

Wellcome Prize topic ideas: Feel free to pick one of these, adapt it and make it your own, or select your own topic. Many of these could be adapted to fit other towns, too.

Clam Festival: This could be an interesting way to collect interviews or oral histories about the festival currently as well as in the past. How has the Festival shaped Yarmouth? How has it been marketed over the years?

Mitchell Funeral Home records: These sources capture decades of death and funeral records in Yarmouth from the 1910s to the 1940s. What are some of the questions or conclusions we can draw from this data? *Records coming soon to our website*

Town team baseball: Many towns had teams that competed regionally: the Yarmouth Townies competed in the Maine Twilight League. This was a popular local sporting tradition that has largely faded today.

Extreme weather events: Consider investigating the effects of historic storms like the Maine blizzard of 1952 or Hurricane Carol of 1954 (just two examples). How were these storms covered in the media? How do they compare to the weather events of recent years?

19th Century Photography: How did ordinary Mainers embrace photography in the mid to late 19th century? Who were some of the local photographers taking part in this technological boom? Think about social, economic, and scientific connections. We have early Yarmouth photographs in our collection at the History Center.

Scrapbooks: Investigate scrapbooks in the collection (some are 100+ years old while others date to the late 20th century). What can they tell us about memory, history, and preservation? About individuals? Compare to social media.

House research: Learn how to research the deed history of a house or building (can be done online for free). What can you learn about the lives of the people who lived in the house in the past? In what ways can this mode of research be a valuable route toward understanding local history?

Local newspapers: Use *The Notes* database on our website to investigate the way local news has been reported in the decades from the 1950s to the 1990s. How does it differ from today? How/why are local newspapers a valuable source?

Public parks: Think about the renovations to Yarmouth's Latchstring Park. How/why were local parks established in the past? How has our use or perception of them changed over the years? What about park design and architecture?

Cemetery: Visit a local cemetery. There are many research directions to pursue here. Think about the design and style of grave markers over the years. Consider the design and function of different cemeteries or burial grounds from different eras or locations. Select a stone and use genealogical resources or newspaper databases to learn more about the person and their life.

