



Resource Guide #1
Burlington Archives

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RESEARCHING BURLINGTON, MASS. ANCESTORS AND HISTORY

BACKGROUND

Europeans first visited the Woburn area in 1621. In the early 1630s, the citizens of Charlestown, Massachusetts petitioned the General Court for more land. The land grant included present-day Woburn, Winchester, Burlington and parts of Stoneham and Wilmington.

In 1640, a group of settlers identified Woburn center as the location for their new town and petitioned the General Court to establish Charlestown Village. In 1642, Charlestowne Village was incorporated as Wooborne or Woburn. The first general Town Meeting was held in 1643 and the first organizational town meeting was held in 1644. Woburn Second Precinct—later called Burlington—was incorporated on September 27, 1730. Burlington was incorporated as a town on February 28, 1799. Woburn was incorporated as a city in 1888.

PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY SOURCES

Although printed (secondary) sources are subject to transcription and other errors, they are an excellent place to start your research; see the *Secondary Sources for Local History and Genealogy* section for more details. It is best to base historical research on original (primary) sources. If possible, information from secondary sources should be substantiated with primary sources. *Always footnote your information, so that you know the source.* If possible, include the volume and page number.

FIRE

Two fires had a major affect on town records. In 1897, the parsonage, the Rev. Samuel Sewall house, was destroyed by fire and in 1902, the town hall burned to the ground. In 1902, the newspaper reported that records “kept in the vault...held them in safety, and no books or papers of value were burned, those stored in the attic being of no worth.”¹ Because of the safe, many vital records, deeds, valuation records, annual reports, town meeting records, and board of selectmen records survived, although we cannot be sure of what was lost.

BURLINGTON FAMILY HISTORIES

Over the years, former Burlington Historical Commission member, James Ashworth, compiled a number of local genealogies, typically from the printed sources listed under the *Secondary Sources for Local Genealogy and History* section. The archives completed additional genealogies, in order to supplement other research inquiries and historical notes for photographs. The native file format is Family Tree Maker, but the majority of the files have been printed and stored in the Burlington Public Library local history collection. In the future, the archives will make electronic copies available on the web site. For a current list of local family histories, please contact the Burlington Archives.

CENSUS RECORDS and town directories/street lists

Town census records did not survive or were not taken, so we must use valuation records and federal census records to locate 1799-mid-20th century individuals. Voting records are also helpful, since they provide individual names and street names. Due to Burlington’s rural nature, street numbers were not used in the voting records until circa 1957. Burlington

¹ *Woburn News* June 7, 1902

“street lists” or town directories were not printed and bound until 1960. The archives is working on a cross-reference of street names, as some of Burlington’s street names have changed over the years.

The National Archives publishes the federal census on microfilm, with the exception of 1890, which was destroyed by fire. The original federal census records were fairly simple lists of the heads of households. By 1850, the general population schedules listed all individuals residing in a house and provided data on their age, occupation, place of birth, and value of real estate. Additional schedules provided social and mortuary statistics; the products of industry and agriculture were also present by 1850. Schedules were broken down by counties and municipalities. The archives has copies of the 1790-1900 federal census records, thanks to James Ashworth; Mr. Ashworth also transcribed the 1880 and 1900 federal census, which will be added to the archives’ web site.

The state did a statistical census every ten years, with the exception of 1855 and 1865, which are general population schedules. The information for 1855 and 1865 is similar to the federal census and it is arranged in a similar manner. The Massachusetts State Archives holds an index for the 1855 and 1865 state census schedules for Essex, Middlesex, and Norfolk counties and Charlestown.

A number of genealogy sites are making census transcriptions available. See the U.S. GenWeb site for Middlesex County listings; see [www.census-online.com/links/MARight.html#Middlesex Co](http://www.census-online.com/links/MARight.html#Middlesex%20Co). As with any secondary source, you should verify the information against the actual record and *always footnote the source of the information*.

Here are a few locations that have microfilm copies of the federal census:

- Massachusetts State Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-727-2816 Phone
617-288-4505 Fax
www.state.ma.us/sec/arc
- National Archives—Northeast Region
Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center
380 Trapelo Rd.
Waltham, MA 02452-6399
781-647-8104 Phone
781-647-8088 Fax
www.nara.gov/regional/boston.html
- Center for Lowell History
University of Massachusetts Lowell
Center for Lowell History
Patrick J. Mogan Cultural Center
40 French Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852
978-934-4997 Phone
978-934-4995 Fax
<http://libweb.uml.edu/clh/index.Html>

VITAL RECORDS

Burlington holds vital records from 1799 to the present; 19th century records are also available as part of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints ancestry project (www.familysearch.com). Births, deaths, and marriage records are indexed from 1799-1900 and from 1985 to the present. From 1841-present, municipalities filed vital records with the

state. The Massachusetts State archives hold the vital records and vital record indexes for all Massachusetts municipalities, 1841-1905. The Registry of Vital Statistics holds vital records and vital record indexes for all Massachusetts municipalities, 1906-present. Both agencies are located in Dorchester, near the Bayside Expo Center; for more information, see the archives' list of *Frequently Consulted Resources*.

We are not sure what Burlington records were lost to fire; to be thorough, one should also use the indexes at that State Archives.

PRINTED TRANSCRIPTION OF VITAL RECORDS

At the end of the 19th century, New England Historical Genealogical Society (Boston, Mass.) published a printed transcription of vital records for every town in Massachusetts. Burlington records were transcribed in Thomas Baldwin's *Vital Records of Burlington, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass.: Wright & Potter printing company, 1915). Baldwin included information from church registers, cemetery inscriptions and other sources. This source is held by the archives, Burlington Public Library, and Woburn Public Library. Many public libraries have extensive local history collections and have the entire series; this is useful if you are trying to research ancestors that relocated to other communities and if you are not able to travel to the Massachusetts State Archives.

At the turn of the century, Edward Francis Johnson, Woburn's first mayor, compiled and published Woburn's vital records. This ten-volume, printed series is available at the Woburn Public Library and other public libraries.

In order to research Burlington/Woburn ancestors from 1640 to the present, one must use the Burlington vital records index, Baldwin's guide to 1850, and Johnson's guide from 1640 to 1900. The Burlington information will be available on the web site in the future.

SECONDARY SOURCES FOR LOCAL GENEALOGY AND HISTORY

Libraries are organized into consortiums of member libraries. Burlington is part of the Merrimac Valley Library Consortium, but Woburn and Bedford are part of the Minuteman Library Network. If a neighboring library does not have what you are looking for, check the catalog for another library consortium and request the book through interlibrary loan. Useful subject headings include:

- Burlington (Mass.)—History
- Woburn (Mass.)—History
- Burlington (Mass.)—Genealogy
- Woburn (Mass.)—Genealogy

The archives would like to put together a local history bibliography. As you find sources that are useful to you, let the archivist know, so that we can develop a shared resource.

See www.mlin.lib.ma.us for web access to public library catalogs in Massachusetts. For your convenience, this guide notes Burlington and/or Woburn Public Library holdings.

Ashworth, James. *Personal Name Index of Burlington: Part of a Greater Chronicle: by John E. Fogelberg*. Burlington, Mass.: Bicentennial Commission and Burlington Historical Commission, 1998. Held by Burlington Public Library.

Ashworth, James. "*Burlington: Past and Present*": *List of Articles by John Fogelberg*, n.d. List includes date published in *Burlington Daily Times*, as well as the article title. To search the article titles via keyword, go to www.burlington.org/archives and follow the links to publications. Held by Burlington Public Library.

Baldwin, Thomas. *Vital Records of Burlington, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*. Boston, Mass.: Wright & Potter printing company, 1915. Held by: Burlington Public Library, and Woburn Public Library

Burlington Volunteer Family History Project Files. Unpublished and ongoing resource. Held by: Burlington Public Library

Converse, Parker Lindall. *Legends of Woburn, Now First Written and Preserved in Collected Form...to Which Is Added a Chrono-indexical History of Woburn*. Woburn, Mass.: Andrew Cutler, 1895, printed for subscribers only. Held by Woburn Public Library.

Cutter, William Richard, ed. *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. New York: Lewis historical publishing company, 1908. This four-volume set provides Middlesex County family histories, as well as a piece on Burlington history. Held by Burlington Public Library and Woburn Public Library.

Cutter, William Richard and Edward F. Johnson. *Transcript of Epitaphs in Woburn First and Second Burial Grounds: Chronologically Arranged with Brief Illustrative Notes*. [S.l. : s.n.], 1890 (Woburn [Mass.] Andrews, Cutler. Includes index. Held by Woburn Public Library.

Dunham, Lotta Cavanagh Rice. Robert W. Zahora, ed. *History of Burlington*. Burlington, Mass. Burlington Historical Commission, 1998. Held by Burlington Public Library.

Curtis, Martha E. Sewall. *Ye Olde Meeting House; Addresses and Verses Relating to the Meeting House, Burlington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, built 1732, and other historical addresses*. Boston: Anchor Linotype Print. Co., 1909. Held by: Burlington Public Library.

Evans, George Hill. *Seven against the Wilderness: a Brief Account of the Settlement of Woburn, Massachusetts, and of Its Founder, Captain Edward Johnson*. [S.l. : s.n., 1920?] Held by Somerville Public Library (non-circulating).

Fogelberg, John E. *Burlington: Part of a Greater Chronicle*. Burlington, Mass.: Burlington Historical Commission, 1976, 1998. Held by Burlington Public Library and Woburn Public Library.

Fogelberg, John E. *Burlington Past and Present: Weekly Articles by John "Ed" Fogelberg from the Daily Times & Chronicle*. Burlington, Mass.: James B. Ashworth, n.d. Held by Burlington Public Library. See James Ashworth's "*Burlington: Past and Present*": *List of Articles by John Fogelberg* for a complete list of articles written by Fogelberg.

Goff, John. *1998-1999 Historic Preservation Survey*. Consists of *Phase I Final Report* and survey forms for individual properties. Burlington, Mass.: Burlington Historical Commission, 1999. Held by Burlington Public Library.

Johnson, Captain Edward. *History of New England Wonder-Working Providence of Zions Saviour in New England (1654) and Good News from New England (1648)*. Facsimile reproductions with an introduction by Edward J. Gallagher. Delmar, N.Y., Scholars' Facsimiles and Reprints, 1974. Earlier edition held by Woburn Public Library.

Johnson, Edward Francis. *Abstracts of Early Woburn Deeds*. Woburn, Mass.: the News Print, 1895. Held by Woburn Public Library.

Johnson, Edward Francis. *Vital Records of Woburn*. Series of 10 volumes. Held by Woburn Public Library.

McElhiney, John D. *Woburn: A Past Observed*. Woburn, Mass.: Sonrel Press, 1999. Held by Woburn Public Library.

O'Doherty, Kathleen. *Images of America*. Woburn, Mass.: Acadia, 1999. Held by Woburn Public Library.

Miles, Joan. *Burlington: the Growing Years*. Burlington, Mass.: Burlington Council for the Arts, 1991. Held by Burlington Public Library.

Sewall, Samuel. *History of Woburn, Middlesex County, Mass. from the Grant of Its Territory to Charlestown, in 1640, to the Year 1680*. Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, Inc., 1990. This source does not include a printed index, but Woburn Public Library Reference Dept. has an index available at the reference desk. Held by: Burlington Public Library and Woburn Public Library.

Sewall, Samuel. "Burlington." Part of: Samuel Adams Drake's *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Containing Carefully Prepared Histories of Every City and Town in the County by Well-known Writers; and a General History of the County, from the Earliest to the Present Time*. Vol. 1, pp. 296-304. Burlington, Mass.: Estes and Lauriat, 1880. Held by: Burlington Public Library and Woburn Public Library.

Woburn Board of Trade. *Woburn: an Historical and Descriptive Sketch of the Town, with an Outline of Its Industrial Interests*. Woburn, Mass.: Board of Trade, 1885. Held by Woburn Public Library.

pr imar y SOURCES FOR LOCAL GENEALOGY AND HISTORY

As the Burlington Archives completes finding aids and indexes, they will be delivered on the archives' web site. The Woburn Public Library has an excellent special collections department, which includes the Wyman Collection. Currently the Woburn Public Library does not have an archivist and access to the special collections material must be made via a written request to Library Director Kathleen O'Doherty. For contact information—as well as contact information for other archives in the greater Boston area—see the archives' list of *Frequently Consulted Resources*. For more information on using the State Archives, see *Researching Your Family's History at the State Archives* (Boston: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1999); this guide is also available at www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcfam/famidx.htm.

CEMETERIES

Woburn Cemeteries

Woburn First Burial Ground, Park Street and Center Street (near Woburn Center), Woburn, Mass.

The earliest mention of the First Burial Ground is in the 1662 town records. The earliest stone is dated 1689-90. Between 1700 and 1750 there were 122 headstones; by 1866, there were 269, which is four less than were there in 1847. One stone was erected in 1872 and in 1875, another stone was erected for a 1775 hero, Asahel Porter, bringing the total to 275. Some stones have been relocated due to encroachments of its original territory. There have been very few changes to the burial ground.² For a transcription of the epitaphs, see Cutter and Johnson's *Transcript of Epitaphs* (see Printed Sources section for more information) or <http://members.xoom.com/Tonilea/Burial1.htm>.

Woburn Second Burial Ground, Montvale Avenue (1 block up Main Street, near Woburn Center), Woburn, Mass.

This cemetery was originally established by the First Parish of Woburn in 1794. In 1823, the parish sold the burial ground to the town for \$162.50. The earliest stones were removals from the first burial ground or elsewhere. Many later stones have been removed to Woodbrook Cemetery, opened in 1845. There are 350 headstones; in 1847 there were 365 inscriptions. The earliest stone is dated 1789. In 1870, there were 388 individuals buried in this cemetery. Interments include four victims of the fall of the Clapp house frame, July 14, 1807.³ For a transcription of the epitaphs, see Cutter and

² From: Toni Lasseter. *First Burial Ground of Woburn, Middlesex, Massachusetts*. September 28, 1999. Online. Available: <http://members.xoom.com/Tonilea/Burial1.htm>. April 9, 2000.

³ From: Toni Lasseter. *Second Burial Ground of Woburn, Middlesex, Massachusetts*. October 2, 1999 and January 6, 2000. Online. Available: <http://members.xoom.com/Tonilea/Burial1.htm>. April 9, 2000.

Johnson's *Transcript of Epitaphs* (see Printed Sources section for more information)
<http://members.xoom.com/Tonilea/Burial1.htm>.

Woodbrook Cemetery, Salem and Beech Street, Avenue, Woburn, Mass.

Many of the later stones were moved from the Woburn Second Burial Ground to Woodbrook Cemetery, which opened in 1845.

Calvary Cemetery, Woburn's early Catholic cemetery, Montvale Avenue and Central Street, Woburn, Mass.

Burlington's first Catholic church, St. Margaret's, started as a mission of St. Mary's in Billerica in 1937. Until then, Burlington's Catholics worshipped in Billerica or Woburn. A number of Burlington death certificates note Calvary Cemetery burials.

Woburn Jewish cemeteries, Washington Street and D Street, Woburn, Mass.

Woburn's Jewish cemeteries date to the 1890s. For more information, contact the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts, Newton Centre, Mass. (617-244-6509) or see the International Jewish Cemetery Project at www.jewishgen.org/cemetery. The caretaker is located at 11 Washington Street.

Burlington cemeteries

There are three cemeteries in Burlington, and all are publicly owned.

Burlington's Old Burial Ground, Center and Bedford Street, Burlington, Mass.

The oldest cemetery is the Old Burial Ground, which is next to the Burlington Historical Museum/Center School at the corner of Bedford and Center Street. It is about 1.1 acres and contains 181 known persons. The burial ground was started in the 1730s, coincident with the formation of Burlington as Woburn's Second Parish and the construction of Burlington's 1732 meeting house. The oldest marker is dated 1736. Benjamin Johnson owned the land that was first used as a burial ground. In 1769, Johnson gave the Second Parish a portion of what was then known as Forest Field.

Twenty one Revolutionary War soldiers are buried in the Old Burial Ground; please see the index heading *Military Participants in the Revolutionary War of Burlington's Old Burial Ground* (Burlington Historical Society and Burlington Archives, 1999, draft) for a complete list. Civil War soldiers are buried in the Chestnut Hill Cemetery. See *A Walk in Burlington's Old Burial Ground* (Burlington Historical Society and Burlington Archives, 1999) for a map of the burial ground and a list of individuals interred there; this guide is available at www.burlington.org/archives. The old burial ground was used until circa 1850s, when the Chestnut Hill Cemetery was established. The only burial which appears to have taken place after the cemetery was officially closed by about 1850 was the admission of the remains of James Walker, former Harvard College president, in 1874. The Walker interment was permitted because the Walkers already had a circa 1815 plot in the cemetery.

The stones in the cemetery evolved through four major periods: period 1, Red Slate Period; period 2, Sculptural Period; period 3, Federal Period; and period 4; Early Victorian Period. Carvers represented include Nathaniel Lamson, William Park, and the "Charlestown Carver." For more information, see the John Goff's *1998-1999 Historic Preservation Survey*.

In 1871, Ruth Wilson donated money to repair and upgrade the Old Burial Ground. A portion of the Wilson funds were used to build the stone wall which runs along the front of the cemetery.

See James Ashworth's manuscript guide, *A Walk In Burlington's Old Burial Ground*, for a transcription of the epitaphs and family history of those buried there. Also see Town Clerk's Vital Statistic Index and Cemetery Inscriptions, 1799-1863, recorded circa 1860s by Martha Elizabeth Sewall Curtis.

Burlington's Chestnut Hill Cemetery, Bedford Street and Terrace Hall Avenue, Burlington, Mass.

Chestnut Hill Cemetery is 15.65 acres and the first burial was in 1810.⁴ Local Historian Lotta Cavanagh Rice Dunham noted that the area was originally used as a Native American camp, and that arrowheads and spears were frequently turned up by the plow. Many of these relics are preserved in the Burlington Historical Museum.

By the late 18th century, Bedford Street was established and the 15 acres that are now part of the cemetery became part of the 95 acre farm owned by Reuben Kimball, who resided at 28 Bedford Street. In 1819, the Kimballs sold their farm to Jonathan Bell of Wilmington, and the land between the cemetery and the Old Burial Ground was given the name Bell Hill. The town purchased 7 acres of John Bell's farm about 1/2 mile from the Old Burial Ground for a cemetery. According to Dunham, the parcel included "several acres of fine chestnut timber" and thus, the cemetery was called Chestnut Hill Cemetery. During the 20th century, the cemetery benefited from the Depression era Works Progress Assistance (WPA) program.

The archives is in the process of indexing the Chestnut Hill Cemetery records. Until the index is completed, contact the Dept. of Public Works.

Burlington's Pine Haven Cemetery, Bedford Street and Laurel Lane, Burlington, Mass.

Pine Haven Cemetery opened during the fall of 1994.

MAPS

The most frequently-recognized map is a printed 1875 map, typically without a citation. This map is from a bound series by Frederick W. Beers, *County Atlas of Middlesex, Massachusetts*. New York : J.B. Beers and Co., 1875.

Held by: North Reading. Woburn Public Library holds microfilm version.

The Burlington Archives is collecting reproductions of Burlington, Woburn, Billerica, and Woburn maps for the reference area. See the archives' online finding aid for maps for more information.

PHOTOS

The archives holds the Burlington Historical Commission's photograph collection. The collection has been digitized and indexed, and is available at www.burlington.org/archives. These images are available for reproduction; see the archives' fee schedule for more information.

OBITUARIES/NEWSPAPERS

Burlington did not have its own newspaper until the *Burlington News* was founded in 1961. The Burlington Public Library has the following newspapers on microfilm: *Burlington News* from 1961; *Burlington Times Union* from 1963; and *Burlington Daily Times* from 1982. The Burlington Public Library does not index local newspapers. The Burlington Union is now available at www.townonline.com/northwest/burlington.

The Woburn Public Library holds microfilm copies of numerous 19th-20th century Woburn papers. Woburn's first newspaper was the *Woburn Centinel*, which started in 1839. In 1846, Woburn had three new newspapers: the *Woburn Weekly Advertiser*, *Woburn Guide Post*, and the *Woburn Gazette*. The *Woburn Daily City Press* and the *Woburn News* both were established in 1890 and the *Woburn Daily Times* was founded in 1901. Woburn has a card index in the reading room; for Burlington topics, look under the heading Burlington or the name of the person you are looking for. Since Burlington was a neighboring community, Burlington topics were not at the top of the indexing priority list; if you do not find what you are looking for, look at the microfilm for the time period you are interested in. Woburn newspapers and city directories are also a good source of information about Burlington activities, businesses, and individuals.

Another good source for area newspapers is the *United States Newspapers on Microform* at the Boston Public Library. This list was produced by the Boston Public Library and the Massachusetts Newspaper Program, as part of the National

⁴ Jonathan McIntire is the first recorded burial in Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

Endowment for the Humanities as part of the United States Newspaper Program." It is held by many public libraries, but not the Burlington or Woburn Public Library.

John Fogelberg wrote over 800 articles for the local newspaper. See the Secondary Sources for Local History and Genealogy section for more information, including information on James Ashworth's "*Burlington: Past and Present*": *List of Articles by John Fogelberg*.

MILITARY RECORDS

For a list of Burlington veterans, see John E. Fogelberg's *Burlington: Part of a Greater Chronicle* and the cemetery section of this guide. Other printed sources include:

- Massachusetts. Office of the Secretary of State. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers, 1896-1908. 17 v.
- *Records of the Massachusetts Militia in the War of 1812-1814* (Boston: 1913)
- Massachusetts. Adjutant General's Office. *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War* (s. l., s. n. 1931-1937. Norwood, Mass.: printed at the Norwood Press).

The State Archives holds original records covering conflicts from the 17th-20th centuries. For more information, see their publication *Researching Your Family's History at the State Archives* (Boston: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1999); this guide is also available at www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcfam/famidx.htm. The Adjutant General oversees records that are particularly strong in the areas of the Mexican, Civil, Spanish American, and 20th century wars. Contact: Office of the State Quartermaster, 44 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609.

Online guides relevant to Massachusetts include:

- Massachusetts Civil War Research Center
www.massachusettscivilwar.com

Locating secondary sources at PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Libraries are organized into local consortiums of 20-30 libraries. Public libraries develop their collections so that they complement regional collections: the public library's purpose is not to collect every printed book on every possible subject. Inter-library lending (ILL) makes books from different library consortiums available through your local library. Since many local history books are out of print and/or fragile, they may not be available via ILL. If this is the case, the library will typically put reference/non-circulating next to the call number. Out of print books are often republished by genealogy publishing houses; it is worth checking catalogs such as the New England Historic Genealogical Society (www.newenglandancestors.org).

Online catalogs are now available via Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner's web site; see www.mlin.lib.ma.us/flash3.html for links to Massachusetts public library consortiums, as well as university and special collection libraries. If the catalog requests a password, click on the guest option. Burlington and Wilmington are part of the Merrimac Valley Library Consortium; Woburn, Lexington, and Bedford are part of the Minuteman Library Network. Woburn Public Library does not have its printed, local history collection online, so you must use the card catalog.

As with any library search, it is best if you can determine what subject headings are used for the materials you are interested in. Use keyword searches to isolate the subject heading, and then use that subject heading to find related books.

Special collection libraries

See the *Massachusetts Special Collections Directory* (Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, compiler. Boston, MA: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, 1999); an electronic is available at <http://catalogues.mlin.lib.ma.us>.

Other directories

The following resources—and many others—are available on the Burlington Archives web page. Go to www.burlington.org/archives and click on Internet Resources.

- Archives and Special Collections Directory (Domestic and International)
www.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html
- Cemeteries in Massachusetts
www.mass-doc.com/mass_cemetery_guide.htm
- Mass. Municipal Clerk Directory
www.state.ma.us/sec/ele/electk/clkidx.htm
- National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMUC) RLIN Gateway
<http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/>
- Mass. Board of Library Commissioners
 - [Mass. Library Catalog Directory](http://www.mlin.lib.ma.us/catalogs.htm)
www.mlin.lib.ma.us/catalogs.htm
 - [Mass. Special Collections Directory](http://catalogues.mlin.lib.ma.us)
<http://catalogues.mlin.lib.ma.us>
- Unincorporated and Unofficial Names of Massachusetts Communities
www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/cis/cisuno/unoidx.htm

GENERAL HOW - TO GUIDES

There are innumerable general and immigrant-specific genealogy guides. Raymond S. Wright's *The Genealogist's Handbook: Modern Methods for Researching Family History* is a standard resource (Chicago: American Library Association, 1995). To locate other books in the library, try the following subject headings:

- Genealogy—Handbooks, manuals, etc.
- Genealogy—Computer network resources
- Massachusetts—Genealogy
- New England—Genealogy

A good strategy for finding family-specific resources is to search the New England Historic Genealogical Society's online catalog. Find the title and author, then search the library consortium catalog or request the book via interlibrary loan. To search the local library catalog, try the subject heading [family name] family e.g., Smith family.

The State Archives publishes *Researching Your Family's History at the State Archives* (Boston: Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1999); this guide is also available at www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcfam/famidx.htm.

There also innumerable web-based genealogy guides. Try:

- New England Historic Genealogical Society How-to Guides
www.nehgs.org/HowTos/howto.htm
- RootsWeb Guide to Tracing Family Trees
www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide

The archives also maintains a list of basic, online genealogical sources at www.burlington.org, under Internet resources.