



1



2



3

Birth Records

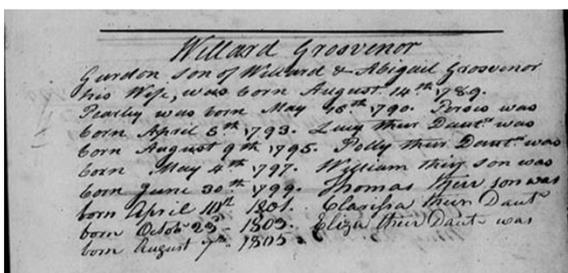
Birth date

Place of birth

Parents' names

4

Family Birth Records



*Willard Goswener
 Gordon son of Willard & Abigail Goswener
 His wife, who born August 14th 1789.
 Pealy who born May 28th 1790. Perso was
 born April 8th 1793. Lucy their Daut was
 born August 9th 1795. Polly their Daut was
 born May 2nd 1797. William their son was
 born June 22nd 1799. Thomas their son was
 born April 11th 1801. Clarissa their Daut
 born Oct^r 23rd 1803. Elizabeth their Daut was
 born August 7th 1805.*

5

Birth Register Example

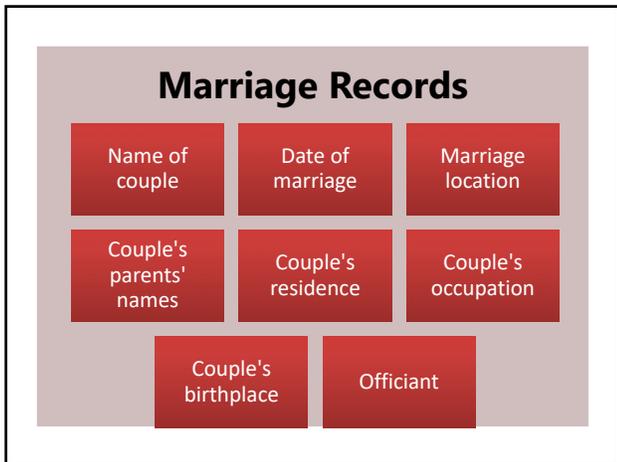


616 BIRTHS REGISTERED in the City of ... for the Year Nineteen Hundred and ...

No.	DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME OF CHILD	NAME OF FATHER	RESIDENCE OF FATHER	RESIDENCE OF MOTHER	PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER	PLACE OF BIRTH OF MOTHER
1
2
3
4
5

Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910

6



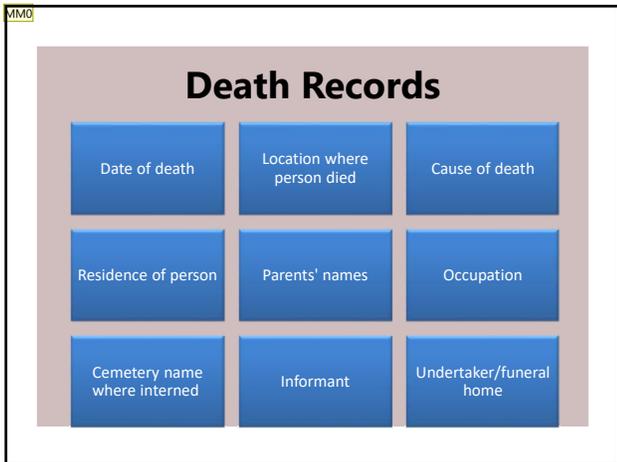
7

Marriage Register Example

MARRIAGES REGISTERED in the City of Boston for the Year eighteen hundred and ninety seven											
No.	Date of Marriage	Name of Bride	Name of Groom	Place of Birth of Bride	Place of Birth of Groom	Name of Parents of Bride	Name of Parents of Groom	Place of Marriage	Officiant	Age of Bride	Age of Groom
2250	May 20	William Alexander Pope & Sarah	William Alexander Pope & Sarah	Boston	Boston	William & Elizabeth Pope	William & Elizabeth Pope	Boston	Rev. J. C. ...	25	25
2045	May 17	John ...	Mary ...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2046	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2047	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2048	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2049	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2050	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2051	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2052	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2053	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2054	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2055	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2056	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2057	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2058	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2059	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...
2060	May 17	...	...	Boston	Boston	...	...	Boston	...	...	...

Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910

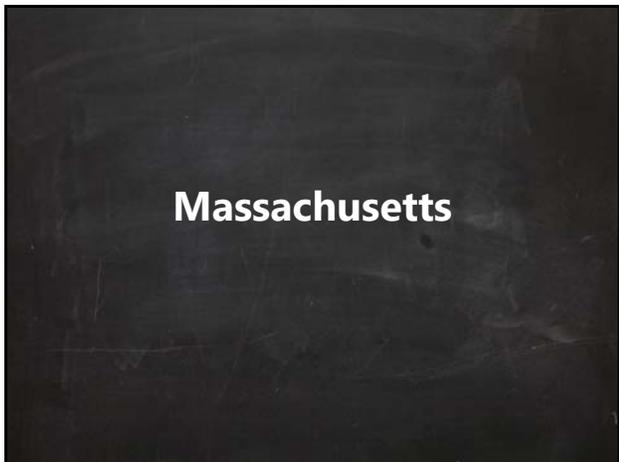
8



9

Slide 9

MMO add example of death register and death certificate
Melanie McComb, 2022-01-20T15:56:20.743



10

Vital Records

- Mass. has the most complete set in the nation
- Kept by towns beginning in 1620s
- Generally well-kept, but not always complete
- VR's up to 1850 published for over 200 towns, the majority in eastern Massachusetts
- For other towns, use the Corbin Collection, Rollin H. Cooke Collection, Holbrook microfiche, or manuscripts (all available at NEHGS)

11

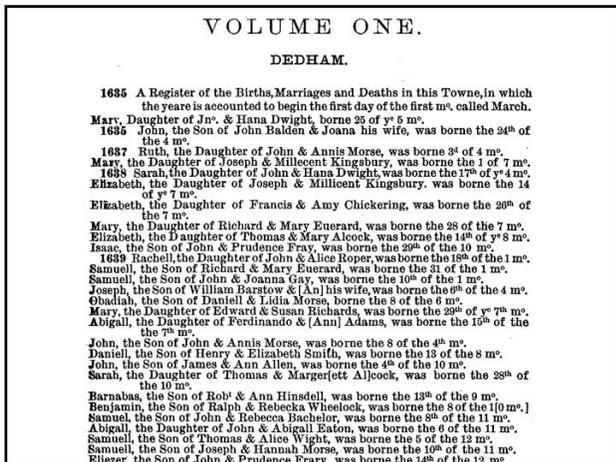
Vital Records to 1850

- Systematic History Fund series = “Tan Books”
- Births, marriages, deaths arranged alphabetically
- May include VRs from church, cemetery, Bible or private records

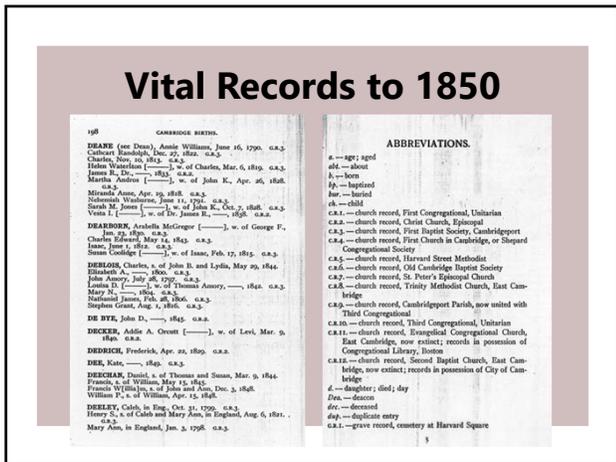
★ Most online at AmericanAncestors.org



12



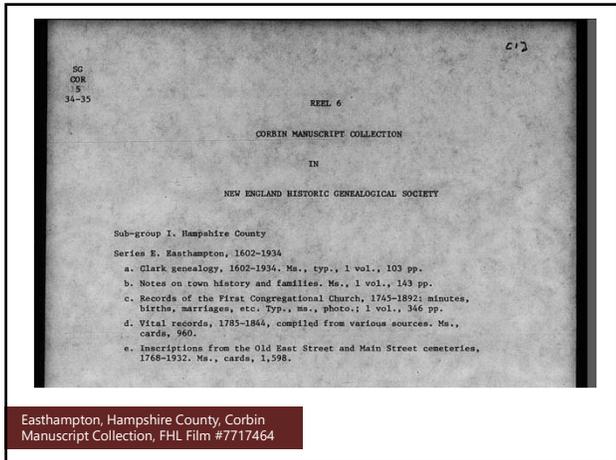
13



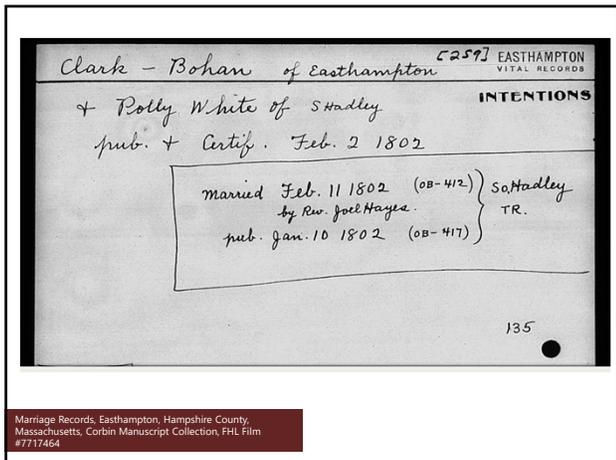
14



15



19



20

Post-1920 Vital Records

- 1921-1925 vital records being digitized by FamilySearch and mostly browsable (indexing is ongoing). Originals are at the Massachusetts State Archives.
- 1926 to Present - Records are at the State Registry of Vital Statistics as well as the local town clerk's office where the event occurred.

21

Divorce Records

- Pre-1887 records are held at the Massachusetts State Archives
- 1887-1921 records are at the Superior Court in the county the divorce occurred
- 1922-Present records are held at Probate and Family Court where divorce occurred
- 1952-Present Index at the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics
 - Can only provide the court that granted divorce and the docket number

22

The screenshot shows a webpage from Mass.gov with the title "Get access to historic divorce records". It includes a search bar at the top, a breadcrumb trail "PART OF: Divorce", and a sub-header "OFFERED BY: Massachusetts Court System". The main content is divided into sections: "THE DETAILS" (with sub-sections "What you need", "How to get", and "Contact"), "CONTACT" (listing Elizabeth Bouvier, phone number 617-557-1082, and an email address archives@jud.state.ma.us), and "RELATED" (with a link "Get a copy of your divorce record").

23

A dark, textured image with the word "Connecticut" written in a large, white, serif font in the center.

24

Vital Record History

- Originally recorded at the town level
- 1897 – Statewide registration began
- 1915 – General compliance

25

Barbour Collection

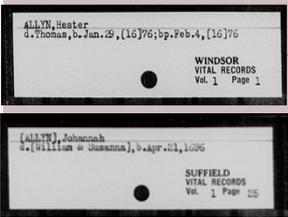
- Compiled under the direction of Lucius Barnes Barbour
- Includes vital records from 136 towns that cover the period 1636-1870
- Statewide alphabetical **slip index** – available FamilySearch.org
- **Bound volumes** by town – available AmericanAncestors.org, Ancestry.com (\$), FamilySearch.org



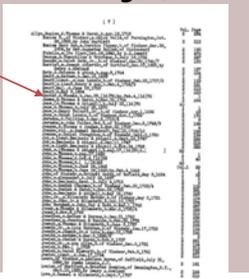
26

Barbour Collection

Slip Index (FS)



Town Page (AA)



27

Not Every Town is in Barbour Collection

- Bound volumes were not prepared for the towns of Bolton, Coventry, Enfield, Mansfield, New Haven, Norwich, and Vernon.
 - Published compilations of vital records had previously been prepared for these towns

28

Search Database ★Favorite

📍 Bolton and Vernon, CT: Vital Records, 1704-1852

Exact Search Soundex

First Name Last Name

Years From To Record Type

Location Exact Location Keywords

Volume Page

SEARCH [Reset Search](#) By default all results are a best fit to your criteria

www.americanancestors.org

29

BOLTON VITAL RECORDS. 25

Rebeckah Darte Daughter of Ebenezer Darte and Ruth his wife was Borne november 24th AD: 1728

Ruth Darte Daughter of Ebenezer Darte and Ruth his wife was Borne march 6th AD 1730/31

Gideon King Son of Jonathan King and mary his wiffe was Borne Aug^t 24th AD 1729

Jeremiah Bishop Son of Jeremiah Bishop & martha his wife was Borne march 24th AD 1731

↓Daud Taylor Son of Daud Taylor and Martha his wife was Borne march 18th AD 1730/31

Ichabod Marshel Son of John Marshel & Damaris his wiffe was Borne December the 5th AD: 1730

John King Son of Hezekiah King & Sarah his wife was Borne September the 11th AD 1730

Abigaill Goodridge Daughter of Moses Goodridge and Hannah his wiffe was Borne ffeb 17th AD 1730/31

www.americanancestors.org

30

**Databases on
AmericanAncestors.org**

- Connecticut: Vital Records (The Barbour Collection), 1630-1870
- Connecticut: Marriages and Deaths, 1790-1833

31

FamilySearch Databases

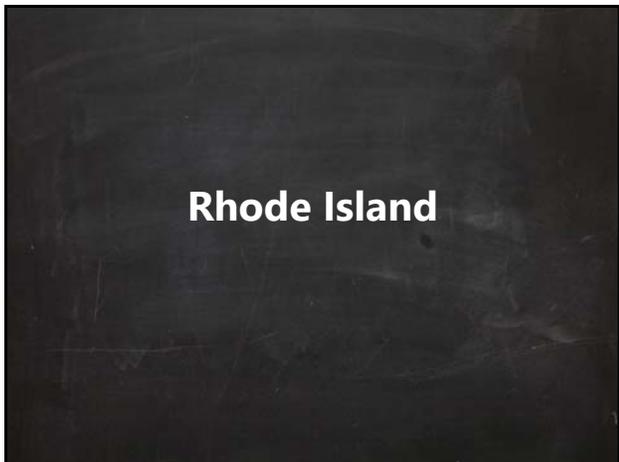
- Connecticut Births and Christenings (1649-1906)
- Connecticut Marriages (1630-1997)
- Connecticut Deaths and Burials (1772-1934)

32

Divorce Records

- Original Divorce Records at Conn. State Library
- New London, Tolland, and Windham Counties, Indexed 1719-1910
- Hartford Counties Indexed 1740-1849
- Litchfield Counties Indexed 1752-1922
- New London County on FamilySearch 1719-1875

33



34

Pre-1850 Vital Records

- Statewide registration began in 1853
- Most towns have been recording vital records since their incorporation of the town
- Pre-1850 vital records can be found in James N. Arnold's 21-volume *Vital Records of Rhode Island 1636-1850*

35

Post-1850 Vital Records

- Local town clerk offices
- State Archives
 - Births and marriages (1853-1920)
 - Deaths (1853-1970)

36

Divorce Records

- Pre-1900 court records are at the Judicial Records Center Archives
- A research request form can be sent to the Judicial Archivist
- Post-1900 records are held at the Clerk of Family Court in Providence, Rhode Island

40

<https://www.courts.ri.gov>

41

Vermont

42

**Databases on
AmericanAncestors.org**

- Vermont: Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1700-2008

43

Search Database ★Favorite

📍 Vermont: Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1700-2008

Exact Search Soundex

First Name Last Name
First and/or Middle and/or [Maiden] name Last Name

Years From To Record Type

Location Exact Location
e.g. Boston, Massachusetts

Volume Page
-All-

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse)
 Any First and Middle Names Last Name

[+ Add family members +](#)

AmericanAncestors.org

44

BIRTH-FEMALE P.287

Name of Child	<i>Mabell</i>	
Color	No. of Child of Mother	
Date of Birth	<i>1898</i>	Month <i>Jan.</i> Day <i>27</i>
Maiden Name of Mother	<i>Mary J.</i>	
Mother's Birthplace	<i>Ireland</i>	Age
Mother's Residence	<i>St. Isidore</i>	
Full Name of Father	<i>William Mabell</i>	
Father's Birthplace	<i>Ireland</i>	Age
Father's Occupation	<i>Laborer</i>	
Condition of Child as to Live or Still Birth	Live <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Still <input type="checkbox"/>	
If Still Birth the Cause		
Name of Informant		
<i>John J. - Westford</i>		

Birth Index Card – Mary Jane Mabell

45

Vermont Town Vital Records

- Brattleboro: 1752-1814
- Bristol: 1771-1859
- Dover: 1776-1891
- Fairfax: 1758-1874
- Hardwick: 1787-1878
- Jamaica: 1794-1821
- Pomfret: 1778-1860
- Putney: 1740-1832
- Shelburne: 1743-1896
- Westfield: 1793-1859
- Weybridge: 1755-1910
- Worcester: 1817-1858

46

Microfilm at NEHGS

- Vital Records (through 1979)
- Divorce Index (1861-1989)

47

Divorce Records

- 1925-2003 index on Ancestry.com
- Post-1982 records available from Vital Records Office in Burlington, Vermont
- Records from the last 5 years available from the Department of Health

48

**Databases on
AmericanAncestors.org**

- New Hampshire: Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1654-1969
- New Hampshire Gazette: Vital Records, 1756-1800

52

Search Database ★ Favorite

■ New Hampshire: Births, Deaths and Marriages, 1654-1969

Exact Search Surname

First Name: Last Name:

Years: From To Record Type:

Location: Exact Location
e.g. Boston, Massachusetts

Volume: Page:

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse):
Any First and Middle Names Last Name

[+ Add family members +](#)

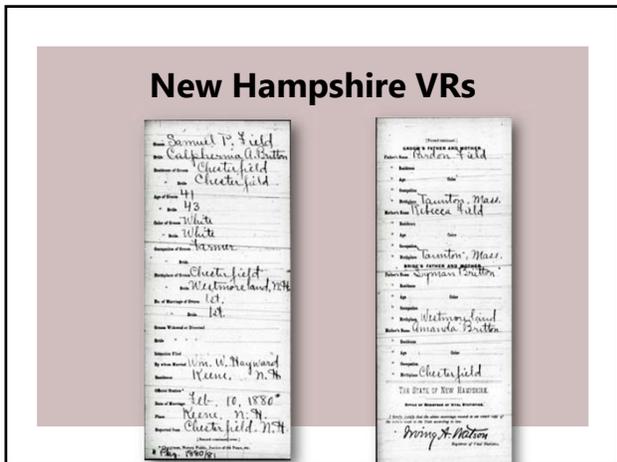
AmericanAncestors.org

53

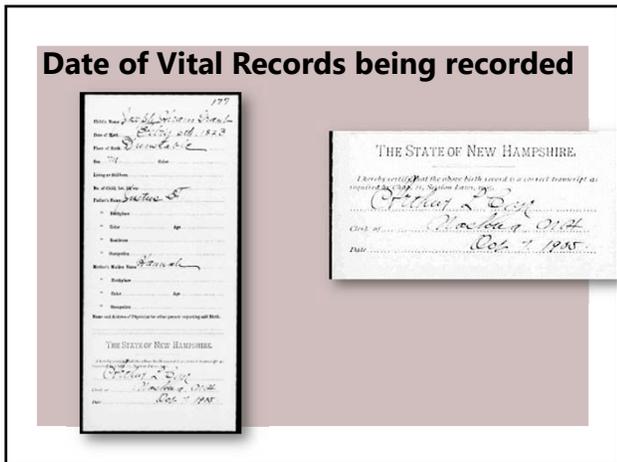
Death Record – Jacob Gale

Name: *Jacob Gale*
 Place of Birth: *Warren*
 Date of Death: *Oct. 11 1874*
 Age: *73* Years, *5* Months, *0* Days
 Place of Birth: *M. Whitfield, N.H.*
 Occupation: *Farm*
 Cause of Death: *Old Age*
 Name of Deceased: *Ruben Gale*
 Name of Mother: *Sydia Gale*
 Occupation of Father:
 Occupation of Mother:
 Name and Address of Physician (or other person) reported said Death:
E. L. Tobey, Warren
 Reported On: *Warren, N.H.*
 THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.
 OFFICE OF REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS.
Irving A. Nelson
 Registrar of Vital Statistics.

54



58



59

Pre-1900 N.H. VR's

- Alphabetized by the first and third letter of the surname
- Copied from a variety of other records
- Not every town is included

60

Divorce Records

- Records prior to 1938 are at the Bureau of Vital Records
- Divorce index for pre-1938 records on FamilySearch and at the Bureau of Vital Records

64

www.familysearch.org

65

Divorce Index of Lewis H. and Edith B. Bray, 1921

66



67

Vital Records

- Kept by towns beginning in 1600s
 - Only 5 towns have 17th century records: Biddeford, Kittery, Kennebunkport, York and Wells
- Many of these records are incomplete and sparse
- By the 18th century, 200+ towns recorded vital records
- Church records should be reviewed to help fill in gaps

68

**Statewide Maine
Vital Records since 1820**

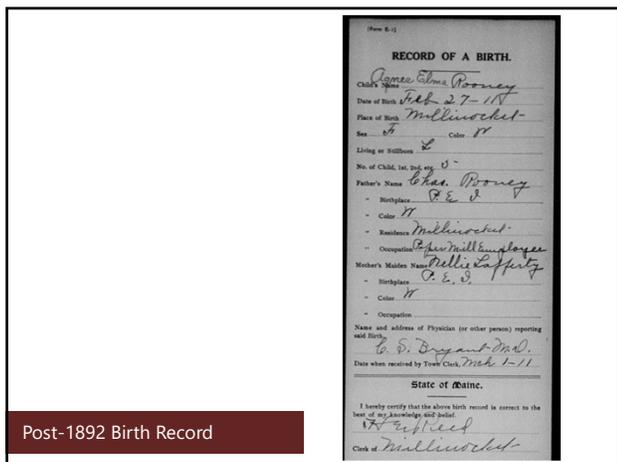
- 1820-1864 – After becoming a separate state in 1820, the practice of collecting vital records fell off; most towns did collect marriage intentions and some births; few deaths recorded in town records
- 1864-1892 – Civil records were required, but not all towns complied; approximately 80 towns returned records for pre-1892 vital events
- 1892 - Maine State Board of Vital Records established resulting in mandatory compliance of vital records collections

69

Post 1892 Maine Vital Records

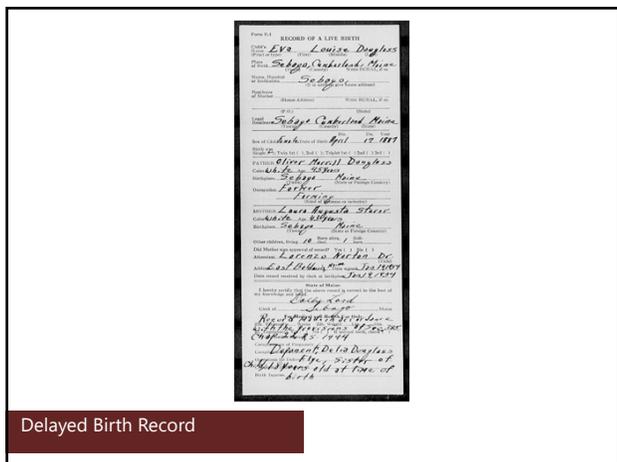
- Births, Marriages and Deaths filmed together
- Microfilm is arranged by surname
- Then by year
- Birth alphabetical by given name of father
- Marriage alphabetical by given name of groom
- Deaths alphabetical by given name of death
- Back of form filmed upside down

73



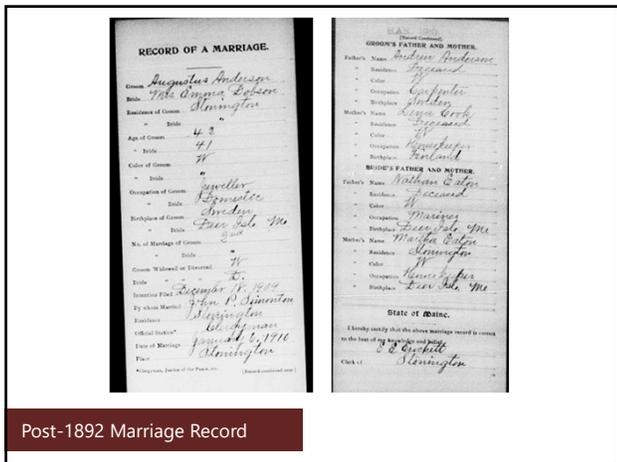
Post-1892 Birth Record

74



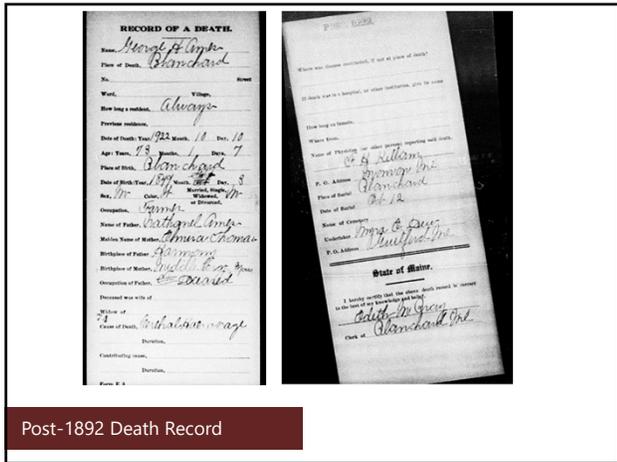
Delayed Birth Record

75



Post-1892 Marriage Record

76



Post-1892 Death Record

77

Maine Vital Record Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

- Pre-1850 records can be found in Massachusetts: Vital Records, 1620-1850
- Maine: Deaths Index, 1960-1996
- Maine: Marriages Index, 1892-1966, 1977-1996
- Maine: Marriages and Intentions, 1849-1870

78

Exact Search Soundex

First Name **Last Name**
First/Middle/[Maiden] names Last Name

Years **Record Type**
 From To

Location Exact Location
 e.g. Boston, Massachusetts

Page

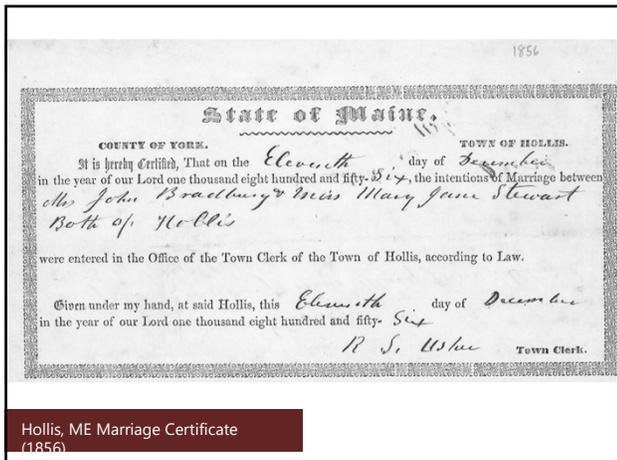
Box Code **Source Id**

Family Members (Father/Mother/Spouse)
 Any First and Middle Names Last Name

+ Add family members +

AmericanAncestors.org

79



80

- ### Maine Town Vital Records
- Augusta: 1730-1892
 - Bath: 1805-1817
 - Belfast: 1755-1892
 - Blue Hill: 1766-1809
 - Bowdoin: 1688-1892
 - Brooklin: 1790-1860
 - Brooksville: 1762-1890
 - Castine: 1804-1817
 - Clinton: 1720-1892
 - Fairfield: 1770-1978
 - Farmington: 1784-1890
 - Gardiner: 1756-1892
 - Gray: 1778-1891
 - Hallowell: 1728-1891
 - Harrington: 1800-1899
 - Jefferson: 1748-1899

81

Maine Town Vital Records

- Jonesboro: 1765-1891
- Lincoln: 1829-1892
- Londonderry: 1720-1910
- Pittston: 1740-1892
- Randolph: 1747-1892
- Standish: 1786-1900
- Surry: 1766-1823
- Topsham: 1717-1892
- Unity: 1837-1868
- Waterville: 1785-1892
- Wells: 1737-1841
- West Gardiner: 1799-1892
- Westport: 1828-1854
- Winslow: 1759-1892

82

Microfilm at NEHGS

- Individual microfilm for certain towns
- Vital Records Prior to 1892 (including index – 80 towns)
- Vital Records (1892-1955)
- Index to Divorce Records (1892-1983)

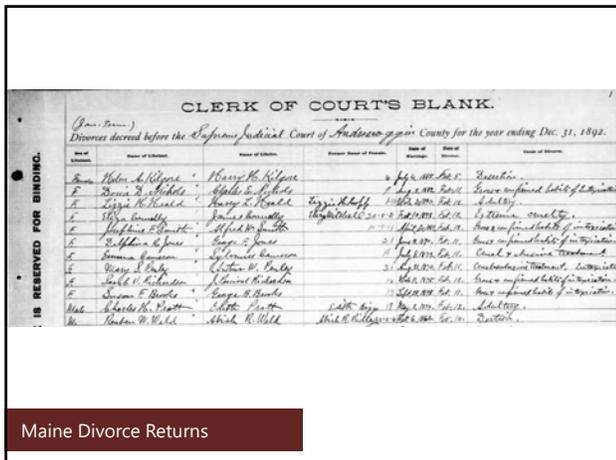
83

Statewide Maine Vital Records 1922-Present

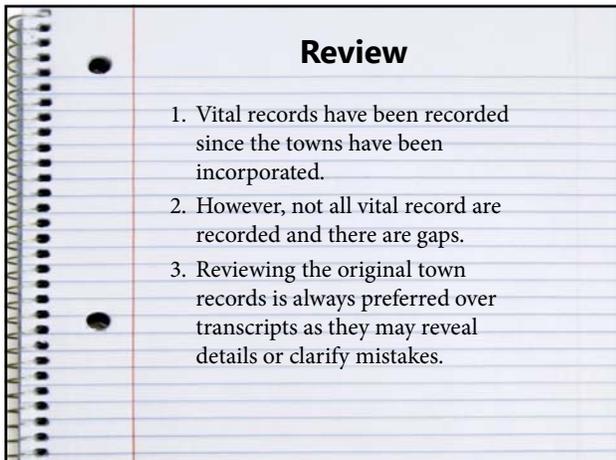
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC)
 220 Capitol St
 11 State House Station
 Augusta, ME 04333
 (207) 287-3771

\$15 certified copy/\$10 non-certified copy

84



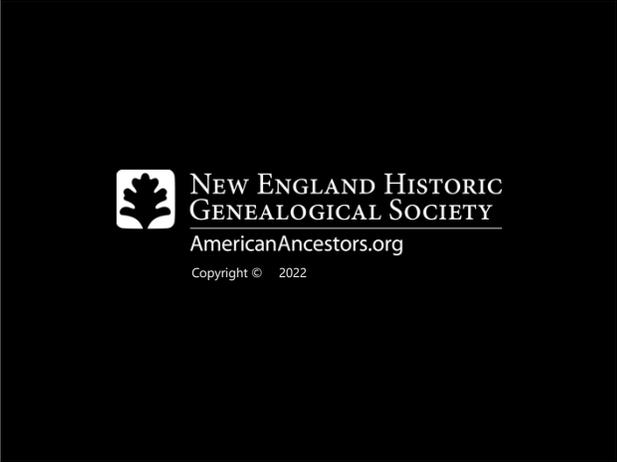
88



89



90



91