

Historic Resources Guide

for the town of

Westhampton, Mass.

Compiled by: **Barbara Pelissier, President**
Westhampton Historical Society, July 2006
Revised November 2017

ITEM**Vital Records**

Births, Deaths, Marriages

DESCRIPTION

1772-1844

LOCATION*Westhampton Town Clerk
(LDS Microfilm) also at:
Forbes Library, Northampton1886-1992 Published Annual Town Reports
Births, Deaths and Marriages 1886-1992
Index for the aboveWesthampton Library
(James Bridgman – bound)
inserted insideInquire of Westhampton Town Clerk
or ...Check Northampton Vital Records
Search for “*Long Division*” residents
- or contact:Forbes Library, Northampton
(microfilm)
Northampton City Clerk*Note: Westhampton did not provide data for the Massachusetts Town <1850 Vital Records yellow bound series.***Cemetery Records**Index cards for each headstone
in Westhampton Center CemeteryForbes Library, Northampton
(Corbin Index - Archive Rm.)Book: Center Cemetery
Tombstone Inscriptions. 1954Westhampton Library
(Corbin – spiral bound)www.findagrave.comfor both Center & Damon
cemeteries

Histories of town cemeteries

“Cemetery” folder at
Westhampton Museum

Locations of all town cemeteries

Online at: www.mass-doc.com/hampshire_county_cemetery_guide.htm
and at: www.findagrave.com

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
<u>Census Information</u>	U.S. Census for Westhampton (Hampshire County) 1810 (Reel 163), 1850 (Reel 164) 1880 (Reel 167)1910 (Reel 171)	Forbes Library, Northampton (U.S. Census microfilm)
<u>Households/Individuals</u>	<i>Biographical Review of the Leading Citizens of Hampshire County, MA</i> Pub. 1896 Includes many biographical sketches of Westhamptown residents and their family histories. Some illustrations are included.	Neilson Libr., Smith College
	<i>Gazetteer of Hampshire County 1654-1887</i> Town history, biographical sketches and an 1887 Residential/Business Directory - also at: This history was prepared by Frederick Judd	Forbes Library, Northampton (W.B. Gay – book) Neilson Lib., Smith College
	<i>Westhampton Sesquicentennial Celebration Aug 18-19, 1928 – 150th Anniversary of the Town and Church Celebration (Sept. 1, 1929)</i> Biographical sketches of town residents. Re-printed speeches and letters to the town.	Westhampton Library Blacksmith Shop Museum (Pamphlet)
	<i>Historic Hampshire in the CT Valley</i> pp. 307-318. Copyright N'ton Historical Society Early town history, geography, church and Military history, biographical sketches	Forbes Library, Northampton (Clifton Johnson – book)

ITEM**DESCRIPTION****LOCATION**

History of the Connecticut Valley, Mass Volume I pp. 287-300 Published 1879.
Town history, biographical sketches, homestead descriptions, military, - also at: church, cemetery, town offices, mfg., etc.

Forbes Library, Northampton
Hampshire Room Archives
Louis H. Everts/2 vols.
Neilson Lib., Smith College

Households/Individuals, cont
Obituaries (*in progress*)

Westhampton Obituaries- Indexed
Hundreds of published obituaries
of town natives, residents, kin

Westhampton Museum
(5 3-ring white binders
(B. Pelissier)

Gazette obituaries

Forbes Library, Northampton
(Gazette microfilm)

See: www.genealogybank.com for
historic obituaries

See: www.newsbank.com for late 20th
and early 21st century obituaries

This online database is avail-
able at Forbes Library

See Index by Name for W'ton obits
As published in the Gazette for 1786-1878

Westhampton Library
(Greenberg – white binder
plus a searchable cd)
Forbes Library, Northampton

-also at:

Obituaries published in *Springfield Republican*,
N'ton Courier, *Hampshire County Journal*,
Northampton Free Press, *N'ton Democrat*

Forbes Library, Northampton
(various microfilm on 1st fl.)

Samuel Wright's History of Westhampton
2 Volumes written between 1892-1899
Anecdotes, genealogy, etc. - also at:

Westhampton Library
(Wright – books, 2 vols.)
Forbes Library, Northampton
(microfilm only - Reel 57)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
	<i>Local Color: Westhampton's First 225 Years</i> Map, history, anecdotes, genealogy - Indexed Over 100 photographs of homes and individuals	Westhampton Library Forbes Library, Northampton (LaFrance, Bridgman, and Mulvehill, soft-cover book)
Voter Registration Records:	Name, address, occupation, date of birth	Westhampton Town Clerk
Land Deeds	Check card files listed by "grantor" or "grantee." Note book & Page numbers. Books are in room. You may order copies. Also available online: http://www.masslandrecords.com/Hampshire	Registry of Deeds 33 King Street, Northampton
Plans of Land	Plan (maps)Room at above, on 1 st floor Card file (in corner) by town/by street Books are in room. You may order copies Also available online: http://www.masslandrecords.com/Hampshire	Registry of Deeds 33 King Street, Northampton
Probate Records	Wills, guardianships, estate inventories Card file lists Box & Document Number Xeroxing and/or photography allowed if not fragile	Registry of Probate King Street, Northampton
Map Showing Homesteads Mills, Stores & Shops by Family Name	1860 of Westhampton 1856 of Westhampton (<i>H.F. Walling</i>) 1873 of Westhampton (<i>Beers</i>)	Forbes Library, Northampton (Atlas microfilm Reel#175 & Forbes Map Collection)
	<i>Samuel Wright's History of Westhampton</i> Includes narrative descriptions Includes map of homestead sites - also at:	Westhampton Library (Sam'l Wright – 2 vols.) Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm only - Reel 57)

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
	An Inventory of Historical Properties, 1976 Published by the town's Historical Commission.	Westhampton Library (2 copies – xeroxed/bound)
History of the Town's Roads	A comprehensive history of each of the known Roads in town. Many descriptions include Family names/locations. Maps included.	Westhampton Library (R. Blakesley - binder) Town Highway Garage also at: B. Pelissier
Map	<i>Self-Guided Historical Tour of Westhampton</i> 36 featured locations. Featured homes include: Gideon Clark Jr., Israel Bridgman. Enoch Hale, Pomeroy Tavern (E. French/E. Wright Jr.), Elijah/Benjamin Norton Tavern, Samuel Kingsley, John Smith, site of Wm. Bartlett's farm and mill.	Westhampton Library (R. Blakesley – booklet/map)
Maps	1795 Town Map & Surveyors' Notes No homesteads; just mills, rivers & hills	Forbes Library, Northampton Historic Maps Collection
USGS Topographic Maps	Atlases of Hampshire County 1860 map and 1873 Beers map	Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm Reel 175) & Historic Maps Collection
USGS Topographic Maps	1947 Historic Map Available at: http://docs.unh.edu/nhtopos/Westhampton7.5MA.htm	

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
<p><u>Selectmen's Records, Town Officers,</u> Election Results, Highway Matters, Militia lists, Financial/Legal Matters</p>	<p>Selectmen's Records 1778-1840 and Town Meeting Records</p> <p>From 1841 forward, call:</p>	<p>Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm Reels 126 + 127) *Westhampton Town Clerk</p> <p>Selectboard's Assistant</p>
<p><u>Church Records</u> Westhampton Congregational Church</p>	<p>Current Church Secretary or the Current Church Historian For historic records of the church, see:</p> <p>Rev. Enoch Hale Sermons, etc. For an online description and index:</p>	<p>contact Westhampton church</p> <p>https://archive.org</p> <p>Yale University Library www.divinity.library@yale.edu</p>
<p>Westhampton Union Church</p>	<p>See <i>Local Color</i> book for information regarding Rev. John Truair's church in town beg. 1830s</p> <p>For documents of this splinter church, see:</p>	<p>Westhampton Library Forbes Library, Northampton</p> <p>https://archive.org</p>
<p>Other Church Records</p>	<p>Those who joined out-of-town churches such as Chesterfield (Baptist), etc. were listed as 'united' in the Vital Records</p>	<p>Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm) *Westhampton Town Clerk</p>
<p><u>Photographs</u> of Old Homes (often includes owners/family)</p>	<p>Howes Bros. Photos from the turn-of- the-(20th) century Indexed in two volumes</p>	<p>Westhampton Library (2 large binders/sleeves)</p>
<p>Photographs of Homes, Town, Individuals, Families, Civic Groups, etc.</p>	<p>Westhampton Blacksmith Shop Museum</p> <p><i>Local Color: Westhampton's First 225 Years</i></p>	<p>Summer Hours (Sundays) Contact Current President</p> <p>Westhampton Library</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
<u>Newspaper Articles</u>	Events, Elections, Crime Obituaries, News, Entertainment School reports, Family gatherings Societies, Church, Industry, etc.	Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm)
<i>Hampshire Gazette</i>	Westhampton items from 1786-1878 Index by both Subject/Names	Westhampton Library (Greenberg/Carroll) notebook + cd
	Westhampton from 1786-1878 Index by both Subject/Names	Westhampton Library (Greenberg/Carroll) notebook + cd
	- also ...	Forbes Library, Northampton
	Index of entire <i>Gazette</i> from 1786-1937 Part I – by Subject Part II - Personal	Forbes Library, Northampton (bound index at Ref. Desk)
	Westhampton topics from 1950-1996 Wooden cabinet of drawers 1 st floor Computer Index for 1985-present This cd is searchable	Forbes Library, Northampton (index cards only) Forbes Library, Northampton (cd available from Ref. Desk)
<i>Courier</i>	Published 1829-1858	Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm)
<i>Northampton Democrat</i>	Published 1840-1854	“ “
<i>Northampton Free Press</i>	Published 1860-1874	“ “
<i>Hampshire County Journal</i>	Published 1877-1894	“ “
<i>Springfield Republican</i>	Westhampton Column, obituaries, Industry, Societies, News, etc. (no Index)	“ “

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
<u>War Veterans' Memorials:</u>	WWI, WWII, Korea, Viet Nam Civil War Monument	Westhampton Town Center Center Cemetery
<u>List of Westhampton's Veterans</u>	<i>List of Civil War Veterans of Hampshire County</i>	Forbes Library, Northampton
	Annual Town Militia lists	Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm Reels 126 + 127) *Westhampton Town Clerk
	<i>History of the Connecticut Valley, Mass</i> <i>Volume I</i> pp. 287-300 Revolutionary and Civil War rosters	Forbes Library, Northampton <i>Hampshire Room Archives</i> Louis H. Everts/2 vols. Neilson Lib., Smith College
	Veterans from Hampshire County (various wars)	Forbes Library volumes on shelves
Artifacts , Photos, Scrapbooks, Household Implements, Photos, Town Reports, Clothing, Historic Records of Civic Groups, etc.	Westhampton Blacksmith Shop Museum Most items donated by town residents Owned and operated by the town's Historic Commission	Stage Road, Summer Hours – Sundays Contact Current President

*Westhampton's Town Clerk = has a duplicate of the LDS microfilm, as does Forbes Library in Northampton.

Additional Resources

Grace Fisher Commonplace Book	Illustrated book begun in 1800 by resident Grace Fisher [1786-1814]	Westhampton Historical Soc. (contact current President)
Hale Family Papers Letters	Family Correspondence 1787-1988	Smith College, Northampton

	Documents four generations of Hales 61+ linear feet of documents	Neilson Library (Sophia Smith Collections)
Enoch Hale Papers	Most records of his pastorate in Westhampton Over 4 linear feet of documents Summary and index available online at: This collection donated by the Church	Yale University Library (Record Group #66) www.divinity.library@yale.edu
Enoch Hale's [1753-1837] Diary p.8 begins Westhampton info in 1778	As copied by Sylvester Judd. Hale's "Westhampton" years begin in 1776. Original diary held at Yale University	Forbes Library, Northampton (microfilm Reel #15-C diary begins approx 1/5 of reel – W'ton info begins on p.8)
Judd Family Letters	<i>Dear Hattie: Letters of the Judd Family</i> To Harriet Judd (incl. years 1853-1890)	Westhampton Library (James E. Bridgman – book)
1866 Town Reunion	<i>Reunion of the Natives of Westhampton</i> Reprinted speeches, recollections of early town history by former town natives.	Westhampton Library (Judd - monograph size)
Self-Published Personal Memoirs of town residents as of this printing	Frank Hathaway Olga Hathaway Richard W. Tracy Harold Myrick Ernest Delisle Betty Norris Nova	Westhampton Library Westhampton Library Westhampton Library Westhampton Library Westhampton Library
Cattle (ear) markings/brands	Brands used by individual families to identify their own livestock	*Westhampton Town Clerk

Biographical Information

History and Genealogy of the Families Of Chesterfield, MA by Ruth A. Baker
Published in 1962

History of Chesterfield 1762-1962
includes many Westhampton names

Forbes Library, Northampton
Bound volume – Ref. Mat'l
under *Town Histories*
Westhampton Library
White 3-ring binder

see copies of those pages (above) *relative to*
Westhampton's residents/families

Additional documents: *For more information, contact the current W'ton Historical Society President*

Lydia (Lindsey) Niles [1855-1873] Diary

Niles family history, Westhampton Social
History, many Westhampton names (Indexed)

Westhampton Historical Soc.
Contact Current President

Enoch Hale Burt Letters
Includes years 1873-1876

Correspondence between his family here
and Enoch while in Europe- all letters

Westhampton Historical Soc.
Contact Current President

Frances Burt Letters
Includes 1853 – Civil War

Letters from Frances Burt to his mother
from Alabama beginning in 1853 – Civil War

Westhampton Historical Soc.
Contact Current President

Helpful Research Notes:

LDS Microfilm = Microfilm made from the original books/records of towns by members of the Church of the Latter Day Saints (more commonly referred to as the Mormon Church). Copies of microfilm may be ordered from them to be delivered to and read at a nearby LDS Library of your choice. The website: www.familysearch.org is also maintained by the LDS.

Forbes Library, located on Rte 66 (a.k.a. "West Street") in Northampton, MA, houses the largest collection of Hampshire County local history/genealogy/maps. The various resources are located in the Hampshire Room (Archive) and the first floor.

Microfilm resources include: newspapers, historic local town atlases, Samuel Wright's History of Westhampton, Enoch Hale's Diary (Westhampton portion) as copied by Sylvester Judd, Sylvester Judd Manuscripts, U.S. Census. Microfilm is housed on the first floor.

Most town/county maps can be viewed (and printed) from microfilm, see above. However, county and town maps, including the 1795 first survey of town is referred to as the *Denniston map of Westhampton* are housed in the Hampshire Room. A copy of the *Denniston*

map of Westhampton can be purchased directly from the Massachusetts State Archives for \$10.00. (Note: this map only shows early roads, mills, streams and hills – no homesteads or family names.)

Family histories and town histories are located on the first floor.

Volumes of War Veteran information for those who served from Hampshire County are on the first floor. In addition, the Forbes Library staff collected news items on local WWI and WWII servicemen/women. This collection includes individual service member files and scrapbooks featuring the war and local home front efforts. These are located in the Hampshire Room.

The Corbin index cards listing all those buried in the Westhampton Center Cemetery are located in the Hampshire Room.

An index to Westhampton news items/obits published in the *Hampshire Gazette* between 1786-1878 is located in the Hampshire Room. Printed and cd available for use. Index cards of mid-1900s Westhampton items are in wooden cabinet on the first floor.

Westhampton Museum & Blacksmith Shop, 5 Stage Rd., Westhampton, is maintained by the town's Historical Commission and is staffed by volunteers. Artifacts, large collection of 19th century tools, clothing, photographs, copies of town reports, history/minutes of defunct town organizations such as the Men's Club, etc. Afternoon hours 2-4 Sunday afternoons between Memorial Day and mid-Oct. or call the current Historical Commission President per the town website www.westhampton-ma.com or contact the Town Clerk.

Enoch Hale's Diary, "Westhampton Years" – Beginning p. 8 of Hale's diary . These are extracts chosen and *transcribed* by *Sylvester Judd, Esq.* (Microfilm Reel #15-C Judd Manuscripts at Forbes Library. Rev. Hale's diary includes entries prior to the town's incorporation in 1778, prior to the erection of any 'meeting house', etc. Mentions deaths, burials, weddings, sermons, his own travel, the establishment of his home and life in Westhampton, town meetings/decisions, daily life in town, agriculture, hiring and purchases, etc.–(The original diary resides at Yale University, New Haven, CT.)

Sylvester Judd's Notebook No. 3 "Westhampton Years" (The original notebook resides at Forbes Library Local History Room and has been transcribed by Barbara Pelissier, Westhampton)

Hampshire County Hall of Records, 33 King Street, Northampton, houses Probate Records on the 2nd floor and Land Records on the 1st floor. There is a metal detector as you enter the building, as it is also a Probate Courthouse. In the Registry of Deeds, you may order deeds and/or maps to be copied for you. Probate records that are very old are delicate and may not be copied. They may be photographed, however. Ask the Registrar of Probate for clearance. For all newer records, there is a coin operated copy machine for your use on the second floor where the files are kept. Bring plenty of quarters for the copier!