

# Winchester History Research Guide

Thomas J. Michalak of the Winchester Historical Society has compiled an extensive research guide to help with the study of Winchester's history.

## Introduction

This guide, compiled by Thomas Michalak, brings together in one place and online a list of opportunities and resources for the exploration and study of Winchester's history. Listed here is a selection of the most consulted Town documents, books and pamphlets on the general history of Winchester and the architecture of Winchester. This resource guide is a starting place to explore Winchester's history. It is not intended as an exhaustive bibliography. Items that are available online are linked to the appropriate website. For the most part, the descriptions follow the bibliographic form of the Library's catalog.

The help and advice of the following individuals is gratefully acknowledged: Marie Ariel, Randy Bairnsfather, Julie Kinchla, Ellen Knight, Maureen Meister, Laurie Minniti, Nancy Schrock, Ellen Spencer, and Lynda Wills. Suggestions for corrections, additions, organization, and revisions are welcome and should be sent to Tom Michalak. Tom Michalak is a member of the Winchester Historical Society who volunteers his time and expertise in the creation and maintenance of this list of resources.

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## Finding People

- [\*Blue book and house guide of Winchester: containing lists of the residents, societies, churches, etc., street directory and map of Winchester.\*](#) Title and content varies. 1895, 1905, 1912, 1914, 1816, 1918, 1919, 1922, 1924. The Winchester Archival Center has

more complete holdings of *Blue Books* and other people and business directories.

**Available:** WPL, Winchester Archival Center

- *List of Residents over Twenty Years of Age. 1925–1970.* Published by the Board of Registrars. Lists residents twenty and older, organized by precinct and within precinct by street and alphabetically by name.  
**Available:** WPL, Local History Room
- [\*List of Residents Seventeen Years of Age and Older. 1971–present.\*](#) Published by the Board of Registrars. Lists residents seventeen and older, organized by precinct and within precinct by street and alphabetically by name.  
**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference. Current year on sale at the [Office of the Town Clerk](#).
- [\*Woburn records of births, deaths, marriages, and marriage intentions, from 1640 to 1900.\*](#) Alphabetically and chronologically arranged by Edward F. Johnson. Woburn, Mass.: Andrews, Cutler, & Co., 1890–1919. 10 v.  
**Available:** WPL: Local History, 312 Woburn

## General Documents

- [\*Annual report of the Town of Winchester, 1850–2009.\*](#)  
**Available:** Winchester Public Library Local History
- Lainhart, Ann S. [\*1855 and 1865 Massachusetts state censuses for Winchester.\*](#) Boston: [Ann S. Lainhart, 1989]. 105p. For other census materials consult HeritageQuest or Ancestry® Library Edition.  
**Available:** WPL, Local History, 317.44W Lainh

### Wright-Locke Farm

Purchased by the town in 2007, the former Wright-Locke-Hamilton Farm is the last working farm in Winchester. Its current and sole crop is organic raspberries. Located off Ridge Street and Edward Drive, the farm abuts conservation parcels in Winchester and Lexington and contains about twenty acres. The town had planned to sell part of the farm to Abbott Real Estate Development for residential development, but that arrangement fell through in 2010. However, a portion will remain in town ownership and is under the care of the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy, whose first board of directors was appointed in 2008. A history of the Wright-Locke farm and its historic structures can be found on the [Conservancy's website](#).

## Housing and Streets

- Winchester Historical Commission. *Survey of pre-1917 buildings*. 1979. 12 volumes. Documents more than 2,000 houses and buildings standing in 1979 through photographs and data sheets completed in the field. Researchers recorded ownership history, construction dates, architectural style, architect or builder when known, and historical or architectural significance where applicable.  
**Available:** WPL, Reference, 974.44 Winchester
- [Historical Commission](#). *Winchester Properties Subject to Demolition Delay Bylaw*. Prepared by: Winchester Historical Commission. A list of 779 properties considered to be of historical and/or architectural significance and therefore subject to the town's demolition delay bylaw.
- [A report of the inventory of public and private properties in the town of Winchester, Massachusetts](#), Winchester Engineering Department, John H. Ciarcia, Town Engineer. Winchester (Mass.). Engineering Dept., 1985. 45p.  
**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Winchester
- [Zoning By-Law of the Town of Winchester, Massachusetts](#). A Zoning by-law adopted by the Town April 30, 2015, approved by the Attorney General, and which became effective on September 14, 2015.  
**Available:** WPL, Reference, 974.44 W Zoning. [Online at the Town Website](#).

## Resources in Town Departments

- [Board of Assessors](#)

**Plat maps.** A map representing a piece of land subdivided into lots with streets, boundaries, easements, property dimensions and placement, and parcel ID. Property ownership is usually recorded on the plat maps and made part of the public record. The Board of Assessors has the responsibility to maintain the plat maps of the Town.

**Available:** WPL: Reference Room, data up to 1999. **Assessor's Office**, Current data.

- [Assessors Current Property Database](#)

The Board of Assessors contracts with **Patriot Properties, Inc** to provide an online comprehensive current property listing service as a public service to the Town. Properties can be searched by street name, owner name, or parcel ID. Updated annually with current values and assessments.

Current records and plat maps are in the Assessors' office in Town Hall. For real estate transactions and deeds see also the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds

described in the next entry.

**Available:** Online at <http://winchester.patriotproperties.com/default.asp>

- **[Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds](#)**

208 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA.

The Middlesex South Registry of Deeds is the recording office for documents affecting title to real estate located in the southern district of Middlesex County. Documents that are in compliance with Massachusetts law are accepted for recording at the Registry and become permanent public records. The recording of documents, such as deeds and mortgages, allows the public, including prospective purchasers of real estate, a method to determine the status of the title to that property.

The South Middlesex Registry District includes the following cities and towns: Acton, Arlington, Ashby, Ashland, Ayer, Bedford, Belmont, Boxborough, Burlington, Cambridge, Concord, Everett, Framingham, Groton, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Malden, Marlborough, Maynard, Medford, Melrose, Natick, Newton, North Reading, Pepperell, Reading, Sherborn, Shirley, Somerville, Stoneham, Stow, Sudbury, Townsend, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston, **Winchester**, Woburn.

**Available:** [Search Online](#), Index 1974 to present, Images of Documents, 1986 to present.

- **[Building Department](#)**

The primary function of the Building Department is to assist the general public and to ensure their health and safety, enforcement of the State building code and the Town's zoning by law, as well as plumbing, gas, electrical, housing, sign, and other codes and by-laws pertaining to properties and structures.

This department maintains records, organized by street, that record construction, demolition, and work permits. Permits often identify architects for new construction and additions. For more information consult the [Building Department](#).

**Available:** Building Department, Town Hall.

- **[Engineering Department](#)**

The Engineering Department maintains plans of subdivisions, street layouts, and utility hookups. These are often labeled with additional information, especially helpful for

documenting the architectural history of the town. The department also maintains a card file that records water hook-up dates, often the best way to date a building and to identify the original owner. The department can also provide copies upon request for a small fee. For more information consult the [Engineering Department](#).

**Available:** Engineering Department, Town Hall.

- **[Office of the Town Clerk](#)**

A primary provider of information and services to the community, the Town Clerk serves as chief election official, official recording officer, public records officer, licensing official, clerk of Town Meeting, Town Hall records administrator, registrar of vital statistics, and registrar of voters. The Town Clerk maintains records of amendments to the *Code of By-Laws*, *Zoning By-Laws*, and the *Home Rule Charter*. For information on obtaining vital records of marriages, births, and deaths consult the [Town Clerk's website](#).

The current *List of Residents Seventeen Years of Age and Older* can be purchased at the Office of the Town Clerk in Town Hall for \$15.

[Winchester Home Rule Charter](#). [Winchester, Mass.: Town of Winchester "Originally adopted by the Voters of the Town of Winchester at the Town Election March 3, 1975; reprinted with the language of all amendments inserted."

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Home, [online](#) at the Town Clerk's website.

[Code of By Laws Enacted at Town Meeting March 4, 1976](#), reprinted with the language of all amendments through 2006 Spring Town Meeting, September 2006.

**Available:** [Online](#) at the Town Clerk's website.

## Printed and Online Maps

The Library has a collection of Winchester town maps available for use in the Reference room (see below). The Library also has a collection of maps by Ernest Dudley Chase, [viewable here on the library website](#).

- **United States Geological Survey, Topographic Maps**

The United States Geological Survey began its topographic atlas of the United States in 1882. The University of New Hampshire's Library's Government Information Department holds a working collection of over 55,000 paper USGS maps. This [online collection](#) of over 1500 USGS topographic maps includes complete geographical coverage of New England and New York from the 1890s to 1950s.

**Available:** Online [Winchester](#)

The Winchester Archival Center also has a collection of maps, atlases, and Sanborn fire insurance maps. An index of the cataloged maps can be consulted at the Reference Desk in the Library (PastPerfect database).

- **Online Mapping — [Geographic Information System](#)**

Over the past decade, the Town of Winchester has invested significant resources in the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) to convert the Town's paper mapping into an electronic format. GIS represents the merging of mapping software and database technology into one program that allows users to store, manage, visualize, and present geographically referenced data. This on-line tool presents a simplified version of the GIS that allows the public to access, view, and create maps from the Town's GIS data.

**Available:** [Town website](#)

## Newspapers

- [Winchester Record](#). Winchester, Mass.: Printed for the members of the Winchester Historical and Genealogical Society. V. 1-2. 1885-1885. 54 articles in the October 1885 and January 1886 issues are online in Heritage Quest Online.

## Newspapers on Microfilm

- [Daily Times Chronicle](#). Woburn, MA.: Woburn Daily Times, 1995–present. Winchester edition
- *Winchester Star*, 1881-present.
- [Winchester Press](#), October 1900–December 1902
- *Woburn and Middlesex Journal*, October 1851–November 1906.

**Available:** WPL, Reference.

## Newspapers Online

- Access the full text of the Winchester Star from **1901-1972** [here](#).
- Access the electronic edition of the Star from **2005-Current** [here](#).
- The Library has the Star on microfilm from **1881-Current**.

## Obituaries

Obituaries can be found in an electronic database of the [Winchester Star](#) from 1985–2000.

**Available:** WPL, Reference Desk.

## Photographs

### Photographs and Images from the Winchester Archival Center

The Winchester Archival Center houses the largest collection of historical images of people and places in Winchester, collected over the years by the Winchester Historical Society. Photographs and postcards are arranged by collection and divided by location or subject. Postcards from the John Cleary Collection have been photographed to expand the photographic historical record. [Some of the Archival Center's photograph collection can be seen online here.](#)

In 2018, Winchester participated in the Mass Memories Road Show. Photographs, video histories, and interviews are available online at [UMass Boston's Digital Collections site.](#)

Photographs can also be found in many of the books and pamphlets listed in the bibliographies.

### Select Bibliography of Published Resources for the History of Winchester

- [July 4th, 1890: 250th anniversary of the first white settlement within the territory of Winchester: Charlestown, 1633, Waterfield 1638, Charlestown Village, 1640, Woburn, 1642, Winchester 1850.](#) [Boston: Barta Press, 1890]. 32p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference 974.4 Winchester

**Online** at [Harvard University Library](#). Also available in Heritage Quest Online. (Click Search Books, then Places, then enter LH20285 as keyword to go directly to the volume).

- Allison, Mildred. [A Children's History of Winchester, Massachusetts](#). Based on Chapman's *The History of Winchester*. Revised and updated by Ellen Knight. Winchester, MA. Winchester Historical Society, 2004. 44p. Designed to be used to teach a unit on Winchester history at the third grade level. This basic history of Winchester includes many historic photos, maps, drawings and even an explanation of the town seal.

**Available:** WPL: Adult, Children's, Reference, 974.44 Allison. **(In print)** On Sale at [BookEnds](#).

- *Anthony's standard business directory and reference book of Woburn, Winchester, Arlington, Lexington, Belmont, Watertown, Waltham, Newton, Massachusetts.* [Washington, D.C.], Anthony Publishing Co. 1898/99. Winchester directory is on page 29–35.

**Available:** [Online](#) at the Harvard University Library.

- Chapman, Henry Smith. [A History of Winchester](#). 2 vols. Winchester, MA.: Town of Winchester, 1975. Volume 1, Originally published in 1936 and reprinted in 1975 covers Winchester's history up to the early 20th century. Volume 2, by Bruce Winchester Stone continues Winchester's history up to the early 1960s.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference. **(In Print)** On Sale at the Winchester Public Library and BookEnds. Volume 1 is **online** at **Heritage Quest Online** (Click Search Books, then Places, then enter LH8771 as the keyword to go directly to the volume).

**Available:** Heritage Quest Online database at WPL in the library or from home. (Winchester resident library card required).

- Clarke, Mary Stetson. [The Old Middlesex Canal](#). Melrose, MA.: The Hilltop Press, 1974. 191p.

**Available:** WPL, Adult, Local History, Reference, 974.44 CLA

- [History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts](#), Volume 1 (A-H), Volume 2 (L-W) compiled by Samuel Adams Drake, published 1879-1880. 572 and 505 pages.

**Available:** WPL, Local History Room. [Online](#) at Harvard University Library and in Google Books. A [Winchester article](#) by Edwin A. Wadleigh in volume 2, pages 506-525. Article on Woburn by George M. Champney, p.526–554.

- Jones, Rupert F. [A short history of the Winchester Public Library](#). [1959?]. [19p.]

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference 974.44W Jon

- [Breaking ninety 1897–1987](#). [Winchester, Mass.] : Winchester Country Club, c1987.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Winchester

- Kellaway, Herbert J. [Report upon the improvement of the waterways in Winchester, Massachusetts and related matters from the Mill Pond along the Aberjona River to the town line also along Horn Pond Brook and Wedge Pond](#). Boston, MA.: Herbert J. Kellaway, 1928. 88p. Note: Contains many interesting photographs on ponds and



waterways.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W

- Knight, Ellen. [\*Artists of Winchester, 1850–1950\*](#). Winchester, MA.: Winchester Historical Society, 2004. This illustrated history of the artists who lived and practiced in Winchester contains information about the town's artists and presents them in an attractive booklet that focuses on their career and activities in town. Included are nationally known landscape painter J. Foxcroft Cole and etcher W.H.W. Bicknell. Locally Edward Brackett was as famous for his octagon house as his sculpture, and Ernest Dudley Chase's sketches of Winchester appeared on town calendars for many years. Women such as Adelaide Cole Chase, Eva Cowdery, and Annie Nowell were prominent for their portrait and still life paintings. What emerges is a picture of Winchester as a center of artistic activity, a place that valued its beautiful landscapes and promoted its culture.

**Available:** WPL, Adult, Local History, Reference, 709.2 Knight. **(In Print)** On sale at BookEnds.

- Knight, Ellen. [\*Winchester High School, Winchester Junior High School, McCall Junior High School, Lincoln Elementary School : a centennial history 1904–2004\*](#). Winchester, Mass. 2003. [20] p. Produced in association with the Winchester Historical Society and Lincoln School 100 Year Committee's Lincoln School Centennial Celebration.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W

- Knight, Ellen. [\*Winchester Hospital: our first century\*](#). Winchester Hospital, 2011. 167 p.

**Available:** Winchester Ref. 974.44 Knight

- Knight, Ellen. [\*Winchester Public Library: an illustrated history\*](#). 2006. 27 p.

**Available:** WPL, Adult, Children's, Local History, Reference, 974.44W Knight

- Knight, Ellen. [\*Winchester's homes of the stars\*](#). Winchester, 2008. 12 p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference, 974.44 Knight

- Knight, Ellen. [\*Wright-Locke Farm: A history in pictures\*](#). Winchester, MA.: Winchester Archival Center, 2008. 16 p. The lavish illustrations cover the Wright-Locke farm and the greater Ridge Street area from different time periods and various angles, including aerial shots. There are also sections on the original farm owners, the Wright's and the Locke's.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference, 974.44 Knight. On sale at BookEnds and

from the Winchester Historical Society. \$10.

- Kromer, W. Todd. [\*History of the Winchester Fire Department: a collection of vintage memorabilia\*](#). Boston, Mass.: Boston Publishing Co., c1975. 70 p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W

- Larrabee, Gary S. [\*Winchester Country Club, 1902-2002\*](#). Gary Larrabee. Beverly, Mass.: Memoirs Unlimited, c2002. 276 p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Winchester

- [\*List of persons reported for the assessment of a poll tax as of April 1st, 1919\*](#). Winchester, MA.: Winchester Star Print, 1919.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Winchester. Winchester Star Print, 1919

- [\*Pictorial history of Winchester, containing pictures of early residents, views of houses, ministers, town officers, fire department, some leading citizens etc.\*](#) Wilson, 1914.

**Available:** WPL, Reference, Local History, 974.44W Winchester

- [\*Remember when\*](#). [Winchester, Mass., 19--]. 84 p Clippings from column "Remember when" in Winchester Star weekly newspaper. Column published from 1960-1962, covering material ca. 1902–1940.

**Available:** WPL, Local History 974.44W Winch

- Sewall, Samuel, 1785–1868. [\*The history of Woburn, Middlesex County, Mass. from the grant of its territory to Charlestown, in 1640, to the year 1860\*](#). Boston: Wiggin and Lunt, 1868. 657 p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.45 Woburn

- Sileo, Thomas P. [\*The great spirit of Horn Pond: its history, traditions, and natural beauty\*](#). Chelmsford, MA.: Shagbark Publishing Co., c1996. 170 p.

**Available,** WPL: Adult, Local History, 974.44 Sileo

- Simonds, Henry E. [\*Winchester Then and Now\*](#). Woburn, MA.: Woburn Daily times and Chronicle, 1982.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference, 974.44W Sim

- VerPlanck, Burt. [Middlesex canal guide and maps](#). Billerica, Mass.: Middlesex Canal Association, 1996. Atlas and maps. Middlesex Canal, a 27 mile canal running from Charlestown to the Merrimack River in Lowell, through Charlestown, Somerville, Medford, Winchester, Woburn, Wilmington, Billerica, Chelmsford and Lowell. In operation from 1803 to 1853, the canal had 20 locks and 8 aqueducts.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Circulating Collection, 974.44 VerPlanck

- Washburn, Robert M. [History of the town of Winchester, Massachusetts Fire Department](#), as edited by Robert M. Washburn. [Mass.]: The Editor, 1996. 103 p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.4 4W

- Wilson, Theodore P. [Pictorial History of Winchester](#). Theo P. Wilson, 1914. Contains pictures of early residents, views of houses, ministers, town officers, fire department, some leading citizens etc. Includes a list of names.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, Reference, 977.4W Pictorial

- Wilson, Theodore P. *Winchester, fifty years a town, published to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the town of Winchester, Massachusetts*. [Winchester, Mass.] : The Winchester Star, [1900]. 80 p.

**Available:** Heritage Quest Online database at WPL in the library or from home. (Winchester resident library card required).

- [Winchester the Beautiful](#). [Winchester Mass.: Winchester National Bank, 194- .] 22 p. "This booklet issued with the compliments of The Winchester National Bank, Winchester, Massachusetts."

**Available:** WPL, Local History 974.44W

- [Winchester, Members of the Winchester High School Class of 1945 including Frank H. Sleeper](#). Dover, N.H.: Arcadia, 1995. 127 p. (Images of America). A pictorial reminiscence of their experiences in Winchester by the High School class of 1945. "This book does not claim to be a complete photographic history of Winchester, but it certainly updates (to 1960) the last pictorial history of the town, published in 1914. It is a series of vignettes seen through the camera's eye."

**Available:** WPL, Adult; Reference, Local History, 974.44W Winchester

- [The Woburn Directory](#). 1874/75. Contains directory for Winchester.

**Available:** Local History, 974.44W Woburn 1874 [Online also](#) at Harvard University Library. Harvard also has Woburn directories for 1868 and 1877 online, but they do not contain Winchester directory information.

- [Woburn \(Mass.\) Proceedings, October second to seventh, 1892, at the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the town of Woburn, Massachusetts](#). Woburn: Printed for the city: [The News Print], 1893. 233p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44Wo

## Select Bibliography on the Architects and Architecture of Winchester

- [The Architects of Winchester, Massachusetts](#) (edited by Maureen Meister) The Winchester Historical Society has sponsored research on the Town's architecture resulting in the publication of eight monographs on Winchester architects and architecture.

**Available:** WPL, Local History. Complimentary to members of the Winchester Historical Society. On Sale through the [Winchester Historical Society](#) website.

- *Herbert Dudley Hale, French Method, Health Laws, and Progressive Views on Education contribute to a New Winchester High School* by James Owens Ross
- *Alexander Esty, A Romanesque Church Design: Image and Meaning* by Nina Harkrader
- *Theodore Voelckers, A Picturesque Public Hall for a New Town* by Roger G. Reed
- *Herbert J. Kellaway, Linking Water, Parks and Parkways in the Olmsted Tradition* by Julie Khuen
- *Hill & James, Beaux Arts Splendor in a Suburban Setting* by Roger G. Reed
- *Frost and Raymond, Suburbia and the Single-Family House of the 1920's* by Nancy Gruskin
- *John Kutts: Rare Drawings and Records for an 1830 House* by Roger G. Reed
- *Robert Coit: Houses and Public Buildings in an Age of Suburban Growth* by Ellen Spencer

- Meister, Maureen. [\*Architecture and the Arts and Crafts Movement in Boston: Harvard's H. Langford Warren\*](#). 2003. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 2003. Introduction discusses Winchester's architecture. Also the book includes passages on F. Patterson Smith and George F. Newton, both influential figures in local architecture.

**Available:** WPL, Adult 720.92 Meister

- Meister, Maureen. [\*George Rand's Winchester\*](#). Articles collected here appeared as a series in the Winchester Star and were published between May 23 and October 10, 1991. [43] p.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Mei

- Meister, Maureen. [\*Patterson Smith's Winchester\*](#). 1994. 38 p. The series presented here is based on the research of Maureen Meister and Richard Joslin. The articles were published in the Winchester Star between May 12 and September 8, 1994.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Mei

- Meister, Maureen. [\*Rangeley: a romantic residential park in Winchester\*](#). New York: Magazine Antiques, 1997. 10p. Reprinted from "The Magazine Antiques", August 1997, p. 188–197. **Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Mei

- Meister, Maureen. "Two Arts and Crafts Houses: Paradigms in Pasadena and Boston." [New York, N.Y.: Straight Enterprises, 2007. Originally appeared in *The Magazine Antiques*, September 2007, p. 112–119. This article compares the Chadwick House on Everett Avenue, Winchester, with the Gamble House in Pasadena. Many photos and a plan of the Chadwick house.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W Meister

- Schuler, Gretchen G. [\*A Plan to preserve Winchester's architectural heritage\*](#). [Written by: Gretchen G. Schuler with the assistance of Ellen Knight; Maureen Meister, consultant]. [Winchester, Mass.: Planning Board], 2004. 1v. "This Plan to preserve Winchester's architectural heritage has been prepared for the Winchester Planning Board and the Winchester Historical Commission acting as the Architectural Heritage Committee of the Strategic Plan Task Force.

**Available:** WPL, Local History, 974.44W

- Winchester Historical Commission. *Town Register of Historic Places, 1995*. The Commission, 1995.

**Available:** WPL, Reference, 074.44 Winchester

- Winchester Historical Commission. *Survey of pre-1917 buildings*. 1979. 12 volumes. Documents more than 2,000 houses and buildings standing in 1979 through photographs and data sheets completed in the field. Researchers recorded ownership history, construction dates, architectural style, architect or builder when known, and historical or architectural significance where applicable.

**Available:** WPL, Reference. 974.44 Winchester

- [\*Winchester, Massachusetts, The Architectural Heritage of a Victorian Town\*](#). Winchester, MA.: Winchester Historical Society, 1988. [Text writer, Kevin Stevens]. This 170 page history of the town contains nearly 200 illustrations, including maps, historical photographs, views of individual buildings, and a guide to researching the history of a house in Winchester.

**Available:** WPL, Reference, **(In Print)** On sale at BookEnds.

## Genealogical Research

- **Winchester Historical Society**

The Winchester Historical Society's [website](#) provides a list of resources for genealogical research.

- **Winchester Public Library**

The Library provides access to the following online resources specializing in genealogical research.

- [\*Ancestry Library Edition\*](#)

The Ancestry Library Edition collection has approximately 4,000 databases including key collections such as U.S. Federal Census images and indexes from 1790 to 1930; the Map Center containing more than 1,000 historical maps; American Genealogical Biographical Index (over 200 volumes); Daughters of the American Revolution Lineage (over 150 volumes); The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1630; Social Security Death Index (updated monthly); WWI Draft Registration Cards; Federal Slave Narratives; and a strong Civil War collection. Ancestry Library Edition updates continually, with more indexes and original images added all the time.

**Available: WPL:** Online within the library only.

- [HeritageQuest](#)

HeritageQuest Online™ combines digital, searchable images of U.S. federal census records with the digitized version of the popular UMI® Genealogy & Local History collection and other valuable content. This online database is an essential collection of unique material for both genealogical and historical researchers, with coverage dating back to the late 1700s. Researchers can use Heritage Quest Online to find their ancestors, trace their paths across America, and learn what life was like in the areas where they settled.

HeritageQuest Online includes all of the images, and extensive indexing, from the 1790–1930 U.S. federal censuses. It offers more than 20,000 book titles, including nearly 8,000 family histories and over 12,000 local histories. Additionally, there are more than 250 primary-source documents such as tax lists, city directories, probate records, and more.

Many other distinctive and invaluable sources of information can be found within HeritageQuest Online. These include Periodical Source Index (PERSI), a widely recognized resource guide, updated annually, that covers more than 6,300 genealogy and history periodicals written in English and French (Canada) since 1800. There are other valuable collections such as the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, which identifies more than 80,000 American military, naval, and marine officers and enlisted men. The Freedman's Bank Records is a database that documents more than 70,000 bank depositors and their dependants and heirs. All of these resources are fully searchable through HeritageQuest Online's easy-to-use Web interface.

**Available:** The Winchester Public Library, online within the library for everyone and from home for Winchester residents.

- **Massachusetts State Archives**

**Searchable Collections**

- [Massachusetts Archives Collection Database \(1629–1799\)](#)
- [Index to Passenger Manifests \(1848–1891\)](#)
- [Index to Vital Records \(1841–1910\)](#)

**Available:** Online

- **New England Historic Genealogical Society**

This resource provides dozens of genealogical databases and documents including the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Massachusetts Vital Records (1841–1910), New York Probate Records (1787–1835), Social Security Death Index (SSDI) records, city and town directories, court records, census, tax, and voter lists, diaries and journals, land records, military records, and published genealogies and biographies. The website has a number of freely available resources that can be accessed without subscription or login, for example, [online seminars](#) on various aspects of conducting genealogical research, a number of online exhibits featuring documents from the 17th to the 20th century. Access to the databases is available by personal [membership](#) or in the Reference Room of WPL.

**Available:** Winchester Public Library, online within the library.