

## Where in Worcester?

Many times the most difficult part of obtaining historical records is knowing where to go to find them. In Worcester, there are many institutions that maintain the records of our rich history.

To assist and guide you through your search for historical records, we organized finding records by institution. These recordkeepers work together to assist you, the public, in your search.

Please contact the particular institution in advance of a visit so your request for records may be as pleasant and fruitful as possible.

### A Guide to the Codes

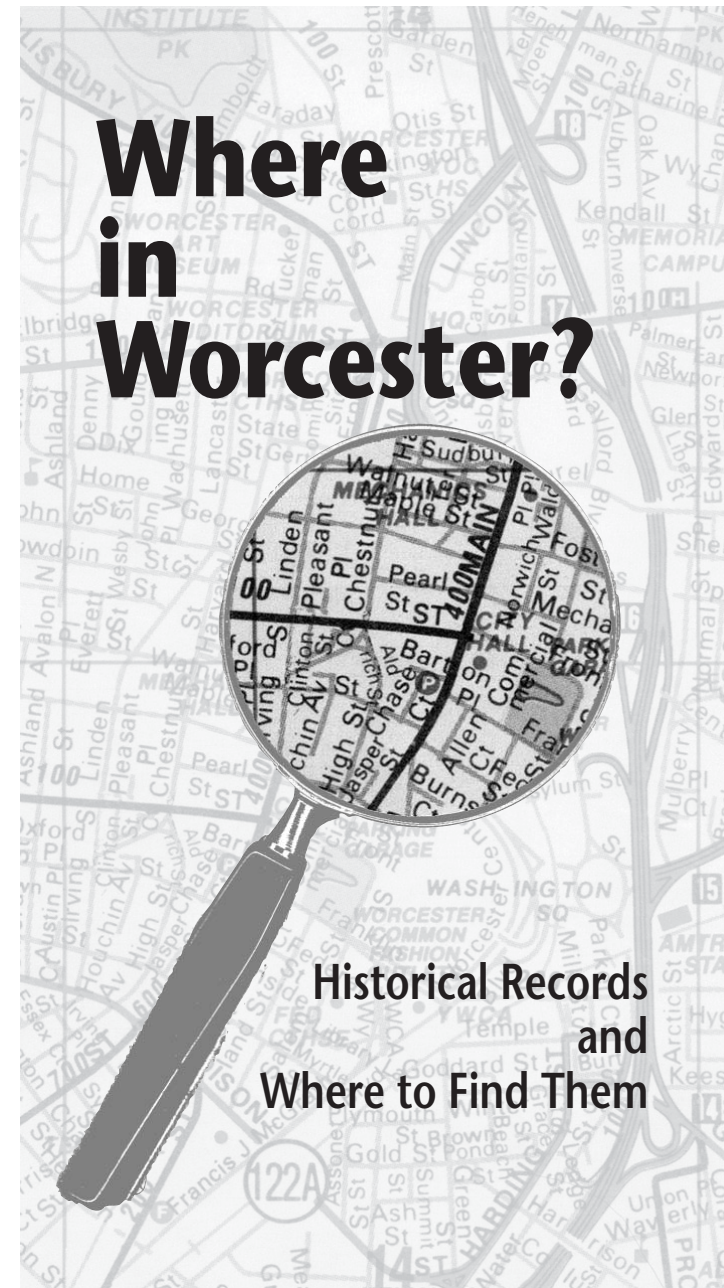
American Antiquarian Society	AAS
Family History Center (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints)	FHC
Guy Burnham Map and Aerial Photography Library	GBM
Massachusetts National Guard Museum	MNG
Massachusetts State Archives	MSA
National Archives and Records Administration (Pittsfield)	NARA-P
National Archives and Records Administration (Waltham)	NARA-W
Worcester City Clerk's Office	WCC
Worcester Historical Museum	WHM
Worcester Probate Court	WPC
Worcester Public Library	WPL
Worcester Registrar of Deeds	WRD



**Worcester Historical Museum**  
30 Elm Street  
Worcester, MA 01609  
508/753-8278  
[www.worcesterhistory.org](http://www.worcesterhistory.org)

**Museum/Library Hours**  
Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Thursdays 10 a.m.–8:30 p.m.

# Where in Worcester?



Historical Records  
and  
Where to Find Them

## WORCESTER RESOURCES

### American Antiquarian Society

185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
[www.americanantiquarian.org](http://www.americanantiquarian.org)

### Guy Burnham Map and Aerial Photography Library

Clark University  
950 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01610  
[www.maplib.clarku.edu](http://www.maplib.clarku.edu)

### Family History Center

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
67 Chester Street, Worcester, MA 01605

### Massachusetts National Guard

Museum and Archives  
44 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
[www.state.ma.us/guard/Museum/museum.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/guard/Museum/museum.htm)

### Worcester City Clerk's Office

Worcester City Hall  
455 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608  
[www.ci.worcester.ma.us](http://www.ci.worcester.ma.us)

### Worcester Historical Museum

30 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609  
[www.worcesterhistory.org](http://www.worcesterhistory.org)

### Worcester Probate Court

Worcester County Courthouse  
2 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608

### Worcester Public Library

3 Salem Square, Worcester, MA 01608  
[www.worcpublic.org](http://www.worcpublic.org)

### Worcester Registrar of Deeds

Worcester County Courthouse  
50 Harvard Street, Worcester, MA 01608  
[www.masslandrecords.com](http://www.masslandrecords.com)

## Other Massachusetts Resources

### Massachusetts State Archives

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125  
[www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcidx.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcidx.htm)

### National Archives and Records Administration

Silvio Conte Center  
10 Conte Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201  
[www.archives.gov/facilities/ma/pittsfield.html](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ma/pittsfield.html)

### National Archives and Records Administration

Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center  
380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02452  
[www.archives.gov/facilities/ma/](http://www.archives.gov/facilities/ma/)

### AAS

508-755-5221

### GBM

508-793-7322

### FHC

508-852-7000

### MNG

508-797-0334

### WCC

508-799-1121

### WHM

508-753-8278

### WPC

508-770-0825

### WPL

508-799-1655

### WRD

508-798-7713

### MSA

617-727-2816

### NARA-P

413-236-3604

### NARA-W

866-406-2379

## WHERE CAN I FIND?

### ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

AAS; MNG collections document the Mass. Militia and National Guard from 1780-1940; MSA; NARA-P; NARA-W; WHM (Worcester companies, families, and related institutions).

### CITY AND TOWN HISTORIES

AAS (nationwide); WHM and WPL Mass. primarily; WPL digitized national Collection on Heritage Quest.

### CITY DIRECTORIES

AAS (one of the largest collections in the U.S. with a national focus to 1880); WHM and WPL have both city directories and house directories and specialized directories for Worcester. WPL also has directories for other Mass. cities.

### CLIPPING FILES

WHM has files from the early 1800s to the present, WPL has files from circa 1960 to the present.

### COURT RECORDS

MSA; NARA-W; the Worcester Probate Court has records from 1955 at the Courthouse and 1731-1954 in off-site storage. WHM and WPL have indexes to Worcester Probate Court from 1731-1897. WPL has indexes for other Mass. county courts as well.

### DEEDS

The Registrar of Deeds at the Worcester County Courthouse has images of land records from 1731 to present online at [www.masslandrecords.com](http://www.masslandrecords.com), indexing from 1966 to present.

### FEDERAL CENSUS

NARA-P and NARA-W have all federal census material nationwide. WHM has transcriptions of the Mass. federal manuscript census schedules 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830 and 1840, also transcriptions of 1798 Federal Direct Tax and 1826 Worcester District School tax list; WPL has all federal census material from 1790-1930 for Mass.; 1790 -1870 for all New England states; online access to all nation-wide censuses and indexing of same via AncestryPlus and Heritage Quest.

### GENEALOGIES AND FAMILY HISTORIES

AAS (nationwide); WHM, Mass. primarily but others as well; WPL, Mass., microfiche collection and digitized collection accessible on Heritage Quest, nationwide in scope. AAS has a lot of genealogies and one staff member who specializes in genealogy reference.

### MAGAZINES

AAS extensive collection, nation-wide to 1876, WHM Worcester-related publications, WPL nationwide collection 18th and 19th century, Worcester-related publications.

### MAPS

AAS to 1876; GBM has extensive collection, local, national, worldwide; WHM atlases of Mass., 100 maps of Worcester 1683 to present and Clarendon Harris's Worcester Center Village Map and Directory reconstituted and transcribed; WPL atlases of Mass., maps of Worcester, Sanborn maps of Mass. on microfilm; WCC has Sanborn maps of Worcester as well.

### MILITARY RECORDS

AAS has printed volumes on military units from many states; MNG has collections of Mass. military records, artifacts and books regarding Mass. militia and National

Guard from 1775 to the present; NARA-W; WHM has a militia collection, information on the Civil War, Revolutionary War, and Spanish-American War; WPL has information on the Civil War, Revolutionary War, histories of Civil War military units, and the Civil War Veteran Census of 1890.

### NATURALIZATION RECORDS

MSA; WPL has the Indexes to naturalization applications for the New England states 1793-1906; NARA-W; NARA-P.

### NEWSPAPERS

AAS has one of the finest collections of early American newspapers in the country, nationwide in scope to 1876. WPL has a collection of Worcester and Mass. newspapers from 1704 to the present. In addition, WPL has the complete *Worcester Telegram & Gazette* to the present, the *Boston Globe* 1960 to the present, and the complete *New York Times* 1855 to present.

### PASSENGER LISTS

NARA-P; NARA-W; WPL has indexes to and passenger lists for arrivals at the Port of Boston, 1820 -1920.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

E.B.Luce Co. has an extensive collection of Worcester photographs, many of which are displayed on its website: <http://www.ebluce.com/eblucecollection>. WHM has an extensive collection of photographs (100,000) and photographic negatives (200,000) of street views, portraits, group portraits, and others organized by subject. WPL has a small collection of photos of Worcester buildings and streets.

### VITAL RECORDS: BIRTHS, DEATHS & MARRIAGES

The WCC has all records for the city of Worcester only. WHM has an almost complete collection of Mass. printed records organized by city and town to 1850; WPL has all Mass. vital records, organized by city and town, that have been microfilmed to date. These records occasionally include town records and church records. WPL also has the collection of Mass. printed records to 1850. WPL has vital records from other New England states as well, including the Barber Collection, the Corbin Collection and the Hale Collection. AAS has a complete run of published vital records. WHM has early cemetery records published in *Proceedings*.

### WORCESTER CITY DOCUMENTS

WCC has all Worcester city documents including an online index to Worcester City Council meetings, reports of various city departments and other administrative documents. WHM has the bound set of the City of Worcester Annual Reports, also some Fire Department records and log books. WPL has all city of Worcester Annual Reports to the present, including reports of various city agencies and departments.

### THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER OF WORCESTER

provides researchers with an opportunity to access the massive microfilm collection of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Patrons order specific films through the local Family History Center. They first search the online catalog of the Family History Library, <http://www.familysearch.org>, copy off the film numbers of the specific items they wish to request, then order the film. The FHL has worldwide documents that may be requested, including census material, city directories, vital records, court records, land records, religious records, histories and family genealogies to name just some of the categories available.