Massachusetts

African American

Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (Colored).

	Ī	Microfilm	20 rolls	NARA M1898	Locality	Massachusetts
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This is probably the most famous of black American regiments in the Civil War. The majority of the enlisted men came from states other than Massachusetts and included two sons of Frederick Douglass. The officers were white. The first recruits were raised on 9 February 1863. The unit was discharged 1 September 1865. There were 270 men lost in the war: five officers and 104 enlisted men were killed in battle or mortally wounded and one officer and 160 men died of disease.

The records are arranged alphabetically by soldier in two series. The first and larger in contained on the rolls 1–19, and the miscellaneous service cards are on the last two rolls.

Records of the Fifty-Fourth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (Colored), 1863-65.

Microfilm	7 rolls	NARA M1659	Locality	Massachusetts
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This was a Massachusetts volunteer unit in the Civil War, but the majority of men came from other states. Two of Frederick Douglass's sons served in the unit. The records consists of letters, endorsements, orders, descriptive lists, quarterly, monthly, and annual returns, muster rolls, and miscellaneous papers.

Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with the United States Colored Troops: 55th Massachusetts Infantry (Colored).

Microfilm 16 rolls NARA M1801	1 Locality	Massachusetts
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The 55th Massachusetts Infantry (Colored) was mustered into the service at Readville, Massachusetts on 22 June 1863. It was comprised of the overflow from the famous 54th. The unit had recruits from many northern states and one volunteer, Nicholas Said, from the Sudan. They were both free and former slaves. There were 130 men lost to disease and 67 killed. Four blacks became officers in the regiment.

The records are arranged alphabetically by surname. There is a supplementary set of miscellaneous service records on the last roll.

Counties

Berkshire

*Town Records of Adams, MA, 1778-1855

Microfilm 1 roll FHL #0892674	Berkshire Co.	Massachusetts
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*Early records, Congregational Church, Sheffield, Massachusetts, 1793-1860

١	Microfilm	1 roll	FHL #0250313	Berkshire Co.	Massachusetts



*Tombstone inscriptions in Ottis, Massachusetts

Microfilm	1 roll	FHL #0250313	Berkshire Co.	Massachusetts
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Essex

County land ownership map, 1856.

Microfiche	4 fiche	6079547	Land	Massachusetts

Middlesex

County land ownership map, 1856.

Microfiche	2 fiche	6079553	Land	Massachusetts

Plymouth

County land ownership map, 1857.

Microfiche	2 fiche	6079556	Land	Massachusetts

Census

Massachusetts State Census 1855-1865.

Microfilm 68 rolls Census	Massachusetts
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts took censuses in 1855 and 1865. The records are arranged by county in both years. Within a county the returns are alphabetically by name of town and thereunder in residential order.

In 1855 the names of all members of the household, age, sex, color, occupation, place of birth [state or country], and whether deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict are reported.

In 1865 the names of all members of the household, age, sex, color, place of birth, marital status, occupation, and whether deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict are reported. In addition the census also indicates if a man was a ratable poll (over the age of 16 and owing sufficient property to be taxed), a legal voter, or a naturalized voter.

Twenty-two towns in 1855 and twenty-six towns in 1865 feature the specific place of nativity rather than just the state or country. In some towns such responses are limited to those born in Massachusetts or in the United States, but in other towns it applies to foreign places as well.

Genealogies and compilations

Lydia B. P. Brownson, Grace Held, and Doris Norton, Genealogical Notes of Cape Cod Families.

ſ	Microfilm	8 rolls	Locality	Massachusetts

This manuscript of 37 notebooks is at the Sturgis Library in Barnstable, Massachusetts. These notes on Cape Codders have been arranged in alphabetical order by surname and thereunder by forename. The Register system is used to indicate the ancestry back to the immigrant. Dates of birth, death, and marriage are given for each individual as well as the names of spouses and the issue of each union. More importantly, the sources of the entries are also given so that a researcher can verify the conclusions of the compilers.



Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, Genealogies of Families of Braintree, Massachusetts, 1640–1850, Including the Modern Towns of Randolph and Holbrook and the City of Quincy.

Microfilm 1 roll Locality Massachusetts		1 roll	Locality	Massachusetts
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Almost all of the pre–1850 residents of old Braintree are arranged alphabetically on more than 6,000 cards. Sprague utilized the works of many other genealogists who had amassed data on Braintree families. He checked and cited sources as he incorporated the data into his own compilation. In the introductory comments he noted various group migrations from Braintree to Rehoboth about 1643, Block Island in 1660 and later, Mendon in 1663, Easton about 1704, Lebanon and Windham, Connecticut about 1713, Norton about 1726, Holliston about 1745–1750, Williamsburg in 1771, Oxford and Lyme, New Hampshire, about 1780, Thetford and Fairlee, Vermont, about 1780, and Braintree and Randolph, Vermont about 1790. No Braintree family, however, settled in New Braintree, Massachusetts. On the reverse of many cards appear abstracts of pertinent pre–1792 Suffolk County wills and deeds, but very few entries of this nature appear for post–1792 Norfolk County records. It should be noted that the reverse side of the cards were microfilmed together following the appendix on out-of-town families (largely of residents of adjacent Milton). The order of the cards is from right to left horizontally.

Charles E. Banks Genealogical Collection.

Microfilm 11 rolls	Locality	Massachusetts
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The collection is composed of fifty-four volumes resembling scrap books containing typewritten and handwritten notes regarding the early Pilgrim and Puritan families of Massachusetts. There are abstracts of wills, baptismal and marriage records, and family charts. The index volume is in three parts: surnames, stray names, and places.

The Bowman Files.

Microfiche	229 fiche		Microfiche	Massachusetts
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George Ernest Bowman, the founder of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, compiled 20,000 pages in his goal to identify all of the descendants of Mayflower passengers. He included abstracts of wills, deeds, Bible and family records, and many of the records he amassed are unique to his files. While some of his research has been superseded by later research, his manuscript genealogy remains the largest collection pertaining to Mayflower descendants. *Bowman Files Instructions*, R929.3744/B787, provides guidance in using the collection.

Susan E. Roser has abstracted various categories of these records. Her books include Mayflower Births and Deaths from the Files of George Ernest Bowman at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, R929.3744/R816M/1992; Mayflower Increasing for Three Generations, R929.374/R816M/1989; Mayflower Marriages from the Files of George Ernest Bowman at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, R929.374/R816M/1990; and Mayflower Deeds and Probates from the Files of George Ernest Bowman at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, R929.3744/R816M/1994.

Immigration

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, Massachusetts 1820–1891.

Microfilm	NARA M277	Immigration	Massachusetts

Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, 1848–1891.

Microfilm 282 rolls NARA M265 Immigration Massacl	husetts
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This index consists of individual cards containing the name, age, sex, date of arrival, steamship, occupation, birthplace, country of citizenship, last residence, intended U.S. state of residence, and mental and bodily condition. Moreover, the index also indicates if the individual had been in the U.S. before. The names of persons apparently constituting a family group are usually on the front of the index card, but on some cards the names are on the reverse. Because the index also contains a separate card for each person, the reverse was not filmed. Some cards later found to be out of order were filmed at the end of the appropriate roll.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, Massachusetts, January 1, 19802-June 30, 1906.

Microfil	m 11 rol	s NARA T617	Immigration	Massachusetts	
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Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Boston, Massachusetts, July 1, 1906–December 31, 1920.

Microfilm	11 rolls	NARA T167	Immigration	Massachusetts
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Index to Passengers Arriving at New Bedford, Massachusetts July 1, 1904-November 18, 1954.

Microfilm	2 rolls	NARA M522	Immigration	Massachusetts
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The index is arranged in alphabetical order.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Gloucester, Massachusetts, October 1906–March 1942.

Microfilm	NA NA	ARA M1321	Immigration	Massachusetts
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The lists primarily contain the names of alien fishermen from ports in the province of Nova Scotia, Canada. Some of the lists also contain names of passengers.

Index to Passengers Arriving at New Bedford, Massachusetts, July 1, 1902-November 18, 1954.

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Military—Revolutionary War (1775–1783)

Massachusetts Revolutionary War Service Appendix.

Microfilm	17 rolls	Locality	Massachusetts

These are the service records of Massachusetts soldiers and sailors in the Revolutionary war which have been located since the publication in 1908 of the 17 volume *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolutionary War*. The records are in alphabetical order by the name of the veteran.

Records of the Massachusetts Continental Loan Office 1777-1791.

Microfilm	4 rolls	NARA M925	Locality	Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Continental Loan Office's records pertain to the creation of the U.S. domestic public debt during the Revolutionary War. There are registers of loan certificates, liquidated debt certificates, interest certificates, liquidated debt certificates, interest certificates, registers for withdrawals, letters, and ledgers of accounts current. There is a typescript index on the first roll.

Personnel Returns of the 6th Massachusetts Battalion, 1779–1780, and Returns and Accounts of Military Stores for the 8th and 9th Massachusetts Regiments, 1779–1782.

Microfilm	1 roll	NARA M913	Locality	Massachusetts
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Miscellaneous

Appellate Case File no. 1631: Charles River Bridge Co. v. Warren River Bridge Co., 36 U.S. 420 (11 Peters 420) Decided February 14, 1837, and Related Records.

Microfilm	1 roll	NARA M1843	Locality	Massachusetts

Pepperell Papers 1689-1764.

Microfilm	2 rolls		Locality		Massachusetts
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These are the business and personal papers of Col. William Pepperell (1647–1734) and his son Sir William Pepperell (1696–1759). They also contain documents pertaining to the capture and occupation of Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia in 1745. The collection primarily pertains to the period 1710–1755.

Faneuil Papers.

Microfilm 1 ro	II .	Locality	Massachusetts
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These are the business papers of the famous colonial merchant, Peter Faneuil and his uncle, Andrew Oliver. There are two daybooks fragments—one of Andrew Oliver of July 1716 and the other of Peter Faneuil dated 29 January 1731–6 December 1732. In addition there is an invoice book from 5 July 1725 to 21 April 1737; a letterbook from 13 June 1737 to 25 April 1739; and a ledger book from April 1725 to March 1732.

John Hull's Colony Journal Volumes I-IV.

Microfilm	1 roll		Locality	Massachusetts
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John Hull was the Treasurer of Massachusetts Colony during the period of King Philip's War. The journals meticulously trace the financial accounting of expenditures and income in the war waged between New England and the Wampanoags, Naragansetts, Mohigans, Podunks, and Nipmucks.

Massachusetts. State Archives, Card Index to the Massachusetts Archives.

Microf	ilm 5	7 rolls	Locality	Massachusetts

This card file is a nominal index to 328 manuscript volumes containing documents from 1629 to 1799. In addition to the index, volumes 69 and 70 pertaining to military records and 130, 131, 132, and 133 containing valuations are also included.

Volumes 1-94; 304-

Massachusetts. State Archives, Massachusetts Archives.

	Microfilm	57 rolls	FHL #2294419+	Locality	Massachusetts
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Use index (above) to locate records.

Naturalization

Index to New England Naturalization Petitions.

П	Microfilm	71 rolls	NARA M1299	Locality	Massachusetts

Rolls 47–117 are a consolidated index for the states of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont arranged on the Soundex system.



Updated 7/24/2017

Index to Naturalization Petitions and Records of the U.S. District Court, 1906–1966, and the U.S. Circuit Court, 1906–1911, for the District of Massachusetts.

Microfilm	20 rolls	NARA M1545	Locality	Massachusetts
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Taxation

United States Direct Tax Census for Maine and Massachusetts 1798.

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Microfilm	l 16 rolls	Locality	Massachusetts
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Rolls 3 to 18 are the records for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The records are arranged by county.

Vital Records—Births

Jay Mack Holbrook, Massachusetts Vital Records: Birth Index 1841–1895.

The index is subdivided into smaller segments of time, viz. 1841–1850, 1851–1855, 1856–1860, 1861–1865, 1866–1870, 1871–1875, 1876–1880, 1881–1885, 1886–1890, and 1891–1895. The entries are in alphabetical order within each chronological category. Unnamed infants are listed before the children with forenames. Each entry consists of the surname, forename, town, year, volume, and page of the original record. The category of the year of birth may reflect a date such as 1851–52.

Vital Records—Deaths

Jack Mack Holbrook, Massachusetts Vital Records: Death Index 1841–1895.

Microfiche fiche	Microfiche	Massachusetts
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The index to deaths is subdivided into spans of years.

Vital Records—Marriages

Jay Mack Holbrook, Massachusetts Vital Records: Marriage Index 1841–1895.

Microfiche	327 fiche	Microfiche	Massachusetts
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The index is subdivided into smaller segments of time, viz. 1841–1850, 1851–1855, 1856–1860, 1861–1865, 1866–1870, 1871–1875, 1876–1880, 1881–1885, 1886–1890, and 1891–1895.

Clarence Almon Torrey, New England Marriages Prior to 1700.

Microfilm	7 rolls		Locality	Massachusetts

Torrey's work lists every married seventeenth-century New Englander whom he could find any record in any printed work and a few manuscripts at the New England Historic Genealogical Society to 1960. The alphabetical listing of 37,000 marriages probably accounts for 99 percent of the married population of New England leaving issue. About 70 percent of the wives are identified by their maiden names. Torrey based his identifications on what he felt were the best printed sources for the husband and the wife. He frequently suggested resolutions of conflicting data and inserted question marks for unproved assertions. A typical entry provides the name of the husband, the identity of his wife, the date of their marriage or the birth year of their first child, their places of residences, and when known the birth and death years of each spouse.



Following each couple Torrey listed every printed source in which he had found data pertaining to either partner. There are more than 100,000 references to volume and page with five to ten references per entry. These provide access to more than 2,000 printed works for further genealogical research. Torrey included those New Englanders who migrated to Long Island, New Jersey, and elsewhere in the seventeenth century. Occasionally he listed an entry from the *Boston Evening Transcript*, but he made no systematic survey of this source.

Because Torrey offered no access via the name of the wife, the published version of his manuscript, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, R939.343/T694N/1985 greatly enhances this research tool. The published version, however, does not identify any of the sources. Melinde Lutz Sanborn's *Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, R929.373/T694N/1985/Supplement/1992 and *Second Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, R929.373/T694N/Supplement/1991 continues the project with later and additional published sources.

1. Boston Evening Transcript Genealogical Columns.

The *American Genealogical Biographical Index*, R929.1/A512I, indexes the names in the columns from 1906–1941. It does not index those from 1891–1905. Each query was assigned a sequential number, and responses were printed under the same number.

Vital Records

Walter E. and Lottie S. Corbin, *The Corbin Collection:* [Genealogical and] Historical Material Relating to Central and Western Massachusetts, 1650–1850].

Microfilm	55 rolls	Loca	ality	Massachusetts
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This is the largest regional compilation of New England source material compiled by private scholars. For more than a quarter of a century they copied thousands of vital records, cemetery inscriptions, church and Bible records and compiled town genealogies for 57 towns in Hampshire, Hamden, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties, Massachusetts as well as 30 other towns in the state. In addition they also included 6 Connecticut towns [Gilead, Norwalk, Stafford, West Stafford, and Willington], 2 Iowa settlements [Farley], South Kingston, Rhode Island; Gopsport, New Hampshire; and Cleveland, Ohio. There are compiled genealogies for pre-1850 residents of Belchertown, Northampton, Pittsfield, Southampton, and Wales done in the nineteenth century, and the Corbins added to them extensively.

Jay Mack Holbrook, Massachusetts Vital Records.

Microfiche	fiche		Microfiche	Massachusetts		

This is a series to encompass the vital statistics of all of the Massachusetts towns for the colonial period into the nineteenth century. There is variety from town to town in the scope of the records selected. In addition to the record books of vital statistics, one may also encounter cemetery and church records when the former are incomplete or no longer survive. When there are printed abstracts of the records or if one obtains certified copies, the original records often contain more information. They are also more likely to be arranged by family.

Abington 1712–1892 Acushnet 1860–1900 Adams 1878–1897 Agawam 1855–1893 Alford 1759–1874 Amherst 1747–1891 Ashburnham 1735–1900 Ashby 1754–1890 Ashfield 1750–1895 Ashland 1840–1895



Attleboro 1840-1890

Auburn 1704-1900

Ayer 1871-1900

Barnstable 1643-1892

Barre 1718-1895

Becket 1765-1900

Belchertown 1765-1893

Berkley 1670-1900

Bernardston 1735-1897

Beverly 1653-1892

Blackstone 1844-1900

Blandford 1737-1860

Bolton 1738-1900

Boston 1630-1890

Boxboro 1767-1900

Boylston 1742-1900

Brewster 1745-1900

Bridgewater 1641-1900

Brighton 1771-1873

Brimfield 1696-1893

Brockton 1843-1900

Brookfield 1700-1895

Buckland 1841-1895

Carver 1733-1900

Charlemont 1765-1899

Charlestown 1629-1874

Charlton 1742-1890

Chatham 1693-1900

Chelmsford 1653–1900

Cheshire 1793-1892

Chester 1766-1893

Chesterfield 1763-1892

Chicopee 1848–1890

Chilmark 1674-1900

Clarksburg 1798–1900

Clinton 1850-1900

Cohasset 1717-1900

Colrain 1741-1895

Conway 1749-1895

Cummington 1751–1900

Dalton 1784-1896

Dana 1801-1893

Dartmouth 1650-1900

Deerfield 1675-1898

Dennis 1710-1890

Dighton 1697-1890

Dorchester 1631-1869

Douglas 1718-1890

Dracut 1697-1900

Dudley 1725-1891

Dunstable 1679–1900

Duxbury 1673-1893

East Bridgewater 1754-1900

Eastham 1637-1797

Easthampton 1785-1892



Easton 1693-1895

Edgartown 1663-1900

Egremont 1838-1897

Enfield 1770-1892

Erving 1844-1905

Essex 1819-1892

Fairhaven 1739–1892

Fall River 1803-1899

Falmouth 1668-1892

Fitchburg 1751-1893

Florida 1781-1900

Foxborough 1729-1897

Freetown 1686-1890

Gardner 1762-1892

Georgetown 1639-1905

Gill 1754-1892

Gloucester 1634-1903

Goshen 1781-1898

Grafton 1693-1893

Granby 1710–1900

Granville 1732–1895

Great Barrington 1745–1903

Greenfield 1750-1892

Greenwich 1741-1900

Groton 1640-1900

Groveland 1848-1918

Hadley 1660-1881

Halifax 1703-1902

Hamilton 1714–1895

Hampden 1878-1895

Hancock 1767-1896

Hanover 1712-1895

Hanson 1820-1900

Hardwick 1735-1895

Harvard 1723-1905

Harwich 1673-1895

Hatfield 1655-1890

Hawley 1727-1892

Heath 1763-1899

Hingham 1660-1889

Hinsdale 1860-1893

Holbrook 1771-1890

Holden 1734-1899

Holland 1771-1890

Holyoke 1850-1895

Hopedale 1886-1900

Hubbardston 1747-1900

Hudson 1866-1900

Hubbardston 1747-1900

Hull 1630-1900

Huntington 1783-1969

Hyde Park 1868–1892

Ipswich 1634–1892

Kingston 1683-1900

Lakeville 1853-1900



Lancaster 1647-1900

Lanesboro 1765-1897

Lawrence 1847-1905

Lee 1844-1892

Leicester 1706-1892

Lenox 1756-1890

Leominister 1715–1900

Leverett 1736-1890

Leyden 1776–1899

Littleton 1689-1905

Longmeadow 1784-1895

Lowell 1779-1905

Ludlow 1774-1855

Lunenburg 1707-1900

Manchester 1624-1892

Mansfield 1703-1895

Marblehead 1649-1905

Marshfield 1631–1890

Mashpee 1834–1899

Medway 1712-1900

Mendon 1660-1900

Methuen 1714-1905

Middleboro 1658-1900

Middlefield 1774-1899

Middleton 1704-1905

Milford 1732-1900

Millbury 1761-1899

Monroe 1777-1896

Montague 1731–1891

Monterey 1825-1895

Montgomery 1739–1895

Mount Washington 1745-1900

Nantucket 1662-1900

Needham 1711-1858

New Ashford 1844–1900

New Braintree 1751-1900

New Marlboro 1734-1890

New Salem 1742-1894

North Andover 1854–1905 North Brookfield 1841–1898

Northampton 1654-1893

Northboro 1716-1892

Northbridge 1748–1900

Northfield 1717–1900

Norton 1696-1900

Norwell 1636-1900

Oakham 1750-1895

Orange 1767-1891

Orleans 1637-1892

Otis 1764-1892

Oxford 1690-1905

Palmer 1731-1895

Paxton 1749-1890

Peabody 1855-1890



Pelham 1738-1895

Pembroke 1662-1897

Pepperell 1699-1892

Peru 1771-1892

Petersham 1743-1893

Phillipston 1762-1900

Pittsfield 1761–1899

Plainfield 1785-1863

Plymouth 1663-1894

Plympton 1649-1900

Prescott 1795-1890

Princeton 1676-1900

Provincetown 1620-1890

Quabbin Park 1741-1984

Quincy 1794-1889

Randolph 1731-1890

Raynham 1699-1895

Richmond 1791-1901

Rochester 1664-1900

Rockport 1840-1900

Rowe 1774-1848

Rowley 1639-1900

Roxbury 1630-1867

Royalston 1774–1895

Royalstoll 1774–163

Russell 1776–1896 Rutland 1719–1894

Sandisfield 1762–1894

Sandwich 1651–1890

Savoy 1736-1854

Scituate 1633-1904

Scituate Church 1694–1871

Seekonk 1760-1900

Sharon 1717-1900

Sheffield 1726-1897

Shelburne 1756–1895

Shirley 1729-1893

Shrewsbury 1717-1892

Shutesbury 1746-1900

Somerset 1680-1892

Southampton 1758-1890

Southbridge 1816-1889

South Hadley 1730-1896

Southwick 1771-1890

Spencer 1744-1890

Springfield 1640-1894

Sterling 1740-1900

Stockbridge 1737-1887

Stoughton 1717–1900

Stow 1670-1900

Sturbridge 1723-1891

Sunderland 1686-1890

Sutton 1710-1905

Sutton Church 1720-1948

Templeton 1760-1905



Tisbury 1669-1900

Tolland 1843-1900

Topsfield 1654-1891

Townsend 1726-1891

Truro 1702-1890

Tyringham 1759-1898

Uxbridge 1702–1900

Wales 1762-1895

Ware 1735-1893

Wareham 1719-1892

Warren 1727-1905

Warren Church 1792-1866

Warwick 1739-1890

Washington 1755-1900

Wayland 1638-1905

Webster 1832-1905

Wellfleet 1763-1905

Wendell 1763-1895

Wenham 1642-1900

Westboro 1717-1900

West Boylston 1843-1899

West Bridgewater 1762-1900

West Brookfield 1699–1904

West Newbury 1804-1900

West Roxbury 1712–1873

West Stockbridge 1774-1900

Westfield 1669-1904

Westford 1726-1902

Westhampton 1778–1892

Westminister 1728-1905

Westport 1787-1900

Weymouth 1633-1900

Whately 1771–1895

Wilbraham 1762–1895

Williamsburg 1771–1899

Williamstown 1757-1900

Winchendon 1763-1891

Windsor 1778-1900

Worcester 1719-1890

Worthington 1768–1895

Yarmouth 1665-1890



^{*}denotes film that is owned by the LDS Church but is on indefinite loan to the Genealogy Section.