



## Colonial Genealogical Research in Connecticut

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### General Connecticut References

1. Marcia D. Melnyk, ed., *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* (fourth edition: Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999/2001 reprint). This is one book that you should buy again at each new edition! Addresses change and you need to keep up-to-date.
2. Thomas Jay Kemp, *The Connecticut Researcher's Handbook* (Detroit: Gales Research Co., 1981). [Out of print but often available used.]
3. Charles William Manwaring, compiler, *A Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, three volumes (1904-1906), reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co., *op. cit.* GPC). Also available on Ancestry.com.
4. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Series*. Also available on Ancestry.com and on NEHGS website.
5. Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*. Use the CD version so you can access Torrey's information sources.
6. Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records Prior to 1800* (New Haven, 1896-1906). Reprinted with additions and corrections edited by Donald Lines Jacobus (Baltimore: GPC, 1968), arranged by parish. Available on Ancestry.com.
7. Gary Boyd Roberts, editor, *Genealogies of Connecticut Families from the NEHGR* (Baltimore, GPC, 1968).
8. Robert A. Perry, compiler, "A Short Directory of the Names, Past and Current, of Connecticut Boroughs, Cities, Towns & Unincorporated Sections," published as the complete issue in *Connecticut Ancestry*, vol. 39, No. 1 (Aug. 1996); available from the society as a back issue for \$5.
9. Thomas E. Sherer, Jr. *The Connecticut Atlas: A Graphic Guide to the Land, People, & History of Connecticut* (West Hartford: Kilderatlas Publishing Co., 1990) for information on the tribes, villages and pathways in Connecticut before European settlement.
10. Henry Gannett, *A Geographic Dictionary of Connecticut and Rhode Island* (originally published in 1894 by the Government Printing Office and reprinted Baltimore: GPC, 1978).

## Statewide Indexes

### **The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records to 1850:**

- Statewide slip index to vital events recorded in town record books.
- Additional printed index volumes arranged by town.
- Exceptions: Bolton, Coventry, Enfield, Mansfield, New Haven, New London, Norwich, and Vernon are published as transcripts.
- In addition, the original vital records of most towns have been microfilmed. Some towns kept the earliest vital records at the end of the land records, so look there, too.
- Family History Library Catalog: "Connecticut – Vital Records" where it is listed as the Barbour Collection.
- Available at NEHGS on microfilm; town volumes available in book form on 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

### **Church Records:**

- Statewide slip index to church birth/baptism, marriage, membership, and death/burial records. Names found in meeting minutes are not included in the index.
- Additional printed index volumes for most but not all churches in the index.
- Churches covered include those founded before 1700, but not all church records survived. Churches organized later have not all been indexed.
- Many original Episcopal and Congregational church record books have also been microfilmed.
- Family History Library Catalog: "Connecticut – Church Records - Indexes."
- Available on microfilm at NEHGS.

### **Bible and Family Records:**

- Statewide slip index to those records which have been submitted and bound.
- Separate notebooks contain copies or transcriptions of the records.
- Family History Library Catalog: "Connecticut – Bible Records."

### **The Charles R. Hale Collection of Headstone Inscriptions and of Newspaper Marriage and Death Notices:**

- One statewide slip index for marriages and a second combined index for inscriptions and death notices. Each of these slips contains a reference to bound cemetery or newspaper volumes. Inscriptions in burial order are bound by town. Newspaper abstracts are bound by paper and type of record.
- Family History Library Catalog: "Connecticut – Vital Records" where it is listed as the Hale Collection.
- Available on microfilm at NEHGS.

### **Militia Archives and Index:**

- Militia and trainband records collected and a two-volume index generated.

- Family History Library Catalog: “Connecticut – Military Records” where they are listed under Connecticut Archives.

### **Probate Packages Index:**

- Card index to probate packages submitted by local probate courts to the state library for archival purposes.
- Family History Library Catalog: “Connecticut – Probate Records - Indexes.”
- Available on microfilm at NEHGS.

### **Probate Research**

- Connecticut originated as three separate colonies. Old Saybrook Colony joined Connecticut Colony in the 1640s, but New Haven Colony remained separate until 1662.
  - \* New Haven Colony probates prior to 1662 were filed with the colony’s secretary and can be found in the colony records (see Hoadley, no. 2 below).
  - \* Connecticut Colony probates until 1649 were filed with the General Court records (see J. H. Trumbull and Manwaring below), and afterwards with the Particular Court (see CHS, vol. 22; and Manwaring below).
  - \* A few probate records from 1639-1649 are scattered in town records, such as those of Guilford and Stamford.
  - \* In Fairfield Co. and New London Co., from 1649 to 1666, there were Special Particular Courts in addition to the statewide Particular Court in Hartford. Estates filed in them are available only in the originals and microfilm copies of the Fairfield and New London Probate Districts.
- From May 1666, probate courts were established in the four original counties, Fairfield, New Haven, New London, and Hartford. These can now be found as the earliest records of these four original “probate districts.”
- From 1687-1688, during the reign of Gov. Edmond Andros, probate records were again filed with the Particular Court (see A. E. Trumbull below), but for the period from 1686 to 1689, estates valued at more than £ 50 were filed in Suffolk Co., Massachusetts (see 4 below).
- In 1698, probate districts were established as entities distinct from counties. The first four were the original four county probate courts.
- In 1719, the process of splitting districts began. As of today, there are over 100 Probate Districts. (See Manwaring (Appendix - which is in front of volume 1) or Melnyk for a list of their establishment and parent districts.)

### **Probate Records in Published Form:**

1. Connecticut Historical Society [CHS], *Collections*, vol. 22, The Particular Court of the Colony of Connecticut (Hartford, 1928).
2. Hoadley, C. J., *Records of the Colony and Plantation of New Haven* (Hartford, 1857-1858).
3. Manwaring, Charles William, compiler, *A Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records*, three volumes (1904-1906), reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co.), which includes probate records from the General Court, 1639-1649, the Particular Court, 1649-1677, as well as the first twelve volumes, 1635-1750, of Hartford Probate Court.
4. *The American Genealogist* [TAG], volumes 12, 13, and 14, contain a list of the estates handled in Suffolk Co., Massachusetts, 1686-1689.
5. Trumbull, J. Hammon, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut* (Hartford: Brown and Parsons, 1850).
6. Trumbull, A. E., *Records of the Particular Court of the Colony of Connecticut, Administration of Sir Edmund Andros, Royal Governor, 1687-1688* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood and Brainard, 1936).

### **Web Resources**

[list updated 20 May 2003]

#### **Government Pages:**

Connecticut State Library:

History and Genealogy Unit <http://www.cslib.org/handg.htm>

Descriptions of Slip Indexes <http://www.cslib.org/basic.htm>

Connecticut State Register and Manual (the "Blue Book")

<http://www.sots.state.ct.us/RegisterManual/regman.htm>

Index to Municipal Pages

<http://www.state.ct.us/MUNIC/townlist.htm>

#### **Pages with Links and Lists:**

Cyndi's List for Connecticut <http://cyndislist.com/ct.htm>

International Internet Genealogical Society for Connecticut

<http://www.iigs.org/library/shelves/NAmerica/usa/ct.htm.en>

Rootsweb for Connecticut <http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/ct.html>

USGenWeb for Connecticut <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctgenweb/>

#### **Society Pages:**

Connecticut Historical Society <http://www.chs.org/>

Connecticut Society of Genealogists <http://www.csginc.org/>

Federation of Genealogical Societies:

Society Hall, search page

<http://www.familyhistory.com/societyhall/search.asp>

