



Genealogical Literacy: What Every Genealogist Should Know

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GENEALOGICAL TOOLKIT:

- *The Handybook for Genealogists: United States of America* (Logan, Utah : Everton Publishers, 2006).
- Bettinger, Blaine T., *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Family Tree Books, 2016).
- Daly, Marie E., *Genealogist's Handbook for Irish Research* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2016).
- Eichholz, Alice, *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2004).
- Evans, Barbara Jean, *A to Zax: A Comprehensive Dictionary for Genealogists & Historians* (Alexandria, Virginia: Hearthside Press, 1995).
- Filby, P. William, *A Bibliography of American County Histories* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1987).
- Galvin, Secretary William Francis, *Historical Data Relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1997).
- Greenwood, Val D., *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy, 4th edition* (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2017).
- Leclerc, Michael J., *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 5th Edition* (Boston, Massachusetts : New England Genealogical Society, 2012).
- Smith, Franklin Carter, *Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to find and record your unique heritage* (Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2003).
- Szucs, Loretto Dennis, *The Source: a Guidebook to American Genealogy, 3rd edition* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2006.)

GENEALOGICAL REPOSITORIES:

- New England Historic Genealogical Society – Boston, Massachusetts. www.AmericanAncestors.org
- General Society of Mayflower Descendants – Plymouth, Massachusetts. www.TheMayflowerSociety.org
- The Berkshire Athenaeum – Pittsfield, Massachusetts. www.PittsfieldLibrary.org/
- Maine Historical Society – Portland, Maine. www.MaineHistory.org/
- Allen County Library – Fort Wayne, Indiana. www.ACPL-cms.wise.oclc.org/
- The Newberry Library – Chicago, Illinois. www.Newberry.org/
- Massachusetts State Archives – Dorchester, Massachusetts. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcgen/genidx.htm>
- Library of Congress – Washington, D. C. www.LOC.gov
- National Archives and Records Administration – Washington, D. C. www.Archives.gov
- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution – Washington, D. C. www.DAR.org

ONLINE RESOURCES:

Ancestry.com www.Ancestry.com (\$\$\$)	Archive.org www.Archive.org (free)	Atlas of Historical Geography of the United States https://dsl.richmond.edu/historicalatlases/ (free) Interactive and animated atlas featuring historical maps of the United States.
Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/ (free)	Chronicling of America https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov (free) Newspapers	David Rumsey Map Collection https://davidrumsey.reprintmint.com (free & \$\$\$) Maps
Ellis Island https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/ (free) Immigration Records	FamilySearch www.FamilySearch.org (Free) Check out their Affiliate Library Program. FREE	Fold3.com www.Fold3.com (\$\$\$) Military Records
FultonHistory https://www.fultonhistory.com (free) New York Newspapers	GenealogyBank www.GenealogyBank.com (\$\$\$) Newspapers	Google Books www.Books.Google.com (free)
Library of Congress www.LOC.gov (free)	Massachusetts State Archives https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcgen/genidx.htm (free & on FamilySearch.org - Free) Great resources	MyHeritage.com www.MyHeritage.com (\$\$\$) Great for Eastern European, Jewish, Greek, Italian
National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) http://www.archives.gov/ (free)	New England Historic Genealogical Society www.AmericanAncestors.org (\$\$\$)	NewspaperArchive.com www.NewspaperArchive.com (\$\$\$) Newspapers
Newspapers.com http://www.newspapers.com/ (\$\$\$) Newspapers	Pier 21, Halifax, Nova Scotia https://pier21.ca/home (free) Canadian Immigration intake institution - many Massachusetts immigrants came to America through Pier 21.	Stephen P. Morse https://stevemorse.org (free) Great resources on immigration and census records.

COMPILED RESOURCES:

- New England Peer Reviewed Journals:
 - *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register "The Register"*
 - *The Maine Genealogist*
 - *The Connecticut Nutmegger*
 - *The American Genealogist*, formerly the *New Haven Genealogical Magazine*
 - *The Essex Antiquarian*
 - *National Genealogical Society Quarterly (NGSQ)*
- *The Great Migration Series*, by Robert Charles Anderson
- *The Winthrop Fleet*, by Robert Charles Anderson
- *The Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston*, by Annie H. Thwing, a.k.a. "*The Thwing Collection*"
- *The Barbour Collection*, by Lucius Barnes Barbour
- *The Shepard Collection*, by Elmer I. Shepard
- *The Cooke Collection*, by Rollin H. Cooke
- *The Browne Collection*, by William Bradford Browne and Ruth Browne
- *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850: Births, Deaths, and Marriages*, by the Massachusetts Secretary of State and NEHGS. Note: Some publications were added over the years under separate projects and organizations.
- *Massachusetts Vital Record Indexes*
- *Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, by Clarence Almon Torrey
- *Mayflower Families Through the First Five Generations*, also known as the "Silver Books." The fifth generation can be found on the NEHGS American Ancestors.org website.
- *Mayflower Families in Progress Series* (Brewster, Soule, Delano)
- *The Mayflower Descendant*. Originally published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, now published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society and can be found on the AmericanAncestors.org database.

ORGANIZATION OF NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGICAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS:

Knowing what records are available at the specific governmental jurisdiction level is important when researching in New England. It is also important to fully understand the exact location and the exact year prior to acquiring the records. Many New England towns, cities, and counties split into daughter locations creating new jurisdictions.

New England Records



- **What** type of record are you looking for?
- **Who** is the record for?
- **Where** did the event occur?
- **When** did the event occur?
- **Where** is the record?

Location, Location, Location:

The Places Family Tree



- Parent & Daughter Locations
- Extinct Locations
- Researchers need to understand and know which location the records were recorded and know where the records are held in the present day.

TYPICAL GENEALOGICAL SOURCES:

- New England Vital Records
- Church Records
- Court Records
- Creature/Cattle Marks
- Land Records: Person to Person
- Land Records: Proprietor
- Manuscript
- Maritime Records
- Military Records
- Native nations
- Newspapers
- Probate Records
- Regional History Books "Mug Books"
- State Papers

THREE GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS OF NEW ENGLAND RECORDS:



This is not a comprehensive list, but enough to cover most of the common records.

State Level <i>Records held at: State House, State Library, or State Archives</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Legislative Papers• State Medical Institutions (Insane, Sanitariums)• Soldiers Home Records• Military Records (<i>Colonial Wars to Contemporary</i>)• State Judicial Court Cases & Colonial Divorces• State Returns of Vital Records• Passenger Lists• State Census Records (Massachusetts)• Colonial Records
County/District Level <i>Records held at: County Courthouse or Registry of Deeds</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probate Records (except CT & VT)• Land Records (except CT & VT)• Criminal Records• Court Records• Divorce Records
City/Town Level <i>Records held at: City or Town Hall</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vital Records (Birth, Marriage, Death)• Town/City Meeting Minutes/Reports• Town Militia Records• Cattle Marks• School Records• Property Tax Cards / Assessor's Database• Cemetery Records• Police Records• Almshouses - Overseers of the Poor