

WMGS List of Virtual Resources

Virtual Massachusetts & New England Museums & Archives

Amherst Historical Society

<https://amhersthistory.org/>

Archived videos of their popular lunchtime History Bites lecture series, links to online books and documents pertaining to Amherst's history, links to city directories from 1889-1923, several films related to local farming and the 160th anniversary of the Morrill Land Grant Act to establish the University of Massachusetts.

Chicopee Public Library- new website

<https://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/archives/>

New online scrapbook collections, including the 1938 flood, 300th anniversary parade, summer baseball in the 1950's, Camp MacArthur, events at Westover, and WWII images

Collections include historic photographs, city directories, Fisk Tire company photographs, stereographs, Duryea Magazine ad collection, a Civil War Soldier's record and documents, Skipmunk magazine, created by local authors and high school students, 1977-1981, and more.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts State House – Boston, MA

<https://malegislature.gov/VirtualTour>

Tour the Great Hall, Senate Chamber, Office of the Speaker of the House and more, including pictures and descriptions of artifacts, documents

Historic Deerfield

Join their email list to view short video tours of Historic Deerfield and their collections and to learn about upcoming virtual events and tours.

<https://www.historic-deerfield.org/>

Historic Northampton

Historic Northampton has several collections of historical material related to Northampton and the surrounding area, including photographs, maps, atlases, and Northampton State Hospital information. Their website includes virtual exhibits, online research material, and digital collections.

<https://www.historicnorthampton.org/>

We're not sure if Historic Northampton has recently updated their website or if we didn't notice these items before, but we're duly impressed by the virtual activities and resources that are available on their website.

In the History at Home section, you can have fun doing an interactive activity to find out how you would fare in a 1600's witchcraft trial in Northampton. Or, move to the 1700s and take a tour of the prayer requests made to minister Jonathan Edwards to find out what Northampton residents were thinking. Test your 1700's spelling know-how while you're there or learn some interesting details of clothing items.

Browse their online resources, such as maps, early editions of the Hampshire Gazette, original plans for the Bridge Street cemetery where the earliest residents were buried, inscriptions on grave stones at the cemetery, or tour the Parsons house and examine inventories of other historic houses. You'll also find early photos and description of buildings at Northampton State Hospital from 1865 through the 1960's, along with photo collections by other notable early photographers.

<https://www.historicnorthampton.org/>

Holyoke Public Library – celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2020

An online presentation of the library's history is available at:

<http://www.holyokelibrary.org/>

John Adams Historical Museum- Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, MA

Take a virtual tour of both John Adams and John Quincy Adams' birthplaces, America's first father and son presidents at this national historical park and see some of the artifacts and collections associated with this family.

<https://www.nps.gov/adam/index.htm>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/adams-national-historical-park>

Lost New England

This blog-site contains a database of photographs of New England, searchable by place or topic.

<https://lostnewengland.com/>

Massachusetts Historical Society

<http://www.masshist.org/>

Fascinating collection of material about the various time periods in our history, starting from the colonial period up to the present.

Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, Greenfield, MA

If you are researching Franklin County ancestry, you'll enjoy this site.

<http://industrialhistory.org/exhibits/>

Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA

<https://www.nrm.org/fromthearchives/>

Virtual exhibitions, videos of the museum experience, an online gallery, and a lovely collection of Storybooth sessions of immigrant experiences.

Old Sturbridge Village

Take a virtual tour of Old Sturbridge Village to learn what life would have been like for your ancestors in the 1830's.

<https://www.osv.org/>

Plimoth Plantation- Plymouth, MA

Visit the early 17th century Pilgrim village and witness the day to day life of a Wampanoag homesite.

<https://www.plimoth.org/learn/plimoth-online-historyhome/virtual-field-trip>

Plymouth 400th 1620-2020

400 years of Wampanoag history is offered by the non-profit Plymouth 400th, Inc. through a long list of videos. The Wampanoags were the first tribe encountered by the Pilgrims when they landed in Provincetown harbor.

<https://www.plymouth400inc.org/our-story-exhibit-wampanoag-history/>

Porter-Phelps-Huntington House Museum – Hadley, MA

This well-preserved 18th century home and estate is the heart of a large farmstead known as “Forty Acres” that stretched from the Connecticut River to the top of Mount Warner in No. Hadley. The home, occupied by one family for over 300 years, contains many of their belongings and collections.

<https://www.pphmuseum.org/>

Quabbin Park Cemetery

This website includes a short virtual tour, map, and historical pictures collection of the cemetery, which was created in the early 1930’s to hold the remains of 6,601 graves that were removed before the creation of the Quabbin reservoir.

Be sure to check out the handout from our Oct. 2, 2019 presentation on the cemetery for more information.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/quabbin-park-cemetery#quabbin-cemetery-guided-tour>

Salem Witch Museum – Salem, MA

This tour allows you to view sites around Essex and Middlesex counties that are related to the Salem Witch events of 1692. There are over 120 links to museums, historical societies, cemeteries, and historical markers in the cities and towns associated with key figures in the trials. Included is a link to a list of resource material and helpful websites.

<https://salemwitchmuseum.com/witch-trials-online-tour/>

Joseph Allen Skinner Museum – So. Hadley, MA

Short tour of the museum founded by the famed industrialist and owner of the Skinner Silk Mills.

<https://artmuseum.mtholyoke.edu/tour-skinner-museum>

Springfield Preservation Trust

This site has many resources including the WPA Image Project and digitized copies of books about Springfield, MA.

<https://www.springfieldpreservation.org/>

Springfield-History.com

Billed as a virtual historical society for Springfield, MA, this blog-site contains user-submitted material and links to a variety of historical material.

<http://springfield-history.com/>

Stanley Park Webcams – Westfield, MA

View live activity at the Covered Bridge, International Bridge, and the Ozzie Memorial. View pictures of the colonial-era village, greenhouse, and gardens to delight your senses between your ancestor searches.

<https://www.stanleypark.org/webcams.html>

Strawberry Banke Museum – Portsmouth, NH

Time travel through almost 400 years of the Puddle Duck neighborhood, established in along a tidal inlet in Portsmouth in 1623.

<https://www.strawberrybanke.org/virtual-tour.cfm>

Westfield Athenaeum

Browsable online collection includes an impressive array of material related to the Woronoco Indians, early maps, early records of Westfield's settlers, documents, town meetings, ministers' sermons, and military documents.

<https://www.westath.org/>

Wistariahurst

The Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke has an extensive collection of historical material to add to your ancestors' stories. Here are two: Online collection of Holyoke postcards Online history exhibits including the Holyoke Street Railway, Wm. Skinner & Sons silk manufacturing, Holyoke & Pioneer Valley history resources

<https://wistariahurst.org/>

Worcester Historical Museum

Online collection of Worcester city directories, city directories, Worcester magazine (1901-1914), historical photos, and items from the Worcester Society of Antiquity Collection

<http://digitalworcester.com/>

United States Virtual Museum & Archive Tours

American Battlefield Trust – Washington, D.C.

<https://www.battlefields.org>

Tours, videos, and historical resources about the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War

Colonial Williamsburg

Feel like you're at Colonial Williamsburg! Tour the Capitol, Governor's Palace, and art museums. You can even participate in a virtual scavenger hunt

<https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/virtual-tours>

Ellis Island- New York

View the Great Hall, baggage room, hospital, and dormitories where our ancestors may have first stepped on American soil. Take a 360-degree tour of the island, view historic photos, explore the museum, and search for your family in the Family History Center.

<https://www.nps.gov/elis/learn/photosmultimedia/virtual-tour.htm>

<https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island/national-immigration-museum/>

Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New York City

This site provides a fascinating glimpse of life in ethnic immigrant communities in New York City in the 19th and early 20th centuries through virtually guided tours of two tenement buildings. In addition, there are featured stories of immigrant families into the 1950's.

<https://www.tenement.org/about-us/>

Museum of the American Revolution – Philadelphia, PA

Take a virtual 360 degree, immersive tour of a large number of galleries at the museum.

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/>

Mount Vernon – Mount Vernon, VA

<https://virtualtour.mountvernon.org/>

National Archives – Washington, DC

<https://www.archives.gov/research>

Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History – Washington, D.C.

Where to begin? There’s so much available here.

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/online>

Statue of Liberty- New York

<https://www.nps.gov/stli/learn/photosmultimedia/virtual-tours.htm>

International Museum & Archive Tours

American Pilgrim Museum – Leiden, Netherlands

Located in a beautifully preserved house built ca 1365-1370 near the clock tower of the Hooglandskerk, the Leiden American Pilgrim museum tells the stories of the founders of New England, the Pilgrims. Furnishings from Pilgrim times show aspects of daily life, while events involving the Pilgrims themselves are illustrated with a remarkable collection of sixteenth and seventeenth-century maps and engravings by such artists as Gerard Mercator, Adrian van de Venne, Adriaen van Ostade, and Jacques de Gheyn.

<http://leidenamericanpilgrimuseum.org/index.htm>

Discover Paris, France

<https://en.parisinfo.com/what-to-do-in-paris/info/guides/virtual-visit-paris>

McCord Museum – Montreal, Canada

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View online collections of items related to Canadian culture, including items related to the daily lives, work, and leisure activities of residents from Quebec province and throughout the country. Then, check out the historical and genealogical material in their archives.

<https://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/en/keys/collections/>

Papal Basilica of Saint Peter, Vatican City, Rome

http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/san_pietro/vr_tour/index-en.html

Rothenburg, Germany 360 degree virtual tours

https://www.panorama-cities.net/rothenburg_ob_der_tauber/rothenburg_ob_der_tauber_germany.html

European Christmas markets and holiday attractions

<https://www.official-esta.com/information/reports/virtually-tour-famous-attractions>

Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi in Lapland, Finland

Live webcam is available at:

<https://santaclausvillage.info/video/arcticcircle-live-webcam/>

Other Resources

Franco American Portal Project: Beta

This is a new collaborative five university project focusing on archival material related to French-Canadian, Quebecois(e), and Acadian diaspora communities in the Northeast. In its initial stages, the free public database will bring together archival material from around the world. The beta test version is available now.

<https://beta.francoamericanportal.org>

History Hub

A research support community for genealogists, historians, and citizen archivists, History Hub is maintained by the National Archives. If you have a research question, are looking for specific documents to help your genealogical research, or find blog posts related to your topic, check out this site.

<https://historyhub.history.gov/welcome>