

Subject Index
to the
"Vital Statistics" Series
of the
"Judd Manuscript"

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INTRODUCTION

The volumes in what is termed here the "Vital Statistics" series of the "Judd Manuscript" represent Judd's efforts to collect the same kind of historical and genealogical information that he gathered on a larger scale in the "Hadley" and "Connecticut" series. These particular volumes are actually separate works which have been grouped into a "Vital Statistics" series by the indexer in order to create a single index to similar material and avoid five separate and shorter indexes. That the volumes are publicly available on the same reel of microfilm (Forbes Microfilm #6) makes a single index most appropriate.

There are five volumes included in the series, three of which contain only seventy to eighty pages. One of these is "Marriages by Mr. Hooker and Other Ministers," which is a chronological listing of marriages, "publishments," and "intentions" in Northampton, Southampton, and Westhampton during the tenures of the Rev. John Hooker and the Rev. Solomon Williams from 1753 to 1807, as well as other marriages from 1807 to 1830. A second volume, entitled "Northfield,

Massachusetts," treats the founding and early settlement of the town of Northfield, with Judd's usual emphasis on births, marriages, deaths, lists of inhabitants, and land grants and holdings. The third, "Sunderland, Massachusetts," deals similarly with that community.

A fourth volume in the series is "Springfield" and is considerably longer than the previous three. Its major thrust is genealogical, with emphasis on families and individuals. Marriages for the period 1638 to 1727 are listed chronologically, as are deaths for the period 1641 to 1760. Both are indexed here, as in other portions of the index, as "Springfield, Marriages" and "Springfield, Deaths." The birth segment of the volume is organized by families, with the names of the parents and a listing of their children, but the families are not listed in any alphabetical or chronological order. Because these entries contain valuable genealogical information, they have been indexed by family name and are included here.

The last volume in the series is actually volume IV of the "Hadley" series, entitled "Hadley Genealogy." It is an alphabetical list of Hadley families, with the names of the parents and their offspring. As in the Springfield volume, they are indexed by family name.

It should also be noted that there are references in the index to volumes other than IV from the "Hadley" series. They contain genealogical material from the other six volumes of the series and are included here as an aid to the researcher. A separate index to the "Hadley" series is available, and these references are incorporated into that index.

Family names were chosen as the form of entry primarily for reasons of efficiency. To have included every individual mentioned in the over nine hundred pages of this series would have postponed completion by years, and produced an index nearly as cumbersome and difficult to use as Judd's original volumes. The information in these particular volumes is primarily of genealogical and demographic value, and it has been presumed that users of the index and the volumes are interested in, and will be satisfied with, a surname orientation. Those few individuals who are included in the index are those whom Judd indicated in his "Manuscript" he regarded as significant.

Concerning the entries themselves, a few brief notes of explanation will enhance the researcher's use of the index. Firstly, a surname appears only once. No attempt has been made to differentiate among branches of a family or to distinguish different families with

the same name. There appear to be few examples of such multiple use of family names, but the user deserves to be forewarned that such a problem may exist. Secondly, the family name entries have been assumed by the indexer to be genealogical in nature, and "Genealogy" has not been used as a sub-entry. Where a sub-entry is not genealogical, the actual subject is identified. For example, a specific item on a person's death may appear. Similarly, for those main entries which are cross references for town sub-entries, such as boundaries, roads, or births, the name of the town is given, followed by the title of the volume where the page reference can be found. Unfortunately, four volume titles are town names, and repetition results. For example, births in Northfield are entered "Births, Northfield, Northfield, 33-50, 66." It is hoped that clarity rather than confusion accompanies that repetition. And finally, where entries have multiple page entries, each entry represents a specific and separate occurrence of that event.

In conclusion, a brief explanation of some of the generally used terms in this index is appropriate. Some of them are obvious and self-explanatory, others have been more arbitrarily assigned, and need an explanation, if the index and the "Manuscript" are to realize

their full potential. The following terms will be found as separate main entries and as sub-entries under towns where applicable:

BIRTHS is an entry generally used to denote a list of individuals born, Judd's rendition of vital statistics. The parents' names are given, and siblings are usually listed together, and the dates of birth are included.

BOUNDARIES is an entry which refers to some note made by Judd regarding the boundary location of a particular town, usually its determination as the result of some controversy.

CHURCH refers to material relevant to the church as a congregation or as a building. It does not include references to the minister.

CLERGY is the entry used to refer to the minister, having to do with his appointment and support, as well as his activities.

DEATHS is an entry used to indicate a list of those who died, and is usually organized by year of death. Like Births, it may be a copy of vital statistics.

FOUNDING is an entry which refers to the establishment of the town, to include such things as the founding covenant and its signers, or a petition regarding the establishment of a particular town.

GENEALOGY is a catchall entry used where one of the more specific genealogical entries is not applicable. The "Manuscript" items are usually brief notes, without unifying principle. Judd's terms were sometimes "people" or "families."

INDIANS is an entry covering Indian affairs in a town, usually relating to the sale of land by the Indians to the town or its residents.

INHABITANTS refers to a variety of "Manuscript" items which are lists of the residents of a specific town, and dated after its founding. The lists may be petitioners to the General Court, a list of assigned seats in the meeting house, or a list of a town's "proprietors."

LAND CONTRACTS is an entry referring to the purchase and sale of land by individuals. A large number of transactions are usually grouped together in the "Manuscript."

LAND GRANTS is an entry used to indicate a list of the individual recipients or owners of land in the "division" of a particular field.

LAND HOLDINGS is an entry used to specify lists of individual residents with their collected land holdings. The entries are organized by individual owners rather than by field.

MARRIAGES is an entry used to identify lists of marriages. Both individuals are generally included, and occasionally children of the union are mentioned.

PROBATE RECORDS is an entry which denotes Judd's summation of wills and inventories, and usually includes the names of the decedent's survivors. It is a supplement to, rather than a substitute for, the Deaths entry.

TAXATION is an entry referring to lists of property assessments made in individual towns, usually including the name of the owner, the value of the property, and the specific tax.

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