

Massachusetts Historical Society

Founded 1791

We are excited to welcome you to the Massachusetts Historical Society on Friday, May 12th. A few housekeeping items to ensure that your visit gets off to a good start.

1. Researchers must have a Portal1791 account to use the library. If you do not have an account, visit aeon.masshist.org to create one. If possible, do this prior to your visit. We do have 2 tablets available for individuals that need to set up accounts on site, but this may delay your check-in.
2. Researchers are required to provide a valid, government-issued photo ID during check-in. Have it ready at hand to help the check-in process go quickly.
3. Only laptops, tablets, cameras, and cell phones can be brought into the library. Laptop/camera cases/bags must be removed. Lockers are provided to secure all other personal belongings.
4. We provide note paper and pencils. Pens and/or personal notes and notebooks are not permitted in the library. If possible, convert them into digital form to reference on your electronic device. Alternatively, MHS staff can copy up to 20 pages of personal notes onto MHS notepaper.

Your visit starts with a group orientation. The meeting room will open a few minutes before 10:00 AM. Please allow yourself enough time to check in and secure your belongings before the orientation begins. If you are not able to set up a Portal1791 account in advance, you may want to arrive 15-20 minutes early so that you can complete that process before the program begins. After your group orientation, you will have time to conduct your own research. A few notes to help you make the most of your time working at the MHS:

1. You may request materials in advance via Portal1791. Items requested before noon on May 11 will be paged in advance and ready for use when you are released to do research.
2. Items with the call number “Offsite Storage” in our catalog (www.masshist.org/abigail) and collection guides (<https://www.masshist.org/collection-guides/>) must be requested by the end of business on May 10 to ensure they are available on May 12. If in your explorations on the 12th you discover offsite materials of interest, a staff member will work with you to determine how we can make those materials available to you in the future.
3. Reference and microform materials are self-service. A staff member will help you locate the material in our reference area. Please note we have 5 microfilm readers; an MHS staff member will help manage time on machines if demand for microfilmed materials is high.

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4. Researchers working with materials from the closed stacks must sit in the reading room. Researchers must work independently and request all materials through Portal1791. Neither tables nor materials can be shared.
5. We aim to maintain a quiet work environment in our reading room; there is space in our reference area for personal conversations.

The MHS does not have parking facilities available. We recommend visitors arrive via public transportation. The Hynes MBTA stop (green line trains and #1 bus) is about 1 ½ blocks from the MHS. There are also several private garages a short distance away, including the Hynes Auditorium Garage, Haviland Garage, and Westland Garage (near Symphony).

That is a lot of information. If you have any questions about MHS policies or the information outlined here, please reach out to Elaine Heavey at eheavey@masshist.org or 617-646-0509. For assistance navigating our catalogs or placing requests via Portal1791, please email reference@masshist.org.