

A LIST OF THE MASSACHUSETTS PUBLISHED VITAL RECORDS

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The following is a list of towns in Massachusetts of which vital records have been published in a more or less complete form up to 1850, and in a few cases beyond this date.

No attempt has been made to list those towns which have had records printed in town histories or in any of the historical periodicals. Along with this list is given information about the town that is of relative importance to the searcher concerned with the town's vital records, such as the county in which it is located and the date of establishment. The date given in this list is the one by which a town was officially recognized as such. Many of these towns were set off from

others, or founded as districts, years before becoming a town. Thus in some cases the records precede the first date by thirty years or more. All changes of names have been cited and the dates of the extinct towns have been given.

One further warning is that anyone consulting a town's published vital records should always read the forward or preface of the volume concerning the more detailed facts about the town; just what records are contained in the volume, etc.

I am deeply indebted to Winifred Lovering Holman for her advice and direction in preparing this list.

ABINGTON, Plymouth Co., 1712 from Bridgewater, — to 1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1912, 2 vols., p. 251 & 381.

ACTON, Middlesex Co., 1735 from Concord, — to 1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1923, 1 vol., p. 311.

ALFORD, Berkshire Co., 1773 from Great Barrington, — to 1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1902, 1 vol., p. 32.

AMESBURY, Essex Co., 1668 from Salisbury, — to 1850, Topsfield Hist. Soc., 1913, 1 vol., p. 600.

ANDOVER, Essex Co., 1646-1850, Topsfield, Hist. Soc., 1912, 2 vols., p. 391 & 575.

ARLINGTON, Middlesex Co., 1807 from Cambridge, — to 1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1904, 1 vol., p. 162.

ASHBURNHAM, Worcester Co., 1765-1850, Franklin P. Rice, 1909, 1 vol., p. 215.

ASHFIELD, Franklin Co., 1765-1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1942, 1 vol., p. 273.

ATHOL, Worcester Co., 1762-1850, Franklin P. Rice, 1910, 1 vol., p. 230.

ATTLEBOROUGH, Bristol Co., 1694 from Rehoboth, — to 1850, Essex Institute, 1934, 1 vol., p. 745.

AUBURN, Worcester Co., 1837 Name of town of Ward changed to Auburn, — to 1850, Franklin P. Rice, 1900, 1 vol., p. 142.

Town of Ward was established 1778 from Leicester, Oxford, Sutton, and Worcester.

BARRE, Worcester Co., 1776 Name of town of Hutchinson changed to Barre, — to 1850, Franklin P. Rice, 1903, 1 vol., p. 276.

Hutchinson was established 1774.

BECKET, Berkshire Co., 1765-1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1903, 1 vol., p. 98.

BEDFORD, Middlesex Co., 1729 from Billerica and Concord, — to 1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1903, 1 vol., p. 142.

BELLINGHAM, Norfolk Co., 1719 from Dedham, — to 1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1904, 1 vol., p. 222.

BERLIN, Worcester Co., 1812-1850, Frances L. Eaton, 1935, 1 vol., p. 380.

BEVERLY, Essex Co., 1668 from Salem, — to 1850, Topsfield Hist. Soc., 1906 and 1907, 2 vols., p. 400 & 527.

BILLERICA, Middlesex Co., 1655-1850, N.E.H.G. Soc., 1908, 1 vol., p. 405.

BOLTON, Worcester Co., 1738 from Lancaster, — to 1850, Franklin P. Rice, 1910, 1 vol., p. 232.

BOSTON, Suffolk Co., 1630-1699, Registry Department of Boston, vol. 9, report of the Record Commissioners, 1883.

1700-1800, *Births*, Registry Department of Boston, vol. 24, report of the Record Commissioners, 1894.

1700-1751, *Marriages*, Registry Department of Boston, vol. 28, report of the Record Commissioners, 1898. (pp. 348-350, marriages for years 1695-1697)

UNPUBLISHED RECORDS OF MASSACHUSETTS CITIES AND TOWNS INCORPORATED ANTE 1850

By WINIFRED LOVERING HOLMAN¹

This list does not consider those towns, whose records, in full or in part, are printed in certain quarterlies or other easily available sources, such as the *Mayflower Descendant*, which includes records from many towns in the Old Colony area (Barnstable, Bristol and Plymouth Counties), in the *Genealogical Advertiser*, Bailey's *Massachusetts Marriages*, and so on. For a complete list of such sources, by the towns, see the "Place Index" in D. L. Jacobus' splendid three volume work commonly known as the *Jacobus Index*. Nor does it include the various town histories such as Judd's *Hadley*, Wyman's *Charlestown*, Lincoln's *Hingham*, which contains all or most of the early vital records, arranged in family accounts, or such histories as that of Townsend, which just gives the marriages, or Hoyt's *Amesbury* and *Salisbury*, which includes all types of records. It also ignores those separately printed cemetery or church records which pertain to Boston, Hanover, Lexington, Plymouth and many other towns.

Thus far 206 towns have had their vital records issued, under various auspices. The earnest student or searcher would do well to consult the list of abbreviations and/or the foreword to each volume so as to learn just what records were utilized, for some are inclusive and others are not. By inclusive we mean town, church, cemetery, county and private records were used. Most of these published volumes end with 1850, for our State Records, now on file in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State House, Boston, commence with 1841 but are not very full until about 1850. So it is well to see just what years are covered. A few town records have been burned, entire, or just certain years.

In 1938 the Quabbin Dam obliterated Greenwich, 1754, Enfield, 1816 and Pres-

cott, 1822, all in Hampshire County; also Dana, 1801, in Worcester County, but fortunately in print. These town records may now be consulted at the headquarters of the Windsor Dam, Belchertown. The church records were scattered but those of the old First Church of Greenwich are at the Ware Trust Company, in Ware, and with permission may be consulted. So in the following list the "Q" stands for a Quabbin town. We might add here that the cemetery records (gravestone inscriptions) of these towns copied and known as the *Quabbin Records* and are placed under Ware at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

The "C" in the list represents the Corbin Transcripts about which a note is appended.

I am deeply grateful to the help and courtesy of Mrs. Florence Conant Howes, of Brookline, Mass., who was for many years in charge of the New England Historic Genealogical Society's publication of vital records.² She prepared a booklet for me listing the towns and cities now unpublished, and some of the comments following the names of the towns are her own and some are mine.

Town	Formed	County
Adams	1778	Berkshire
Amherst	1759	Hampshire
See C. also Ms. with N.S.H.G.Soc., with church records and 3 G.R.s.		
Ashby	1767	Middlesex
B. M. and D. 1754-1874 with N.E.H.G.S., also Epitaphs		
Ashland	1846	Middlesex
3 G.R.s with N.E.H.G.S.		
Barnstable	1683	Barnstable
See M.D. [<i>Mayflower Descendant Magazine</i>]		
Belchertown	1761	Hampshire
See C.		
Berkley	1735	Bristol
G. R.s in Register 8:286		

¹ Mrs. Holman is a Fellow and Vice-President of the American Society of Genealogists and a Contributing Editor of *The American Genealogist*. Her article supplements Kenneth E. Brown's "A List of the Massachusetts Published Vital Records" in the *Quarterly*, vol. 45, Sept. 1967, pp. 137-143.

² Vide the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Jan. 1919, 73:52-62 and July 1949, 103:202-207.

Corbin Transcripts

For years, Walter E. Corbin, of Florence, Mass., has copied town, church and cemetery records of the towns in Hampshire County (1662), and in Berkshire County (1761) Franklin County (1811), and Hampden County (1812), the last three being set off from Hampshire. In some cases he copied town, church and cemetery, and in others only one or two sets of these records. It is to be hoped that some day a library of national importance will acquire by gift or purchase this collection of unpublished records pertaining to our Massachusetts Vital Records. In most cases he ended his town records with 1843.

- Amherst, 1751, town and cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Belchertown, 1761, town and cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Bernardston, town and old cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Blandford, 1741, cemetery (V.R. in Town Hist.); Hampshire Co.
 Chesterfield, 1762, a portion of town, also church and cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Cummington, 1779, cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Easthampton, 1785, town, church and cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Enfield, 1816, part of town; Hampshire Co.
 Goshen, 1781, cemetery (V.R. in Town Hist.); Hampshire Co.
 Granby, 1761, cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Greenwich, 1754, part of town; Hampshire Co.
 Hadley, 1661, town and all cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Hancock, 1776, part of town and all cemetery [I think W.L.H.]; Berkshire Co.
 Holland, 1783, cemetery (V.R. in Town Hist.); Hampden Co.
 Huntington, 1855 (founded 1773 as Norwich), cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Lanesboro, 1765, town; Berkshire Co.
 Leverett, 1774, town and cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Leyden, 1784, cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Monson, 1760, town to 1871, also cemetery and church; Hampden Co.
 Monterey, 1847, cemetery; Berkshire Co.
 New Marlborough, 1751, cemetery; Berkshire Co.
 Northampton, 1666, town; Hampshire Co.
 Northfield, 1714, town, cemetery and church; Franklin Co.
 Pittsfield, 1761, cemetery; Berkshire Co.
 Plainfield, 1785, cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Prescott, 1822, cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Rowe, 1785, town and cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Savory, 1797, cemetery; Berkshire Co.
 Shutesbury, 1761, cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Southampton, 1753, town and cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 South Hadley, 1753, cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Springfield, 1641, a part of town; Hampden Co.
 Sunderland, 1718, town and cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Wales, 1762, town, cemetery and church; Hampden Co.
 Ware, 1761, town, cemetery and church; Hampshire Co.
 Westfield, 1669, cemetery; Hampden Co.
 Westhampton, 1778, town, church and cemetery; Hampshire Co.
 Whately, 1771, cemetery; Franklin Co.
 Wilbraham, 1763, part of town; Hampden Co.
 Williamsburg, 1771, town, cemetery and church; Hampshire Co.