



NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL RESOURCES

This region covers Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

This is a non-comprehensive overview of some record types, resources, and strategies that may be covered on the ICAPGen regional exams. Use it as a starting point to direct your studies and to compile research reference guides.

IMPORTANT RECORD TYPES

Must Know Very Well	Good Working Knowledge
<p>Cemetery Records</p> <p>Census Records (Federal, State, Special (i.e. Mortality, Agriculture, Slave))</p> <p>Church Records (Baptism or Christening, Marriage, Death or Burial, Membership, Meeting Records)</p> <p>Land and Property Records (County, State)</p> <p>Manuscript Collections</p> <p>Military Collections</p> <p>Naturalization Records</p> <p>Probate Records Intestate (Administrator, Bonds, Inventories, Settlement, etc.) Testate (Executor Bonds, Wills, Codicils, Settlement, etc.)</p> <p>Town Records</p> <p>Vital Records Birth, Marriage, Death, Divorce</p>	<p>Adoption Records</p> <p>Bible Records</p> <p>Biographies</p> <p>Business Commerce Records</p> <p>City Directories</p> <p>Court Records (Civil, criminal, guardianship)</p> <p>Emigration, Immigration</p> <p>Ethnic and Minority Records</p> <p>Migration</p> <p>Histories (County, Local Town or City, Family, State)</p> <p>Maps, Gazetteers and Historical Geography</p> <p>Newspapers</p> <p>Obituaries</p> <p>Tax Records</p> <p>Periodicals</p> <p>Voting Records</p>

RESOURCES

Repositories

Some repositories important for New England genealogical research are shown. You will also want to be familiar with repositories specific to smaller local areas where you do most of your research.

Archives & Libraries

- Connecticut State Library libguides.ctstatelibrary.org
- Godfrey Memorial Library www.godfrey.org
- Maine State Archives: <https://www.maine.gov/sos/arc/>
- Maine State Library: <https://www.maine.gov/msl/>
- Massachusetts State Archives: <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/>
- Massachusetts, Secretary of State <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/archives/>
- New Hampshire State Archives http://sos.nh.gov/arch_rec_mgmt.aspx
- New Hampshire State Library: <https://www.nhsl.dncr.nh.gov/>
- Littleton Library, Littleton, New Hampshire www.littletonpubliclibrary.org
- Rhode Island State Library <http://sos.ri.gov/divisions/Civics-And-Education/state-library>
- Rhode Island State Digital Archives: <https://www.sos.ri.gov/divisions/state-archives>
- Vermont State Archives: <https://sos.vermont.gov/vsara/>
- Vermont State Library: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/vermont-state-library>

Genealogical and Historical Societies

- Connecticut Historical Society: <https://chs.org>
- Connecticut Society of Genealogists: <https://csginc.org/>
- New Haven Colony Historical Society www.newhavenmuseum.org
- New Haven Colony Historical Society www.newhavenmuseum.org
- MaineGenealogy.Net: <https://www.maine-genealogy.net/>
- Maine Historical Society: <https://www.mainehistory.org/>
- Maine Genealogical Society: <https://www.maineroots.org/about>
- Massachusetts Society of Genealogists: <https://msoginc.org/>
- Massachusetts Historical Society www.masshist.org
- Massachusetts State Archives <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/>
- Massachusetts State Library <https://www.mass.gov/>
- New Hampshire Historical Society: <https://www.nhhistory.org/>
- New Hampshire Society of Genealogists: <https://www.nhsog.org/>
- Littleton Library, Littleton, New Hampshire www.littletonpubliclibrary.org
- Rhode Island Genealogical Society: <https://www.rigensoc.org/>
- Rhode Island Historical Society: <https://www.rihs.org/>
- One Rhode Island Family: <https://onerhodeislandfamily.com/>
- Newport Rhode Island Historical Society: <https://newporthistory.org/>
- Vermont Historical Society: <https://vermonthistory.org/>

- The Mayflower Society www.themayflowersociety.org
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Sons of the American Revolution

Repositories Covering Multiple States

- New England Historic and Genealogical Society: <https://www.americanancestors.org/>
- Congregational Library www.congregationalchurch.org
- Historic New England www.historicnewengland.org
- American Antiquarian Society: <https://americanantiquarian.org/>
- National Archives, Boston Branch: <https://www.archives.gov/boston>
- NARA United States National Archives <https://www.archives.gov/>
- Archives & Libraries: See FamilySearch Research Wiki <https://bit.ly/2zJRxZ6>. Search terms [Name of Country] Archives and Libraries.
- Boston College, John J. Burns Library Rare Books & Special Collections: www.bc.edu
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services <https://www.uscis.gov/>
- Fold3 <https://www.fold3.com/>
- Chronicling America Historic American Newspapers <https://chroniclingamerican.loc.gov>

Websites

Many repositories have websites that include record indexes and/or images. Volunteer groups and individuals also place useful content online. The following are good starting points to find useful websites.

- Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/> categories for each of the states
- Facebook genealogy pages for the region, use search field to locate specific groups
- FamilySearch Research Wiki articles for your region <https://bit.ly/2zJRxZ6>
- Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) <https://raogk.org/>
- Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Research Library www.bostoncatholic.org
- Archdiocese of Boston Archives www.bostoncatholic.org
- The Association of Religion Data Archives <https://www.thearda.com/us-religion/maps/us-historical-state-maps>
- State Departments of Health for vital records
- Your favorite search engine

Finding aids

Finding aids listing the sources that repositories hold is often available online, but not always. Knowledge of such collections not listed online can often be obtained through local experience, visits to repositories, and conversations with local experts.

FamilySearch.org: A comprehensive guide to New England Research and Records.

<https://cms-b-assets.familysearch.org/31/0e/d6f66b9ab940e5bbc3c5f57e7c91/united-states-research-new-england-region-c-smith-april-2018-jmr.pdf>

Library of Congress: <https://guides.loc.gov/massachusetts-local-history-genealogy/external-websites>

Book-length research guides

It is recommended that you study some guides on topics such as genealogical research, analysis, writing, and record types. Whether you are an expert or a beginner, reading research guides for your states, repositories, record types, and topics of interest, will help advance your region-specific knowledge. General guides are so plentiful that any list could quickly go out-of-date and would risk overlooking some. The following guides are examples helpful for all regions.

- For New England as a whole: Rhonda R. McClure, *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 6th Edition (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2021)
- *Researching Your Colonial New England Ancestors*, Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006 by Patricia Law Hatcher.
- *The American Genealogical-Biographical Index*, Godfrey Library
- *A Guide to the Library of The New England Historical and Genealogical Society*, NEHGS
- *Becoming an Excellent Genealogist: Essays on Professional Research Skills*. ICAPGen, 2012.
- *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. National Genealogical Society, 2015.
- NGS has state guides for MA and RI.
- The Barbour Collection
- Hale Collection

STRATEGIES

SPECIFIC FOR NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH

- Know the date vital statistics were first recorded for each state in the region and the laws that affected their recording. For example: Connecticut Vital records have survived from as early as 1650 and are held at the town level since 1650. Access to birth records less than one hundred years old for genealogical purposes is limited to members of genealogical societies.
- Town clerks kept vital records. Many towns recorded births, marriages, and deaths before state laws required them to. Town clerks are still a good resource of historical vital records for New England states.
- Town records included town minutes and business, but also could have vital records interspersed with cattle marks, land records, and town assignments.
- Be mindful of colonial and state boundary changes. Use <https://www.mapofus.org/united-states/> to find state and county boundaries during the time you are researching.
- Consider downloading the printed FamilySearch Library Research Outlines for each state in the New England States Region.

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- It is important to know what jurisdiction has the records for each record type and for each state. For example, where were vital records, land records, probate records recorded and where are they kept? Was it in the town, the county, or the state?

FOR GENERAL RESEARCH

In addition to the strategies specific to this region discussed above the strategies below apply to all regions.

- Search all applicable census records to find complete families.
- Use original records, when possible, created at the time of the event. These might be found at various jurisdictional levels (such as town, county, state/province, federal/national).
- Understand your family in historical context, including wars and jurisdictional boundary changes.
- If indirect evidence is used, assemble it correctly to support your conclusions.
- Evaluate each record. Resolve any conflicting information. Correlate findings.
- Substitute records might be used when there is a lack of records or record loss. An event might be recorded in multiple ways. For example, a marriage might be recorded civilly, by the church, or in a newspaper. Each should be checked.
- Source each event in each person's life. Capture the information about each source to facilitate proper citation when writing the report.
- Keep a research log of all records searched, including any searches for which nothing was found.
- Write your report as you go.
- Verify generational links.
- Understand applicable economics, religion, ethnicity, prejudices, and laws. For example: Know availability of records for major religious denominations in each state.
- Watch for people with the same name (e.g. parents with the same name on a census or other record). Consider all variants of spelling for the name along with ways a name could be misspelled when searching indexes and online resources.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

English is the only language tested in this region.

NOTE: The exams are open book, including the Internet. Paper and/or digital research reference guides may be used during the test. Digital research reference guides on USB drives will be copied to the facility computer and deleted from that computer at the end of the test session. Research reference guides may also be accessed through a cloud account such as Dropbox, Google, OneDrive, etc.