

Just What Is the AGBI, Anyway?

Handout for Presentation

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www.godfrey.org

Elgin Genealogical Society, March 3, 2026

AGBI = American Genealogical & Biographical Index

Brainchild of Arthur Fremont Rider, Librarian at Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT

Goal: "To provide a direct index clue to every scrap of existing biographical information, on every American man and woman, from 1607 to date." (as of late 1930s)

226 volumes, over 6 million entries; every-name index

Indexes roughly 800 books, plus all the genealogical query and answer columns from 40 years of the *Boston Evening Transcript* newspaper

Many of the resources are family genealogies, but that's not all! The index also covers military records, data from 1790 census ("Heads of Families" series), town and county histories, vital, church and probate records and gravestone inscriptions. For a complete list of titles which are not family genealogies, you can go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MKmdEuvC_LLAh_S0krK05ebD2lg6ggeFtdJ0LAL0H4c/edit?usp=sharing

The list is also appended at the end of this document.

Originally began as a card file, eventually transitioned to book form, libraries subscribed and received volumes as they were published

Three ways/places to access it:

1. Online at *Ancestry.com*
2. In book form at Godfrey Memorial Library or other subscribing library
3. Online at The Scholar on Godfrey Memorial Library website
 - a. Pay library to send scan of original material
 - b. Become a members and DIY

Where to find the *Transcript* columns

1911 and later, FamilySearch

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2822107?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

Massachusetts, Suffolk County, Boston, newspapers : clippings from the Boston Evening Transcript, 1839-1940

Author: Boston evening transcript (Boston, Massachusetts); New England Historic Genealogical Society

Pre-1911, Google News Archive

<https://news.google.com/newspapers>

Pennsylvania Archives: To locate a particular volume within the series:

<https://www.mygenealogyaddiction.com/post/pennsylvania-archives-books>

Note: If the reference in the AGBI is to Series 2, Volume 2 and you don't find the person you're looking for, try Series 2, **Volume 8**, same page

To join the Godfrey: <https://www.godfrey.org/scholar/godfrey-membership.html>

Here is a list of titles indexed by the AGBI which are *not* genealogies:

Included are town and county histories, military rosters and payrolls, vital records, probate records and will extracts, marriage records, church records and histories, and gravestone inscriptions. In addition, the entire contents of the genealogical query and answer column which ran in the *Boston Transcript* for 40 years is also indexed by individual name.

American Marriage Records before 1699

American Christian rulers. or, Religion and Men of Government; Comprising Sketches in American History of Men of Christian Faith and Experience, Who Have Had Connections with the National and State Governments and the Judicial Department; Embracing Colonial, Revolutionary and Later...

Vital Records of Bolton and Vernon, CT

The History of Braintree, VT

Vital Records of Brewster, MA

Vital Records of Burlington, MA to 1850

Records of the Church of Christ at Cambridge (MA)

History of the Origin of the Town of Clinton, Massachusetts, 1653-1865

Vital Records of Coventry, CT

History of Cumberland and Adams Cos., PA

The Delaware Archives. Vol. 1 (Military) p. 1- 627

Delaware Archives. Vol. 2 (Military & Naval Records) p. 631-1044

Delaware Archives. Vol. 3 (Revolutionary War & Index) p. 1045-1484; includes index for v.1-3

Delaware Archives. Vol. 4 (Military Records) p. 1-521

Delaware Archives. Vol. 5 (Military Records) p. 524-968

History of Durham, Ct from the First Grant of Land in 1662 to 1866

Historical and Genealogical Records of Dutchess and Putnam Cos. NY

Early Connecticut marriages...prior to 1800 (vol. 1-4)

Probate Records of Essex Co., MA

Congregational Church, Farmington, Ct, Catalog of Members

Names of Early Puritan Settlers of the Colony of CT

150th Anniversary of the Congregational Church, Franklin, CT

Rolls of CT Men in the French and Indian War. Vol 1 & 2

History of Harris Co., GA, 1827-1961

Births, Marriages and Deaths Returned from Hartford, CT

History of Harwinton, CT

Heads of Families at the First U.S. Census. CT (etc. - for all states in 1790)

Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army (Heitman's Officers)

Hotten – The original Lists of Persons of Quality. Original List of Persons Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations

British Invasion of Maryland, 1812-1815

List of Members on Feb, 3, 1804 when Presbyterian and Congregational Churches United, Kingsboro, NY Church

Marriage records from July 3, 1849 to Feb. 8, 1854, Kingsborough, NY Church

Memoirs of LaCrosse Co., from the Earliest Historical Times to Present

Refugees of 1776 from Long Island to CT (Mather)

Connecticut Men Who Served in the Regular Army Mexican War

History of Middlefield and Long Hill

Middletown Upper Houses

Inscriptions on Tombstones in Milford, Ct Erected Prior to 1800

Misc. Revolutionary Documents of NH. Ed. V.30

North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Jan. 1900-July 1903. v.1, v.2, v.3 nos. 1-3

North and South Carolina Marriage Records from Earliest Colonial Days to the Civil War

Inscriptions from the Ancient Gravestones of Acworth, NH. Inscrips: A Transcript of the

Records in the Old Cemetery of That Town, Settled in 1769 Principally by Descendants of the Scotch-Irish Colony of Londonderry, N.H. : Together with a List of Revolutionary Soldiers of the Town

New York Marriages: Names of People for Whom Marriage Licenses Were Issued Albany, 1860

Vital Records of New Haven, 1649-1850 (2 vol.)

Vital Records of Norwich, [CT] 1659-1848 (2 vol.)

Pennsylvania Archives (multiple series & volumes – Early Marriage Records, Military Records)

1841 Census of Pensioners for Revolutionary or Military Services

Collections of the New York Historical Society for the Year 1914 ... Muster and Payrolls of the Rev. War, 1775-1783

600 Rev. Soldiers Living in GA in 1827-8

An Alphabetical Index of Revolutionary Pensioners Living in Maine

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Rev. War (17 vol.)

Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the I. War of the Revolution. II. War of 1812. III. Mexican War

Rolls and Lists of CT Men in the Rev. 1775-1783 (reprint Colltns CT Hist. Soc. Vol VIII)

Lists and Returns of CT Men in the Rev. 1775-1783 (reprint Colltns CT Hist. Soc. Vol XII)

Maryland Rev. Records, Pension Claims, Bounty Land Applications, Marriages of Soldiers...

Roster of Soldiers from NC in the Revolution

Rolls of [NH] Soldiers in the Rev. War, 1775 to May 1777 and Diaries of Lt. Jonathan Burton

Rolls of [NH] Soldiers in the Rev. War. May 1777 to 1780 with the Names of NH Men in MA. Regiments. v.2 of War Rolls

Rolls and Documents Relating to [NH] Soldiers in the Rev. War, Including Some Indian and French Rolls. v.3 of War Rolls

Rolls and Documents Relating to [NH] Soldiers in the Rev. War, Part II. Misc Provincial Papers from 1629-1725. v.4 of War Rolls

Official Register of Officers and Men of NJ in the Rev. War

Rolls of [VT] Soldiers in the Revolutionary War, 1775 to 1783

Historical Register of Virginians in the Rev., Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, 1775-1783

Records of the First Church of Rockingham, VT 1773- 1839

“Savage’s Dictionary” (A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of N.E. Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came before May, 1692 [4 vol.]

History of the Town of Shrewsbury, MA 1717 to 1829

Colonial Families of the Southern States of America

Early Long Island Wills of Suffolk Co., 1691-1703

Boston Evening Transcript genealogy Query & Answer Column (1896-1910 can be found on Google News Archive; 1911-1940 digitized by American Ancestors, available at FamilySearch.org)

Vermont marriages. Montpelier, Burlington, Berlin

Records of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in Wars NJ: 1791-1815

Wethersfield Inscriptions in Five Burial Places

History of Woodstock, CT

Vital Records of Woodstock, CT, 1686-1854

History of York County, Pennsylvania, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time, Divided into General, Special, Township and Borough Histories, with a Biographical Department Appended

History of York Co. Pa. from One Thousand Seven Hundred and Nineteen to the Present Time, with an Appendix, Topography, and Statistics

History of York County from its Erection to the Present Time, 1729-1834