



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Southern Essex District Registry of Deeds  
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JOHN L. O'BRIEN, JR.

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*A division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth*  
**WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN, SECRETARY**

March 10, 2020

Gordan Harris  
Ipswich Historical Commission  
Town Hall  
26 Green Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938

Dear Gordan Harris:

As a member of the Ipswich Historical Commission, I wanted to let you know about a significant project that we are undertaking at the Registry of Deeds and to invite your participation in making it a success.

The Essex County Registry of Deeds has been in existence since 1640. Today it is the depository of more than six million land-related documents. These documents contain a wealth of Essex County's history, forged in part by some truly remarkable people. These are individuals whose contributions impacted their fellow citizens in the fields of law, politics, business, education, sports, arts, and the military and in many other areas of life. Property related records tell a story that reach across generations.

In this regard, the Essex County Registry of Deeds is developing a notable land record project, highlighting the remarkable people who owned property and significant properties themselves in Essex County communities. We will be noting each's significance and also citing where the related property can be found through our document indexing system. We intend to publish our first group of notable land records in a 2020 volume and include the booklet contents on our Registry of Deeds website. Every Essex County community will be represented. I would welcome and appreciate your input on what person/property you feel would be most appropriate to include from your community. I am seeking any recommendations that you or your fellow board members may have concerning notable people who lived in your community and owned property. These individuals could have resided during any historic time period.

When submitting a name or significant property, please give us a little background on the person. Just a few paragraphs will do on their accomplishments and a photo if available. A committee will review your recommendations. You can send your submittal by email to [nancy.doherty@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:nancy.doherty@sec.state.ma.us) or by mailing it back to me with the notation "Notable Records Project."

I thank you for all you do to preserve our county's local history, and I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this letter and considering participation in this important project. I look forward to any recommendations that you may send to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JOHN O'BRIEN". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

John O'Brien  
Register of Deeds