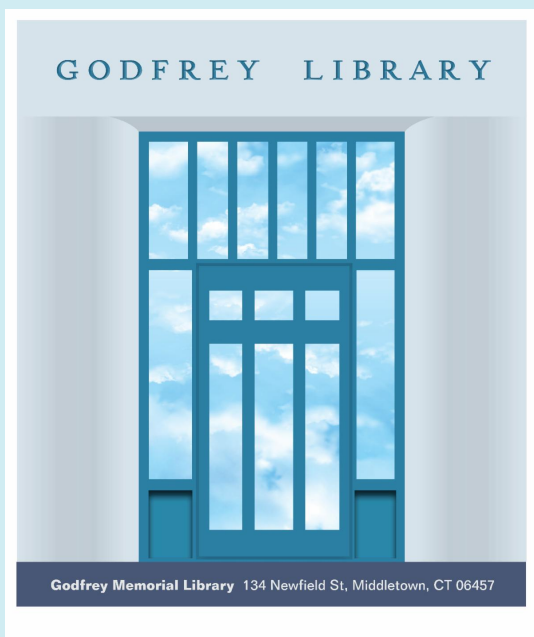


Godfrey news & updates

February 2021 | Issue 5



This month's Genealogy Club presentation: Research at Town / City Halls



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Know Your Godfrey Scholar membership benefits



The AGBI, (with full images of the actual pages - all member access)

Many people first learn of the Godfrey when they get a result in Ancestry.com referencing the AGBI. *The American Genealogical Biographical Index* was the brainchild of Fremont Rider, our founder. He had a serious collection of about 800 genealogies and felt they should all be indexed in one place. Eventually this, along

On **Saturday, February 20**, we will welcome **Joe Camposeo, Town Clerk** at the Manchester, CT Town Hall. Joe has been Town Clerk for many years. According to their website,

"Since 1823, the Town Clerk has kept secure the vital records of more than 106,225 births, 43,835 deaths, and 41,822 marriages"

Also, "Each year, the Town Clerk's office serves more than 100,000 customers in person, by mail, or by phone."

You can see that Joe is a busy man! He will talk with us about

- What kind of records do Town Halls keep?

with a handful of other important reference works, would account for four million of the six million index entries. The other two million entries came from the indexing of the genealogical query and answer column which ran in the *Boston Evening Transcript* for roughly forty years. Watch these two videos about finding Transcript articles.

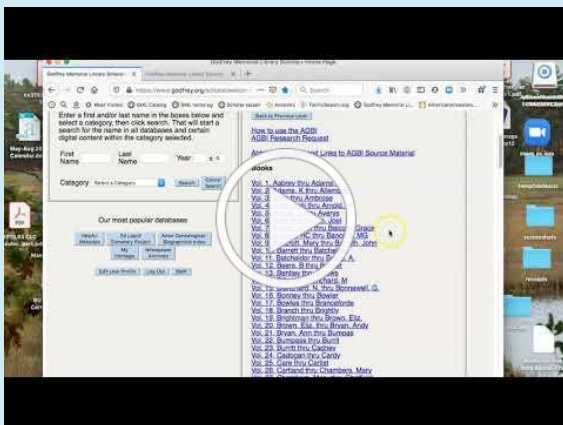
[Finding Pre-1911 Boston Transcripts](#)
[Finding 1911-1946 Boston Transcripts](#)

Ancestry.com provides its subscribers access to the *entries* in the AGBI, but not the *actual materials* being cited. One of the big benefits of having direct access to images of the index is that a researcher can decide for him/herself which one is the best fit, rather than depending on Ancestry's search engine to make that "decision."

Once you decide on an entry, you can then go to our "Abbreviations Key and Links to Sources," where we provide direct hyperlinks to 95% of those sources. (Some are still under copyright and thus inaccessible online, and retrieving the *Transcript* articles, which are not directly hyperlinked, requires a few extra steps.)

Admittedly, those of us who've done hundreds of AGBI lookups are pretty efficient at it and have our own "bag of tricks." But, for those who enjoy doing their own searching, give it a try. Of course, we're still perfectly happy to have you send your AGBIs to us, especially the trickier ones.

Visit our [YouTube Channel](#) to watch instructions on using the AGBI



- Are there legal restrictions on what kind of records are available to the public?
- What effect is COVID having on Town Hall access?
- Do I need to make an appointment
- What if I live out of state but have ancestors from a CT town?

The Zoom presentation will take place at **11:30 am (EST)**. We hope this time is convenient for our out-of-state members. (Kudos to our Hawaiian member who joined us last time!)

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: [GML GenClub Feb 2021](#)

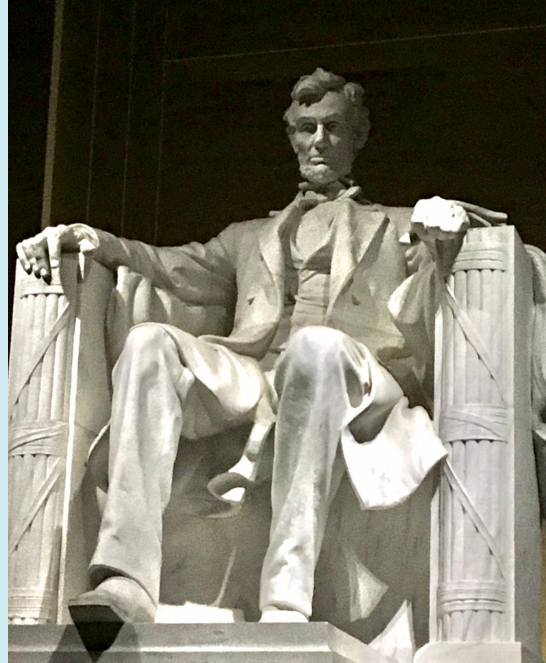
If you are not a GML Premium member and want to view the presentation, you can pay \$10 via PayPal (click below on "Buy Now"), **then** return to this email and register at [GML GenClub Feb 2021](#).

[Buy Now](#)



Do You Have Too Many Genealogy Books? Read on!

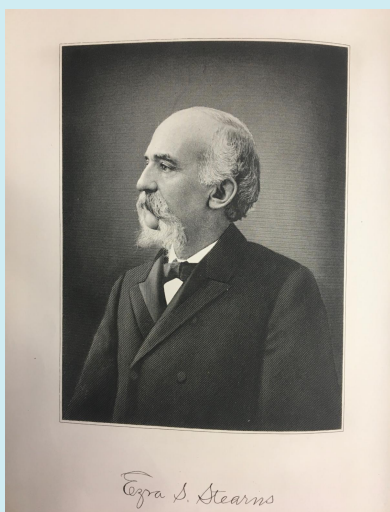
Maybe you've recently read one of those books about de-cluttering and simplifying your life. Can't bring yourself to jettison your genealogy books? Consider donating them to the Godfrey. You'll always know where to find them again, but they won't be taking up space on *your* bookshelves. In the event that we already have a copy, we will sell them in our [eBay] [Bookstore](#). You can have the satisfaction of knowing they are loved in their new home, you've made another genealogist happy, you've kept something out of the refuse stream, and the Godfrey will have a little more cash in its coffers. It's a win-win-win-win!



Do You Believe One Can Never Have *Enough* Genealogy Books? Read on!

Did you know that the Godfrey sells duplicate copies of excellent genealogy books? Visit our [Bookstore](#) to see what we currently have in stock.

Featured Resource Shelf



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STEARNS
1908

Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire compiled by Ezra Stearns ... with the help of William F. Whitcher ... and Edward E. Parker. New York: Lewis Publishing, 1908. 4 vol.

Don't make the mistake of ignoring this set because you have no New Hampshire ancestors. The editor/authors sketch out family histories for New Hampshireites of the day (1908), but who among us has a family line that stayed strictly in the same state from Day One? Well yes, there are some, but the point is that many of the families covered here did not *originate* in New Hampshire.

While he did not have the resources to attend college, Stearns worked hard at self-educating, and seemed to have a particular knack for genealogical research. He did attend a college preparatory school in New Jersey, and after teaching there a few years, he returned to New Hampshire where he had a long career in public service and politics. A sketch of him in the NEHGS *Register* noted, "A new genealogy... was surely taken to bed with

him, and pored over until Nature reminded him of the labors of the day which had passed and the perplexities of the day to come." (The nineteenth century equivalent of staying up on *Ancestry.com* until 2 a.m.?)

Of the volumes in question, the review in the *Register* said, "The publishers are fortunate to be able to place the name of Stearns on the back of these volumes, for the wide reputation of that well-known genealogist for careful, scholarly, and conscientious labor has long been established ... The family records seem to be full, and the illustrations are numerous. The aim to preserve a great 'variety of genealogical and personal information' never before printed, seems to have been accomplished, and a valuable work for reference is the result."

These volumes are indexed in the AGBI.

Godfrey Memorial Library 134 Newfield St. Middletown, CT 06457



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