

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

This book offers a detailed and comprehensive guide to contemporary sources for research into the history of individual nineteenth-century U.S. communities, large and small. The book is arranged topically (covering demography, ethnicity and race, land use and settlement, religion, education, politics and local government, industry, trade and transportation, and poverty, health, and crime) and thus will be of great use, too, to those investigating particular historical themes at national, state, or regional level.

As well as treating a wide variety of the types of primary sources, published and unpublished, quantitative and qualitative, available for the study of many places, the book also provides information on certain specific sources and some individual collections, in particular those of the National Archives. Though not intended as a guide to individual archive depositories or libraries, nor as a detailed bibliography of the history of any particular place or region, the book provides references to guides, catalogs, and bibliographies of manuscript and printed sources, and to commentaries. Included, too, is discussion of significant subjects for research into the various topics and of appropriate methodological techniques and approaches.

This will prove a valuable work of reference to a wide range of university and college students and faculty, to libraries, archivists, family historians, and schoolteachers, and to many interested amateurs who wish to pursue seriously the study of their region or community, neighborhood or family, or some particular aspect of the American past.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

**THE SOURCES OF HISTORY  
STUDIES IN THE USES OF HISTORICAL  
EVIDENCE**

**GENERAL EDITOR: G. R. ELTON**

**SOURCES FOR U.S. HISTORY:  
NINETEENTH-CENTURY COMMUNITIES**

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## THE SOURCES OF HISTORY

STUDIES IN THE USES OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

GENERAL EDITOR: G. R. ELTON

The purpose of this series of books is, broadly, to present to students and readers of history some understanding of the materials from which history must be written and of the problems which these raise. The books will endeavor to bring out the inescapable links between historical sources and historical reconstruction, will help to define promising lines of fruitful research, and will illumine the realities of historical knowledge. Each volume is concerned with a logical span in the history of a given nation, civilization or area, or with a meaningful historical theme, and confines itself to all the primary material extant for that sector. It considers these materials from the point of view of two crucial questions: what can we know, and what have we no right to expect to learn, from what the past has left behind?

### VOLUMES IN THE SERIES

*Sources for Ancient History*

MICHAEL CRAWFORD

*Sources for Early Modern Irish History 1534–1641*

R. DUDLEY EDWARDS and MARY O'DOWD

*England 1200–1640*

G. R. ELTON

*Sources for English Local History*

W. B. STEPHENS

*Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities*

W. B. STEPHENS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

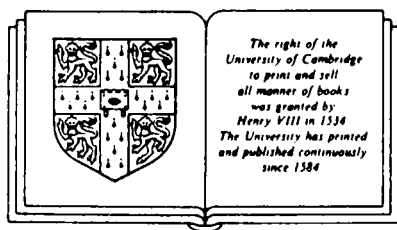
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# Sources for U.S. History

## Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. STEPHENS



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE  
NEW YORK PORT CHESTER  
MELBOURNE SYDNEY

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

**PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

**CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 1991

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without  
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1991

First paperback edition 2002

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data*

Stephens, W. B.

Sources for US history: nineteenth-century communities / W.B. Stephens.

p. cm. – (The sources of history, studies in the uses of historical evidence)

Includes index.

ISBN 0 521 35315 7 hardback

1. United States – History. Local – Sources. 2. United States –

History. Local – Sources – Bibliography. I. Title II. Series.

E180.S74 1991

973 – dc20 90–37810 CIP

ISBN 0 521 35315 7 hardback

ISBN 0 521 53136 5 paperback

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*To the memories of*  
E.B.S., R.M.S., C.C.B.S.,  
T.E.W., and M.A.W.

Contents

	<i>page</i>
<i>Author's preface</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiv
1 Introduction	I
Published sources, secondary and primary	16
Unpublished sources	35
Cartographic and associated sources	45
2 Demography	61
Census materials	64
Using census evidence	86
Vital records and family reconstitution	93
Directories, tax records, and other sources	98
Social structure and social mobility	106
3 Ethnicity and race	119
The ethnic dimension	119
Black Americans	133
A note on American Indians	159
4 The land, settlement, and farming: I	162
Federal sources generally	167
Federal census evidence	191
5 The land, settlement, and farming: II	207
State and local government records	207
Business, personal, and related records	217
Records relating to farmers and politics	225
Other sources	227
Indian lands and agriculture	234
6 Religion	239
General sources, secondary and primary	245

*Contents*

Types of denominational records	253
A survey of denominational collections	263
Sources for missionary work	281
Government records	289
7 Local government, politics, and organized labor	295
Local government	295
Politics	314
Organized labor and labor troubles	337
8 Manufacturing, mining, and business activity	352
Industry and business	352
Mining	385
9 Maritime activity, communications, and the fur trade	397
Trade, shipping, and fisheries	397
Communications	415
A note on the fur trade	436
10 Education	439
Religious and voluntary society sources	441
Census evidence	445
Some federal sources	452
State and local government records	457
Other records	468
Black education	479
Indian schooling	489
11 Poverty, health, and crime	494
The poor, the sick, and the handicapped	495
Public health	514
Crime and its treatment	524
<i>Index</i>	539



Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## *Author's preface*

The need for a book of this kind was suggested to me in 1979 by my friend, Ben Bloxham, who originally hoped to collaborate with me in writing it. Unfortunately other duties made it impossible for him to do so. I remain, however, deeply indebted to him for advice and encouragement, and to him and his wife, Becky, for friendship and hospitality over the years.

Completion of the book has been facilitated by generous financial assistance towards travel expenses from the British Academy and the Twenty-Seven Foundation, and by Visiting Research Fellowships at the Newberry Library, Chicago, in 1982 and 1984. I am most grateful to these organizations. I have been further helped in the work by periods as Visiting Professor at Brigham Young University, Utah, in 1979 and 1982, and as Visiting Scholar in 1986 and Visiting Professor in 1988 at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. I wish particularly to thank Dean John M. Nagle of William and Mary for his considerable support.

To Robert W. Karrow, Jr. (Newberry Library) and Elisabeth Wittman (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Archives), who read parts of my text in draft and made valuable suggestions, I am specially grateful. My thanks are also due to Kenneth A. Krieger, my graduate assistant for a semester at William and Mary, who did sterling work in checking references and searching out material. I am particularly grateful, too, for assistance received from Peter Bunce (Chicago Regional Archives, NA), David Thackry (Newberry Library), Alan F. Zoellner and Linda F. Templeman (documents librarians, William and Mary), James N. McCord and John E. Selby (William and Mary), David Pratt and Susan

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Sources for U.S. History

L. Fales (Brigham Young University), John Killick (University of Leeds), Donald J. Munro (Institute of Historical Research, London), Lucy P. Burgess (Cornell University), and Robert P. Swierenga (Kent State University). I have benefited greatly, too, from conversations with Thad W. Tate (Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg).

Without access to the holdings of the National Archives, Washington, DC, the Library of Congress, the Institute of Historical Research, the British Library, and the British Library of Political and Economic Science, my task would have been impossible. I wish, therefore, to thank the staffs of those institutions, and also those of the following depositories and libraries of which I made extensive use: Newberry Library, Chicago; Chicago Public Library; Chicago Historical Society; Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Virginia State Library; Family History Library, Salt Lake City; Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley; Hampton University, Virginia; and the libraries of the College of William and Mary, Chicago University, Northwestern University, Brigham Young University, University of Utah, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, University of London, and University College London. To the Inter-Library Loan librarians of the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, I owe a special debt. I have also received help in various ways from a large number of other institutions, librarians, archivists, and scholars, and am only sorry that I cannot mention them all by name here.

At a more personal level I would like to thank my friend of undergraduate days, Tran-Qui-Tham, and his wife, Bach, who made several visits to Berkeley so pleasant. Similarly I owe much to Armand J. Galfo, who suggested the College of William and Mary as a base for continuing my research in 1986, and who, with his wife, Mary, has been so generous in hospitality over several years. To my son-in-law, Ian Harden, I am grateful for his patience in helping me overcome my natural antipathy to word-processing. And above all I am

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Author's preface*

indebted to my wife, who has accompanied me in visiting twenty-six of the states of the U.S. and has helped me in very many ways in the completion of this work. The final version of the text and notes has been much improved by the careful vetting of Jean Field of the Cambridge University Press, to whom I am most grateful.

Finally I must record my thanks to Peter Gosden (University of Leeds) and Andrew G. Watson (University College London) for positive support at various times, and especially to the General Editor of this series, Professor Sir Geoffrey Elton, who has given unstinted encouragement, help, and advice over several years.

Despite all the help I have received there will inevitably be in a work of this kind errors and omissions, and for these I must bear sole responsibility. I may note here, too, that two National Archives and Records Administration publications appeared too late to be made use of in this volume. *Guide to the Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives, 1789–1989* (1989) (replaces PI 23 (1950)) and *Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives, 1789–1989* (1989) (supplements PI 113 (1959)) are important for a number of topics and their indexes should be searched.

W.B.S.  
1989

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Abbreviations

<b>AA</b>	<i>American Archivist</i>
<b>AASLH</b>	American Association for State and Local History
<b>AgHR</b>	<i>Agricultural History Review</i>
<b>AH</b>	<i>Agricultural History</i>
<b>AHA</b>	American Historical Association
<b>AHR</b>	<i>American Historical Review</i>
<b>ALA</b>	American Library Association
<b>Am./Am.</b>	American/American
<b>AR/AR</b>	Annual Report/Annual Report
<b>Baker, Finding List</b>	James M. Baker (ed.), <i>Finding List to Important Serial Publications by the Government in the Libraries of the United States Senate</i> (1901)
<b>BHM</b>	<i>Bulletin of the History of Medicine</i>
<b>bibl.</b>	bibliography/bibliographical note, essay
<b>BPP</b>	British Parliamentary Paper
<b>Brock</b>	William R. Brock, <i>The United States, 1789–1890</i> (1975)
<b>Bull.</b>	<i>Bulletin</i>
<b>Bull. AASLH</b>	<i>Bulletin of the [American] Association for State and Local History</i>
<b>Burr</b>	Nelson R. Burr, <i>A Critical Bibliography of Religion in America</i> (1961)
<b>Carman and Thompson</b>	(1960) Henry J. Carman and Arthur W. Thompson, <i>A Guide to the Principal Sources of American Civilization, 1800–1900, in the City of New York: Manuscripts</i> (1960)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

- Carman and Thompson (1962)  
 Henry J. Carman and Arthur W. Thompson, *A Guide to the Principal Sources of American Civilization, 1800–1900, in the City of New York: Printed Materials* (1962)
- CH *Church History*
- Checklist *Checklist of United States Public Documents, 1789–1909* (1911, repr. 1953)
- CHR *Catholic Historical Review*
- CIS Congressional Information Service
- DP NA, Descriptive Pamphlet
- Dubester (1948)  
 Henry J. Dubester, *State Censuses: An Annotated Bibliography of Population after the Year 1790 by States and Territories of the United States* (1948, repr. 1969)
- Dubester (1950)  
 Henry J. Dubester, *Catalog of United States Census Publications, 1790–1945* (1950) (repr. U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Bureau of the Census Catalog of Publications, 1790–1972* (1974))
- ER *Ecclesiastical Review*
- Genealogical Research  
*Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* (NA, 1983, repr. 1985)
- GLO General Land Office
- GNA *Guide to the National Archives of the United States* (1974, repr. 1987)
- Hasse  
 Adelaide R. Hasse, *Index of Economic Material in Documents of the States of the United States, 1789–1904* (1907–22)
- HD House Document
- HED House Executive Document
- HEQ *History of Education Quarterly*
- Hershberg, *Philadelphia*  
 Theodore Hershberg (ed.), *Philadelphia: Work, Space, Family, and Group Experience in the Nineteenth Century: Essays Towards an Interdisciplinary History of the City* (1981)
- HG  
 Frank Friedel (ed.), *Harvard Guide to American History* (2 vols., 1974)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations*

<i>Hist.</i>	<i>Historical/History</i>
<i>HM</i>	<i>Historical Methods</i>
<i>HMD</i>	House Miscellaneous Document
<i>HMN</i>	<i>Historical Methods Newsletter</i>
<i>Hoornstra</i>	Jean Hoornstra and Trudy Heath (eds.), <i>American Periodicals 1741–1900. An Index to the Microfilm Collections . . .</i> (University Microfilms International, 1979)
<i>HR</i>	House Report
<i>HRS</i>	Historical Records Survey (WPA)
<i>ICPSR</i>	Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research
<i>JAH</i>	<i>Journal of American History</i>
<i>JCH</i>	<i>Journal of Contemporary History</i>
<i>JEH</i>	<i>Journal of Economic History</i>
<i>JFH</i>	<i>Journal of Family History</i>
<i>JIH</i>	<i>Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i>
<i>JMH</i>	<i>Journal of Mississippi History</i>
<i>JNH</i>	<i>Journal of Negro History</i>
<i>Jnl./jnl.</i>	<i>Journal/journal</i>
<i>Jones</i>	H. G. Jones, <i>Local Government Records</i> (1980)
<i>JPH</i>	<i>Journal of the Presbyterian History Society/</i> <i>Journal of Presbyterian History</i>
<i>JSH</i>	<i>Journal of Social History</i>
<i>JSoH</i>	<i>Journal of Southern History</i>
<i>JUH</i>	<i>Journal of Urban History</i>
<i>Kellogg and Walker</i>	Jefferson B. Kellogg and Robert H. Walker (eds.), <i>Sources for American Studies</i> (1983)
<i>LH</i>	<i>Labor History</i>
<i>M</i>	NA microfilm (followed by number)
<i>Mag.</i>	<i>Magazine</i>
<i>Makower</i>	Joel Makower (ed.), <i>The American History Sourcebook</i> (1988)
<i>MRR</i>	<i>National Archives Microfilm Resources for Research</i> (1986 or current issue)

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-53136-8 - Sources for U.S. History: Nineteenth-Century Communities

W. B. Stephens

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Abbreviations***Munden and Beers**Kenneth W. Munden and Henry P. Beers (comps.), *Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War* (1962)**MVHR** *Mississippi Valley Historical Review***NA** National Archives and Records

Administration (formerly Service)

**NC** NA unpublished guide, etc., civil records**NM** NA unpublished guide, etc., military records**NUC** used for both: *National Union Catalog. Pre-1956 Imprints* (London, 1968–81) and Library of Congress, *National Union Catalog* (1963– )**NUCMC** *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, 1959–* (1962– )**Palic** Vladimir M. Palic, *Government Publications* (1975)**PAM** NA, Pamphlet Accompanying Microfilm**PDM** NA, Pamphlet Describing Microfilm**PI** NA, Preliminary Inventory*Procs.* *Proceedings***Prucha** Francis P. Prucha, *Handbook for Research in American History: A Guide to Bibliographies and Other Reference Works* (1987)**Q.** *Quarterly**Rep./rep.* *Report/report**Rev.* *Review***RG** Record Group (NA)**RIC** NA, Reference Information Circular**RIP** NA, Reference Information Paper**SAA** Society of American Archivists**Schmeckebier and Eastin**Laurence F. Schmeckebier and Roy B. Eastin, *Government Publications and their Use* (1969 edn.)**Schulze (1983)** Suzanne Schulze, *Population Information in Nineteenth Century Census Volumes* (1983)

*Abbreviations*

Schulze (1985)	Suzanne Schulze, <i>Population Information in Twentieth Century Census Volumes: 1900–1940</i> (1985)
SD	Senate Document
SED	Senate Executive Document
ser.	series <i>and</i> Congressional publication serial number
SL	NA, Special List
SMD	Senate Miscellaneous Document
Source	Arlene Eakle and Johni Cerny, <i>The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy</i> (1984)
SR	Senate Report
Sweet	William W. Sweet, <i>Religion on the American Frontier</i> (4 vols., 1926–46, repr. 1964)
T	NA microfilm ( <i>followed by number</i> )
Trans./Trans.	Transactions/ <i>Transactions</i>
T/S	Typescript
WNRC	NA, Washington National Records Center, Suitland, MD 20409
WPA	Work Projects Administration

In addition, the postal abbreviations for state names have been used