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Hello Friends and Happy Spring!



A Message from Executive Director, Brigid Guertin

Dear Friends,

These are difficult days. Hard stop. But, as history has shown us, over and over again, pandemic after pandemic...this too shall pass. The new normal we will create after this is over will be inclusive of this new shared experience and will create changes to our social norms in ways we are just starting to remember, from our shared community past, and in our shared present.

While we are working, together, to limit the spread of COVID-19, while we are all fighting, together, for the safety of our community, I urge you to take the time to write about YOUR experience. Take pen to paper, or type an email or document and email or mail it to the Danbury

Museum at 43 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810. Your letters, photographs, drawings, poems, etc., will be kept safe and become part of Danbury's historic record, for future generations to appreciate our communities efforts, our struggles, and, most importantly how we worked together to help our community survive a chaotic event and thrive post-COVID-19.

Most sincerely,
Brigid Guertin
Executive Director, Danbury Museum
Danbury City Historian

P.S. We've put a few handy PDFs of how to teach/relearn cursive on our [website](#)...a fun way to create a document that stands the test of time!



Resources

Spring is here and even though the Danbury Museum is closed due the COVID-19 pandemic (to

read the museum's statement, please visit DanburyMuseum.org) we want to share stories and artifacts and history-themed contact with our community, we are all in this together. We plan for this newsletter to be weekly and to talk about upcoming plans and (fingers crossed) summer programming, but also to highlight some of the great resources at the museum and beyond.

We'd also like to know what you'd like to see. (Keeping in mind that we are not physically at the museum and some topics might take a little time to research.) Do you want Danbury stories? Danbury's #HiddenHistory? Walking tour ideas? Reach out to us—we'd like to keep our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds lively and full of funny, odd, insightful images, stories, and artifacts.

And if you're not following us, well now is a PERFECT time to start. Click the buttons below and you'll be directed to our social media platforms.

And if you are looking for some great content from around the world, follow hashtags like #MuseumFromHome, #MuseumMomentofZen, and you'll also find multiple roundups of accessible resources.

Follow Danbury Museum & Historical Society on Facebook

Follow @DanburyMuseum on Instagram

Follow @DanburyMuseum on Twitter



Genealogy Research

By Bob Young

This is the first in a series of articles on conducting genealogy research, with a focus on greater Danbury families. The Museum has a wealth of information on hundreds of topics which could provide you with useful data and information for your research. This article will cover sources for death and cemetery records.

At the Danbury Museum there are the following items available for your research.

1) **Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions for Danbury** – this multi-volume series contains an inventory of inscriptions found on gravestones in more than 20 cemeteries in Danbury. The inventory was conducted in 1934 and includes transcriptions from stones that are no longer readable or have since broken. It is completely indexed by the name of the individual.

2) **Danbury News-Times on Microfilm** – this collection spans the years from 1837 to about 2014, although there are a few gaps in the earliest years. Within this collection are the published obituaries for the area. Museum staff will gladly assist you in locating the roll of film that you need.

3) **Danbury Cemetery Sexton Returns** – this huge collection is a transcription of the Sexton Reports from all of the Danbury cemeteries from 1885 to about 1950. Within this file you will find the date and location of the burial. It is in alphabetical order based on the family surnames.

Also included in this collection are names of individuals who died in Danbury but were buried elsewhere (with the location of the burial given). It also includes those individuals who died elsewhere and their remains were brought to Danbury for burial (with the location of the funeral home given). These listings are extremely important in helping you find where your ancestors may have lived.

4) **The Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions** – This is an extensive (and still growing)

website devoted to eventually having the entire Hale Collection available to the public. It is free to utilize. Go to www.hale-collection.com.

5) Lastly, there are two other websites which provide transcriptions as well as many photographs of burial sites in the USA. Searches usually begin with your ancestor's name and can be narrowed down by state and even by cemetery. Again, these sites are free to utilize. Go to www.findagrave.com or to www.billiongraves.com.

In the coming articles I will touch on a variety of topics, including tax and probate records, marriages, births, city directories, Danbury in the Revolutionary War and more.

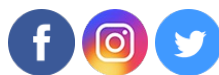
In the meantime, if you have any questions about researching or research topics at the Danbury Museum, please reach out to Patrick Wells (p.wells@danbury-ct.gov), the museum's Research Specialist. We may not be able to fulfill your request while we are away from the museum, but you'll be in the queue for when we return.

We are incredibly grateful for your continued support of the mission of the Danbury Museum. If you wish to give an additional sum or become a member to help support the museum during these very trying times, we'd be most grateful.

[Donate here.](#)

[Become a member here.](#)

We'll keep in touch, and we hope you will, too. Be well, take care of yourselves, and we'll look forward to meeting here again next week.



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