

Research – Massachusetts Birth, Marriage and Death Records (1841 -1915) on FamilySearch.org

By Joe Petrie

On August 30, I sent an Email on the availability of Massachusetts Birth, Marriage and Death Records on the Massachusetts Archives Web Site to Jennifer Fauxsmith. Reference Supervisor/Archivist, Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125. Essentially, I focused on the availability of records on Ancestry.org and AmericanAncestors.org – both subscription sites (although AmericanAncestors.org makes vital records prior to 1851 available free to registered guests – and registration is fairly easy including the selection of user-id and password).

Jennifer's reply follows:

“Dear Mr. Petrie,

Thank you for your email. The short answer (and good news) is that the 1841-1920 vital records that are held here at the Massachusetts Archives, are available for free through FamilySearch.org. The years 1841-1915 are searchable and viewable, and the years 1916-1920 are viewable, but not yet searchable. FamilySearch has a cadre of volunteers currently indexing the 1916-1920 vital records.

You can search our vital records through the main FamilySearch search page or separately at these links:

Birth (1841-1915): <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1536925>

Marriage (1841-1915): <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1469062>

Death (1841-1915): <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1463156>

1916-1920 Vitals: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1928860> (Note: This page indicates the full range, 1841-1920, but it currently has only 1916-1920 and amended/added entry volumes.)

We do plan to have our vital records also available on our website (free, searchable, and viewable) in the future, but do not have a firm date for that at this time.

I hope this information proves helpful. If you have any other questions, please let me know.

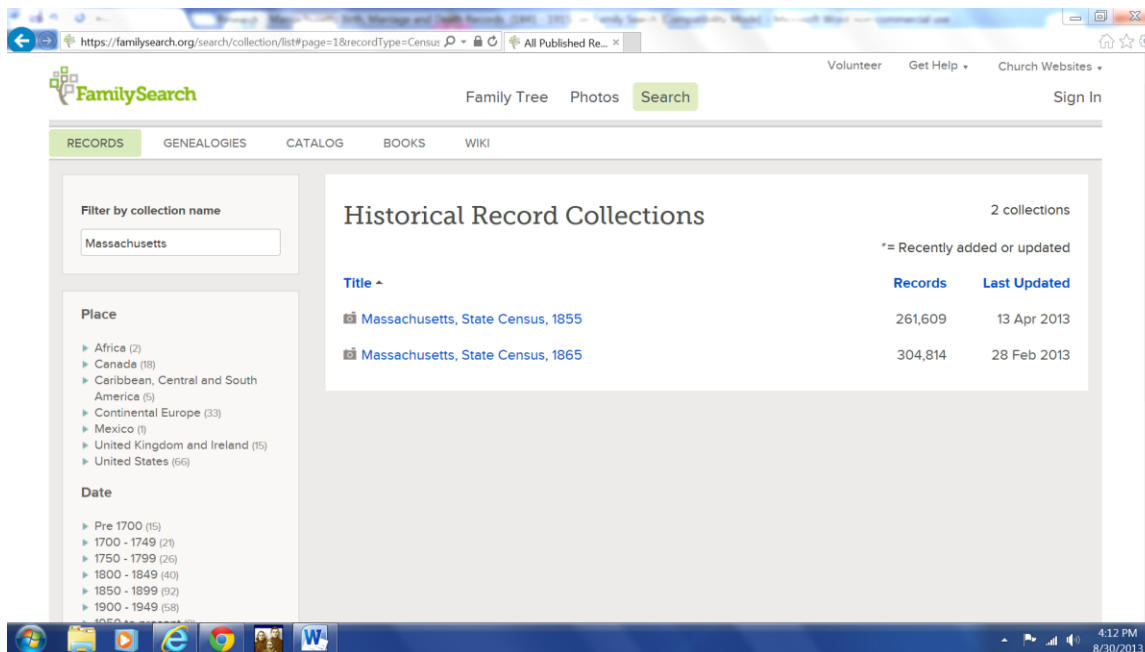
Sincerely,

Jennifer”.

Please note that FamilySearch also has two Massachusetts Censuses (1855 and 1865). Because I like the “old” FamilySearch Search Screen, I use the following URL to access them:

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list> .

Please see the following screen print of FamilySearch Collections List where I typed Massachusetts in the Filter by collection name field in the left pane.



The camera symbol to the left of the titles simply indicates that an image of the original record is available.

Periodically, in the records column, there will be "Browse Image" note. It indicates that a record count is not available (because the records have not been indexed yet) but can be browsed.

Also, please note that the four vital records collections that Jennifer hyperlinked are not yet available on the Family Search Collections List.

Finally, please note that attribution is expected for whatever you harvest.

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