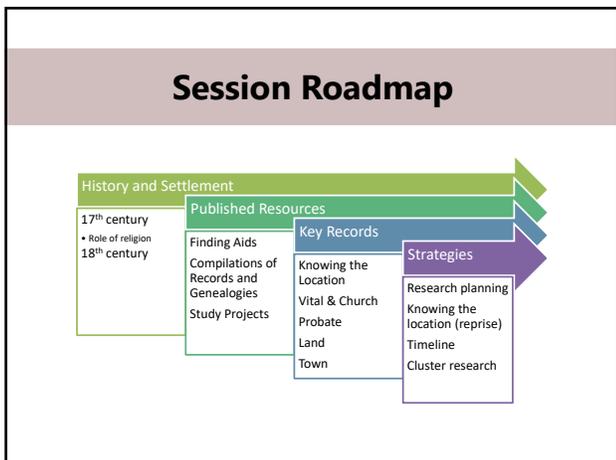




1



2



3

In the Beginning: Algonquin Linguistic Group



Southern Algonquian - Map by Mikulaj, adapted to English by Hadravskan, Wikimedia Commons - Image: Wolfgang, Südwestdeutschland.png, as of 5 July 2005, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=271243>

Western Algonquian - CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=510577>

Eastern Algonquian - CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/index.php?curid=481793>

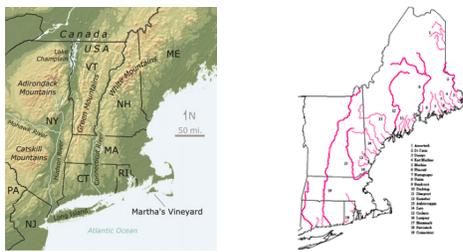
4

Early European Settlers Found...

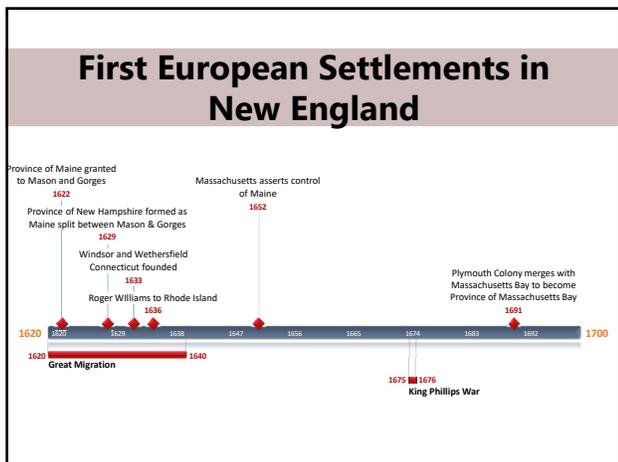


5

Geography



6



7

Plymouth Colony

- Established 1620
- Encompasses SE Mass., Cape & Islands
- Core group were Separatists who had first fled to Leiden, Holland
- Small in population and grew slowly
- Merged with Massachusetts Bay in 1692 to form Province of Massachusetts Bay
- Emigration to Berkshire Co., MA; Dutchess Co., NY; Cape May, NJ; coastal Maine

Image by Hoodinski at Wikipedia Commons

8

Massachusetts Bay Colony

- Established and led by Puritans
 - 1623 Dorchester Company to Cape Ann
 - 1628 Endicott group to Salem
 - 1630 Winthrop Fleet to Boston
- By far the most populous and influential colony in New England
- Dissidents soon founded Providence, Connecticut, and New Haven Colonies

The Province of Massachusetts Bay was formed in 1691 by merging the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Plymouth Colony, Province of Maine, Norfolk, Eastern Virginia, and New Kent. New Kent was split off in 1690. Previously New Hampshire had been part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1681-1679.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusetts_Bay_Colony#/media/File:Masscolony.png

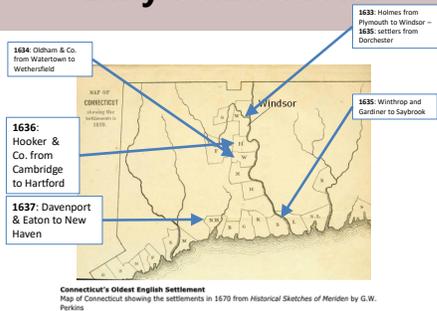
9

Religion in Early New England

- Most settlers came to America opposing the established Anglican Church of England
- Puritans – advocated separation from CoE
- Puritans – advocated change from within the CoE
- Religion dictated community life and systems
- Dissenters left Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay over
 - Puritan and Pilgrim lack of religious tolerance (Williams)
 - Belief that no intermediary needed for a relationship with God (Williams and Hutchinson)
 - Voting privileges within a community (Hooker)
 - Desire for control of civil matters by “the godly” (Davenport & Eaton)

10

Early Connecticut



11

Providence & R.I. Colonies

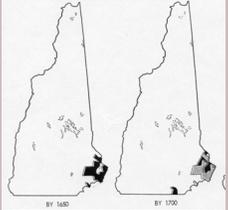
- 1636 – Providence (Roger Williams)
- 1638 – Portsmouth (Ann Hutchinson)
- 1639 – Newport (8 families)
- 1642 – Warwick (Samuel Gorton)



12

New Hampshire

- 1622 Captain John Mason and Sir Ferdinando Gorges received charter for New Hampshire and Maine
- 1623 Mouth of the Piscataqua River settled by Hiltons
- Mason and Gorges split the charter into NH and Maine in 1629

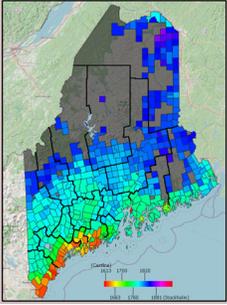


The map shows the outlines of New Hampshire and Maine. A vertical line indicates the split in 1629. Labels 'BY 1620' and 'BY 1700' are present at the bottom of the map.

13

Maine

- Scattered settlements 1620s or earlier along coast from Cape Elizabeth to Pemaquid
- Under jurisdiction of Massachusetts from 1652 (until 1820)
- Abandoned briefly 1675 after King Philip's War
- Little new settlement until after Revolution

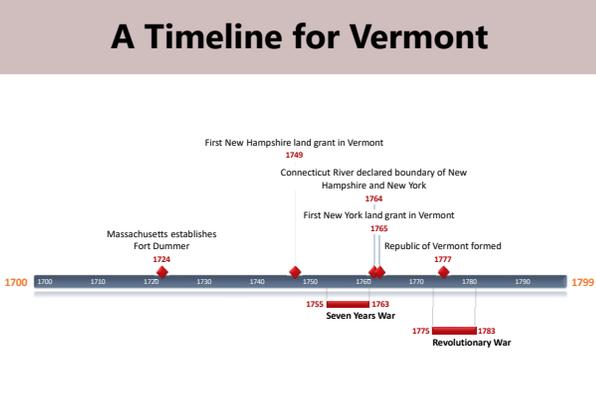


The map shows the state of Maine with a color-coded grid representing settlement density. A legend at the bottom indicates settlement density levels: 0-500, 500-1000, 1000-1500, 1500-2000, 2000-2500, 2500-3000, 3000-3500, 3500-4000, 4000-4500, 4500-5000, 5000-5500, 5500-6000, 6000-6500, 6500-7000, 7000-7500, 7500-8000, 8000-8500, 8500-9000, 9000-9500, 9500-10000.

https://www.reddit.com/r/Maine/comments/oi6yiw/settlement_map_of_maine/

14

A Timeline for Vermont



The timeline shows key events in Vermont's history from 1700 to 1799. Key events include: Massachusetts establishes Fort Dummer (1724), First New Hampshire land grant in Vermont (1749), Connecticut River declared boundary of New Hampshire and New York (1764), First New York land grant in Vermont (1765), Seven Years War (1755-1763), Republic of Vermont formed (1777), and Revolutionary War (1775-1783).

15

King Philip's War

- First full scale New England war in the 17th c.
- Metacomet (aka) King Philip and the Wampanoag Indians
- Plymouth Colony, Rhode Island, Western Mass., and beyond



16

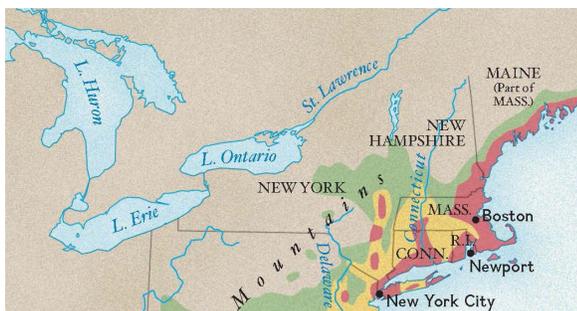
Seven Years War – 1756-1763

- Boundary disputes between English colonists and French
- Recapture of Fort Louisbourg in 1758 and Battle of Quebec in 1759
- Treaty of Paris ended the French and Indian War
 - England received territory east of the Mississippi
 - Spain received territory west of the Mississippi
 - Proclamation Line, a no settlement zone west of the Appalachian mountains

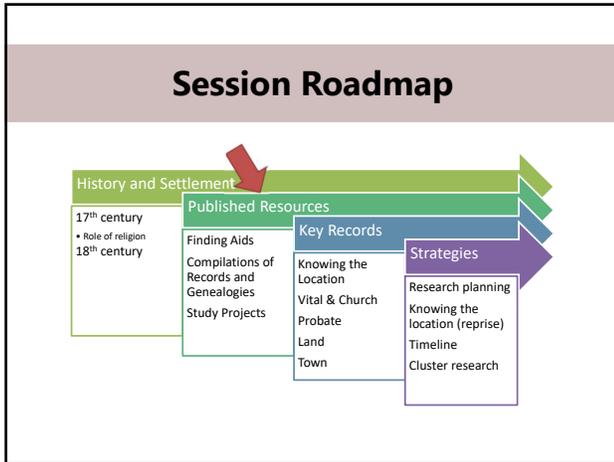


17

Settlement to 1760



18



19

Types of Published Resources

- Finding aids
- Study projects
- Compilations of records and genealogies
- Journals and periodicals
- Genealogies and Local Histories

The collage includes a book cover for 'New Englanders in the 1600s' by Margie L. Hobbs, a book cover for 'The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1630, VOLUME 1' by Robert D. Bullard, a historical map, and a portrait of a woman.

20

Finding Aids

21

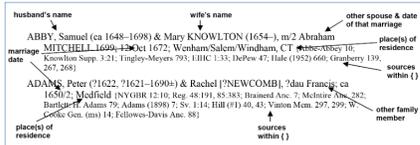
New England Marriages Prior to 1700

- Enumerates approximately 99% of all pre-1700 marriages of New Englanders
 - Includes marriages in Europe prior to migrating
 - Found 70% of maiden names
- Searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org



22

Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700



23

Torrey's Source List

ADAMS, Peter (?1622, ?1621-1690±) & Rachel [NEWCOMB], ?dau Francis; ca 1650?-Medfield (NYGHR 12:10; Reg. 48:191, 85:383; Brainard Anc. 7; McIntire Anc. 282; Bartlett H. Adams ? Adams (1898) 7; Sv. 1:14; Hill (H) 40, 43; Vinton Mem. 297, 299; W. Cooke Gen. (ms) 14; Fellowes-Davis Anc. 88)

<p>Adams (1861): Adams, George, <i>Genealogy of the Adams Family of Lancaster, Mass.</i> (Boston: privately printed, 1861)</p> <p>Adams (1881): Appleton, William Sumner, <i>Some Descendants of William Adams of Ipswich, Mass.</i> (Boston: D. Clapp & Son, 1881)</p> <p>Adams (1889): Adams, Smith, <i>Genealogy and History of a Part of the Newbury Adams Family, Formerly of Devonshire, England, Setting the Descendants of Robert Adams, and of His Heir, Charles, Me. The Chain</i> (Boston Office, 1889)</p> <p>Adams (1898): Adams, Andrew N., <i>A Genealogical History of Henry Adams of Braintree, Mass. and His Descendants, also John Adams, of Cambridge, Mass., 1625-1897</i> (Dorland, N.J.: Tuttle, 1898)</p> <p>Adams (1900): Adams, Andrew N., <i>A Genealogical History of Robert Adams of Newbury, Mass., and His</i></p>	<p>Adams (ms): <i>Adams Genealogy</i> (published under auspices of the Adams Society of New York and vicinity, 1938)</p> <p>Adams Chart: see Daniel Alden Gen.</p> <p>Adams Mem.: Adams, Ebenezer Adams, <i>Memorial of the Descendants of the Hon. John Alden</i> (Randolph, Mass.: Samuel F. Brown, 1867)</p> <p>Adams Pabodie: Alden, Mary Louford (Taylor), Elizabeth (Alden) Pabodie and Descendants (Salem: E. Putnam, 1897)</p> <p>Adams-Smith Long: Long, Hallock Porter, <i>Alden-Smith-Long Ancestry: Being the Compiler's Line of Descent from John Alden Who Arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, on the Mayflower, in 1620</i>. (Washington, D.C., 1925)</p> <p>Alden: Whitin, Frederick H., <i>The Alden Family of Dedham, Wrentham, Roxbury and Franklin, Mass.</i> (Dedham: Dedham Transcript Press, 1905).</p>
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24



Great Migration Study Project

28

Great Migration Study Project

- Started in 1988
- Directed by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG
- Genealogical and biographical sketch for immigrants to New England from 1620 to 1640
- Thirteen published volumes
- Individual included study project if record documenting presence found before 1636



29

The Great Migration Begins *Thomas Hooker*

982 983

... and acquired land. Since William Haverford does not appear in the 1636 list of town lots in their name, as do any other Putnam Colony towns, the William Haverford who appears in the administrative records of 1650 is almost certainly a different person than the immigrant of 1636.

JOHN HOOKER

John Hooker came on the *Mightmore* as a seaman boy to Isaac Allerton and lived with the boat. (Hartford 44-444)

THOMAS HOOKER

ORIGIN: Buxtonham
MIGRATION: 1636 in the *Golden Age* (NY 1137)
FIRST RESIDENCE: Cambridge
REMOVED: Hartford 1636

DESCENT FROM: *Magistrate*
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: On 11 October 1638 Winstock reported a "son of Haverford, whose Mr. Hooker was chosen pious, that Mr. Hooker teacher, in such a manner as before at Buxton" (NY 1137). When Hooker moved to Hartford the church was with him, and he remained pious thereafter until his death.

PREDECESSOR: 1 May 1636 (MSRCR 1.260)

SUCCESSOR: Marcellus de Landgrave from Queens College 1636, registered in Easton, N.J., 1638 (M.A., 161) (Voss 1.405; Morton 281-82). His successor included "hooker in his name" (MSRCR 1.260)

OFFICE: Alder, 7 May 1640 (MSRCR 1.1)

OFFICE: Granted one acre for a reward at Cambridge, 4 November 1638 (CAFR 1). Granted five acres of land and another three acres of land, 2 January 1639 (CAFR 7). Granted five acres of meadow ground in the pond near "Haverford's mead" and thirty acres of land, month of the month John Charles Hooker, 7 April 1639 (CAFR 12). In the division of land in the *Golden Age*, fifty pounds, 15 September 1639 (CAFR 13). Granted three acres, 8 February 1640 (CAFR 17). In the 8 February 1640 list of "houses" in the town, "Mr. Thomas Hooker" held four (CAFR 18).

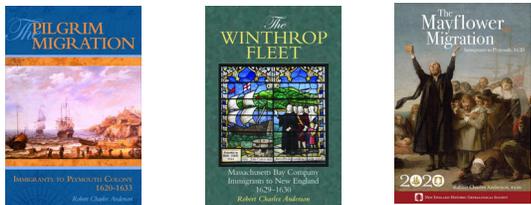
... and acquired land. Since William Haverford does not appear in the 1636 list of town lots in their name, as do any other Putnam Colony towns, the William Haverford who appears in the administrative records of 1650 is almost certainly a different person than the immigrant of 1636.

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30

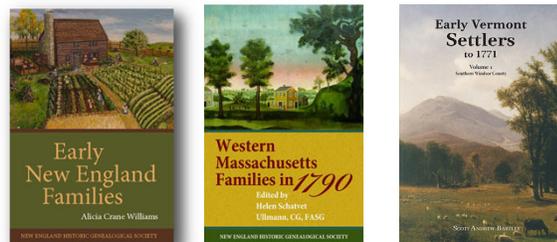
Other Great Migration Books



34

Early New England Study Projects

35



AmericanAncestors.org/publications/early-new-england-research

36

Early New England Study Projects

Early New England Families

- Directed by Alicia Crane Williams
- Genealogical and biographical sketches for those who married in New England from 1641 to 1700 (uses Torrey as guide)
- Grouped by year of marriage
- Two published volumes

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790

- Directed by Helen Schatvet Ullmann
- Genealogical and biographical sketches for those who were enumerated on the 1790 census in Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (from which Franklin and Hampden Counties were later formed)
- Four published volumes

37

Study Projects (cont)

Early Vermont Settlers to 1784

- Directed by Scott Andrew Bartley
- Genealogical and biographical sketches of individuals identified by Donald Alan Smith's 1980 thesis "Legacy of Dissent: Religion and Politics in Revolutionary Vermont 1749 to 1784"
- Two published volumes for Windsor County

Sample Sketch



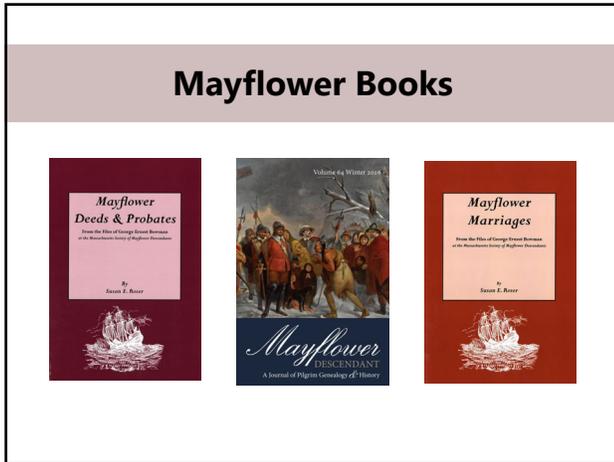
38

Mayflower Families

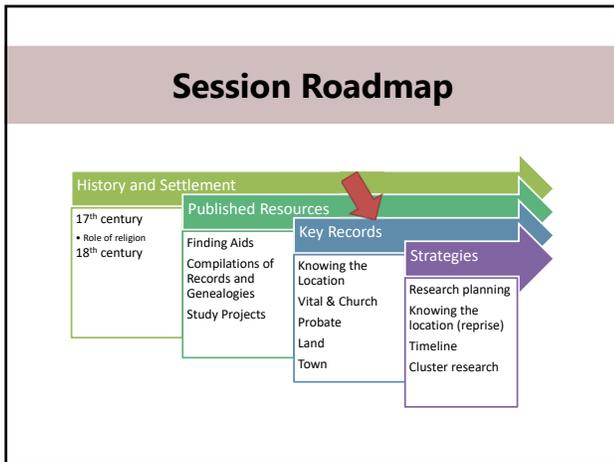
- Project provides well-documented lineages of the ship's passengers
- Long-range goal is to document passengers through Generation Seven, naming Generation Eight
- All passengers have histories through Generation Five; Billington and Rogers have Sixth Generation histories
- At AmericanAncestors.org
 - Index of all the 5th Generation descendants, their spouses, and children



39



40



41

Colonial New England Records

- Vital and church records: birth, baptism, marriage, death, burial, gravestone
- Land records: grants and deeds
- Probate records: will, inventory, guardianship
- Town and Colony: meetings, actions, records, censuses
- Court: lawsuits, probate
- Military records: Colony, town militia

42

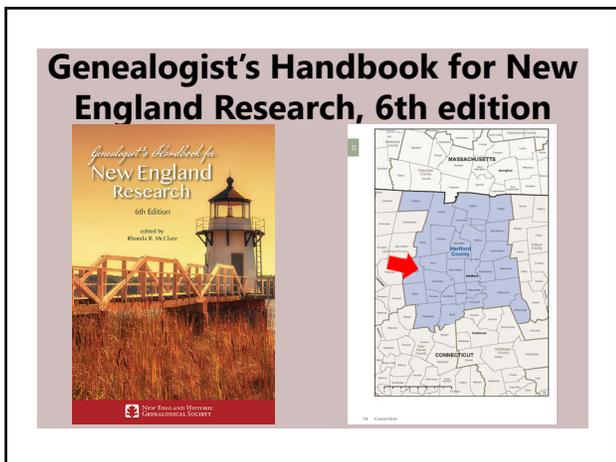


43

Jurisdictions for Colonial Records

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town	County	County
Massachusetts	Town	County	County
New Hampshire	Town	County	County
Rhode Island	Town	Town	Town
Vermont	Town	It is complicated	It is complicated

44



45



FamilySearch.org Research Wiki

49



50

Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont Vitals

- Pre-printed cards
- Information abstracted from original handwritten town books



51

Massachusetts Vital Records

- Massachusetts has the most complete set in the nation
- Kept by towns beginning in 1620s. Generally well-kept, but not always complete
- VRs up to 1850 published for over 200 towns, the majority in eastern Massachusetts
- For the western part of the state, will need to consult special collections such as the Corbin or Shepard Collections



52

Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850

ABBREVIATIONS.

A. — age; age at death
 alt. — alternate
 b. — born
 b. m. — baptismal
 bur. — buried
 ch. — child
 C.C.S. — church record, First Congregational, Uxbridge
 C.C.S. — church record, First Church, Uxbridge
 C.C.S. — church record, First Baptist Society, Cambridgeport
 C.C.S. — church record, First Church in Cambridge or Stoughton
 C.C.S. — church record, Harvard Street Methodist
 C.C.S. — church record, Old Cambridge Baptist Society
 C.C.S. — church record, St. Peter's Episcopal Church
 C.C.S. — church record, Trinity Methodist Church, East Cambridge
 C.C.S. — church record, Cambridgeport Parish, now united with Third Congregational
 C.C.S. — church record, Third Congregational, Uxbridge
 C.C.S. — church record, Evangelical Congregational Church, East Cambridge, now united records in possession of Congregational Library, Boston
 C.C.S. — church record, Second Baptist Church, East Cambridge, now united records in possession of City of Cambridge
 A. — daughter; day; day
 day — married
 day — deceased
 day — duplicate entry
 C.R. — grave record, cemetery at Harvard Square

53

Vital Records – Rhode Island

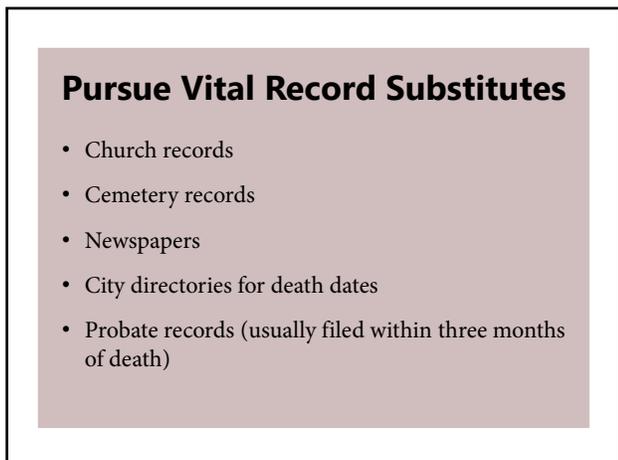
Vol 1: Kent County	Vol 8: Episcopal and Congregational	Vol 15: Providence Gazette, marriages
Vol 2: Providence County (Providence, Cranston, Johnston, North Providence, Glocester, Burrillville)	Vol 9: Seekonk, Pawtucket and Newmarket Congregational Church	Vol 16: United States Chronicle
Vol 3: Providence County (Glocester, Burrillville, Ebbetsville, Foster, Cumberland, Smithfield)	Vol 10: Town and Church Records	American Journal, impartial Observer, Providence Journal, marriages and deaths, Providence Semimonthly Journal, marriages
Vol 4: Newport County	Vol 11: Church Records	Providence Patriot, Columbian Phoenix, marriages A-B
Vol 5: Washington County	Vol 12: Revolutionary rolls and newspapers, including Providence Journal, deaths A-B	Vol 18: Providence Phoenix, Providence Patriot, Columbian Phoenix, marriages S-2, deaths A-B
Vol 6: Bristol County	Vol 13: Deaths, Providence Journal and Providence Gazette	Vol 19: Providence Phoenix, Providence Patriot, Columbian Phoenix, deaths N-2, Rhode Island American, marriages A-G
Vol 7: Friends and ministers	Vol 14: Providence Gazette, deaths and marriages	Vol 20: Rhode Island American, marriages H-2, deaths A-B
		Vol 21: Rhode Island American, Deaths, C to Y

- Rhode Island – James Arnold
- Vital Records of Rhode Island, 1636-1850, First Series: Births, Marriages and Deaths (see handout)

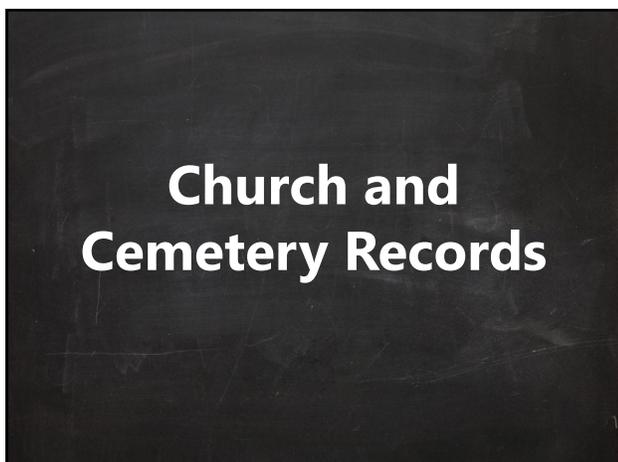
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58



59



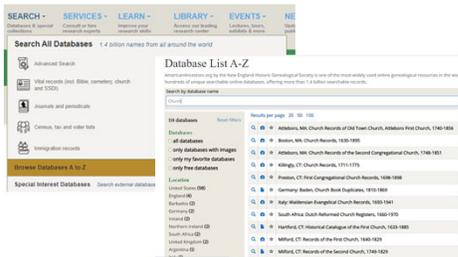
60

Where to Find Church Records

- Many New Englanders were Congregationalists
 - Check County Histories for clues about denomination
- Indexed databases
 - American Ancestors
 - Family Search
 - Ancestry
- Unindexed images
 - Family Search
- Congregational Church Archives

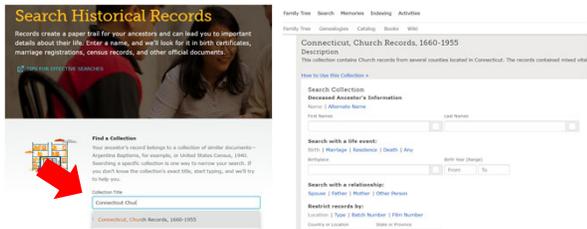
61

Indexed at AmericanAncestors.org



62

Indexed at FamilySearch.org



63

Why Use Probate?

- Probate is the process of settling an estate after death
 - Many steps
 - Generates documents
- Use to:
 - Verify family relationships
 - Substitute when vital records are lacking
 - Approximate death dates
 - When a daughter was married by
 - When a wife was deceased by
 - Trace the origin of family items or property
 - Provide context of ancestor's life

70

Finding Probate

	Vital Records	Land	Probate
Connecticut	Town	Town	Probate Districts
Maine	Town	County	County
Massachusetts	Town	County	County
New Hampshire	Town	County	County
Rhode Island	Town	Town	Town
Vermont	Town	It is complicated	It is complicated

71

Colonial Vermont Probate

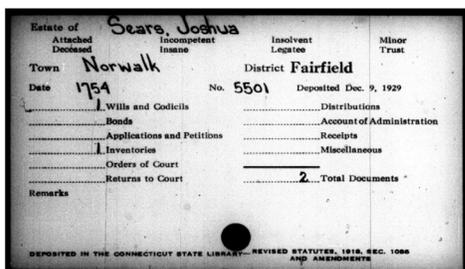
- No known probate records for Vermont prior to 1777
- May find probate in New York or New Hampshire records
 - From 1749, New Hampshire claimed Vermont
 - From 1764, New York claimed Vermont as part of Albany County
 - Cumberland County from Albany in 1766
 - Gloucester County from Albany in 1770
 - Charlotte County from Albany in 1772

72

Colonial Connecticut Probate

- New Haven Colony (to 1655) – Probate kept at town or colony
- Connecticut Colony
 - Particular Court (1639 - 1665) - Records transcribed and published
 - Court of Assistants (1665- 1711) – An appeals court, records transcribed and published
 - County Courts (1666 - 1855) - Handled probate for four original counties, Hartford, New London, New Haven, and Fairfield until 1698
 - 1698 Probate District system established
 - Original 4 county courts
 - 1719 – New Probate Court districts established

73



Connecticut Probate Index 1648-1881

74

Colonial Maine Probate

- Probate kept at COUNTY level
 - Cumberland Co. Probates destroyed by fire in 1907.
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of probate for 1760-1979
- Ancestry.com: All counties varied years 17th-20th Century
- Published Compilations
 - Sargent's *Maine Wills 1640-1760*, on www.AmericanAncestors.org
 - John E. Frost's, *Maine Probate Abstracts 1687-1800* were published in 1991 by Picton Press in two volumes

75



82

Why Use Land Records?

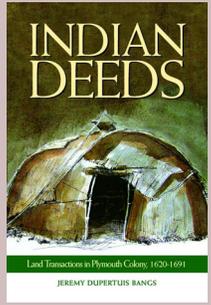
- Grantor (seller) can mention how he acquired the land
- Can sign his name with his wife
- Narrows down the chronology
- Land description can be compared to other deeds



83

First Land Records – Proprietors Records

- Initial transfer of land to Proprietors
 - From English Crown
 - From Native Tribes
- Found at:
 - Town Halls; Town clerk, tax office or assessor
 - County Registry of Deeds
 - Libraries and local historical Societies
 - Family Search microfilm or online
 - Published transcriptions of Proprietor records



84

First Land Transfers in Vermont

- New Hampshire Land Grants 1749-1764 - New Hampshire Provincial & State Papers, Volume 26
- New York Land Patents 1688-1786 - State Papers of Vermont, v. 7
- Post colonial records are at the town level



Vermont Historical Society, Map of New Hampshire Land Grants, 1774

85

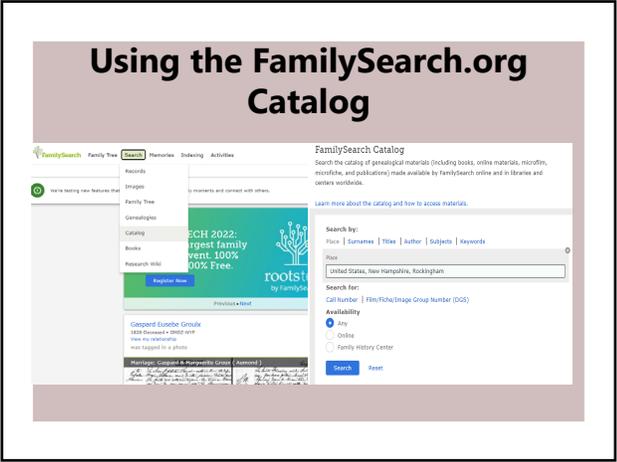
State Specific Subsequent Land Transfers

86

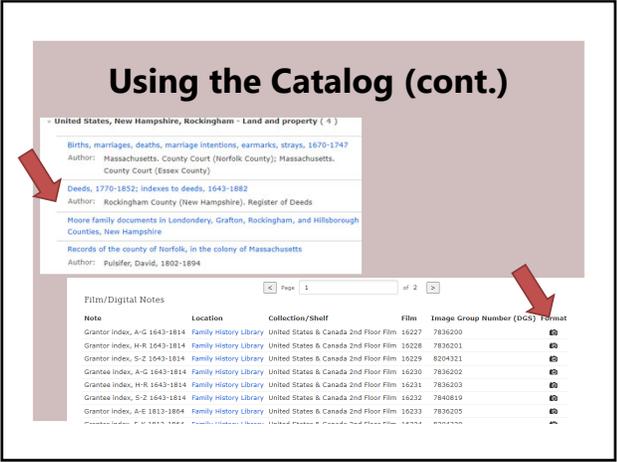
Deeds in Colonial Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts

- Organized by COUNTY
- Be aware of changing county boundaries
- Some early Maine deeds at the Massachusetts State Archives
- FamilySearch.org has created an indexed collection of Massachusetts land records
- Use the FamilySearch.org catalog to find Maine and New Hampshire records at the county level.

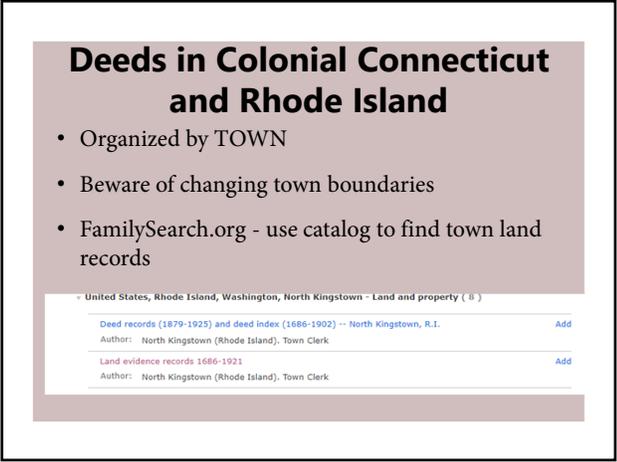
87



88



89



90



91

**New England's Unique Resource:
Town Records**

- Kept by Town Clerks
- Catalog of town activities
 - Births, marriage and deaths
 - Land transfers
 - Cattle ownership
 - Taxes
 - Other
- Even if your ancestor does not appear in the Town Vital Records, their presence in the community may be elsewhere in the books

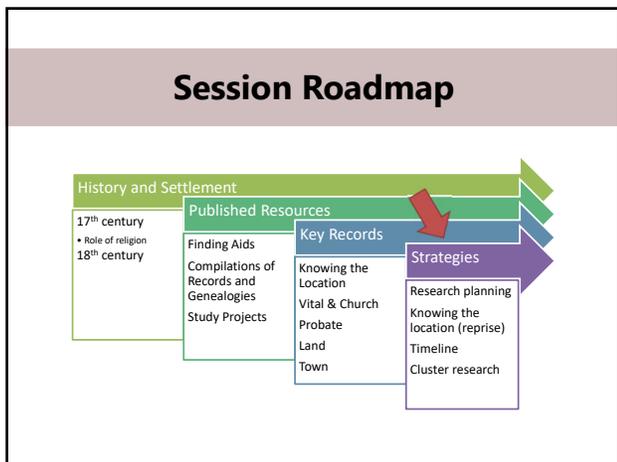
92

Choosing Town Officers, 1754

Choosing Town Officers, 1755

Town Records – Hampton, NH
1754-55

93



94

Researching Planning

- What do you know and how do you know it?
- What is the earliest documented record for your ancestor?
- Work from the known to the unknown
- Create your research questions. Always include a name, place and time period
 - You are looking for what event or fact for WHOM
 - WHERE will you look
 - WHEN will you look
 - Records are specific to locations and time periods

95

Make Use of Local Resources

- Local histories as finding aids
 - Hathitrust.org
 - Archive.org
 - Books.Google.com
- Local historical societies



96

Timelines

- Keep track of where you ancestor was at a specific point in time, e.g.
 - When did they leave their birth community?
 - When did they arrive in the new location
 - Because records are probably sparse, put every document you find into the timeline (vitals, land, county histories)
- Timeline help identify inconsistencies between records or between records and stories
- Timelines reveal gaps in research

97

FAN Club Research

- Also known as cluster research – researching the people around your ancestor
- FAN
 - Family and friends
 - Associates
 - Neighbors
- Helpful when
 - Records were scarce
 - Finding the origin of an immigrant ancestors
 - Separating the identities of people with the same name
 - Finding a maiden name
 - Burned county research

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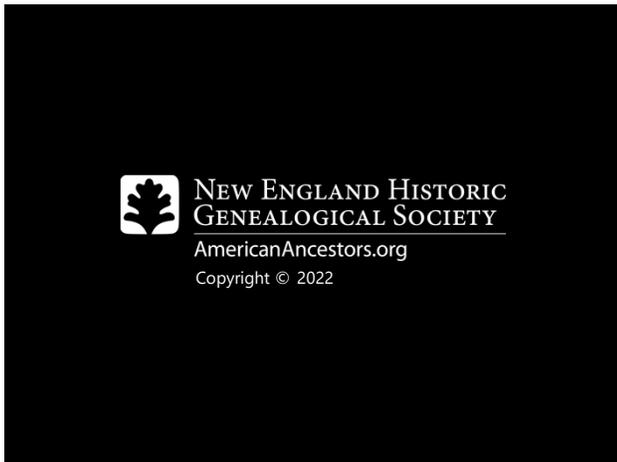
Summary

- The seeds for all states, except Vermont, were planted in the 17th century, mostly on the coast or along waterways.
- Vermont was claimed by Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York before declaring independence in 1777; it became a state in 1791.
- Colonial-era resources are often in book format.
- Vital records in New England began at the town level when a town was formed or incorporated.
- Land and probate records may be kept at the town, county, or other jurisdictional level.
- Study and know the location where your ancestor lived: location is key to New England research!

99



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