

Reviews and Praise for

NEW ENGLAND COURT RECORDS A RESEARCH GUIDE FOR GENEALOGISTS AND HISTORIANS

By Diane Rapaport
Quill Pen Press, February 2006

EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWS

Booklist, American Library Association (Fall Reference Preview, Aug. 2006, p. 107)
“Rapaport’s love of American history and her legal expertise have enabled her to produce a useful resource directory.... A valuable reference tool as well as a training manual for historians and genealogists interested in New England.”

The Connecticut Nutmegger, Connecticut Society of Genealogists (Sept. 2007, p. 224)
“Diane Rapaport has done it again, in the detailed, referenced and very useful guide to finding court records in New England. Whether you are a beginning researcher or an experienced one, this book can help you find the records...that you are looking for.”

FGS Forum, Federation of Genealogical Societies (Summer 2007, p. 30)
“Because of the detail and accuracy of the compilation, *New England Court Records* is recommended to any serious genealogist.”

Rhode Island Roots, Journal of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society (Dec. 2006, pp. 220-221)
“Court records are an amazing source of information....This is the best book to date on the subject and a mandatory acquisition for New England researchers and library collections.”

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, New England Historic Genealogical Society (Oct. 2006, p. 323)
“[T]his volume...will be a welcome tool for historians and genealogists. Compiled by a lawyer who is also a genealogist, the book provides explanations and examples that ease the researcher into the field. Yet at the same time it is a comprehensive bibliography of both the court records themselves and of various aids to their use.”

National Genealogical Society Quarterly (Sept. 2006, pp. 227-228)
“All who research in New England records should study this landmark publication.”

Illinois State Genealogical Society Quarterly (Vol. 9, No. 1, 2007, pp. 41-42)
“Archive boxes all over the region will see the light of day for the first time thanks to this comprehensive guide, making records accessible and opening up new avenues for research.”

Genealogy Blog, Genealogyblog.com, Everton Publishers (Aug. 17, 2006)

“[T]his is...one of the most important genealogical reference books published in 2006—and that puts it in some very exclusive company. Every New England researcher would do well to purchase a copy of Diane’s book—and then use it.”

Vermont Genealogy, Genealogical Society of Vermont (July 2006, pp. 193-194)

“Make room on your shelf of must-have New England genealogical reference books for this thorough and indispensable guide.... For the New England states, this book will set a benchmark in the effort to make the vast resources of court records available for research and better understanding.”

Archival Anecdotes, Friends of the National Archives (Spring/Summer 2006, p. 7)

“[I]f you’re doing research in the New England courts, this book is probably the most valuable resource you can consult.”

The Bookwatch, Midwest Book Review (April 2006, pp. 10-11)

“Very highly recommended to all genealogy researchers, whether novice or expert.... [A] thoroughly ‘user friendly’ reference ideal for...researching the New England area.”

Ancestry Daily News, Ancestry.com (March 3, 2006)

“The essential reference to understand and locate legal records in the New England states. This book is a winner!”

Columns, newsletter of International Society of Family History Writers and Editors (March 2006, p. 7)

“A very important work – definitely a required addition for the collection of every genealogical library.”

OTHER PRAISE

“What an amazing resource! Librarians, historians and genealogists should run, not walk, to buy this book. Diane Rapaport has done us all a great service.”

— **Mary Beth Norton, Pulitzer Prize finalist, Professor of History, Cornell University, and author of *In the Devil’s Snare: The Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692***

“Diane Rapaport has written a scholarly and monumental research guide to New England court records. Anyone researching New England ancestors will want this reference book in their library. It is highly recommended.”

— **Kip Sperry, Professor of Family History, Brigham Young University, Certified Genealogist, and Fellow, American Society of Genealogists**

“Ms. Rapaport has created the first-of-its-kind guide to federal and state court records for all of the New England states. She has covered the basic terminology and structure so even a beginning genealogist or historian can jump right in to discover the treasures that lie within these court documents. This book is your key to unlock the door.”

— **Scott Andrew Bartley, editor, *The Mayflower Descendant and Vermont Genealogy***

“This remarkable work offers a thorough guide to court records all over New England, and much more: explanations of legal terminology, extensive bibliographies, and colorful examples that entertain as well as inform.”

— **Jane Fletcher Fiske, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, and author of *Gleanings from Newport Court Files 1659-1783 and Rhode Island General Court of Trials 1671-1704*.**

“New England court records are full of interesting detail about our forebears and their culture. Diane Rapaport’s book makes it easy for everyone—beginners and experienced researchers alike—to find and use these valuable resources.”

— **Helen Schatvet Ullmann, Certified Genealogist, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, and Associate Editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register***

“Rapaport, a former trial lawyer, has worked for years as a legal practitioner with court records. This thorough and important work on a little-known subject, outside the legal profession, will become a standard for genealogists and historians. For the first time, we have an extensive but readable guide to the intricacies of the often surprising riches found in court records. She provides an overview of the American legal system, the specifics of New England courts, types of court records, and where to look for them in each of the states, county by county. This book is a must-purchase for any serious genealogical library, personal or professional.”

— **Malcolm C. Hamilton, President, Harvard University Retirees Association**

“Diane Rapaport’s extensive *New England Court Records* reveals a trove of legal sources, shows where to find the material (not always where you’d predict), and explains how to use it. Genealogists and historians be advised: this fascinating guide may take your research in unexpected directions.”

— **Marilynne K. Roach, author of *The Salem Witch Trials: A Day-to-Day Chronicle of a Community Under Siege***

“The University of Minnesota Law Library has received [a] copy of *New England Court Records*.... It is a wonderful addition to our collection. I am absolutely fascinated by it.”

— **Katherine Hedin, Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, Law Library, University of Minnesota Law School**

“*New England Court Records* combines three valuable reference tools into one book. Part I (Understanding the Basics) is a boon to researchers with no formal training in legal concepts and terminology. Part II tells where to find court records for each New England state. And Part III (Sampling the Sources) gives ideas and inspiration, no matter what state you’re researching. A great book!”

— **Helen A. Shaw, MA, professional genealogist and editor, *Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter***

“This is a timely and wonderful reference work. For those interested in uncovering information about seventeenth-century New England Ancestors, this is an excellent resource guide. As many family researchers know, court records for the 1600s are one of the three important sources of genealogical information, the others being vital records (town and church) and wills. The early settlers were litigious, being able to file their complaints easily and cheaply in the courts, without lawyers. Hence there is a wealth of family information in these court files—often highly amusing.”

— **J. Bruce Amstutz, family historian, Brunswick, Maine**

“[*New England Court Records*] is so well organized, it will be handy for many future projects. I am impressed with its depth of coverage and its human tone with what could be an unfriendly presentation. Thanks immensely for putting this reference into the hands of those of us scrambling for answers to our New England genealogical puzzles.”

— **David Kendall Martin, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists**

“[For] a midwest genealogist with New England roots this book is indeed a most valuable tool. Diane Rapaport uses clear everyday language and her expertise as a lawyer to guide the researcher step by step through a vast treasure trove of historical records. If like me you want to find more about your ancestors than just names and dates this is the book for you.”

— **Michael C. Clark, genealogist, Minneapolis, Minnesota**