Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established in 1793

Notable Land Records
Volume 2
2019

Register of Deeds William P. O’Donnell
Dedham, Massachusetts
DEDICATION

This book and the rededication of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds building is dedicated to all of those over the years who constructed, maintained and made a commitment to preserve this historic building built in 1903 by the Citizens of Norfolk County.

NORFOLK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
RESTORATION 2018-2019

This rededication of the Registry of Deeds building reflects the commitment made to preserve this historic building built in 1903 by the Citizens of Norfolk County.

REGISTER OF DEEDS,
WILLIAM F. O’DONNELL

CGK ARCHITECTS, INC.
NEW ENGLAND BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS
NORFOLK COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD
NORFOLK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DEDICATED JUNE 20, 2019

On June 20th 2018 here at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds the 225th Anniversary of the founding of Norfolk County in 1793 was celebrated. It was a wonderful event marked with history and song. John Adams, the second President of the United States, and one of the four Presidents of the United States born in Norfolk County if he was around would have noted “its pomp and circumstance.” The 225th Anniversary Notable Land Records project was written to help celebrate this historic occasion and celebration.

The response and positive feedback to this first book has been heartwarming. The history behind the land records recorded here at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds came alive in the Notable Land Records book. The Library of Congress selected the 225th Anniversary Commemoration Notable Land Records book for addition to the Library’s General Collections and assigned it a Library of Congress control number. It was a labor of love to put together that book. The seeds of this Volume 2 of Norfolk County’s Notable Land Records were planted with the publication of the 225th Anniversary Commemoration book. There is so much history and so many interesting individuals who have made the communities of Norfolk County their home.

The idea was to pick another milestone to use as a way to motivate this Volume 2 book’s completion. In my tenure as Register of Deeds there have been a number of improvements to the Registry of Deeds building culminating with the latest restoration project that got underway in 2018. The idea of the Registry of Deeds building started with legislation in the late 1800’s. This idea became a reality when the building was built in 1903. The rededication of the Registry of Deeds building in 2019 reflects the commitment made to preserve this historic building built in 1903 by the Citizens of Norfolk County.

What better way to celebrate the restoration and rededication of this historic Registry of Deeds building than with a second book where the records housed in this building come alive for the reader. I hope you enjoy this Volume 2 Notable Land Records book.

Sincerely yours,

William P. O’Donnell
Norfolk County Register of Deeds
NORFOLK COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS
EST. IN 1793

225th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION
JUNE 20, 2018

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established in 1793
225th Anniversary Commemoration
Notable Land Records Project
2018

Register of Deeds: William D. O’Connell
Dearest Massachusetts

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
NOTABLE LAND RECORDS
FROM THE
CITIES AND TOWNS OF NORFOLK COUNTY
Volume 2

Norfolk County
“The County of Presidents”

John Adams
2nd President of the United States

John Quincy Adams
6th President of the United States

John F. Kennedy
35th President of the United States

George H.W. Bush
41st President of the United States

Norfolk County is proud to be the birthplace of four Presidents of the United States.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
COLONEL GEORGE W. ROBBINS
FIRST CHAIRMAN OF AVON’S BOARD OF SELECTMEN

George W. Robbins was born in East Stoughton, now Avon, on February 2, 1839. His father Captain Samuel Robbins was a master mariner in the West Indian merchant service. At the time of his father’s death, George was 8 years old. During his schooling, he showed an aptitude for military tactics and was sent to Russell’s Military Academy in Connecticut. He studied there for three years obtaining the rank of Captain of Cadets, before leaving to become superintendent of his brother’s 1,300 acre farm in Wisconsin.

In the Civil War, Robbins was commissioned a Lieutenant Colonel in the Eighth Regiment. His regiment took part in the assault on Vicksburg, and was present when the Confederate Army surrendered on July 4, 1863. On October 1, 1863, Robbins was honorably discharged after suffering two major injuries; he left the service holding the rank of Colonel.

After pursuing business opportunities out West, he returned in 1870 to East Stoughton which later became Avon. For many years he ran a livery business that traveled from Avon to Boston. He oversaw the separation of Avon and Stoughton, which took an act of the Massachusetts Legislature. Avon was incorporated as a community in 1888.

Colonel Robbins was a member of the Avon’s first Board of Selectmen and its first chairman. He served another term as the chairman from 1896-97. Colonel Robbins was well-respected by the town’s people for the way he conducted his life both in public office and in private life.
Richard Bellingham was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1592. Bellingham sailed to the new world in 1634. Immediately upon his arrival, Bellingham served in a leadership role overseeing Boston. He subsequently served in a number of positions in the Massachusetts Bay Colony including 10 years as Governor. Bellingham was an original signer of the Massachusetts Bay Colony Charter. The town of Bellingham is named in his honor.

Bellingham was also chosen to be on the first board of overseers of Harvard College.

He was one of the architects of the Massachusetts Body of Liberties, a document embodying many sentiments found in the United States Bill of Rights.

Bellingham was seen as a liberal advocating for expansive views on suffrage and lawmaking. Repeatedly, he clashed with the more conservative John Winthrop.

He was immortalized as a fictional character in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Scarlet Letter.”

Bellingham also appears in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow’s “The New England Tragedies” which fictionalizes events dealing with the Quakers.

Bellingham died on December 7, 1672.

He was the last surviving signer of the colonial charter.
THOMAS A. WATSON
INVENTOR
FOUNDER OF FORE RIVER SHIPYARD

Thomas A. Watson was born in 1854. Watson was an assistant to Alexander Graham Bell in the invention of the telephone. The first communication via telephone was in 1876.

The famous words spoken by Bell to Watson were, “Mr. Watson. Come here. I want to see you.”

After leaving Bell Telephone Company in 1881, Watson tried his hand at farming and at being a Shakespearean actor.

In 1883, Watson founded the Fore River Ship and Engine Building Company. By 1901, due to contracts for the building of naval destroyers, the shipyard became one of the busiest in the country.

The Fore River Shipyard would go on to become a major employer in eastern Massachusetts. It played a significant role in the building of warships during World Wars I & II.

Watson returned to his roots with the telephone company in 1915 when he went to San Francisco to receive the first transcontinental telephone call placed by Alexander Graham Bell from New York City.

Watson died in 1934. On his death, he requested to be buried in a North Weymouth, MA cemetery which has a vantage point to the Fore River Shipyard.

It is said Watson wanted to see his greatest accomplishment.
Arthur Fiedler was born in 1894 in Boston. His father was an Austrian violinist who played in the Boston Symphony Orchestra and his mother was a pianist. Arthur Fiedler attended Boston Latin School until they moved to Vienna in 1910, and to Berlin in 1911 where he studied violin at the Royal Academy of Music.

He returned to Boston at the beginning of WWII and joined the Boston Symphony Orchestra. During his time with the BSO, he formed the Boston Sinfonietta, a chamber music group of BSO members who performed free outdoor concerts. In 1930, he was appointed the 18th conductor of the Boston Pops, a position he held until his death in 1979. Under his direction, the Boston Pops made more recordings than any other orchestra in the world with sales exceeding $50 million. Among his notable conducting performances are the nationally televised opening ceremonies of Walt Disney World in 1971, as well as the July 4, 1976 Bicentennial Celebration at the Hatch Memorial Shell attended by 400,000 people.

The “maestro” revered firefighters. He was made an “Honorary Captain” by the Boston Fire Department.

In 1977, he was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Gerald Ford. He suffered a stroke in the winter of 1979, but was able to recover enough to conduct a concert celebrating his 50th anniversary as the Boston Pops conductor. Shortly after, he suffered a fatal heart attack while studying music scores in his home on July 10, 1979. He was age 84.
HARRIET L. HEMENWAY
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ADVOCATE

Harriet Hemenway, along with her cousin Minna Hall, co-founded the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896. It was fashionable back in the Gilded Age for women to wear plumes in their hats.

Hemenway, a socialite married to Augustus Hemenway, was outraged about the killing of birds, such as woodpeckers, bluebirds, herons, owls and warblers. She and her cousin held tea parties to urge socialite women not to wear these hats. She then followed up with meetings among high society women and ornithologists to advocate for an organization to protect birds.

Hemenway and Hall recruited William Brewster, co-founder of the American Ornithologists’ Union, to be the Massachusetts Audubon Society’s initial president. The Society was successful in getting laws passed to prohibit trade in wild bird feathers and also the interstate shipment of animals illegally killed. In addition, the Society also helped to organize the National Association of Audubon Societies, now known as the National Audubon Society.

Hemenway was no stranger to advocacy or controversy. She came from a family of abolitionists, and once invited Booker T. Washington to stay at her home when he was refused occupancy at Boston hotels. Harriett Hemenway died in 1960, living to the age of 101.
HUGO ORMO and EDITH KIMBALL ORMO
RESTAURANTEURS

Hugo Ormo and Edith Kimball Ormo were husband and wife who successfully opened and ran a number of restaurants and eateries. Hugo was a young Hungarian immigrant.
The first restaurant opened was Kimball’s Lobster Shop on Cohasset Harbor.
In the late 1930’s Hugo and Edith took over the lease of a failed eatery and opened their fourth restaurant in the area. This restaurant looking out over picturesque Cohasset Harbor became Hugo’s Lighthouse. The waterfront restaurant with its nautical motif, seafood menu and a replica of a lighthouse on the roof served customers for more than a half-century under that name.

Many well known figures including John F. Kennedy and entertainers appearing at the local South Shore Music Circus spent enjoyable times at the restaurant.
FAIRBANKS HOUSE
OLDEST TIMBER-FRAMED HOUSE IN NORTH AMERICA

The Fairbanks House was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The house was built sometime between 1637 and 1641. Per verification by testing, it is the oldest surviving timber-frame house in North America.

The house was constructed by Puritan settler Jonathan Fairbanks for his family. The house was then passed down through eight generations up to the early 20th century. The original version underwent expansion through the years as architectural styles changed and the family grew.

Today it is owned and operated by the Fairbanks Family in America, a member-based non-profit organization, as an historic house museum. The Fairbanks Family Association has preserved, studied and interpreted their ancestral home and its collections for over 110 years.
Registry of Deeds Record
DOVER, 2010
Book 28343 PAGE 242

grant to BOHDAN POMAHAC and HANA AUGUSTINOVA, husband and wife, as tenants by the entirety,
of 1 Sterling Drive, Dover, Massachusetts

with quitclaim covenants

A certain parcel of land with the buildings thereon situated on Sterling Drive in Dover, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, being shown as Lot 31R on a plan entitled “Plan of Land in Dover, Massachusetts, Norfolk County” prepared by GLM Engineering Consultants, Inc., dated May 22, 2007, scale 1: = 49' recorded in Plan Book 568 Page 1.

Containing 49,365.4 square feet according to said plan.

BOHDAN POMAHAC, MD
MEDICAL PIONEER

Dr. Bohdan Pomahac is the Roberta and Stephen R. Weiner Distinguished Chair in Surgery at Brigham and Women’s Hospital (BWH). He established the Plastic Surgical Transplantation Team at BWH, and is its director. On March 22, 2013, Doctor Pomahac and his 30-plus member team performed the first full face transplant in the United States and the third in the world. Approximately four years earlier, Dr. Pomahac performed the second partial face transplant in the country, and the seventh in the world. After the success of that surgery, the U.S. Defense Department awarded BWH a $3.4 million grant to fund 5 face transplants.

Bohdan Pomahac was born in the city of Ostrava in the Czech Republic. As a teenager, he was fascinated by the game of chess. He was inspired by Russian champions Karpov and Kasparov, and his game was good enough for him to play in the major chess league in his country. Pomahac attended Palacky University of Medicine for six years. After completing his medical studies, he trained in general surgery at BWH. He went on to do a fellowship in plastic surgery at Harvard University. From 2009 to 2017, he was the Director of the Burn Center at BWH. His clinical interests include facial reconstruction, reconstruction of oncologic defects including breast, aesthetic surgery and microsurgery.

Doctor Pomahac has been the keynote speaker on multiple occasions at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
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HELEN FULLER
DEVOTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Born in 1900, Helen Fuller was active for a half century in various organizations serving the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. During World War II, she served as a captain in the Massachusetts Women’s Defense Corps. Later, she served on the Massachusetts Homemakers Council, Women’s Educational Industrial Union, Wellesley College Club, and Norwood Hospital Women’s Aid Auxiliary. However, her greatest passion was reading. She felt it especially important for children to have the resources to read.

In 1930, she was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees of the Boyden Library in Foxborough where she served for a remarkable 50 years, winning numerous elections to the Board.

In 1964, she received the Massachusetts Cooperative Extension Service Director’s Award for Distinguished Service for her years of volunteer service.

She is considered one of the most prominent local public service figures of her era. She passed away in 1982 and there is a room at the Boyden Public Library named after her in tribute to her serving on the library’s Board of Trustees.
Registry of Deeds Record
FRANKLIN, 1865
BOOK 335  PAGE 61

FRANKLIN

DR. OLIVER DEAN
FOUNDER OF DEAN COLLEGE

Dr. Oliver Dean was an American physician and philanthropist who founded Dean Academy which has become Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts. Dean was born in Franklin in 1783. He became a medical doctor and then changed careers and became manager of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in Manchester, New Hampshire. After retiring to Franklin, Dean founded a local Universalist church.

In 1865, Dean founded the co-educational Dean Academy by donating $125,000 and approximately nine acres of land for the school. Dean died in 1871. Today, Dean College resides on a 100 acre site in Franklin serving approximately 1,300 students annually. Approximately 53% of Dean’s students reside outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, representing 19 countries and 35 states. Over the past 10 years, Dean College has completed over $62 million in capital improvements. Today, Dean College is ranked tied for the 23rd Best Regional College in the North and the 12th Best Value Schools in that category by the US News and World Report.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
Registry of Deeds Record
HOLBROOK, 1971
BOOK 4737 PAGE 88

Probate Court, Records in Vol. 502, Page 274.
and every other power,
for the sum of sixteen thousand (16,000) dollars
paid to Andrew H. Card, Jr., and Kathlene B. Card, husband and wife,
the same to be conveyed to the registered or record of the town of Holbrook, Massachusetts,
the land described on the Plan of Land in Holbrook, Mass., dated April 7, 1971, as
being bounded and described as follows:

ANDREW CARD
WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

Born in 1947 in Brockton, Andrew Card was an active Boy Scout and earned the rank of Life Scout in his youth. He graduated from the University of South Carolina in Civil Engineering. He attended the United States Merchant Marine Academy and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1975 to 1983 and unsuccessfully ran for the Republican nomination for Governor in 1982. Card served in various positions in the White House during the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations. He served as the 11th U.S. Secretary of Transportation from 1992 to 1993. He also directed federal disaster relief in the wake of Hurricane Andrew. In 2000, he ran the Republican National Convention operations. In 2001, he was appointed President Bush’s Chief of Staff. He is part of the iconic image on 9/11/2001 when he informed the president of the terrorist attacks while at the Emma E. Booker Elementary School in Florida. In 2006, he announced his resignation as Chief of Staff. From 2011 through 2013, he was the Acting Dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University. He served as the fifth President of Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire from 2015 to 2016.
LOWELL MASON
MUSICIAN

Lowell Mason was born in 1792 and grew up in Medfield, Massachusetts. Mason is largely credited with introducing music into American public schools, and is considered the first important U.S. music educator. Mason became the Music Director of First Parish Church (now First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church) at age 17. He later became president of the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston.

He was a leading figure in American church music, the composer of over 1600 hymn tunes, many of which are often sung today. He also set the music for the children’s rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

His best-known work includes an arrangement of the popular Christmas song “Joy to the World” and the song “Bethany”, which sets the hymn text “Nearer, My God, to Thee”. While lauded for his work in music, Mason has also faced some criticism for helping to largely eliminate the robust tradition of participatory sacred music that flourished in America before his time.

A project spearheaded by the Lowell Mason House, Inc. saved Mason’s birthplace residence from development in 2011. The house was relocated to a town park on Green Street in Medfield. Work on renovating and restoring the house is ongoing and plans are in place to make use of the house as a museum. Lowell Mason House, Inc. has access currently to many artifacts associated with Mason’s life.
MILTON H. SANFORD
BUSINESSMAN
BENEFACTOR OF MEDWAY

Milton H. Sanford was born in Medway on August 29, 1813. Sanford was a prominent businessman owning wool and cotton mills. He made his real fortune during the American Civil War manufacturing blankets for the Union Army. In the 1880's, Sanford built the Sanford Textile Mill in Medway.

The structure still stands today having been converted to condominiums.

In addition to his business prowess, Sanford had a passion for thoroughbred horse racing. He owned horse farms in New Jersey and Kentucky. Sanford hosted a dinner in 1868 where the Dinner Party Stakes race would be run at the new Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore, MD. The winner of the first Dinner Party Stakes was a horse owned by Sanford called Preakness. The Preakness Stakes at Pimlico was named in honor of Sanford’s horse in 1873.

Medway Town Hall’s official name is Sanford Hall, named in honor of Milton Sanford.

Constructed in 1912, it replaced the original Sanford Hall of 1872 which burned down. The new hall was built in the Second Renaissance style and originally combined commercial uses on the first floor including a grocery and tobacconist, as well as the post office, library, a bank, and the police station.

The second floor was used as a meeting hall and on occasion as a movie theater.

Sanford Hall was renovated in the 1980s and converted into the Medway Town Hall.
CHRISTIAN A. HERTER
GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS
AND UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE

Born in 1895 in Paris, France, Christian Herter was the son of American expatriates. He and his family moved back to New York City in 1904. He graduated from Harvard in 1915 and worked in the architectural field for a year before joining the diplomatic corps.

Herter worked in the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and was a part of the U.S. delegation to the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. He helped draft the Covenant of the League of Nations. He worked in the Harding administration and participated in the creation of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations. In light of controversy surrounding President Harding, he left the administration.

Herter was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1930. In 1942 he ran for and won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. His views on foreign relations helped initiate proposals that led to President Truman's Marshall Plan. He was elected Governor of Massachusetts in 1952. In 1957, Herter was appointed Undersecretary of State by President Eisenhower.

When Secretary of State John Foster Dulles fell ill in 1959, Herter was named as his replacement. After leaving office in 1961, Herter continued to work on trade negotiations as a special representative for the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, serving until his death in 1966. Herter was known as an internationalist working to improve political and economic relations with Europe.
George V. Higgins was born in Brockton in 1939 and was raised in Rockland, Massachusetts. His accomplishments in life were as diverse as his academic background. Higgins received his first degree from Boston College in 1961 where he was the editor of Stylus, the school's literary magazine. He graduated with a Masters degree from Stanford University in 1965. Before graduating from Boston College Law School, he worked as a reporter for the Providence Journal and the Associated Press. His life of law and literature infused his writings, resulting in his acclaimed first novel, “The Friends of Eddie Coyle.” The New York Times critic called it “…One of the best of its genre I have read since Hemingway’s “Killers.” The book was turned into a successful movie.

Higgins, who authored 29 books, won recognition for “The Diggers Game,” “Cogan’s Trade” and a “City on the Hill.” The Washington Post noted, “His fictional characters where inspired by the underworld figures he rubbed shoulders with while prosecuting organized crime cases…” Higgins spent several years with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office where he was assistant attorney general. He was also a Special Assistant in the U.S. Attorney’s Office. After his government service, he opened up his own private practice and represented such notable clients as Eldridge Clever and G. Gordon Liddy.

Higgins was a columnist for the Boston Globe, Boston Herald and the Wall Street Journal. He was a contributor of essays and stories to such magazines as the Atlantic, the New Republic and Newsweek. Higgins also served on the faculty at Boston College Law School and taught criminal justice at Northeastern University.
ALY RAISMAN
OLYMPIC CAPTAIN AND GOLD MEDAL GYMNAST

Alexandra “Aly” Raisman was born in Needham, Massachusetts in 1994. She graduated from Needham High School in 2012. Raisman started gymnastics at the age of two.

As she got older, Aly became enamored with the sport by repeatedly watching on VHS tape the women’s 1996 Olympics Team, known as the “Magnificent Seven.” In the years 2010 through 2012, she competed in the America Cup’s gymnastic tournament, finishing second twice and third once.

Raisman was also a member of the gold winning American teams at the 2011 and 2015 World Championships. She was captain of both the 2012 “Fierce Five” and 2016 “Final Five” U.S. women’s gymnastics teams that won their respective competitions. Raisman is the 2016 Olympics’ individual all-around silver medalist and floor silver medalist. During those games, she won a gold medal in the team event, making her and teammate Gabby Douglas the only Americans with back to back gold medals. At the 2012 Olympics in London, she won gold medals in the team and floor competitions, as well as the bronze medal on the balance beam, making her the most decorated American gymnast at the Games. She has won 6 Olympic medals, the second most ever for an Olympic gymnast. Raisman has pursued a successful modeling career.

She became a brand ambassador in 2016 for UNICEF KID POWER, a philanthropic organization. She has bravely and eloquently spoken out as a survivor to stop sexual abuse within the gymnastics community and along with others was the recipient of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award.
FRANKLIN W. MANN
PHYSICIAN, INVENTOR AND SCIENTIST

Born in 1856 in Norfolk and raised on the family’s farm, Franklin Mann was the youngest of six children. He was a precocious child. Intrigued by ballistics, he was shooting guns at the age of 12.

Franklin attended Cornell University where he graduated in 1878; later earning a Doctor of Medicine degree from Boston University. Once out of medical school, Mann established a general practice including obstetrics. He was also a businessman on the side. In 1889, he invented a machine for chopping slaughterhouse bones into bone meal for chicken feed. The money he made from the manufacturing and selling of the Mann Bone Cutter allowed him to retire from medicine and to focus on the investigation of rifle ballistics.

His research, “The Bullet’s Flight from Powder to Target,” was a groundbreaking study. The precision-machine vee-shaped cast-iron steadying cradle he invented for his investigations was adopted in 1920 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

It had been widely replicated for ballistics investigation as a ‘Mann Rest.’

Mann died at age 60 in 1916 not knowing that his publication had been secretly studied by European combatants in World War I in the designing and creating of long-range artillery.
FRANK G. ALLEN
GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS

Born in 1874 in Lynn, Massachusetts, Frank Allen received a public education and was granted admission into Harvard University. However, he lacked the finances needed to attend Harvard, and instead began working in the shoe industry. Subsequently, Allen moved to Norwood and rose to the presidency of Winslow Brothers & Smith Company. He entered public service as a member of the Norwood Board of Assessors and Board of Selectmen. Mr. Allen served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for two years and the Massachusetts Senate for three years. In 1924, Allen was elected Lieutenant Governor, serving under Republican Governor Alvan T. Fuller. He served two terms, after which he succeeded Fuller as Governor in 1929. During his one term in office, Allen established the Massachusetts Transit Authority (now MBTA), the Massachusetts Port Authority, and the state’s Industrial Commission.

He expanded health facilities and appointed two women to judgeships, which was progressive for the time. After his defeat for re-election by Democrat Joseph B. Ely in 1930, he returned to serve as Chairman of the Board for Winslow Brothers & Smith Company until his death in 1950.
Registry of Deeds Record
PLAINVILLE, 2010
BOOK 28358 PAGE 126

Massachusetts Quitclaim Deed

MSEE Building Corp., a Massachusetts corporation with a usual place of business at 39 Miller Street, Norfolk, Norfolk County, Massachusetts,

for consideration paid, and in full consideration of Five Hundred Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen ($514,318.00) Dollars

Grants to Jeffrey P. Kinney and Julie M. Kinney, husband and wife as tenants by the entirety of 30 Beillo Path, Plainville, Massachusetts

with quitclaim covenants

The land with all improvements thereon situated in Plainville, Norfolk County, Massachusetts shown as Lot 9 on a plan entitled “Cluster Development ‘Steeplechase Farms’” Definitive

JEFF KINNEY
WRITER AND ILLUSTRATOR

Jeff Kinney was born on an Air Force base in Fort Washington, Maryland. He majored in Computer Science and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland. In college Kinney created his popular comic strip Idgoof, which was published in the campus newspaper. Jeff Kinney is a well-known children’s author and cartoonist. His “Diary of a Wimpy Kid,” a semi-autographical series, has been published worldwide in 90 countries and 45 languages. He worked on his first book 8 years before its publication in 2007. Today there are more than 200 million of his books in print, spawning 4 Wimpy Kid movies, with the first 3 movies grossing a total of 225 million dollars.

Today Kinney also works as an illustrator and has created the kid-friendly website, Poptropica.

In 2009, Time Magazine named him one of The 100 World’s Most Influential People. His “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” books have won multiple Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards for Favorite Book. Mr. Kinney has built and opened a bookstore in Plainville Center called “An Unlikely Story.” He has lived in Plainville with his wife Julie for nearly 20 years. They have 2 children.

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Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
DOROTHY QUINCY
FIRST LADY OF MASSACHUSETTS AND AMERICAN PATRIOT

Dorothy Quincy was born May 21, 1747. She was the youngest child from a prominent Massachusetts family. She grew up at the family’s Homestead residence at 34 Butler Road in Quincy, now a National Historic Landmark with its historically unique architecture and gardens. When Dorothy was just a young woman her mother died.

Lydia Hancock, John Hancock’s aunt, took a special interest in Dorothy. She acted as Dorothy’s chaperone and steered her to a romance with her nephew. However, Dorothy had an independent mind focused on other matters. In the wake of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, she intended to go back to see her father in Boston. John Hancock protested, to which Dorothy responded, “Recollect Mr. Hancock that I am not under your control yet. I shall go to my father tomorrow.” Due to their prominent backgrounds, the marriage of Dorothy Quincy and John Hancock was considered a “celebrity wedding.” Dorothy and her husband worked closely together when John became the President of the Continental Congress. Dorothy decided to become her husband’s assistant and organized much of the paperwork that came across John’s desk since there was no staff.

John Hancock was the first Governor of Massachusetts, making Dorothy the first First Lady of the state. Dorothy was known as an exemplary hostess who organized countless charitable and state dinners during Hancock’s two different administrations, spanning 11 years as Governor. John Hancock passed away in 1793. Dorothy Quincy Hancock passed away in 1830 at the age of 82 as a resident of Boston.
SCOTT D. TINGLE
ASTRONAUT

Scott Tingle was born in 1965. He considers Randolph, MA his hometown. In 2009, Tingle was selected as a NASA astronaut. Serving as a flight engineer as part of Expeditions 54 and 55, Tingle launched into space on board Soyuz MS-07 in December 2017, and returned in June 2018. During his time onboard the orbiting national laboratory, Tingle ventured outside the station for a spacewalk to perform critical work on parts of the Canadarm2 robotic arm. He spent 168 days in space. Tingle became interested in space while studying Machine Drafting at the Blue Hills Regional Technical School in Canton, MA graduating with the Class of 1983. He continued to study mechanical engineering, earning a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Southeastern Massachusetts University in 1987, and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue University in 1988. Currently, Tingle is both a NASA astronaut and a Commander in the U.S. Navy. A highly decorated naval pilot, he participated in Operation Enduring Freedom. Tingle has flown 51 types of aircraft over more than 4,500 flight hours, landed 750 aircraft with carrier arrestments, and engaged in 54 combat missions.
Leonard Bernstein was born in 1918. During his formative years, he spent time at his family's vacation home in Sharon, MA. In 1932, his father Samuel, as trustee, bought property in Sharon on Lake Avenue for Leonard and his two siblings, Shirley and Burton.

The property would stay in the Bernstein family until being sold in the winter of 1951. While vacationing in Sharon, Bernstein gave piano lessons and produced plays at the old Sharon Town Hall. Bernstein would go on to achieve worldwide fame as a conductor and composer. Bernstein served from 1958 to 1969 as the conductor of the New York Philharmonic. After his resignation, Bernstein continued his relationship with the New York Philharmonic and also served as guest conductor for many other orchestras including the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Bernstein was the first conductor to give a series of televised lectures on classical music. Bernstein taught and mentored many conductors who continue to perform to this day. While famous as a conductor, Bernstein is perhaps better known for writing the musical score for many classic plays and movies including

On the Town, On the Waterfront, Peter Pan and most famously West Side Story.

It was West Side Story that truly made Bernstein a household name. Throughout his life, he would also become known for his social activism. Bernstein worked up to the time of his death in 1992.
DEED

I, Abdul M. Pawa, Trustee of ROCKY RUNNELL ESTATES REALTY
TRUST dated OCTOBER 1, 1993 filed as Document No. 670584,
Certificate of Title No. 140531, Norfolk Registry District of the
Land Court, of 416 Turnpike St., So. Boston, Bristol County,
Massachusetts, for consideration paid, and in full consideration of
FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE AND 00/100
DOLLARS ($466,665.00)

Grant to WILLIAM M. COWAN AND STACY L. COWAN, husband and wife as
tenants by the entirety of 170 Cowan St., Stoughton, Ma. 02072
with quitclaim covenants

WILLIAM MAURICE “MO” COWAN
UNITED STATES SENATOR

William Maurice “Mo” Cowan was appointed to serve as United States Senator for
the State of Massachusetts on February 1, 2013.
Mo Cowan was born in Yadkinville, North Carolina on April 4, 1969. He was the son of a
machinist and a seamstress. His father passed away when he was only 16.
Cowan was the first graduate of his high school to attend Duke University.
After graduation he went on to Northeastern University where he earned a law degree.
In 1997, he joined the prestigious law firm of Mintz Levin where he later became a partner.
Cowan left the law firm in 2009 to become Counsel to Governor Deval Patrick. He oversaw the
legal operation of the executive office and oversaw the governor’s judicial nomination
appointments. From 2011 to 2013, Cowan became Chief of Staff for the governor.
Later that year, he returned to the private sector.

Cowan’s appointment to the United States Senate was an historic milestone.
He served along with U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-South Carolina), making it the first time that
two African-Americans served simultaneously in the United States Senate.
His interim appointment ended upon the election and swearing in of
Mo Cowan today is the President, Global Government Affairs
and Policy at General Electric.
JOSEPH NYE WELCH
ATTORNEY

It was June 9, 1954 as viewers across the country were glued to their television sets watching the Army-McCarthy hearings. Joseph Welch was the lead counsel for the United States Army. Senator Joseph McCarthy claimed that an attorney in Welch’s law firm had earlier aided the Communist Party. Welch, in response to McCarthy’s false claim said, “Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or recklessness...Let us not assassinate this lad further, Senator. You’ve done enough. Have you no sense of decency, sir?”

Many feel that Welch’s statement led to the downfall of McCarthyism.

The hearings catapulted Welch into celebrity status. He was interviewed at his 150 year old Walpole residence, owned by Calvin Plimpton, by famed journalist Edward R. Murrow for the popular program “Person to Person.” He narrated a three-part television show on the Constitution, and helped write the script.

Noted filmmaker Otto Preminger recruited him to play a judge in the 1959 movie “Anatomy of a Murder.”

He was nominated for a Golden Globe for best supporting actor.

Joseph Nye Welch was born in Primghar, Iowa in 1890. He was the seventh child of immigrants, Martha and William Welch, who traveled to the town by covered wagon. Welch graduated from Grinnell College, Phi Beta Kappa in 1914. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1917 with the second highest grade point average in the class.

Welch was attending officer training school when World War I ended. He later became an attorney for the prestigious Boston law firm, Hale and Dorr, where he rose to become a senior partner.

Welch died in 1960, two weeks before his 70th birthday on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.
MINDY KALING
ACTRESS

Mindy Kaling was born Vera Mindy Chokalingam in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 24, 1979. Mindy lived as a young woman in Wellesley for several years. In 2001, she graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in playwriting. While at college, she demonstrated her many talents by singing in an acappella group, acting in an improvisational comedy troupe, creating a comic strip for the school’s newspaper and writing for Dartmouth’s humor magazine. She was also an intern for the Conan O’Brien Show. In 2002, she wrote and co-starred in a play called “Matt & Ben,” a comedy about how Matt Damon and Ben Affleck came to write “Good Will Hunting.” The Off Broadway play was a hit, running for two years. Time magazine named “Matt & Ben” a “Top Ten Theatrical Events Of The Year.” She became a writer and performer for the successful sitcom, The Office, from 2005 to 2012. Kaling, along with other staff, were nominated five times for Emmy Awards for Outstanding Comedy Series. Kaling created, wrote and starred in the sitcom, the Mindy Project from 2012 to 2017. In 2018, she co-created the TV series “Champions.” In her acting career, she has starred in a number of movies including such hits as “The 40-Year Old Virgin,” “Night at the Museum: Battle at the Smithsonian,” “Despicable Me” and “Ocean’s 8.” She wrote, produced and starred in the film, “Late Night,” in 2019. She has also written two New York Times bestselling books, “Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?” and “Why Not Me?” In 2012, she made Time magazine’s list of “100 Most Influential People,” and in 2014 Glamour magazine named her one of their “Women of the Year.”
CLARENCE RANSOM EDWARDS
SOLDIER

Clarence Ransom Edwards was born in 1859. After graduation from the United States Military Academy in 1883, Edwards began a distinguished military career that included service during the Spanish-American War, seeing action in the Philippines at the Battle of Santa Cruz and the Battle of Zapote Bridge. Edwards received three silver citation stars for his gallantry in these campaigns.

He fought in World War I where he saw action in France and where he eventually rose to the rank of Major General. During the war, he became the Commander of the 26th Division. He received the Legion of Honor, which is the highest French order of merit for military and civil merits.

Edwards continued his service after World War I, serving as Commander of the Army’s Northeastern Department based out of Boston.

In 1938, an Army base located in Upper Cape Cod was named Camp Edwards in his honor. While originally an Army training facility, today Camp Edwards, at 22,000 acres, is the largest military training facility in the Northeast utilized by the Massachusetts National Guard and is part of the Joint Base Cape Cod that includes Otis Air National Guard Base and Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod.

In 1919, Edwards purchased a home in Westwood where he would live until his death in 1931. A collection of his papers are archived at the Massachusetts Historical Society.
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
EDUCATOR, AUTHOR, ORATOR

Booker T. Washington was born into slavery in 1856. During his lifetime, he would rise to become the preeminent voice for African-Americans in the United States. Washington's principal legacy was his establishment of the Tuskegee Institute, a school of higher learning for African-Americans located in Alabama. In addition to his work at the university, Washington mobilized a nationwide coalition of middle-class blacks, church leaders, white philanthropists and politicians with a long-term goal of building the minority community’s economic strength and pride through education and self-help. He called for black progress through education and entrepreneurship, rather than directly challenging Jim Crow segregation and the disenfranchisement of black voters in the South. This policy was enumerated by Washington during his famous Atlanta Address of 1895. Washington died of heart disease on November 14, 1915. Washington's connection to Weymouth is that he vacationed for several summers at the residence owned by William H. Baldwin, Jr. located at 825 Main Street. Baldwin, a native of Boston, was president of the Long Island Railroad.

He bought a summer residence in South Weymouth at the intersection of Main Street and Columbian Street in 1902. Baldwin, a trustee of Tuskegee Institute beginning in 1894, invited his friend Booker Washington to spend time during the summer of 1902 at his Weymouth home. Washington would also spend the summers of 1903 and 1904 at the Weymouth summer home.
ANNE SULLIVAN
EDUCATOR

Anne Sullivan was an American teacher best known for being the instructor and lifelong companion of Helen Keller.

The movie “The Miracle Worker” illustrated Anne Sullivan’s compassion and brilliance.

Anne Sullivan herself overcame multiple physical and social barriers.

Anne was born in 1866 in Feeding Hills, Agawam, Massachusetts to Irish immigrants, Thomas and Alice Sullivan, who fled Ireland’s famine. When Anne was five she contracted an eye disease that left her almost blind. At eight, her mother died. At ten her father had abandoned her and both his children were sent to live in an overcrowded almshouse. Due to being near blind, she had no skills in reading or writing.

However, she convinced a facility inspector to let her attend the Perkins School for the Blind.

While attending Perkins, Anne received a series of operations which improved her eyesight; she graduated in 1886 as class valedictorian. She was recommended to Helen Keller’s parents by the school’s dean.

She found an innovative way to teach Helen vocabulary, multiplication and the Braille system by spelling each word into Helen’s hand. Helen thrived under her tutelage. Anne Sullivan continued to assist Helen Keller in her education which ultimately included a degree from Radcliffe College. Sullivan’s 49 year relationship with Helen Keller evolved from teacher to governess to companion and friend.

Sullivan died in 1936 at age 70. Her ashes were interred at the National Cathedral in the nation’s capital, the first woman to be so recognized. In 1968, when Helen Keller passed away, her ashes were laid next to Anne’s.

In 2003, Anne Sullivan was inducted into the National Woman’s Hall of Fame.
The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has always been located in the shiretown of Norfolk County which is Dedham, Massachusetts. Governor John Hancock received and signed legislation creating Norfolk County on March 26, 1793 with the effective date of implementation set for June 20, 1793.

Eliphalet Pond built his house at 963 Washington Street. His son, the first Register of Deeds of Norfolk County, kept county records at his father's house.

Norfolk County’s first courthouse was built in 1796. The Registry of Deeds land records were kept here for about 30 years. On April 26, 1796, the Court of Sessions “Ordered that the middle office on the west side of the lower floor of the Court House be assigned to the use of the Register of Deeds for said County…”

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds was then located in the second Norfolk County Court House built and dedicated in 1827. The building was 48 feet by 98 feet, two stories in height, and made of granite with a 10 foot projection at each end resting upon four Doric pillars.

The operation of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds continued in the Norfolk County Court House. Over the years additions and improvements to the building were undertaken in 1862 and 1895.

With a constant increase in population one building would not be adequate for the transaction of the business of Norfolk County.

The ground for the building that houses the current Registry of Deeds was broken on July 16, 1903 and was ready for business on September 1, 1905. The main section of this building is 52 feet by 186 feet, two stories high, and made of Maine granite. The main entrance has two Corinthian granite columns and the roof was made of copper.
Registry of Deeds Record
DEDHAM, 1797
BOOK 7, PAGE 60

Know all men by these presents
that L., of Dedham in the county of Norfolk in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for and in consideration of one cent to be in
hand before the sealing hereof paid by the Honorable Fisher Ames of
Dedham in the county of Norfolk, Esq., for the several premises hereinafter described, do by these presents for ever quitclaim to him the
said Fisher Ames and his heirs and assigns forever all the right, title,
interest, estate, property, claim and demand which I have or may or can have of or in unto
the two tracts of land in said Dedham, viz.: one containing ten acres more or

FISHER AMES
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

The current location of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds was the birthplace
and home of Fisher Ames. He was born in Dedham, Massachusetts in 1758.

Ames was sent to Harvard University at age 12 and graduated in 1774.

Adjacent to the Ames home was the Fisher Tavern which was renamed the Ames Tavern.
A convention of patriots gathered there on September 6, 1774 and drafted the Suffolk
Resolves which were adopted in Milton three days later. The Suffolk Resolves, a precursor to
the Declaration of Independence, outlined grievances with Great Britain over its many
punitive legal actions against the Massachusetts Colony. It has been said this
“lighted the match that kindled the mighty conflagration” of the American Revolution.

While teaching, Fisher Ames began studying law and was admitted to the bar to practice
law in Dedham in 1781. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in
1788, and was a member of the Massachusetts Convention that ratified the United States
Constitution that same year. In 1789, Fisher Ames defeated Samuel Adams for a seat in the
First United States Congress. Ames would serve in Congress from 1789 to 1797, becoming an
influential member of the Federalist Party. Ames gained particular fame for a speech in which
he spoke in favor of the Jay Treaty. In 1796, he was not a candidate for renomination and
resumed his law practice. He was chosen President of Harvard in 1805,

but declined the position due to failing health.

He passed away on Independence Day, July 4, 1808 in Dedham.
THE FISHER AMES HOUSE
Built by Fisher Ames in 1795 near the Ames family’s Tavern on High and Ames Streets in Dedham, Massachusetts. In 1868, Edward Stimson acquired the property and completely remodeled the house in the Stick style as shown in this late 19th century photograph. In 1905, the house was removed to the end of River Place to make way for the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds.

THE CHICKERING HOUSE
Eliphalet Pond built this house at 963 Washington Street circa 1727. His son, first Register of Deeds of Norfolk County, kept county records here. From 1864 to 1911, the house served as the Temporary Asylum for Discharged Female Prisoners. Renamed the Chickering House after Hannah Balch Chickering who was the moving force behind the asylum. The house was transformed into a nursing home for women and children. It was demolished in 1972.
HANNAH CHICKERING
SOCIAL ACTIVIST

Another notable individual that has a link to places where the records of the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds have been kept since 1793 is Hannah Chickering. She was born in Dedham and during her lifetime (July 29, 1817 to July 3, 1879) her passion and most important contribution was helping women prisoners re-enter society. The Chickering House or the Dedham Temporary Home for Women and Children was founded in 1864 by Hannah Chickering to provide housing and rehabilitation for women who had been released from the Dedham jail and other jails in Massachusetts. The residence was originally called the Temporary Asylum for Discharged Prisoners. This Washington Street residence was at one time owned by the father of Eliphalet Pond, the first Register of Deeds of Norfolk County, who kept county records there between 1793 to 1796 while Norfolk County's first courthouse was being built. Hannah Chickering recognized the significant obstacles that women faced when released from jail. The creation of a home where these women could live safely while being trained with skills was approved by the Massachusetts Legislature because of Hannah's advocacy of the proposal. Due to changes in the state's penal practices and the elimination of state funding, a decision was made in 1910 to change the core mission of the Asylum to a convalescent home for women recovering from a serious medical event including child birth. Some of the young babies died in infancy and were buried in a small cemetery adjacent to Route 128. In 1946 with a change in ownership, the core mission of the Chickering House changed to be a home for the elderly. The nursing home, called the Washington Manor, stayed in existence until 1972. During the timeframe of 1946 to 1972, much of the property was sold for the building of Rt. 128. The Chickering House was torn down in 1972. However, the vision of Hannah Chickering continues to this day through the work of the Chickering Foundation which provides financial support to programs and organizations that address the needs of women and children in crisis.
Eliphalet Pond of Dedham
Served from
1793 to 1813
The first Register of Deeds for Norfolk County elected in 1793. He was a militia company colonel during the American Revolution and later known as “Captain” Pond. He was Dedham Town Clerk for twenty-five years and Selectman for sixteen years. He held the office of Register of Deeds until his death in 1813.

James Foord of Milton
Served from
1813 to 1821
James Foord was a farmer and teacher early in life. He was a community leader in Milton. He was elected Register of Deeds following the death of Register Pond in 1813. He served as Register until his death in 1821.

Enos Foord of Dedham
Served from
1821 to 1861
Enos Foord was the son of Register James Foord. He was a respected teacher and assisted his father in the work of the office. He was elected as his father’s successor and served until his death in 1861.

James Foord of Dedham
Served from
1861 to 1874
James Foord was the son of Register Enos Foord and grandson of Register James Foord. He worked in the Registry of Deeds office. He was appointed Register by the County Commissioners after his father’s death in 1861 and was elected the following November. He vacated the office in 1874, moving to California.

John H. Burdakin of Dedham
Served from
1874 to 1916
In 1863 John Burdakin after his service in the Union Army was employed as a clerk in the Norfolk Registry of Deeds. He was appointed Assistant Register of Deeds in 1873, elected as Register in 1873 and took office in 1874. He was instrumental in the construction of the current Registry of Deeds building.

Edward L. Burdakin of Dedham
Served from
1916 to 1917
Edward Burdakin became a clerk in the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in 1873 and later served as the Assistant Register of Deeds for over 35 years. In 1916 he was appointed Register after the death of his brother, Register John H. Burdakin. In Nov. 1916 he was elected to the office. He died six months later in June 1917.
REGISTERS of DEEDS
THE MODERN YEARS

Walter W. Chambers of Dedham
Served from
1917 to 1947
Walter Chambers was an attorney who practiced law in Dedham. He was appointed Assistant Register of Deeds in 1916. In 1917 he was appointed Register of Deeds upon the death of Register Edward L. Burdakin. He served as Register for thirty years.

L. Thomas Shine of Dedham
Served from
1947 to 1970
Attorney L. Thomas Shine served as Head Clerk of the Land Court beginning in 1928 and was later promoted to Assistant Register of Deeds in 1940. Register Shine was elected Register of Deeds in 1946 and served as Register until his death in 1970. Register Shine installed microfilming processes as well as the IBM punch card system for producing indexes.

Barry T. Hannon of Braintree
Served from
1970 to 2001
Attorney Barry T. Hannon served as a Democratic State Representative before his 1970 appointment as Register of Deeds by the Norfolk County Commissioners upon the death of Register L. Thomas Shine. Register Hannon was elected to five terms as Norfolk County's Register of Deeds. He oversaw the printing of over 9,500 document record books.

Paul D. Harold of Quincy
Served from
2001 to 2002
Paul D. Harold held degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Suffolk University Law School and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He was elected to the Quincy City Council and the Massachusetts State Senate before being elected Register of Deeds in 2000. Register Harold died in 2002.

William P. O'Donnell of Norwood
Served from
2002 to Present
William P. O'Donnell is the current Register of Deeds for Norfolk County, and serves as an Assistant Recorder of the Massachusetts Land Court. O'Donnell holds degrees from Boston College Law School and Georgetown University. Previously he served as an Assistant District Attorney for Norfolk County and practiced law. Register O'Donnell modernized operations of the Registry by implementing Internet land record research and electronic land recording. He oversaw the transcription of land documents recorded between 1793 and 1900.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
Norfolk County
ESTABLISHED ON JUNE 20, 1793
Governor John Hancock signed the legislation creating Norfolk County.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
As established in 1793, Norfolk County consisted of twenty-one towns: Bellingham, Braintree, Brookline, Cohasset, Dedham, Dorchester, District of Dover, Foxborough, Franklin, Medfield, Medway, Milton, Needham, Quincy, Randolph, Roxbury, Sharon, Stoughton, Walpole, Weymouth, and Wrentham, with an area of 445 square miles and a population of 23,828.

As Massachusetts developed, boundaries of and within Norfolk County have changed. Additional towns have been incorporated within Norfolk County: Canton (1797), Hyde Park (1868), Norfolk (1870), Norwood (1872), Holbrook (1872), Wellesley (1881), Millis (1885), Avon (1888), Westwood (1897), and Plainville (1905).

Four communities have been annexed to the city of Boston and thereby returned to Suffolk County: Roxbury (1867), Dorchester (1869), West Roxbury (1872) and Hyde Park (1911).

Norfolk County is now made up of twenty-eight communities. As a result of its history, Norfolk County has two communities (Brookline and Cohasset) which are not contiguous with the rest of the county, and Norfolk County as a whole is located south of Suffolk County.
The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been in existence for 225 years. During that time the Registry has gone from days of scriveners with quill pens to the modern era of computers and advanced document imaging. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds Transcription Project transcribed images of handwritten documents dating back from 1793 to 1900.

“Our goal has been to bring the Registry of Deeds into people’s homes and businesses. We’re trying to make history come alive for people, which is difficult when you cannot read the handwritten documents. Future generations will now be able to read these transcribed images ensuring an historically accurate record of land documents in Norfolk County.”

William P. O’Donnell, Register of Deeds

“I was fascinated and delighted to learn about the way the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds and the Xerox Corporation are transcribing the historical deeds into easy-to-read computer text, and I say this as one who has spent a great deal of my working life struggling to read original letters, and diaries, and other old documents ... you are making an important contribution and I send my warmest congratulations.”

David McCullough, American Historian and Author

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The communities and individuals that make up Norfolk County have used and relied on the land documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds since its founding in 1793. All the County land records are now housed in the historic Norfolk Registry of Deeds building which was built in 1903. The stories presented in this latest volume of Notable Land Records came about because of the help of so many. If someone is missed as not by intention and please know that everyone’s efforts and contributions to this notable land records book is valued and appreciated.

Robert Glynn, Registry of Deeds Executive Staff
Kristin Sirois, Administrative Asst. to the Register
Marguerite Lee, Second Asst. Register of Deeds
Harrison Thrasher, Former intern
Kathleen Palmer, Registry Staff

Richard Serani, Registry of Deeds Executive Staff
Richard Kennedy, First Asst. Register of Deeds
Alicia Gardner, Director of Support Services
Claire Martin, Registry Staff
Mike LePage, Registry Staff

“Postcard History of Norfolk County, Massachusetts” by James B. Tedesco and Paul H. Tedesco
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Louis R. Harlan, Booker T. Washington: The Wizard Tuskegee
North Weymouth Civil Association
Fred Hanson, Patriot Ledger
Bob Bosworth, Quincy Sun
Medway Historical Commission
Sheila Dubrawski, President Medway Historical Society
The Irish Times
Patriot Ledger Quincy Sun Milford Daily News
Bruce Lane, Avon
Stoughton Historical Society
Dedham Historical Society
Russ Hallisey of the Lowell Mason House
Shirley Schfield, Sharon Historical Society
Jack Authelet, Foxboro Historical Society
Betsy Pine and Barb Bartholomew, Norfolk Historical Society
Attleboro Town Clerk’s office
Fairbanks House website Dean College Library
The Chickering Foundation website
"History of the Town of Avon" by William Hanna
The Arthur Fiedler Collection - Boston Fire Museum
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Dorothy Quincy Homestead website
Massachusetts State Library Archives
United States National Archives Library of Congress
American Ancestors Britancnica.com
Helen L. Corbett & Associates

All the local historical societies and commissions in Norfolk County

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
Established 1793
Notable Land Records, Volume 2