

Local History Resources at Cary Memorial Library

In addition to hundreds of books about Lexington during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, Cary Memorial Library has a substantial collection of materials on all aspects of Lexington's history, from colonial and revolutionary times to the present. In addition to published histories, the collection includes Town annual reports, planning and zoning studies, Lexington High School yearbooks, family histories, newspapers, school committee reports, vital records, voting lists, and histories of surrounding towns.

Local history materials may be found by searching the [Minuteman Library Network's catalog](#). Specific items are located in our circulating, reference and/or special collections. If you need assistance, please ask a librarian. Following are examples of our local history materials and resources.

The Battle of Lexington

Cary Library has an extensive collection of books about the Battles of Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, as well as materials about related events, people, places and celebrations. Simply search the catalog for "Battle of Lexington" or related keywords.

General Histories of Lexington

Hudson, Charles. [History of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts..., 1913](#). Vol. 1: History; Vol. 2: Genealogies. Hudson's original one-volume work, published in 1868, was "revised and continued to 1912" by the Lexington Historical Society and republished in two volumes, which also are available full-text online. **974.44L H867h**

- Volume I - [History](#)
- Volume II - [Genealogies](#)

Kollen, Richard. [Lexington: from liberty's birthplace to progressive suburbs](#), 2004. A brief but thorough and up-to-date history of Lexington. See also Kollen's [Lexington](#) from the Images of America series for historic photographs. **974.44L K**

Worthen, Edwin B. [Tracing the past in Lexington, Massachusetts](#), 1998. Includes sections on East Lexington, the Cary family, southwest Lexington, taverns and hotels, and the railroad. **974.44L W899t**

Worthen, Edwin B. [A calendar history of Lexington: 1620-1946](#), 1946. Available online, [organized by date](#). **974.44L W899c** There also is a separate [Index to Tracing the Past in Lexington, MA](#), **974.44L W899ti**

Hinkle, Alice. [Life in Lexington: 1946 through 1995](#), 1996. Available online, [organized by date](#), **974.44L H**

Canavan, M. J. [Canavan Papers](#). A typewritten manuscript collecting research and reminiscences by Michael Joseph Canavan (1848-1931) on the early history of Lexington. [Available online](#), **LEX ROOM 974.44L C**

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Kelley, Beverly A. [*Lexington: a century of photographs*](#), 1980. A sampling of significant photographs from the Lexington Historical Society, ca. 1860-1960, with many historical images of businesses and homes. **974.44L K287keL**

Research Materials on Lexington People, Places and Events

Proceedings of Lexington Historical Society and papers relating to the history of the town. Four volumes published by the Lexington Historical Society, 1889-1912. Topics include the history of the Common, early schools, taverns, slavery, churches, etc. [A listing of the contents of each volume](#) is available. **974.44L L5913p**

Investigating Lexington's History. This collection of research papers written by Lexington High School students includes studies of Lexington families, neighborhoods, businesses, organizations and activities. [A complete listing](#) is available, or find relevant materials by searching the [catalog](#). **LEX ROOM 974.44L L591poi**

Local history binders include newspaper articles, brochures, flyers, pamphlets, etc. on specific subjects. Of particular interest are the binders on population statistics and demographics, historic buildings and properties, businesses, and farms. [A complete listing](#) is available, or find relevant materials in the [catalog](#).

[*Record of births, marriages, and deaths to January 1, 1898*](#) ... (also known as "Lexington Vital Records"). Look for names in Part I ("from earliest period to end of 1853") and Part II (1854 to 1897). Cary Library also has vital records for most Massachusetts cities and towns in our Genealogy Room. **974.44L L59r**

Lexington High School Yearbook, 1939-present (with some gaps). [A listing of the library's yearbook holdings](#) is available. [View digitized copies of the yearbooks](#).

The Lexington and Bedford directory, containing lists of residents, societies, churches, streets, etc., [1894](#) and [1899](#). **LEX ROOM 974.44L L59d**

[*Resident and business directory of Lexington, Massachusetts*](#), containing a complete resident, street and business directory, town officers, schools, societies, churches, post offices, map, etc., 1902-1918. Holdings include 1902, 1906, 1908, 1913, 1915, 1918. **LEX ROOM 974.44L L59d**

[*Lexington Directory /Lothrop's Lexington Mass. Blue book and directory*](#). A general directory of residents, businesses, churches, schools, town officers, fire and police departments, clubs, societies, and miscellaneous organizations, 1922-1942. Holdings include 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1942. **LEX ROOM 974.44 L L59d**

[*Your Lexington directory: "the town book"*](#). White and yellow pages, 1957-2016 with gaps. **LEX ROOM 974.44 L L59d**

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[List of Poll Taxpayers in the Town of Lexington](#) and [List of Persons](#). Names of voters by precinct and street since 1884, with gaps; some list occupation and ages. **LEX ROOM 974.44L L591Li**

[Report of the Auditors of Accounts against the Town of Lexington...](#) The town annual report, 1850s-present. [Available online](#), **LEX ROOM 974.44L L591ar**

Sileo, Thomas, P. [Historical guide to open space in Lexington](#). Latest edition 2020. The history of Lexington's 30 open space properties. The Appendix includes information on the tanning and peat industries, early mills, haymaking, etc. **974.44L S**

Local and regional maps and atlases – Cary Library has 18th and 19th century maps of Lexington, 19th and 20th century area atlases, Sanborn fire insurance maps for the early- to mid-20th century, and more recent street, precinct and USGS maps. Some of our [maps may be viewed online](#) through the Lexington Historical Commission. There are also some early land and tax records on microfilm and online through the [Town Clerk's Office](#).

Massachusetts & New England Resources

[New England court records: a research guide for genealogists and historians](#), by Diane Rapaport, 2006. **929.1 R**

[Massachusetts officers and soldiers, 1702-1722: Queen Anne's War to Dummer's War](#) edited by Mary E. Donahue. From the Massachusetts Archives collection of colonial muster rolls and military records. **LEX ROOM 973.25 D**

[Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War](#), 17 volumes. A compilation from the Mass. Archives of those who served from Massachusetts in the American Revolution. **LEX ROOM 973.344 M**

[Massachusetts soldiers, sailors, and marines in the Civil War](#), 9 volumes. A compilation of registers from the Adjutant General's Office of those who served from Massachusetts. Organized by regiment, with an index of names. **LEX ROOM 973.74 M**

Online Resources

The [Lexington Historical Commission's Inventory of Historic Areas and Structures /Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey](#) is a good source of information on Lexington's neighborhoods as well as on specific street addresses. This resource also includes area histories, maps and photographs. Some building descriptions include dates, owners and architectural styles.

The [Edwin B. Worthen Collection](#) is a searchable database of materials (research notes, manuscripts, news clippings, pamphlets, brochures, photos, slides, maps, newspapers, objects) collected by Mr. Worthen that document the history of Lexington circa 1850-1950.

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Lexington Minuteman newspaper, 1871- present. Full page and article images and searchable full text from the Lexington Minuteman and other historical Lexington newspapers can be found below.

- [Remote Access](#) - search up to 1974 available for researchers anywhere
- [In Library Access](#) - search up to 2005 (for researchers at the Library)
- [Newsbank Access](#) - search 2005-present, text only (remote access restricted to Lexington residents)

For more online resources, including genealogy databases and other historical newspapers, visit Cary Library's [Online Resources](#) page.

Important Organizations

[Lexington Historical Society](#) - The Lexington Historical Society maintains a research library and archives at the Hancock-Clarke House. The collection focuses on all aspects of Lexington history from its settlement in the late 17th century through the present, with a special concentration on the American Revolution.

[Town of Lexington Archives](#) - The Town Clerk is the Town's chief election official, recording officer, registrar of vital statistics, public records officer, and licensing officer. Staff responds to inquiries from the public and serves as a central information point for the Town.

[Lexington Historical Commission](#) - The Historical Commission's website provides an architectural and historical overview of the Town of Lexington and its neighborhoods, as well as the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey ("inventory") of individual structures and objects.

[Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library](#) - Founded and supported by the Scottish Rite Masons of the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction in 1975, the NHM explores America's story through its collections, exhibitions, programs, and research library.

[Massachusetts Historical Society](#) - Located in Boston's Back Bay, the library holds collections of the personal papers of individuals and families who lived in Massachusetts. It is open to the public without charge. Researchers are encouraged to contact the Reference Librarian before planning a visit, at 617-536-1608 or library@masshist.org

[New England Historic Genealogical Society](#) - Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the oldest and most respected nonprofit genealogical organization in the country. Located at 97 Newbury Street, Boston, the library contains more than 200,000 books, periodicals and microform materials, and more than one million manuscripts.

[National Archives](#) - Located in Waltham, NARA's Northeast Region facility is among New England's renowned centers for local, regional and national historical research. Resources include Census Records, Naturalization Records, Passenger

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Arrival Lists, and Military Records. Call 781-663-0144 or e-mail boston.archives@nara.gov

[Massachusetts State Archives](#) - The Archives Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office is the repository for Massachusetts records generated by state government, dating from the beginning of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628. Documents include Vital Records for 1841-1915 as well as Census, Judicial and Military Records. For more information, call 617-727-2816 or e-mail archives@sec.state.ma.us.

Can't find what you're looking for? [Ask a Librarian](#)

Call the Reference Desk 781-862-6288, ext. 84410
or send an e-mail to askcary@minlib.net

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