

CITY of NEWTON HISTORIC INFORMATION ONLINE

The Newton Free Library's **Digital Newton** webpage links to resources in the Library's collections:
<http://guides.newtonfreelibrary.net/digitalnewton/>

These collections which overlap with, but do not substitute for, those in the other links below for:

- photos, cards, illustrated books, etc.
 - maps
 - city directories
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The **City Clerk's** webpage

www.newtonma.gov/gov/clerk/default.asp

includes these links:

- "Genealogical Research" for **historic city directories**
www.newtonma.gov/gov/clerk/geneo/default.asp
(scroll down slightly on that page for the lists of links, directories are the last column)
 - For **historic maps & atlases**
www.newtonma.gov/gov/it/gis/historic_maps.asp
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From **Historic Newton's** website:

www.historicnewton.org/

The best starting place is the **Research** page, with links to:

- Archival Collections
- Doing Historical Research (including a subsection on "Researching Your House")
- About Newton's History

Not online, but in person at the Jackson Homestead, you may also be able to consult *Hands-on History*, a 2006-07 guide to basic facts about Newton history, research sources & how-to tips for using those sources.

PLACE-BASED HISTORY: Tips for Tracing the History of a Specific Street or Area

It's usually faster and easier to work with the online maps and City directories by downloading the PDF files you need to your own computer.

The maps page links to Sanborn atlas maps showing building locations, footprints and materials, as well as specialized maps, such as 1921 zoning and an 1892 wetlands map called "areas to be drained."

To find the specific pages you need in a historic atlas, start by looking either on the map of the whole city near the front of the atlas (shows which area is included in each larger-scale page), or at the street index (lists the atlas page each street is on).

The website allows you to page quickly through each an atlas using small "thumbnail" images of the maps.

In the 1889 and later directories, look in the table of contents for the "street directory," which lists all properties and their occupants by street, rather than last name. By checking successive directories you can find out when a particular street was built or changed its name, and what kinds of businesses or residents were located on it at different times.

Examples:

1899 directory: Quinobequin Rd listed on p. 186 of the online PDF
No specific addresses or occupants listed.

1911 directory: Quinobequin Rd listed on p. 169 of the online PDF

Right side: Charles River Park Reservation

No. 26: Daniel F. Putnam, appraiser, and
Royal L. Putnam, music teacher, b (for boarder)

No. 11: William B. Costello (no occupation listed), and
Anna E. Costello, teacher, b (for boarder)
Alice M. Costello, teacher, b (for boarder)

*("Boarders" with the same last name as their landlord were often the
landlord's children.)*