book 973 m22i 1992, 2 vols.; computer number 690247.) Transcribed from the National Archives microfilms.

United States Veterans Administration. *Index to War of 1812 Pension Application Files*, Washington, D.C.; National Archives, 1960. (On 102 films, beginning with FHL film 840431; computer number 113898.)

Adjutant General of Massachusetts. *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia*. [Boston?]: Gardner W. Pearson, 1913 (Boston: Wright and Potter Printing, 1913. (FHL book Q 974.4 M23ma; film 1033995 item 5; computer number 320996.) Lists commander, unit, soldier's name, and service dates. Indexed.

### Civil War (1861–1865)

During the Civil War 146,000 men from Massachusetts served in the Union Army. The Family History Library has many records for individual regiments. See the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for detailed listings under MASSACHUSETTS - MILITARY RECORDS - CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865.

Some excellent volumes on Civil War soldiers are:

Adjutant General of Massachusetts. *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines of the Civil War.* 9 vols. Norwood, Mass.: Norwood Press, 1931–1935. (FHL book 974.4 M2ma; film 238362-70; computer number 333449.) Includes brief unit histories and unit rosters with each serviceman's name, rank, residence, age, occupation, enlistment date, and release date and place.

Higginson, Thomas W. *Massachusetts in the Army and Navy during the War of 1861-1865*, 2 vols. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1895-96. (FHL book 974.4 M25ht; film 238371-72; fiche 6051395–96; computer number 365046.) Includes unit histories; lists of men killed in action; officers; and rosters giving name, rank, unit, birthplace, and service dates.

Indexes to service and pension records of Union Army volunteers are on microfilm at the Family History Library. The service and pension records have not been filmed and are only at the National Archives. Many published histories of regiments and other units are also available.

Most military records for the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War (1898), and more recent wars are at:

War Records Office of the Adjutant General, Room 1000 100 Cambridge Street Boston, MA 02202 Telephone: 617–727–2964

### World War I (1917–1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For Massachusetts cards see:

United States. Selective Service System. *Massachusetts, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987–1988. (On 162 FHL films, beginning with film 1684875; computer number 756746.)

To find an individual's draft card, you must know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had more. Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you determine the board number if he lived in a large city. For a map showing Boston draft board boundaries and numbers, see FHL film 1498803.

The State of Massachusetts, during World War I, operated an information service for the families of those who were in the various branches of the armed forces. These records are:

"Casualties from Massachusetts in World War I, 1918," *Enlistments, Enrollments, Medical Examinations, Detachments.* . . . (On 15 films, beginning with FHL film 1544205; computer number 537932.) See the beginning of the "Military Records" section in this outline.

### NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization records were filed in the various county and district courts. The Family History Library has some microfilm copies of these records.

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—New England Region. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., and the Family History Library have microfilm copies of the index:

United States, Immigration and Naturalization Service. *Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791–1906.* Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1983. (FHL films 1429671-787; computer number 305194.)

The Family History Library also has:

United States, District Court (Massachusetts). *Naturalization Index Cards*, 1790–1926. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1985. (FHL films 1420205-21; computer number 408670.) An index to naturalization records of the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Circuit Court for Massachusetts. A letter *M* beside the petition number indicates that it is a military naturalization.

Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Returns of Naturalization before Various Massachusetts Courts*, 1885–1931. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993. (On 9 films, beginning with FHL film 1901984; computer number 728410.) These documents are also at the Massachusetts State Archives. Most years have full name indexes. List name, age, occupation, residence, date of naturalization, and witnesses. Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Indexes to Returns of Naturalization*, 1920–1923, 1924–1925. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1994. (On 7 FHL films, beginning with film 1940387; computer number 728652.) Card index is also available at the Massachusetts State Archives. Each index card typically lists name, residence (town), occupation, court, age, and date.

United States. District Court (Massachusetts). *Naturalization Records*, 1906–1917. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1988. (FHL films 1578248–302; computer number 462155.) Microfilms of originals are also in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Most volumes are individually indexed. Petitions list court district, name, residence, occupation, date and place of petition, port and date of embarkment, port of arrival, vessel, citizenship date, spouse, children, and their birth dates and places.

For information on naturalization records after 1906, contact the National Archives—New England Region and:

Immigration and Naturalization Service U.S. Department of Justice JFK Federal Building, Government Center Boston, MA 02203 Telephone: 617–565–3879

### **NEWSPAPERS**

Many Massachusetts newspapers have been published since the 1700s. Copies of these are at the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and other libraries.

A statewide index of newspaper items is:

American Antiquarian Society. *Index of Marriages in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840.* Boston: G.K. Hall and Co., 1961. (FHL book 974.4 V22i; computer number 91385.)

To locate additional indexes see:

A Guide to Newspaper Indexes in New England. New England Library Association Bibliography Committee, 1978. (FHL book 974 B32n; fiche 6051391; computer number 5148.)

The *Boston Evening Transcript*'s genealogical column carried valuable information from 1895 to 1963. The Family History Library has:

Boston Evening Transcript Genealogical Columns, 1895, May 1900–April 1941, Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1955. (FHL films 014735–44; computer number 105195.)

Boston Transcript Genealogy Newspaper Columns, June 6, 1896–April 30, 1941. [Middletown, Conn.: Godfrey Memorial Library, 197–?]. (FHL fiche 6011001–6011680; computer number 6998.)

For two helpful indexes to the columns, see:

- The Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, Connecticut, has published an index in *American Genealogical–Biographical Index*, where most names can be found (see the "Genealogy" section of this outline).
- The Boston Public Library has indexes for 1901–1935:

Boston Public Library Copley Square Boston, MA 02117

Telephone: 617–536–5400

### **OBITUARIES**

Obituaries in New England can generally be found in the local town or county papers. Many obituaries for Boston and the surrounding area can be found in:

Boston Athenaeum. *Index of Obituaries in Boston Newspapers, 1704-1800.* Boston: G. K. Hall and Co., 1968. (FHL book 974.46/B1 V28b; film 823596; computer number 257663.)

American Antiquarian Society. *Index of Obituaries in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840.* Boston: G. K. Hall and Company, 1961. (FHL book 974.4 V42i; fiche 6051402–06; computer number 91394.) The obituaries are abstracts of the news items and are listed alphabetically.

### **PERIODICALS**

The major periodicals and magazines helpful for Massachusetts research are: *The American Genealogist* (formerly: *Families of Ancient New Haven*). 1923-. Published by David L. Greene, P.O. Box 398, Demorest, GA 30535–0398. (FHL book 973 D25aga; some volumes are on films, beginning with film 1425624; computer number 84191.)

Essex Antiquarian. 13 vols. 1897-1909. Published by the Essex Antiquarian, Salem, MA. (FHL book 974.45 B2a; vols. 1-4 on films 599729-30; computer number 213215.) This source has information on families of Essex County, mostly Salem and some Lynn. The Mayflower Descendant, 1899-1937, 1985-. Published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 376 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116, Telephone: 617-266-1624. (FHL book 974.4 D25md; vols. 1–34 are on films, beginning with film 01250; computer number 261210.) Issues are devoted to information on Mayflower descendants, with genealogical history, places, and dates. http://www.massmayflower.org/ The Mayflower Quarterly. 1935-. Published by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, P.O. Box 3297, Plymouth, MA 02361. Telephone: 508–746–3188. (FHL book 973 D25mg; computer number 261240.) http://www.themayflowersociety.com/ The New England Historical and Genealogical Register. 1847-. Published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society. (FHL 974 book B2ne; compact disc 33 pt. 1–9; some volumes on film; computer number 231574.) This has a cumulative index to 1995. Includes genealogies, vital record extracts, church records, local genealogical histories, and New England source material.

For nationwide indexes to some of these and other family history periodicals, see:

PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide (PERSI). Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987-. (FHL book 973 D25per; fiche 6016863 [set of 40](1847-1985); fiche 6016864 [set of 15](1986-1990); computer number 658308.) Indexes thousands of family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details see the PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide (34119).

For more family history periodicals, study the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MASSACHUSETTS - PERIODICALS
MASSACHUSETTS - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - PERIODICALS
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - GENEALOGY - PERIODICALS

### PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records were under the jurisdiction of the general court and the county courts until probate courts were established in 1692. Probate courts exercised exclusive jurisdiction over guardianships, adoptions, probates of wills, and administration of estates.

The original records are at county courthouses, and many of the records and indexes through 1880 or 1900 are on microfilm at the Family History Library. These include probate dockets, wills, inventories, accounts, administrations, and guardianship records. For example, for Suffolk County the library has 439 microfilms of probate records, dockets from 1636 to 1901, and an index to 1910. Indexes of the probate records of Middlesex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Worcester Counties have also been published. Each

county has its own probate court. Details can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY] - PROBATE RECORDS.

Records of cases that were appealed are in the office of the clerk of the Supreme Judicial Court.

A series of pre-1670 Suffolk County will abstracts, which originally appeared in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, have been reprinted in:

Suffolk County Wills. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, Inc., 1984. (FHL book 974.46 P2s; film 1320548 item 1; computer number 274674.)

Another source of early probate records is:

Plymouth Colony Wills and Inventories, 1620–1639. 3 vols. Carbon copy typescript. (FHL 974.4 P2p; computer number 332121.) Contains records of wills and property inventories extracted from these wills.

### **SOCIETIES**

State genealogical and historical societies may have records and services to help you with your research. The following are important genealogical societies in Massachusetts:

General Society of Colonial Wars

1316 7th St.

New Orleans, LA 70115 Telephone: 504–895–5013

The Society's *Lineage Records* (with indexes) are on films (beginning with FHL film)

528677; computer number 404247).

• General Society of Mayflower Descendants

P.O. Box 3297

Plymouth, MA 02361

Telephone: 508–746–3188

• Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants

376 Boylston Street Boston, MA 02116

Telephone: 617-266-1624

• Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.

P.O. Box 215 Ashland, MA 01721

• National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

1776 D Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20006–5392 Telephone: 202–879–3263 This society has published:

*DAR Patriot Index: Centennial Edition.* 3 vols. Washington, D.C.: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1994. (FHL book 973 C42da 1990; computer number 696544.)

• The Pilgrim Society

75 Court Street Plymouth, MA 02360 Telephone: 508–746–1620

Fax: 508-747-4228

• New England Historic Genealogical Society

101 Newbury Street Boston, MA 02116–3087 Telephone: 617–536–5740

Fax: 617-536-7307

### **TAXATION**

Tax records were recorded by state and town officials. They help identify the residence of the taxpayer. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of state tax valuations for various years from 1760 to 1771, 1780 to 1792, and 1810 to 1811. These are listed in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under:

MASSACHUSETTS - TAXATION
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TAXATION
MASSACHUSETTS, [COUNTY], [TOWN] - TOWN RECORDS

The 1771 lists have been published in:

Pruitt, Bettye Hobbs, ed. *The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1978. (FHL book Q 974.4 R4m; computer number 85052.)

A federal 1798 direct tax census and surname index is:

United States, Secretary of the Treasury. *Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax Census of* 1798. Cambridge, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1978. (FHL film 940072-89 [does not circulate to Family History Centers]; computer number 211511.) The original 1798 tax records are at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. These are described in:

Gorn, Michael H., ed. *An Index and Guide to the Microfilm Edition of the Massachusetts and Maine Direct Tax Census of 1798*, Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1979. (FHL book 974.R42i; computer number 300981.)

Boston tax lists of the 1800s are at:

Boston Public Library Copley Square Boston, MA 02177 Telephone: 617–536–5400

#### TOWN RECORDS

In New England the town clerk is the principal record keeper at the local level. The earliest records are called proprietor's records. Town records generally begin with the founding of a town and are kept to the present.

Town records may contain records of births, marriages, burials, cemeteries, appointments, earmarks, estrays (records of stray animals), freemen's 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 "warnings out" (of town).

The Family History Library has microfilms of many Massachusetts town records, from the beginning of the town to the mid-1860s. The original town records are at local town clerk's offices and at historical and genealogical societies. Some have been published separately or as part of town histories and are available in libraries with major New England collections.

### VITAL RECORDS

## Early Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths

Early vital records were recorded by town clerks. Records of births, marriages, and deaths to 1850 for about 215 towns have been published. Most of these are on microfilm and microfiche at the Family History Library. These often include information from town, church, cemetery, county, and other records. Although records of about 100 towns have not been published in book form, many of these records have been published in periodicals such as the *Mayflower Descendant*, with concentration on Plymouth, Bristol, and Barnstable Counties.

For Boston the Family History Library has microfilms of:

- Birth records, 1630-1799, 1849-1890
- Index to birth records, 1630-1955
- Marriage records, 1646-1889
- Index to marriage records, 1646-1955
- Death records, 1630-1970
- Index to death records, 1630-1848, 1870-1955

Many of the births and marriages recorded in the town records have been extracted and are listed in the *International Genealogical Index* at the Family History Library and Family History Centers.

The Clarence Torrey collection of New England marriages prior to 1700 is at the New England Historic Genealogical Society and on microfilm at the Family History Library:

Torrey, Clarence Almon, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, Andover, Mass.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985. (FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14; for source notes, see films 929494–500 [films do not circulate to Family History Centers]; computer number 338643.) Lists 17th-century marriages of Colonial New England with approximate dates.

Torrey's Bibliography to His Source Notes for New England Marriages Prior to 1700. N.l.: Williams Word Processing, 1984. (FHL book 974 V23w; computer number 741104.) Has an alphabetical list of his source notes indicating book title, author, publication date, and manuscript titles.

Sanborn, Melinda. *Supplement to Torrey's Marriages Prior to 1700.* Baltimore. Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1991. (FHL book 974 V2t supp; computer number 467338.) Has additional marriages found in Torrey's notes after his death in 1962. Sanborn, Melinda. *Second Supplement to Torrey's Marriages Prior to 1700.* Baltimore. Md.: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1995. (FHL computer number 757810.) Provides additional marriages found in Torrey's notes after his death in 1962.

## State Records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths

The Family History Library has records of births, marriages, and deaths beginning as early as 1603, although state records start in 1811. They can be found in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under MASSACHUSETTS - VITAL RECORDS.

You can also obtain copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates for 1841 to 1890 by writing to:

Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point 220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125 Telephone: 617–727–2816

Writing to the town clerk can be the quickest way to get birth, marriage, and death information. The Family History Library has some of the vital records on microfilm: Secretary of the Commonwealth, Massachusetts. *Births, Marriages (1841–1895); Indexes to Births and Marriages (1841–1905), Deaths (1841–1971)*. (On 398 rolls of film, beginning with FHL film 961262.) Microfilms of original records are in the Division of Vital Statistics, Massachusetts.

For copies of birth, marriage, and death records from 1890 to the present, write to:

### Registrar of Vital Statistics

470 Atlantic Ave. Boston, MA 02110

Telephone: 617–753–8600

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

The current fees for copies of state records are 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; computer number 185507.) Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and many Family History Centers. You can also write to the Office of Vital Statistics (see address above) for current information.

#### **Divorce Records**

From 1738 to about 1888, divorce records may have been filed in the county court, governor's council records, superior court of judicature, or supreme judicial court. After 1888 proceedings were usually filed at the county probate court and superior court. The library has some of these court records, including:

Massachusetts, Secretary of the Commonwealth. *Divorce Index*, 1952–1970. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1974. (FHL films 959804-5; computer number 320119.)

### FOR FURTHER READING

More detailed information about research and records of Massachusetts can be found in: Crandall, Ralph J., ed. *Genealogical Research in New England*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1984. (FHL book 974 D27gr; computer number 254124.) Provides bibliographic essay on Massachusetts research.

Lindberg, Marcia Wiswall, ed. *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*. 3rd ed. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1993. (FHL book 974 D27g 1993; computer number 741018; 1981 ed. fiche 6051401; computer number 58643.) This is a guide to the records in each New England state. Includes dates when towns and

counties were established. Gives names and addresses for the county records and for the probate offices, libraries, and historical societies of each state.

Wright, Norman E. *Genealogy in America. Vol. 1, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maine.* Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1968. (FHL book 973 D27wg; computer number 57539.) This contains a very good, in-depth study of state, county, and town records. Some information is out of date.

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.

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### 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

Fax: 801–240–2597

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

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# **Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts affected political boundaries, family movements, and record keeping.

1620-1691	The Plymouth Colony was established. It eventually spread over today's Plymouth, Barnstable, and Bristol Counties.
1629	Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded. It expanded to today's area of Essex, Middlesex, Old Norfolk (now part of New Hampshire), and Suffolk Counties.
1691	A new charter was granted to Massachusetts Bay Colony, uniting it with Plymouth Colony. Parts of Maine and Nova Scotia were also added to Massachusetts.
1775	The Revolutionary War began at Lexington and Concord.
1786	The Ohio Company, a land company, was formed, resulting in the emigration of many Massachusetts residents to Ohio.
1788	Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the Constitution.
1820	Maine was separated from Massachusetts.
1830s-1840s	As the factory system developed, thousands of foreign laborers began moving to Massachusetts.
1861-1865	During the Civil War 146,000 men from Massachusetts served in the Union Army.
1898	Over 300,000 men were involved in the Spanish-American War, which was fought mainly in Cuba and the Philippines.
1917–1918	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.
1930s	The Great Depression closed many factories and mills. Many small farms were abandoned, and many families moved to cities.
1940–1945	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.
1950–1953	Over 5.7 million American men and women served in the Korean War.
1950s-1960s	The building of interstate highways made it easier for people to move long distances.
1964–1972	Over 8.7 million American men and women served in the Vietnam War.

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 Massachusetts 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 in the window to the left. 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 Massachusetts available through Family History Centers or the Family History Library, click on Family History Library Catalog in the window to the left. Look under BIBLIOGRAPHY or HISTORY - BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A helpful bibliography of Massachusetts local histories is:

Haskell, John Duncan. *Massachusetts: A Bibliography of Its History*. Hanover, New Hampshire: University Press of New England, 1983. (FHL book 974.4 H23m.)

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

Filby, P. William. *A Bibliography of American County Histories*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1985. (FHL book 973 H23bi)

Kaminkow, Marion J. United States Local Histories in the Library of Congress. 5 vols. Baltimore: Magna Charta Book, 1975-76. (FHL book 973 A3ka.)

# **State History**

A good general history of Massachusetts is:

Hart, Albert Bushnell, ed. Commonwealth History of Massachusetts: Colony, Province, and State. 5 vols. New York: The States History, 1927-30. (FHL book 974.4 H2h.)

# **United States History**

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

- Schlesinger, Jr., Arthur M. *The Almanac of American History*. Greenwich, Conn.: Bison Books, 1983. (FHL book 973 H2alm.) This provides brief historical essays and chronological descriptions of thousands of key events in United States history.
- Webster's Guide to American History: A Chronological, Geographical, and Biographical Survey and Compendium. Springfield, Mass.: G&C Merriam, 1971. (FHL book 973 H2v.) This includes a history, some maps, tables, and other historical information.
- *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.

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#### **Massachusetts 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.

#### **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
1580–1900	Filby, P. William. Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of About 500,000 Passengers Who Came to the United States and Canada in the Seventeenth, Eighteenth, and Nineteenth Centuries. (FHL book 973 W32p and supplements.).
1580–1920	Torrey, Clarence Almon. New England Marriages Prior to 1700. (FHL book 974 V2t; film 1320548 item 14 and 7 films beginning with 929494.) Alphabetical. Often has spouse's name, birth, and death dates. The sources often have information about the families as late as the 1920s. The microfilm edition mentioned below lists the sources.

1580–1700	Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700. (FHL book 974 V2t supp.) Often has birth and death dates.
1580–1700	Sanborn, Melinde Lutz. Second Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700. (FHL book 974 V2t supp. 2.)
1580–1700	Williams, Alicia. Torrey Bibliography: In the Original Manuscript, New England Marriages Prior to 1700 by Clarence Almos Torrey. (FHL book 974 V23w.)
1580–1940s	Alphabetical listing of Torrey's sources. Longver, Phyllis Olive. <i>A Surname Guide to Massachusetts Town Histories</i> . (FHL book 974.4 H22Lp.) Very helpful for finding biographical sketches.
1580–1680s	Anderson, Robert Charles, ed. <i>The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633.</i> (FHL book 974 W2a, vols. 1–3.) The bibliographies often mention sources with family data to the 1900s; ancestors after 1633 will be studied later.
1580–1984	Colket, Meredith B. Founders of Early American Families: Emigrants from Europe, 1607–1657. (FHL book 973 W2cm.) Refers to published works on early settlers.
1580–1750	English Origins of New England Families: From The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, First Series, (FHL book 974 D2e 3 vols.; fiche 6047919–921.)
1580–1750	English Origins of New England Families: From The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Second Series. (FHL book 974 D2en; fiche 6047922–924.)
1580–1908	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.
1580–1994	The New England Historical and Genealogical Register: Index of Persons, Volumes 51–148. (FHL book 974 B2ne index v.s. 51–148; compact disc 33.) See also index to vols. 1–50, 974 B2ne index, v. 1–50.
1580–1940	Greenlaw, William Prescott. The Greenlaw Index of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. (FHL book Q 974 D22g, vols. 1–2.)
1580–1692	Savage, James. A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England. (FHL book 974 D2s 1969, vols. 1–4: film 1321056 it. 1–4.) Helpful for ancestors arriving before 1692.
1580–1650	Pope, Charles Henry. <i>The Pioneers of Massachusetts: A Descriptive List, Drawn From Records of the Colonies, Towns, and Other Contemporaneous Documents.</i> (FHL film 924405, item 1; fiche 6046669.)
1580–1940	American Genealogical-Biographical Index to American Genealogical, Biographical and Local History Materials. (FHL book 973 D22am ser. 2; on films beginning with 1698167.) Fremont Rider, editor. The new series now has surnames A to W and is continuing; the old series has surnames A to Z.
1580–1990	Connecticut Society of Genealogists. <i>Ancestor Charts, 1962–1990, Ancestry Service, 1962–1988.</i> (On 59 FHL films beginning with 1754015 item 2.) The index in this set is alphabetically arranged on 20 films. These charts often will provide several generations. Useful for New England ancestors.
1580–1995	Connecticut Society of Genealogists. <i>Ancestry Service: With Husband-Surname Index.</i> (FHL book 974.6 D2ca) Alphabetical volumes. This has abbreviated information from the above source.
1580–1850	Ireland, Norma Olin. Cutter Index: A Consolidated Index of Cutter's 9 Genealogy Series. (FHL book 974 D22i; film 1036507 item 6; fiche 6046737.) This is a surname index to several series of genealogical works by William Richard Cutter, see below.

1580–1913	Cutter, William Richard. New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation. (FHL book 974 D2c 1913, vols. 1–4; film 164686–689.) Contains genealogical, personal, and ancestral history of prominent New
1580–1914	England families. Well indexed, also, see the index above.  Cutter, William Richard. New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A
	Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation. (FHL book 974 D2c 1914, vols. 1–4; films 962340–341;899795 errata and index; fiche 6051510–12, vol.1–3.) Contains genealogical, personal, and ancestral history of prominent New England families.
4500 4000	Well indexed, also, see the index above.
1580–1908	Cutter, William Richard. Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the
	Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts. (FHL book 974.461 D2c; vols.
1580–1963	1–4; film 1035606 items 3–5 has vols. 1–2, 4.) Index is at the end of vol. 4. Smith, Danny. Walter Goodwin Davis: A Scholar's Unique Contribution to New England Genealogy, With an Index to the Principal Surnames in His Book. (FHL
	book 974 D2sd.) This is an index to Walter G. Davis' sixteen volumes which
	trace many lines back to the immigrant ancestor.
1580–1995	Worden, Jean D. <i>The American Genealogist Index to Subjects in Volumes 1–60.</i> (FHL book 973 D25aga.)
1580–1922	General Society of Colonial Wars. (Providence, Rhode Island). <i>Lineage Records no. 1–14199, 1607–1967 Supplemental Records 1–13850, 1607–1967: Register of Members.</i> (FHL films 528690–692 and 533971–974, alphabetical.) This lists
	over 10,000 Colonial Wars ancestors and one or more direct descendants. Film
	1036804 items 2, 3, and 4 has the registers of ancestors published in 1922 and
	1941.
1580–1995	Downeast Ancestry. (FHL book 974.1 D25d; fiche 6019964, vols. 1–7.) See
	every-name annual indexes. This is a periodical with many New England
	queries.
1580-1995	The Second Boat. (FHL book 973 D25sb; fiche 6101118–128, vols. 1–12.) See
	every-name annual indexes. This is a periodical with many New England
	queries.
1580-1998	New England Connection. (FHL book 974 D25new.) A periodical, 1993 to the
	present. Has queries, names of immigrants, etc. See annual surname indexes.
1580-1960	Neff, Lewis Edwin, ed. <i>Mayflower Index</i> . (FHL book 973 D2m 1960.) The 1932
1000 1000	version in on fiche 6050266–267.
1580–1775	Genealogies of Mayflower Families: From the New England Historical and
1000 1770	Genealogical Register. (FHL book 974.4 D2gm, vols. 1–3.)
1580–1840s	Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Descendants of the Pilgrims Who
1000 10403	Landed at Plymouth, Mass., Dec 1620. (FHL book 974.4 D2mf, vols. 1–9; vols.
	1–3 on fiche 6049584–586.) About 20 Mayflower passengers' families are
	presented. More volumes will be published.
1580–1775	The Mayflower Descendant: a Quarterly Magazine of Pilgrim Genealogy and
1300-1773	History. (FHL book 974.4 D25md; on 11 films beginning with 1250, vols. 1–34.
	See index.
1580–1840s	Roser, Susan E. <i>Mayflower Marriages: From the Files of George Ernest Bowman</i>
1300-10405	at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. (FHL book 974.4 V2r.)
1500 10500	
1580–1850s	Roser, Susan E. Mayflower Births & Deaths: From the Files of George Ernest
	Bowman at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. (FHL book
4500 4050	974.4 V2ra, vols. 1–2.)
1580–1850	Roser, Susan E. Mayflower Deeds & Probates: From the Files of George Ernest
	Bowman at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. (FHL book
4=00 /5=5	974.4 R2r.)
1580–1850s	Mayflower Source Records: Primary Data Concerning Southeastern
	Massachusetts, Cape Cod, and the Island of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard.
	(FHL book 974.4 H29m.).

1580–1800s	Bowman, George Ernest. Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants: the Bowman Files. (FHL fiche 6331448–471.) Alphabetical.
1580–1995	Spear, Burton W. Search for the Passengers of the Mary & John, 1630. (FHL book 974.4 W3s, vols. 1–25.; fiche beginning with 6010908 vols. 1–17.) A periodical. A project to find origins in England. Lists many early Massachusetts settlers.
1580–1930	Kirkham, E. Kay. An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States: 45,500 References as Taken From Microfilms at the Genealogical Society of Utah. (book 973 D2kk vol. 2; fiche 6089184.) Indexes the collection below.
1580–1970	Daughters of the American Revolution (Massachusetts). <i>Genealogical Collection</i> . (On 39 FHL films beginning with 859313.) See Kirkham book above for surname index.
1580–1691	Stratton, Eugene Aubrey. <i>Plymouth Colony: Its History and People, 1620–1691</i> . (FHL book 974.4 H2s.) Biographical information on early Plymouth Colony settlers.
1580–1691	Sherman, Ruth Wilder. <i>Plymouth Colony Probate Guide: Where to Find Wills and Related Data for 800 People of Plymouth Colony, 1620–1691.</i> (FHL book 974.4 P2s.)
1580–1692	New Plymouth (Colony: Massachusetts). <i>Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, in New England.</i> (FHL book 974.4 N2n, vols. 1–12; films beginning with 896852–856; fiche 6046866 vols. 1–8, 10, 12.)
1580–1686	Shurtleff, Nathaniel B. Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. (FHL book 974.4 N2s, vols. 1–5; films beginning with 1321091, 1321087–88 and 1321091; fiche 6046893.)
1580–1900	Catalog of Manuscripts of the Massachusetts Historical Society. (FHL book Q 974.4 A3m, vols. 1–7.) Alphabetical, has references to many documents referring to individuals.
1580–1800	Bailey, Frederic W. <i>Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800: With the Addition of Plymouth Colony Marriages, 1692–1746.</i> (FHL book 974.4 V2b; film 874200; fiche 6051393.)
1580–1944	Massachusetts Society of Colonial Dames of America. Register of the Massachusetts Society of the Colonial Dames of America. (FHL book 974.4 D2ms 1917; fiche 6046842, vols. 1–2.)
1580-1900s	Genealogical Card Catalog, A-Z. (FHL films beginning with 544065.) Alphabetical. Catalog of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.
1600–1700	Doreski, Carole. Massachusetts Officers and Sailors in the Seventeenth Century Conflicts. (FHL book 974.4 M24d; film 1320664 item 8.)
1690–1771	Pruitt, Bettye Hobbs, ed. <i>The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771</i> , (FHL book Q974.4 R4m.) Alphabetical.
1700–1840	Index of Obituaries in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840. (FHL book 974.4 V42i, vols. 1–5; fiche 6051402–406.)
1700–1755	MacKay, Robert E., ed. <i>Massachusetts Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars</i> , 1744–1755. (FHL book 974.4 M2mc.) Always gives dates of service, and company. Frequently gives the man's town of residence and expedition.
1700–1756	Goss, K. David and David Zarowin, editors. <i>Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars 1755–1756.</i> (FHL book 974.4 M2mo.) Always gives dates of service, and company, but frequently gives the man's town of residence and campaign. Part two generally gives the man's age and town of birth.
1700–1860	White, Virgil D. Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files. (FHL book 973 M28g, vols. 1–4.) Vol. 4 contains the index.
1700–1850s	Daughters of the American Revolution. <i>DAR Patriot Index</i> . (FHL book 973 C42da 1990.) Centennial edition. Gives name of patriot with birth and death dates and state, name of spouse, rank, state, and pension.

1700–1850s	Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War: A Compilation From the Archives. (FHL book 974.4 M23m, vols. 1–17; films 238343–359; fiche
1700–1868	6046890.) Alphabetical.  D.A.R. Revolutionary War Burial Index. (FHL films 1307675–81.) 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.
1700–1868	Hatcher, Patricia. Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots. (FHL book 973 V38h vols. 1–4.) Abstracts reported by the DAR. About 67,200 names.
1700–1860	Brakebill, Clovis. <i>Revolutionary War Graves Register</i> . (FHL book 973 V3br.) By the SAR. Includes lady patriots, black soldiers, Jewish patriots and soldiers, Germans and French. About 53,760 names.
1700–1850s	Sons of the American Revolution. <i>Membership Information, 1776–1996.</i> (on FHL films beginning with 541473.) Contains an alphabetical Index of Ancestors, and members' application forms.
1700–1835	The Pension Roll of 1835. (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 and data on soldiers who received pensions and died from 1820s–1835.
1700–1930	Daughters of the American Revolution. (Massachusetts). <i>Grave Locations of Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors of Maine and Massachusetts</i> . (FHL films 1307668–669.) Alphabetical. Spouses may be listed also.
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 the pensioner's town of residence, the name of the head of household where he was living, and age of pensioner or his widow.
1700–1974	Daughters of the American Revolution.(Massachusetts). <i>Massachusetts State Directory of Members and Ancestors</i> . (FHL book 974.4 C4dar; film 1036198 item 8.)
1740–1920	Census indexes, 1790–1860, 1880, 1900, and 1920. See the Family History Library Catalog. Then select CENSUS or CENSUS - INDEXES from the topics that are listed.
1740–1900	White, Virgil D. <i>Index to War of 1812 Pension Files,</i> (FHL book 973 M22i, vols. 1–3.) Lists soldier and often the spouse.
1750–1814	Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, the War of 1812–1814. (FHL book 974.4 M23ma; film 1033995 item 5.)
1750–1906	United States. District Court.(Massachusetts). <i>Naturalization Index Cards</i> , 1790–1926. (FHL films 1420205–221.)
1760–1971	Massachusetts. Secretary of the Commonwealth. <i>Births, Marriages (1841–1895), and Deaths (1841–1899) Indexes to Births and Marriages, 1841–1905</i> , Deaths, 1841–1971. (On 398 FHL films beginning with 953994.)
1784–1840	Index to Marriages in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784 to 1840, (FHL book 974.4 V22i, vols. 1–4; fiche 6051397–400.)
1800–1865	United States. Adjutant General's Office. Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Massachusetts. (FHL films 881870–913.)

1800–1865	Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the Civil War. (FHL book 974.4 M2ma, vols. 1–8, plus index volume; films 238,362–370.) May give birth and death dates.		
1800–1934	United States. Veterans Administration. <i>General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934.</i> (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. <i>Veteran's Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907–1933.</i> (On 2,539 FHL films beginning with 1634036.) Alphabetical lists of veterans and wives who received pension payments for the Civil War, and the War with Spain.		
1800–1890	Dilts, Bryan Lee. 1890 Massachusetts Census of Civil War Veterans or Their Widows. (FHL book 974.4 X22d 1890.)		
1878–1918	Haulsee, W. M. Soldiers in the Great War. (FHL book 973 M23s, 3 vols.; fiche 6051244.) Lists soldiers who died in World War I. Vol. 2 has Massachusetts.		
1878–1918	United States. Selective Service System. Massachusetts <i>World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918.</i> (On 162 FHL films beginning with 1684875.) 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) that include 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 the 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 the films can be requested and used at 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 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.

#### **Massachusetts Maps Bibliography**

Andriot, Jay. *Township Atlas of the U.S.*. Virginia: Documents Index, 1991. Religion/Family History Reference- 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 Massachusetts maps: pp. 419 - 430. One page history of state, list of counties and counties with minor civil divisions. Maps of census county divisions.

Eichholz, Alice. Ancestry's RedBook: American State, County & Town Sources.

Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992.

Religion/Family History Reference- CS 49.A55 1992.

Summary: The previous map was copied from page 348 of this book. On the next page is a listing of the towns, the date the town was formed and parent town, and the county land records district. The section on Massachusetts also includes a brief history and genealogical research information.

Jackson, Richard H. Historical and Genealogical Atlas of The United States.

Volume 1: East of the Mississippi.

Religion/Family History Reference- G 1201.E6225 J33x 1970z Vol. 1

Summary: List of Counties for each state.

Evaluation of Massachusetts maps: Maps are of the revolutionary period, 1804, 1823, 1838, 1860 and 1960, pp. 73-80.

Kirkam, E. Kay. A Genealogical and Historical Atlas of the United States. Utah:

Everton Publishers, Inc., 1976.

Religion/Family History Reference- GI201.E6225.K5 1976

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

Evaluation of Massachusetts maps: State historical information, p. 19; 17901909 map, p. 74; 1823 map, p. 99; 1909 map, p. 220.

Mattson, Mark T. *Macmillan Color Atlas of the States.* Toronto: Simon & Schuster Macmillan, 1996.

Religion/Family History Reference- Quarto Shelves G 1200.M4 1996.

Summary: Massachusetts maps and information on pages 146 - 152. Includes maps comparing Massachusetts to other states, cultural features, population density, agriculture, economic facts, etc. Also includes a brief state history.

Thorndale, William and William Dollarhide. Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1937. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1987. Religion/Family History Reference- G 1201.F7 T5 1987

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.

Evaluation of Massachusetts maps: pp. 60 - 69.

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

G3760 - 3764. State maps from 1800s 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 Massachusetts maps, atlases, and gazetteers.



Family History Library • 35 North West Temple Street • Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400 USA

# Massachusetts Federal Census Population Schedules, 1790 to 1920

#### Guide

#### Introduction

Federal censuses are taken every 10 years. Massachusetts 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 each household.

Click here for more information about the U.S. Federal Censuses

#### What You Are Looking or

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

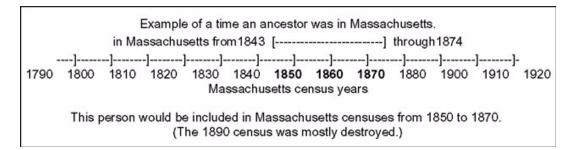
- Names of family members.
- Ages of family members, which you can use to calculate birth or marriage years.
- The county and state where your ancestors lived.
- People living with (or gone from) the family.
- Relatives who may have lived nearby.

#### **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 Massachusetts with the census years. This will determine which censuses you will search.



#### 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 each household.

The censuses from **1790 to 1840** give the name of the head of each 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 United States 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 Massachusetts to a different county or town.
- Movement of the family out of Massachusetts if the family no longer appears in the census for Massachusetts.

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.

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Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire. However, portions of a special schedule taken in 1890, of Union Civil War veterans and their widows, have survived. The surviving 1890 veterans' schedules cover Washington D.C., half of Kentucky, and all of Louisiana through Wyoming (states are in alphabetical order from K to W). These schedules contain approximately 700,000 names.

#### **Types of Census Schedules**

The following census schedules are available for Massachusetts 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.
- 1890 veterans' schedules list Union veterans from the Civil War or their widows who were living in 1890.
- Agricultural schedules list data about farms and the names of the farmers for the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses.
- Manufacturing or industrial schedules list data about businesses and industries for the 1810 (Berkshire, Essex, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Norfolk Counties only), 1820, 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses.

#### **How 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 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 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 be listed only if he or she was born before the census date.

If your ancestor died in the census year, your ancestor should be listed only 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 heir or administrator."

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

No colonial censuses were taken for Massachusetts; however, *The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771* is a helpful census substitute.

Massachusetts became a state in 1788. There are state censuses for Massachusetts for 1855 and 1865.

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:

- Massachusetts 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.
- The Archives and Libraries section of the *Massachusetts Research Outline* lists Internet addresses for several Massachusetts archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Massachusetts census records, and the Internet sites may list what 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 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 window to the left. 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 301-604-3699 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 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 *Massachusetts Research Outline* lists Internet and mailing addresses for several Massachusetts archives, libraries, and historical societies. These organizations may have microfilms and indexes of Massachusetts census records, and the Internet sites may list what 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.

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#### U.S. State Censuses

#### MASSACHUSETTES

1855-1865

- T 2 i	65	
	Barnstable Co Barnstable to Yarmouth-1855	0953973
	Berkshire Co Adams to Windsor - 1855	0953974
	Bristol Co North Attleborough to	0953975
	Fall River - 1855	
	Bristol Co Freetown to Pawtucket - 1855	0953976
	Bristol Co Raynham to Westport - 1855	0953977
	Dukes Co Chilmark to Tisbury - 1855	
	Essex Co Amesbury - Gloucester - 1855	0953978
	Essex Co Groveland to Lawrence - 1855	
	Essex Co Lynn to Rowley - 1855	0953980
	Essex Co Salem to West Newbury - 1855	
	Franklin Co Ashfield to Whately - 1855	
	Hampden Co Agawam to Palmer - 1855	0953983
	Hampden Co Russell to Wilbraham - 1855	0953946
	Hampshire Co Amherst to Middlefield - 1855	
	Hampshire Co Northampton to	0953947
	Worthington - 1855	0,0000
	Middlesex Co Acton to Cambridge - 1855	0953948
	Middlesex Co Carlisle to Littleton - 1855	0953949
	Middlesex Co Lowell - 1855	0953950
	Middlesex Co Malden to Townsend - 1855	0953951
	Middlesex Co Tyngsborough to Woburn - 1855	
	Nantucket Co Nantucket - 1855	0953953
	Norfolk Co Bellingham to Cohasset - 1855	0223333
	Norfolk Co Dedham to Needham - 1855	0953954
	Norfolk Co Quincy to Roxbury - 1855	0953955
	Plymouth Co Abington to Marshfield - 1855	
	Plymouth Co Middleborough to	0953957
	West Bridgewater - 1855	033333,
	Suffolk Co Boston (wards 1-3) - 1855	0953958
	Suffolk Co Boston (wards 4-8) - 1855	0953959
	Suffolk Co Boston (wards 9-12, includes	0953960
	Washington Village) - 1855	0,,,,,,,,
	Suffolk Co Chelsea to Winthrop - 1855	0953961
	Worcester Co Ashburnham to Dudley - 1855	0953962
	Worcester Co Fitchburg to	0953963
	Shrewsburg - 1855	
	Worcester Co Southborough to	0953964
	Westborough - 1855	
	Worcester Co West Boylston to	0953965
	Worcester - 1855	
	Barnstable Co Barnstable to Yarmouth -1865	0953966
	Berkshire Co Adams to Windsor - 1865	0953967
	Bristol Co Acushnet to Freetown - 1865	0953968
	Bristol Co Mansfield to Rehoboth - 1865	0953969
	Bristol Co Seekonk to Westport - 1865	0953970
	Dukes Co Chilmark to Tisbury - 1865	
	Essex Co Amesbury to Gloucester - 1865	0953971
	Essex Co Groveland to Lawrence - 1865	0953972
	Essex Co Lynn to Methuen - 1865	0954560
	Essex Co Middleton to Rowley - 1865	0954561
	Essex Co Salem to West Newbury - 1865	0954562
	Franklin Co Ashfield to Whately - 1865	0954563
	Hampden Co Agawam to Southwick - 1865	0954564
	Hampden Co Springfield to Wilbraham - 1865	
	Hampshire Co Amherst to Hatfield - 1865	0954566

#### U.S. State Censuses

#### MASSACHUSETTES (cont.)

Middlesex Co Acton to Cambridge - 1865 Middlesex Co Carlisle to Framingham - 1865 Middlesex Co Groton to Lowell - 1865 Middlesex Co Malden to North Reading -1865 Middlesex Co Pepperell to Townsend - 1865 Middlesex Co Tyngsborough to Nantucket-1865 Nantucket Co Tyngsborough to Nantucket-1865 Norfolk Co Bellingham to Dorchester - 1865 Norfolk Co Dover to Randolph -1865 Norfolk Co Roxbury-1865 Norfolk Co Sharon to Wrentham - 1865 Plymouth Co Abington to Lakeville - 1865 Plymouth Co Marion to West	0954567 0954568 0954569 0954571 0954571 0954572 0954573 0954575 0954576 0954577
Bridgewater - 1865 Suffolk Co Boston (wards 1-2) - 1865 Suffolk Co Boston (wards 3-5) - 1865 Suffolk Co Boston (wards 6-8) - 1865 Suffolk Co Boston (wards 9-10) - 1865 Suffolk Co Boston (ward 11) - 1865 Suffolk Co Boston (ward 12) - 1865 Suffolk Co Chelsea to Winthrop - 1865	0954374 0954375 0954376
Worcester Co Ashburnham to Dudley - 1865 Worcester Co Fitchbury to Leominster -1865 Worcester Co Lunenburg to Royalston - 1865 Worcester Co Rutland to West Boylston -1865 Worcester Co West Brookfield to Worcester - 1865	0954380 0954381 0954382 0954383 0954384

#### Barnstable County

Barnstable Township	Dennis Township	Mashpee Township	Truro Township
Bourne Township	Eastham Township	Orleans Township	Wellfleet Township
Brewster Township	Falmouth Township	Provincetown Township	Yarmouth Township
Chatham Township	Harwich Township	Sandwich Township	

## Berkshire County

Adams Township	Great Barrington Township	New Ashford Township	Savoy Township
Alford Township	Hancock Township	New Marlborough Township	Sheffield Township
Becket Township	Hinsdale Township	North Adams Township	Stockbridge Township
Cheshire Township	Lanesborough Township	Otis Township	Tyringham Township
Clarksburg Township	Lee Township	Peru Township	Washington Township
Dalton Township	Lenox Township	Pittsfield Township	West Stockbridge Township
Edgemont Township	Montery Township	Richmond Township	Williamstown Township
Florida Township	Mount Washington Township	Sandisfield Township	Windsor Township

# Bristol County

Acushnet Township	Easton Township	New Bedford Township	Seekonk Township
Attleboro Township	Fairhaven Township	North Attleborough Township	Somerset Township
Berkley Township	Fall River Township	Norton Township	Swansea Township
Dartmouth Township	Freetown Township	Raynham Township	Tauton Township
Dighton Township	Mansfield Township	Rehoboth Township	Westport Township

#### Dukes County

Chilmark Township	Gayhead Township	Oak Bluffs Township	West Tisbury Township

Edgartown Township Gosnold Township Tisbury Township

#### Essex County

Amesbury Township	Groveland Township	Marrimac Township	Salem Township
Andover Township	Hamilton Township	Methuen Township	Salisbury Township
Beverly Township	Haverhill Township	Middleton Township	Saugus Township
Boxford Township	Ipswich Township	Nahant Township	Swampscott Township
Bradford Township	Lawrence Township	Newburyport Township	Topsfield Township
Danvers Township	Lynn Township	North Andover Township	Wenham Township
Essex Township	Lynnfield Township	Peabody Township	West Newbury Township
Georgetown Township	Manchester Township	Rockport Township	
Gloucester Township	Marblehead Township	Rowley Township	

## Franklin County

Ashfield Township	Erving Township	Monroe Township	Shutesbury Township
Bernardston Township	Gill Township	Montague Township	Sunderland Township
Buckland Township	Greenfield Township	New Salem Township	Warwick Township
Charlemont Township	Hawley Township	Northfield Township	Wendell Township
Colrain Township	Heath Township	Orange Township	Whately Township
Conway Township	Leverett Township	Rowe Township	
Deerfield Township	Leyden Township	Shelburne Township	

## Hampden County

Agawam Township	Granville Township	Monson Township	Tolland Township
Blandford Township	Hampden Township	Montgomery Township	Wales Township
Brimfield Township	Holland Township	Palmer Township	West Springfield Township
Chester Township	Holyoke Township	Russell Township	Westfield Township
Chicopee Township	Longmeadow Township	Southwick Township	Willbraham Township

East Longmeadow Township

Ludlow Township

Springfield Township

#### Hampshire County

Middlefield Township Amherst Township Goshen Township Southampton Township Belchertown Township Granby Township Ware Township Northampton Township Chesterfield Township Hadley Township Pelham Township Westhampton Township **Cummington Township** Hatfield Township Williamsburg Township Plainfield Township Easthampton Township **Huntington Township** Worthington Township South Hadley Township

#### Middlesex County

Acton Township	Dracut Township	Medford Township	Townsend Township
Arlington Township	Dunstable Township	Melrose Township	Tyngsborough Township
Ashby Township	Everett Township	Natick Township	Wakefield Township
Ashland Township	Framingham Township	Newtown Township	Waltham Township
Ayer Township	Groton Township	North Reading Township	Watertown Township
Bedford Township	Holliston Township	Pepperell Township	Wayland Township
Belmont Township	Hopkinton Township	Reading Township	Westford Township
Billerica Township	Hudson Township	Sherborn Township	Weston Township
Boxborough Township	Lexington Township	Shirley Township	Wilmington Township
Burlington Township	Lincoln Township	Somerville Township	Winchester Township
Cambridge Township	Littleton Township	Stoneham Township	Woburn Township
Carlisle Township	Lowell Township	Stow Township	
Chelmsford Township	Malden Township	Sudbury Township	
Concord Township	Marlborough Township	Tewksbury Township	

#### Nantucket County

Nantucket Township

## Norfolk County

Avon Township	Dover Township	Milton Township	Sharon Township
Bellingham Township	Foxborough Township	Needham Township	Stoughton Township
Braintree Township	Franklin Township	Norfolk Township	Walpole Township
Brookline Township	Holbrook Township	Norwood Township	Wellesley Township
Canton Township	Medfield Township	· Plainville Township	Westwood Township
Cohasset Township	Medway Township	Quincy Township	Weymouth Township
Dedham Township	Millis Township	Randolph Township	Wrentham Township

# Plymouth County

Abington Township	Hanover Township	Marshfield Township	Rochester Township
Bridgewater Township	Hanson Township	Mattapoisett Township	Rockland Township
Brockton Township	Hingham Township	Middleborough Township	Scituate Township
Carver Township	Hull Township	Norwell Township	Wareham Township
Duxbury Township	Kingston Township	Pembroke Township	West Bridgewater Township
East Bridgewater Township	Lakeville Township	Plymouth Township	Whitman Township
Halifax Township	Marion Township	Plympton Township	

# Suffolk County

Boston Township	Chelsea Township	Revere Township	Winthrop Township

# Worcester County

Ashburnham Township	Gardner Township	New Braintree Township	Spencer Township
Athol Township	Grafton Township	North Borough Township	Sterling Township
Auburn Township	Hardwick Township	North Brookfield Township	Sturbridge Township
Barre Township	Harvard Township	Northbridge Township	Sutton Township
Berlin Township	Holden Township	Oakham Township	Templeton Township
Blackstone Township	Hopedale Township	Oxford Township	Upton Township
Bolton Township	Hubbardston Township	Paxton Township	Uxbridge Township
Boylston Township	Lancaster Township	Petersham Township	Warren Township
Brookfield Township	Leicester Township	Phillipston Township	Webster Township
Charlton Township	Leominster Township	Princeton Township	Westborough Township
Clinton Township	Lunenburg Township	Royalston Township	Westminster Township
Douglas Township	Mendon Township	Rutland Township	West Boyleston Township
Dudley Township	Milford Township	Shrewsbury Township	West Brookfield Township
East Brookfield Township	Millburg Township	Southborough Township	Winchendon Township
Fitchburg Township	Millville Township	Southbridge Township	Worcester Township

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Date created: 1695; Parent territory: Martha' Vineyard

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Date created: 1812; Parent county: Hampshire

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<u>Historical Celebration of the Town of Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts</u>. Springfield, Massachusetts: The Clark W. Bryan Company, printers, 1879. **F 74.B75 B9**.

<u>History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts.</u> Philadelphia: L.H. Everts, 1879. **Microfiche CS 43.G46x LH7981.** 

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Date created: 1662; Parent county: Middlesex

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Green, Theodore P. <u>Essays on Amherst's History</u>. Amherst, Massachusetts: Vista Trust, 1978. **F 74 .A5 E87**.

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Batchelder, Samuel F. <u>Bits of Cambridge History</u>. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1930. **F 74.C1 B29**.

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Brooks, Charles. <u>History of the Township of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts</u>. Boston: Rand, Avery & Company, 1886. **Microfiche CS 43 .G46x LH5746**.

Brown, Abram E. <u>Beneath Old Roof Trees</u>. Boston: Lee and Shepard, 1890. **F 72 .M7 B67**.

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# Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791-1906

This is an index to naturalization documents in courts in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont from 1791 to 1906.

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Connecticut	R215 (Andrew) - R500 (William)	
Connecticut	R600 (Frederick) - S266 (Joseph)	
Connecticut	S300- (Fageraas) - S415 (William)	
Connecticut	S416 (Aaron) - S531 (William)	
Connecticut	S532 (Aaron) - T463 (Luigi)	1429705
Connecticut	T500 (Albin) - V542 (Ursula)	
Connecticut	V453 (Adolfe) - W424 (Wladisaw)	1429707
Connecticut	W426 (Abram) - Z660 (John)	1429708
(W425 is not	available at this time)	
Rhode Island	A100 Alphonse) - C166 (Francesco)	1429709
Rhode Island	C200 (Alexander) - D515 (William)	1429710
Rhode Island	D516 (Alexander) - G652 (Thomas)	1429711
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Rhode Island M355 (Hezekiah) - P563 (Santino)	
Rhode Island P600 (Alfred) - S536 (William)	1429715
Rhode Island S540 (Andrew) - Z653 (Gaprial)	1429716
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Vermont B360 (Abraham) - B460 (Xavier)	
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Vermont C162 (Angelo) - C300 (Zephirin)	
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429726
Vermont C310 (Alonso) - C451 (William)	
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Vermont C452 (A.J.) - C500 (Woolf)	
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Vermont C553 (James) - C623 (Zenas)	- 400-00
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Vermont C624 (A.) - C645 (Zoel)	
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Vermont C646 (Geo. A.) - D145 (William)	
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Vermont D146 (Antonio F.) - D300 (Zecharian C.)	
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Vermont F325 (Albert E.) - F452 (William J.)	
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Vermont F453 (Albert E.B.) - F626 (Zephaniah)	
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Vermont M551 (Henry) - M610 (Cornelius L.)	
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Vermont M610 (Daniel) - M623 (Zebbie)	
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Vermont M624 (Abel) - M236 (Wilhelm)	
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429767
Vermont N240 (Abate) - N635 (William M.)	
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Vermont R250 (Abraham) - R400 (Xenophon J.) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429775
Vermont R410 (Alexander) - R635 (William J.) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429776
Vermont R660 (Fred) - S246 (Wm. H.) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429777
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Vermont S420 Abraham -S526 (Wolf) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	
Vermont S530 (George A.) - S546 (William) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	
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Vermont T260 (Adelors) - T612 (William Henry) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1420702
Vermont T613 (Charles) - V525 (Xavier) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	>
Vermont V526 (Charles J.) - W361 (William L.) Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429/84
Vermont W362 (Albert E.) - W420 (William W.)	
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	
Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and	1429787

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- 1. United States, New England Naturalization and citizenship -Indexes
- 2. Connecticut Naturalization and citizenship Indexes
- 3. Maine Naturalization and citizenship Indexes
- 4. Massachusetts Naturalization and citizenship Indexes
- 5. New Hampshire Naturalization and citizenship Indexes 6. Rhode Island Naturalization and citizenship Indexes
- 7. Vermont Naturalization and citizenship Indexes
- I. National Archives microfilm publications; M1299

#### Other Massachusetts Resources

### **Rootsweb Massachusetts Links**

http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/ma.html

### **Cyndi's List Massachusetts Links**

http://www.cyndislist.com/ma.htm

### **Massachusetts County Formation Maps**

http://www.mymassachusettsgenealogy.com/ma\_maps/ma\_cf.htm

# Index of marriages in Massachusetts Centinel and Columbian Centinel, 1784-1840

HBLL Call Number CS 68 .A54x vol.1-4

### New England marriages prior to 1700

Torrey, Clarence Almon, 1869-1962. HBLL Call Number F 3.T67 1985

### Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2terminal&L=5&L0=Home&L1=Government&L2 =Departments+and+Divisions&L3=Department+of+Public+Health&L4=Programs+and+Services+K+-

+S&sid=Eeohhs2&b=terminalcontent&f=dph\_vital\_records\_g\_about&csid=Eeohhs2

### **Massachusetts Vital Records**

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### **Burton Historical Collection Detroit Public Library**

http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton/burton\_index.htm