Important Sources for Genealogy Research

Holder Memorial (open Saturdays 9am 12 pm):

- **Street Directories –** The Clinton Street directories include the name, address and occupation, of all people over the age of 18 living in Clinton. New entries sometimes include where the individual/family came from. These can be used to determine when a person arrived or was born in town, where a person lived, and when a person died or moved out of town. Use these records with the newspaper archives to find birth and death information.

- **Newspapers Archives –** Original paper copies of the Clinton Item and Clinton Courant are available contain birth announcements and obituaries. Look for first edition of each year which includes a chronological list of all births, deaths, and other important events from the previous year. Other information can be gleaned from these sources but an approximate date is usually required to begin a search in these vast records.

- **School Year Books –**Original copies of these records are available and they a good source of personal information including photographs, hobbies, sports, activities, honors, interests, etc.

Bigelow Free Public Library (open most weekdays and Saturdays):

- **Newspapers Archives –** The Clinton Item and Clinton Courant archives are available on microfilm and contain birth announcements and obituaries. The library is open during the week and the microfilm can be searched much faster than the paper copies. Look for first edition of each year which includes a chronological list of all births, deaths, and other important events from the previous year. Other information can be gleaned from these sources but an approximate date is usually required to begin a search in these vast records.

Town Clerk (open weekdays):

- **Birth Records –** Records include date and place of birth, parents' names, and sometimes parents' age, place of birth, and occupation.

- **Marriage Records –** Records include date and place of marriage, bride and groom names, place of birth and occupation and number of previous marriages, parents' names and places of birth, name of marriage official.

- **Death Records –** Records include date and place of death, last address, cause of death, and sometimes spouses name.

Cemeteries:

- **Town Cemetery Records –** The Town of Clinton owns and operates the Woodlawn Cemetery and the Reservoir Pines Cemetery. Records include name, date of death, date and place of funeral, date of burial, and location of grave, faith are on file with at Department of Public Works. The DPW offices are open weekdays.

- **St. Johns Cemetery -** Burial records for St. Johns Cemetery and are available at St. Johns Rectory on Chestnut Street. An appointment is required to view these records.

Local Churches and Synagogues:

- **Birth and Religious Ceremony Records -** Local houses of worship contain records of births and other religious services. Information varies.

- **Marriage Records –** Some local houses of worship contain records of marriages and unions. Information varies.

- **Funeral and Cemetery Records –** Local houses of worship contain records of funerals or memorial services. St. John Parish owns and operates the St. Johns Catholic Cemetery. Records include name, date of death, date and place of funeral, date of burial, and location of grave.

Federal Government:

- **U.S. Census Records –** Early records (late 1800's through mid 1900's) are available online from several fee for service websites such as www.familytree.com , www.roots.com , www.genealogy,com, etc., and contain information including name of head of household, spouse, children, ages, occupations, years of education, place of birth, language spoken, date if immigration, and more.

- **Military Records -** The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century. (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC.)

State Government:

- **Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point, Dorchester -** Holdings date from the beginning of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1628 and document the settlement of lands in Maine and Massachusetts, the arrival of immigrants, and the development of state government. Public records are not in the holdings of the Archives strictly because of inherent genealogical value, but since they often include references to so many Massachusetts people, these documents are a major resource for people engaged in the study of family history.

Internet:

- **Fee for Service Web Sites –** Some fee for service websites such as www.familytree.com , www.roots.com , www.genealogy,com, etc., allow searches of their users' websites and some allow free downloads in GEDCOM format.

- **Private Web Sites –** There are many web sites worldwide that are owned and operated by private individuals for their own family trees which may contain information on your family.

- **Professional or Semi-Professional Genealogists –** Numerous professional genealogists have web pages offering their services to conduct research in places you can't get easily to such as foreign countries.