

Genealogical Resources at the Maine Historical Society

Maine Historical Society Library
489 Congress Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-1822
www.mainehistory.org

Since 1822, Maine Historical Society has served as a nationally recognized research center for the study of the history of Maine and its people. Its collections are arranged in four categories: Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections, Museum, and the Wadsworth-Longfellow House & Garden.

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (except holiday weekends). Call ahead if bad weather. Museum hours vary.

User access: Free to MHS members, students and first-time users; for subsequent work by non-members, we require \$2.00 per hour or \$10.00 per day to help support the collections and services provided.

Membership: Begins at \$40/year and includes stack access and other benefits. See our list of benefits on www.mainehistory.org.

Photocopying:

- Self-serve photocopying is allowed when the condition of the material permits
- Title page is free.
- Black & white copies: \$.15 for letter/legal size, \$.25 for 11"x17", and \$1.00 for color copies
- Three microfilm/fiche reader/printers; \$.25 per copy
- Computer workstation with Internet access

Collection guidelines are posted in the Reading Room.

Catalogs and indexes:

Book catalog

Surname index

Manuscript index

Maps catalog

Ring's Index to State of Mainers

Obituary Indexes

MINERVA – <http://ursus2.ursus.maine.edu> (work in progress)

Photographs and other documents: Maine Memory Network – <http://www.mainememory.net>

Sample of the Holdings of the Library at Maine Historical Society:

Selected items only

Published Genealogies

- Over 6000 compiled family genealogies primarily from New England. Collection contains many unique, small runs, and privately printed genealogies.
- Manuscript and research notes of many authors including Sybil Noyes, Benjamin Lake Noyes, Charles Thorton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis.

State, County and Local Histories

We have a substantial collection of state, county and town histories for Maine and other communities throughout New England.

Reference Materials and Research Books

- Over 1000 genealogy and family history "how-to" books.

Vital Records

United States

New England is the home of the oldest set of vital records in the United States. Most towns kept records of births, marriages, or deaths from their founding. Below is a sample of these records available in the Research Library.

Maine

- Vital records for all Maine towns that have been published
- Portland births, marriages, and deaths to 1900 (microfilm)
- Originals and transcriptions of many Maine vital records before 1892, especially Cumberland and York counties
- Maine vital records to 1892 (pre-1892 statewide index includes only 80 towns)
- Maine vital records, 1892-1954, available on microfilm for every Maine town
- Microfilms of original town record books
- Published county marriage records by Picton Press

Connecticut

Barbour Collection of 136 town vital records up to about 1850

Massachusetts

- All printed vital records from "Official Series" of towns to 1850, also on CDRom
- Microfiche of town vital records not included in "Official Series"
- Plymouth Colony vital records, 1636-1686, taken from court records
- Plymouth Colony vital records, 1633-1689, by Nathaniel Shurtleff

Rhode Island

- Town vital records to 1850:James Arnold Series
 - Index of Births, Marriages, and Deaths recorded in Providence, RI, by Charles Chapin, MD
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Census Records

United States Federal Census

- 1790-1930 - all of Maine
- 1790 Indexes for all states
- AIS index books for Maine 1790-1850
- Selected other state indexes
- 1860 York County index
- 1850 Aroostook County and Mortality schedule
- 1850 Census transcription of Maine towns
- A Black Census of Maine, 1800-1910
- CDRom indexes (see CD-Rom section below)

Canadian Federal Census

- 1851 New Brunswick only
- 1871 New Brunswick Directory

Census Indexes and Guides

- A variety of census indexes are available for many states
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Obituaries

1900-1941, 1964-1996

- Maine obituaries from Portland area newspapers organized in chronological scrapbooks and indexed on cards

1941-1963

- Maine obituaries from Portland area newspapers organized on index cards alphabetically

1997 - present

- Maine obituaries from Portland area newspapers; index on computer

Other published obituaries

- *Death Notices from Freewill Baptist Publications, 1811-1851*, David C. Young, Robert L. Taylor
 - *Vital Records from Maine Newspapers, 1785-1820*, David C. Young, Elizabeth Keene Young
 - *Obits from Maine Newspapers, 1785-1852*, David C. Young
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Cemetery Records

National Society of the DAR

- Maine cemetery inscriptions of many Revolutionary War soldiers; also includes church records, family bibles, and wills

Maine

- MOCA (Maine Old Cemetery Association) records of cemeteries transcribed in Maine towns
- Miscellaneous transcriptions for cemeteries all over Maine

Annual Town Reports

We have a substantial collection of town reports from all over Maine but primarily southern Maine. The collection is most complete since 1900. Town reports tell the activities of the town for that year and often contain vital records.

School Records and Yearbooks

School Records

- Portland's North School, 1867-1944: Students, parents, nationality, occupation of parents and other information
- Portland High School records, 1863-1901: Names, age, parents, courses, etc.
- Girl's High School 1862 photographs of students
- Boy's High School records, 1850-1853
- Stroudwater School records, 1823-1878, warrants for and minutes of meetings

Yearbooks

We have a large collection of yearbooks from various schools and colleges in Maine, including:

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Portland High School | • Fryeburg Academy |
| • Cheverus High School | • Bates College |
| • Deering High School | • Bowdoin College |
| • Bonney Eagle High School | • Colby College |
| • University of Maine | • University of Southern Maine |
| • Hebron Academy | • Westbrook Junior College |

Military Records

Maine

- *Adjutant General's Report, Maine, 1861-1866*
- *Roster of Maine in the World War 1917-1919* (2 volumes)
- *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (17 volumes) includes Maine

Connecticut

- *Connecticut Military Record 1775-1848*
- *Record of Connecticut Men in the War of Rebellion 1861 to 1865* (Adjutant General's Office)

New Hampshire

- *Adjutant General's Report, New Hampshire, 1865, 1866, 1868*

Massachusetts

- *Adjutant General's Report, Massachusetts, 1863, 1864, 1865*
- *Record of the Massachusetts Volunteers, 1861 – 1865*

- *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War* (8 volumes)
- *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (17 volumes) includes Maine

Other

- *Official Records of the Union & Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion*, Series I & II, 31 volumes
- *Roster of Ohio Soldiers, 1861-1866* (12 volumes)
- *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files*, (3 volumes), by Virgil D. White
- *U.S. Quartermaster's Dept. Roll of Honor* (27 volumes)
- *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*, 4 volumes, by Virgil D. White
- *Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army for the Years 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865*, Part 1, New England
- *War of the Rebellion, Official Records* (70 books in 128 volumes in 4 series; also on CD)

Periodicals

Maine History, formerly the Maine Historical Society Quarterly, 1961 - present

- Published by Maine Historical Society and is the only scholarly journal on Maine History
- Includes book reviews

Collections of the Maine Historical Society, 1831 - 1916

The Maine Genealogist

- Published by Maine Genealogical Society, contains queries

York County Genealogical Society Journal

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1847 – present

- Published by NEHGS, the *Register* is the oldest journal in the field of American genealogy
- Indexed in book volumes
Vols. 1-50 (name and subject)
Vols. 51-142 (name only)
- Entire set of books from vol. 1-148 available on CD-ROM with indexes and search capabilities

National Genealogical Society Quarterly, 1912-present

- Vols. 1 to present

The American Genealogist (TAG), 1922-Present

New York Genealogical & Biographical Record, 1869-present

- Vols. 1 (1869) to present
- Master Subject Index, vols. 1-113

Historical Journals

- *New England Quarterly*
- *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*

Ethnic Periodicals

- *Irish at Home and Abroad*
- *Connections* (French-Canadian/Quebec)

Other Periodicals

- *DAR Magazine* (last 10 years only)
- *Rhode Island Roots*
- *Connecticut Nutmegger*
- *Genealogist's Magazine*

- Various other genealogical magazines and journals

Directories

MHS has an extensive city directory collection for Maine, including:

City Directories

- Bath
- Brunswick
- Biddeford/Saco
- Portland, 1824 to present
- Lewiston/Auburn
- Various Mitchell directories for many other smaller Maine towns, 1905 to 1907
- Rockland
- Sanford
- Westbrook/Gorham/Windham
- Bangor
- Augusta

Other Directories

- *New England Business Directory and Gazetteer*, 1900-1924
- *Maine Register*, 1820 to present
- Various County directories, late 1880s-1900

Newspapers (microfilm)

- *Bangor Daily Whig & Courier*, 1837–1862
- *Eagle (Castine)*, 1809-1812
- *Deering News*, 1891-1915
- *The Eastern Argus*, 1803-1853
- *Le Justice de Biddeford*, 1897-1950
- *Kennebec Journal*, 1825-1913
- *Lewiston Evening Journal*, 1861-1866
- *Maine Times*, 1968-1996
- *The Oxford Democrat*, 1833-1891
- *Portland Evening Express*, 1960-1967
- *Portland Gazette*, 1798-1824
- *Portland Press Herald*, 1958-1968
- *Republican Journal (Belfast)*, 1829-1868
- *Cumberland Gazette* (original papers and on microfilm), 1785-1788
- Boston – *Evening Transcript*, microfiche, 1848-1912 (contains biweekly genealogical columns)
- Portland, ME - Index to newspapers, 1785-1835
- Other selected small town newspapers

Canada

New Brunswick

- *New Brunswick Vital Records from Newspapers* (ongoing) 1784-1889, by Daniel F. Johnson
- 1871 Directory

Prince Edward Island

- 1871 Directory

Nova Scotia

- 1871 Directory

Québec

- Many Repertoires of marriages in parishes in Quebec

- *Dictionnaire National des Canadiens Français* by Drouin
Books cover 1608-1800
- *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles du Québec* by Jetté
Families of Quebec into the 1720/30s
- *Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles Canadiennes* by Tanguay
Families of Quebec to the 1780s
- *Recueil de Genealogies des Comtés de Beauce – Dorchester – Frontenac, 1625-1946*, (11 volumes)
- *Généalogie de Familles Originaires des comtés de Montmagny, L'Islet, Bellechasse*, (16 volumes)
- *Le Grand Arrangement des Acadiens au Québec* by Bergeron (8 volumes)
- *Our French-Canadian Ancestors* by Thomas Laforest

Land Records

York Deeds, 1630-1737 in book form; up to 1850 on microfilm

Probate, Wills, and Court Records

- *Maine Wills, 1640-1760*
- *Maine Probate, 1687-1800*
- *York County Will Abstracts to 1858*
- Several Lincoln County (1760-1800) and Penobscot County (1816-1866) records
- *Maine Province and Court Records*, 6 volumes

Lineage Society Records

- Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage Books
- Sons of the American Revolution Patriot Index
- Daughters of American Colonists Yearbook
- Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots
- Lineages of the Society of Mayflower Descendants

Voter Registrations

- Portland voter registrations, 1855-1967
- South Portland voter registration, 1899-1986, volumes and index cards

Atlases, Maps, and Gazetteers

- Extensive collection of maps and city atlases for Maine including
 - Proprietors maps of Kennebec and Pejepscot Companies, 1700+
 - Northeast Boundary Collection
 - Sanborn Fire Maps, 1909-1962, for larger industrialized cities and towns
 - Revaluation of Portland, 1882
 - 1914 Richards maps – Portland and South Portland

- Variety of atlases and maps for United States (country, states, and cities)
- British Isles (mostly for England and Wales, and some of Scotland)

Maine Church Records

- Many published and manuscript church records for Unitarian, Baptist, Quaker, Methodist, Congregational churches

Naturalization Records

- Cumberland County Naturalizations Index, 1787-1906
- Portland Naturalization Record index, 1855-1911, contains names, residence, date of papers, court, and date of approval

Passenger List Indexes

- Passenger and Immigration Lists Index on CD 1538-1940
- *The Famine Immigrants*, 1846-1851
- *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index*, Filby and Lower, 3 volumes and Supplements for 1982 – 1996
- *Mayflower Families*, 14 volumes

Databases and CD-ROMs

Family History Library (FHL) Catalog

- References citations of books, microfilm, and other items at the Family History Library Salt Lake City

CD-ROMs

- 1880 U.S. Census & National Index (LDS)
- Acadian Genealogies 14th to 19th centuries
- Canadian Genealogy index, 1600s-1900s
- Early Vital Records of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to about 1850
- Genealogies of the Families of Braintree, Mass. – NEHGS
- Heritage Quest Magazine 1985-1999
- Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, 1848-1864 (CD 188)
- Inhabitants & Estates of the Town of Boston, 1630-1800 – NEHGS
- Maine Marriage Index, 1743-1891
- Massachusetts Town, Probate, and Vital Records 1600-1900 (CD 502)
- Mayflower Vital Records, Deeds, and Wills 1600s-1900s (CD 167)
- Military Records: War of 1812 Muster Rolls (Ancestry.com)
- Mortality Schedules: 1850-1880
- Passenger & Immigration Lists: Boston, 1821-1850 (CD 256)
- Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1538-1940 (Brøderbund)
- Picton's Lost Souls (names found in Picton Press Books)
- Plymouth Court Records, 1686-1859 – NEHGS
- Sprague's Journal of Maine History - Picton Press

- The Records of the Church of Boston – NEHGS
- The Search for Missing Friends, 1831-1920 – NEHGS
- Torrey's New England Marriage Prior to 1700 – NEHGS
- U.S. Census Indexes (Maine 1790-1880, 1900; other selected years and states)
- Vital Records Index: British Isles (LDS)

Internet Access

- Free Internet access from the library's computer to search for genealogical information

Biographical Resources

- *Maine Families* (Three generations of people that appear in the 1790 census), Maine Genealogical Society. 8 volumes to date)
- *Who Was Who in America*
- *Who's Who in America*
- *Dictionary of National Biography* (British)
- *Dictionary of American Biography*
- *Lamb's Biographical Dictionary*
- *Notable Americans*
- *Sibley's Harvard Graduates*
- *American National Biographies* (1999)
- Ring's Index to State-of-Mainers, index to biographical compilations of Maine people that appear in approximately 50 books in the MHS collections

Ethnic Resources

England

- Various county parish registers in book form
- Additional county parish registers in book form
- The British Isles Vital Records Index on CD-ROM (LDS)
- Various wills and probate indexes for English counties
- Superb collection of county histories

Ireland

- *Indexes to Irish wills*
- *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, 4 volumes
- Griffith's Valuation (Ireland land valuation for tax purposes), index on CD-ROM
- *The Famine Immigrants 1846-1851*, 7 volumes
- *The Search for Missing Friends*, Volumes 2 – 7 (whole series on CD)

French-Canadian

- See section on Canada above

Scrapbooks

- We have many ethnic scrapbooks containing various materials such as newspaper articles, manuscripts and photographs pertaining to selected ethnic communities in Maine, including Irish, Chinese-American, Native Americans, African-American, Jewish-American, Spanish, Greek, Italian and Polish.

Manuscript Collection

- Cumberland County Sheriff's Records
- Longshoremen's records 1880-1978
- Pownalborough early court records
- Maine Central Railroad records and station drawings 1837-1952
- Collections donated by genealogists
- Notebooks, index listings, and unpublished genealogies
- Town scrapbooks
- Diaries, letters, personal records, land deeds, wills
- Photographs, postcards, and stereo views
- Church records, original town birth registers, diaries
- Account books
- Typescript or manuscript genealogies
- Typescript or manuscript cemetery records
- Architectural and engineering drawings
- Proprietors' maps
- A wide variety of various unpublished documents