

# Local Genealogical Record Repositories

rev. 16 March 2010

## VITAL RECORDS

Birth, marriages & deaths have been registered in Massachusetts since 1635. Statewide data collection began in 1841.

### The Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

[www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs](http://www.mass.gov/dph/rvrs)

150 Mt. Vernon St. First Floor  
Dorchester, MA 02125-3105 617/740-2600

Records of births, deaths and marriages for Massachusetts from 1916 to the present. There is a searchable database including information from birth, marriage and death indices covering 1841-1916. The Registry also has an index of divorces since 1952. Certified copies of divorces must be obtained from the county probate court where the divorce was issued. Due to budget cuts research room at the Registry is open on Monday & Thursday 2 - 4:30, Tuesday & Friday and 9-12. Counter hours 8:45 -4:45 M-F. Researchers can use the public indexes; examine records and abstract information from these records. There is a \$9.00 hourly charge for researchers. Certified copies of records requested in person are \$18.00.

### The State Archives, Columbia Point, (near JFK Library)/UMass Boston

[www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm)

220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125 617/727-2816

Vital Records to 1850 and vital records from 1841-1915 The city or town clerk in the city or town where the event occurred has all records prior to 1841. Also, copies of records since 1841 are available at the city or town where the event occurred. Records include: passenger lists, census schedules, older military, probate, divorce, naturalization, adoption, Native American, prison and state institution documents. Certified copies of records are \$3.00 allow 4-6 week lead time whether by or in person. Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm Select Saturdays 9am - 3pm. 1911-1915 vital records index available online.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### National Archives (NARA)

Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center  
380 Trapelo Road 781/647-8104  
Waltham, Massachusetts 02452-6399

The NARA facility in Waltham has extensive microfilm holdings, and some original records, of value for genealogy research, including:

- Federal population censuses for all States, 1790-1930.
- Union Veterans & widows census 1890
- Revolutionary War military service records, and pension and bounty land warrant applications;
- Passenger arrival records for the port of Boston, 1820-1943 and for other New England ports
- Canadian border entry records, 1895-1954
- Draft, Military Service and Pension and Bounty Land Applications Files
- World War I & II draft registration records (New England states only)
- Naturalization records (New England states only)

Hours Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7am - 4:30 pm, Thursday 7am - 9pm. Select Saturday's 8am - 4:30pm.

### Military Records Branch, Office of State Quartermaster

44 Salisbury Street  
Worcester, MA 01609 508/797-0334

Holdings include an extensive collection of Civil War military records that compliments those found at State Archives. Archival holdings also include the archives of the Office of the Adjutant General as well as the military records of Massachusetts soldiers, sailors, marines, militiamen, and national guardsmen from 1775 - 1940. Military records of Massachusetts servicemen from 1941 to the present.

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

### Lynnfield Public Library

[www.noblenet.org/lynnfield/](http://www.noblenet.org/lynnfield/)

18 Summer Street  
Lynnfield, MA 781/334-5411

The Essex Society of Genealogists (ESOG) maintains the Local History Room. Holdings include MA Vital Records, IGI, Essex County census records, older Essex County Probate indexes, Family Genealogies and references for all New England States and beyond. Have link to Ancestry website, but not full database. Have access to full New England Historical Society data base. M-Th. 9-8, F, Sat 9-5 Closed Saturday in summer.

**Later Day Saints LDS Library MORMAN CHURCH**400 Essex Street  
Lynnfield, MA

781/334-5586

This LDS library is staffed with volunteers to help. Catalogs list and describe the materials in the Family History Library. Computers available to search their collection of computer files, Family History Library Catalog International Genealogical Index (IGI), Ancestral File, Social Security Death Index (SSDI), United States Military Index, Personal Ancestral File (PAF) along with resource on compact disc. Patrons can arrange to have copies of most Family History Library microfilms and microfiche loaned to the center for a small fee. There is a small collection of published reference sources that include research helps, genealogies, histories, gazetteers, atlases, and maps. Minimal costs for microfilm rentals. Call for current hours.

**New England Historic Genealogical Society**[Newenglandancestrs.org](http://Newenglandancestrs.org)101 Newbury Street  
Boston, MA 02116

617/536-5740

Holdings include large collection of family genealogies and manuscripts, local histories, Vital records, some church registers, probate and deeds records, naturalization, indexes to passenger arrivals and Federal censuses records. Fee for non-members. Closed Mondays.

**Boston Public Library**[www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org)700 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02117

617/536-5400

Microtext Dept. - Holding include - Biographical dictionaries, business and trade directories, census population schedules for New England, Genealogy and local history, immigration passenger lists, Massachusetts newspapers, regimental histories of the American Civil War and United States city directories. Reference area has a complete set of MA VR - 1850.

**Danvers Peabody Institute Public Library - Archival Center**[www.danverslibrary.org/](http://www.danverslibrary.org/)15 Sylvan Street  
Danvers, MA 01923

978/774-0554

Holding include - Local Danvers town and church records, Danvers genealogies along with a collection witchcraft hysteria documents. Also have nearly complete set of MA VR - 1850. Limited hours call ahead.

**Haverhill Public Library - Special Collections**[www.haverhillpl.org/](http://www.haverhillpl.org/)99 Main Street  
Haverhill, MA 01830

978/373-1586

Holding include - Extensive collection of Haverhill, Merrimack Valley, Essex County Massachusetts and New England genealogies and histories, Revolutionary and Civil War Histories along with many genealogical publications. Also have nearly complete set of MA VR - 1850. Special Collections room has limited hours.

**Reading Public Library**[www.readingpl.org/](http://www.readingpl.org/)64 Middlesex Avenue  
Reading, MA 01867

781/944-0840

Holdings Include - Vital Records, Annual Reports, Year Books, Street Directories, Genealogies and Local History books, Reading Chronicle and recent Boston Globe on microfilm

**Reading Town Archives**Town Hall 16 Lowell Street  
Reading, MA 01867

781/942-6661

Holdings Include - Vital Records, Valuation Records, Town Reports, State/Federal Census, Street Directories, Maps, Genealogies, Obituary Collection and an extensive photo collection. Records maintained by volunteers call for appointment.

**Salem Public Library**[www.noblenet.org/salem/](http://www.noblenet.org/salem/)370 Essex Street  
Salem, MA

978/774-0860

Holdings Include - nearly complete set of MA VR - 1850, Most of the Boston Globe on microfilm (missing 194?)

**Woburn Public Library**[www.woburnpubliclibrary.org](http://www.woburnpubliclibrary.org)45 Pleasant Street  
Woburn, MA 01801

781/933-0848

Ancestry.com is available on internet computers