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CONNECTICUT GENEALOGY NEWS

A Publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

Summer 2008

Vol.1, No.2

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Researching Italian Ancestry

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Glastonbury, CT*

*Branford, CT
Records*

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CSG*

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Germans in Connecticut





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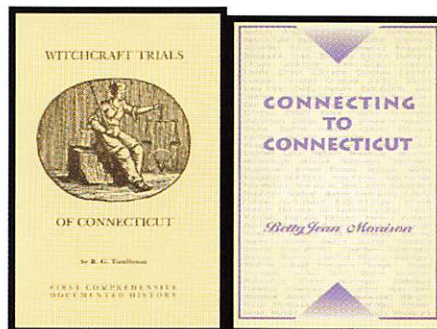
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by Betty Jean Morrison.

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Fall Issue: Irish in Connecticut

Winter Issue: Germans in Connecticut



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President's Message



As I write this in the middle of a July heat wave, I think of being in 'rest mode' after the busy genealogy year which has just gone by. However, we all know that planning ahead is really done during this 'rest time', so - we march on. CSG's 40th Anniversary was observed in May, with joy and celebration of all that we have accomplished since those few

gathered four decades ago to lay out what is today an organization of some 3,000 members. Honors certificates were presented to Elery Clark and Frederick Strong for their service. Also honored with a *Resolution of Appreciation and Recognition* for his many efforts over the lifetime of CSG was Richard G. Tomlinson, Publications Chair, who has served continuously since 1968 as Treasurer and/or President, and Board Member. It is he who accepted the ball of bringing our new *Connecticut Genealogy News Magazine* to fruition, and who is its Editor.

This new periodical has been well received in the genealogical community, and we appreciate those accolades, as well as the work of the Publications Committee and the CSG Board for support and follow-through. Over the next several issues of this magazine, we will reveal all CSG committee structure and make-up, that all can discern what it takes to keep CSG alive.

In an earlier "Message", I hinted at a return to the old system of having Connecticut member volunteers doing vital record look-ups for those members who live at too great a distance to do it in person. The response has been gratifying, and we are now designing a system for the handling of these requests. Please watch for the next issue for full details. If you are a Connecticut member willing to volunteer three times per year to provide this service in/near your own home town, please contact the CSG office. Thank you.

Janet Horton Wallace, CSG President

Editorial

We were very pleased at the enthusiastic reception our inaugural issue received. The "Letters to the Editor" (more accurately E-mails to the Editor) section contains a sample of that response. We welcome all comments whether positive or negative.

As promised, this issue begins a series with successive focus on the major ethnic groups represented in Connecticut. The theme for this current issue is "Italians in Connecticut". More than 20% of Connecticut's residents claim Italian ancestry making this the largest single ethnic group in the state. We are proud to present a major article in this issue on "Researching Italian Ancestry," by Marcia Iannizze Melnyk, a nationally recognized genealogical authority, prolific author and very popular speaker.

It is our goal to continually evolve our publications and make them more useful to you in the pursuit of your family history. Let us hear from you. How can we make this *Connecticut Genealogy News* more useful to you?

Richard G. Tomlinson, Editor

Calendar of Events

CSG offers the following **Basic Genealogy** series at the CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT at 6 p.m. There is no charge, but seating is limited, reserve today:

September 16, 2008: Getting Started using Charts & Family Group Sheets with CSG's V.P., Edwin W. Strickland II.

September 23, 2008: Vital Records and Church Records with CSG Board Member and noted speaker, Janet Pestey.

September 30, 2008: Using Census Records with CSG's Treasurer, Greg Thompson.

October 7, 2008: Passenger Lists & Naturalization Records, and Canadian Crossing with CSG Board Member, Janet Pestey.

October 14, 2008: Military World War I & II Records with CSG Treasurer, Greg Thompson.

Other Fall Programs Include

September 20, 2008: DNA IN GENEALOGY with Greg Thompson, CSG Board Member and Treasurer. South End Senior Center, 70 Canterbury Street, East Hartford, CT, 1:30 p.m. This event is open to the public and is free of charge. **Please register with the CSG Office by Friday, September 19, 2008 by 3 p.m.**

October 18, 2008: ALL DAY SEMINAR, David Mishkin: "Preservation of Photographs" & "Preservation of Modern Imaging Systems." Jack Scully: "Genealogy & Technology: an Old Hobby with a New Twist" and Dick Roberts: "Genealogical Research in Connecticut Newspapers." Courtyard Marriott, 4 Sebethe Drive, Cromwell, CT, 8:00 a.m., \$38.00 (non-members \$40.00) this includes Coffee & Danish and a Hot Buffet lunch. Late Registration: after Sept. 30, 2008 \$50 for all. Reservations required by October 15th. **No walk-ins please.**

November 15, 2008: TRACING PEOPLE OF COLOR (Native and African Americans) with Vicki S. Welch. South End Senior Center, 70 Canterbury Street, East Hartford, CT, at 1:30 p.m. **Please register with the CSG Office by Friday, November 14, 2008 by 3 p.m. Cost is FREE.**

TMG User Group

The Master Genealogist User Group meets the first Saturday of each month at the Godfrey Memorial Library, 134 Newfield St, Middletown, CT at 1:30 p.m.

**For reservations or more information,
please contact the CSG Office 860-569-0002.**

Letters to at the Editor

Dear Editor:

I just received my copy of Connecticut Genealogy News. I just love it. Only had a moment to flip thru it, but intend to read it when I am thru work. Thanks so much. It's wonderful!

Mary Ann Welker

I got my Connecticut Genealogy News in the mail today. Together with the improved articles in the Nutmegger, I really think it puts CSG in the same sandbox as the big boys. Great job! Makes member # 11556 very proud.

Barbara Mathews

Just a quick note to let you know that the new Connecticut Genealogy News publication was very impressive. I read the issue from cover to cover. I am looking forward to future editions. I feel you have a quality publication that will be respected by other Genealogical Organizations.

Dave Rame

CSG News

BEQUEST OF MARGARET ROCHFORD

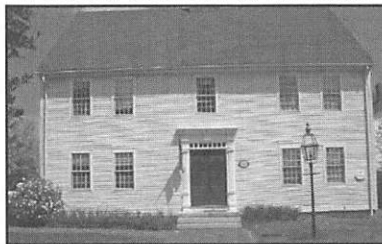
Miss Margaret Scott Rochford (CSG # 5886) of Bloomfield, CT, passed away on 14 April 2006. In her will she left bequests to The Wethersfield Historical Society, the New Britain Museum of American Art, Mount Holyoke College and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. She also left CSG her collection of genealogical books, an 1826 map to the Western Reserve firelands and a cabinet filled with genealogical materials, primarily on the Bates family. The Connecticut Society of Genealogists received an initial distribution of \$18,980.90 in 2006 and recently received a final distribution of an additional \$18,121.36. We are very grateful for this generous bequest of Ms. Rochford that will help us meet pressing expenses. CSG can assist you in providing a bequest for the society.

MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists will be engaging for the first time in September, in an annual appeal for funds. We ask that you give generously toward this campaign as it will help ensure the future of our Society. There are many ways you can help us. We are looking for bequests, Memorial Funds, donations of Art, Real Estate, Coins, Stocks, etc. Without the continued efforts of our generous supporters, we could not continue to provide you with the many new and innovating ideas which the Board of Governors has been planning. Please feel free to contact me, Gregory E. Thompson, at the Office with any questions you may have.

CORRECTION TO THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

WELLES-CHAPMAN TAVERN



In the Spring 2008 issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*, it was erroneously stated that the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. had rented space in 1975 in the historic

Gideon Welles house in Glastonbury. Gideon Welles served as Secretary of the Navy in Abraham Lincoln's cabinet. The rented office was actually in the adjacent Welles-Chapman Tavern. Joseph Welles, who as like all members of the family in Glastonbury was a descendant of Governor Thomas Welles, built this building in 1776.

REUNIONS

Tupper Family Association of America Reunion. Date: 24-25 Oct. 2008 Place: Sandwich, MA. Contact: Sally T. Dingsoyr, 6901 U.S. Highway 11, Potsdam, NY 13676 or call 315-265-9136.

ELERY DOOLITTLE CLARK

Elery Doolittle Clark (CSG #5) who was recognized for his role in founding the Society with a Special Citation and Resolution of Appreciation at the 40th Anniversary Meeting of CSG on May 17, 2008, passed away on July 6, 2008 in Hartford, CT. A Memorial to Elery will appear in *The Connecticut Nutmegger*.

WHAT'S NEW ON THE CSG WEB

One of the tools available on the CSG website involves providing a convenient collection of information on each of the 169 cities and towns of CT. Adding this information is an ongoing project that is really never finished, but more data is entered every week. To access this information, click on "Connecticut" in the top banner on the page. Then click on "CT Cities & Towns" in the banner just below. This will bring you to a list of all the cities and towns of Connecticut. Click on the name of the city of interest. This will bring you to a page that contains some summary data about the town, including such things as the address of the town hall, a link to the town's web, a brief history of the town, etc. Scrolling down the page brings up a string of topics (founding families, etc.), many of which are yet to be completely filled out. You can participate in completing this project by adding new items for your town. Submissions will be added once they have been reviewed.

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ITALIANS IN CONNECTICUT

by R.G. Tomlinson, CSG # 55L

Why They Came

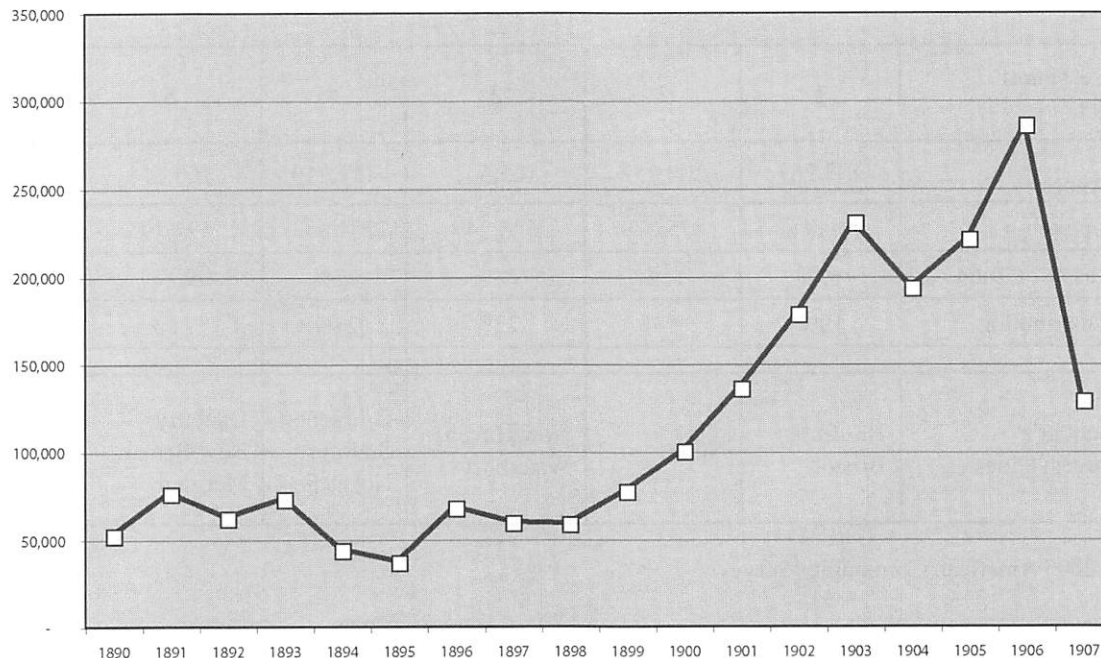
Most Italians came to America for economic opportunity. Many regions of Italy experienced economic distress in the 1880's and 1890's. The city of Genoa, for example, lost 200,000 inhabitants in this period. Almost 80% of Italians arriving in the United States before 1900 were men who came alone whether married or single. Their intent was to earn some money and then return home.

Some of Connecticut's earliest Italian-American residents arrived at this time. Perhaps half did fulfill their original intention and returned to Italy, but many also later returned to America to settle. Multiple trips were not uncommon. If you check the passenger lists at Ellis Island, which did not open until 1892, you may find your ancestor listed and assume that this was their initial arrival in America. However, if you find them in the Census records (of say 1900 or 1910), you may find that they said they first arrived in 1890 or earlier. Your ancestor's arrival at Ellis Island may have recorded their second or third trip.

When They Came

Early migration from Italy to America was very modest and fewer than 80,000 had come prior to 1880. However, after that there was an increase of immigration from Italy. (See graphic.) This came in two waves. From 1880 to 1900, the first wave came primarily from northern Italy. This wave peaked in 1893 with 73,000 Italian immigrants entering the United States that year. Then immigration declined slightly as the economy of northern Italy recovered in the mid 1890s. This was followed by a second and much larger wave of immigration that was primarily from southern Italy. The second wave peaked in 1907 at 286,000 and then declined rapidly in the years leading up to World War I.

Annual Number of Italian Immigrants to the United States



Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce

"ITALIANS IN CONNECTICUT"

Where They Settled in Connecticut

Almost all Italian immigrants lived on agriculture before coming to America. However, this was not true once they arrived in the United States. The first wave of immigrants did take up agriculture; many buying land and becoming fruit farmers. (See accompanying article of Early Settlers of Glastonbury). But the larger, later wave of immigrants from southern Italy went primarily to the urban centers. They were employed in mills, industries and factories. By 1910, an estimated 57,000 Italians had arrived in Connecticut, making them the largest immigrant group in the state. They were heavily concentrated in cities such as Waterbury, New Haven, New Britain and Hartford.

There was an attempt to reverse this trend and to convince immigrants to chose rural living. John Foster Carr's *Guide to the United States for the Immigrant Italian*, originally published and widely distributed in Italy and later published in English in this country in 1911, advised prospective immigrants to enter agriculture in the United States. Carr noted that land was cheap (\$100-\$200 per acre) in states such as Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York where there were "abandoned farms" left by earlier settlers who had moved on to new land in the West. He wrote: "thousands of Italians have made extraordinary successes here in farming" and said of Connecticut:

"This state offers many opportunities to those who wish cheap farms. About 600 Italians, chiefly Ligurians, are working at agriculture in this state."

However, as noted, the second wave of immigration that peaked in 1907 supplied the bulk of the labor for the rapid, pre-World War I industrialization of New England and most settled, not in the rural areas, but in or near the major cities. Although there has been a general migration to the suburbs of the major cities, the distribution of Italian-Americans in Connecticut still reflects the influence of the initial movement to urban centers. In the city of New Haven, 60 % of the population claims Italian heritage, making it one of the most "Italian" cities in America. The accompanying table shows the distribution of persons of Italian ancestry by Congressional District in 2003. Congressional District 2, Connecticut's most rural area with no large cities, has the lowest percentage of Italian-American citizens.

Italian Population in Connecticut by Congressional District

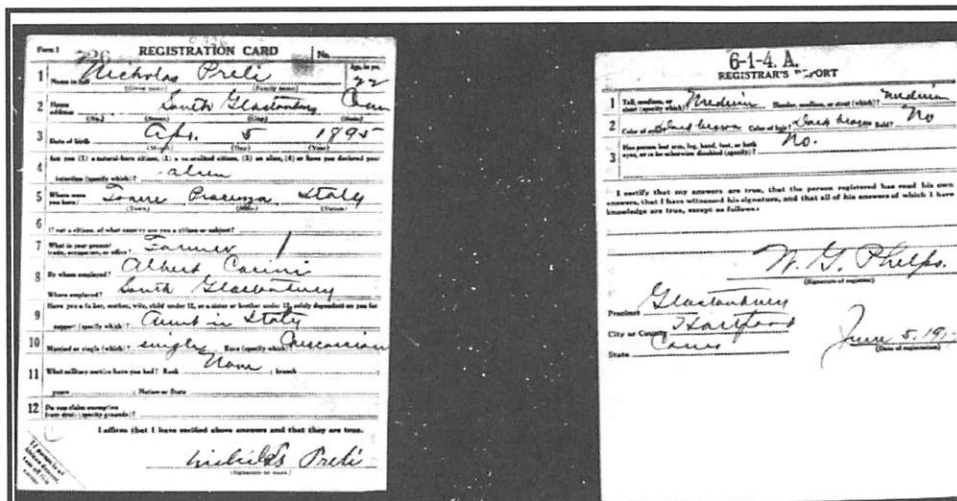
Congressional District	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Italian Ancestry	133,267	107,253	165,581	151,959	160,216	718,276
Total Population	709,942	675,679	678,249	701,833	697,795	3,463,498
Italians as % of Total	19%	16%	24%	22%	23%	21%
Italian Distribution	19%	15%	23%	21%	22%	100%
Connecticut's Ten Largest Cities	Hartford, Bristol	None	New Haven, Waterbury	Bridgeport Stamford Norwalk	Danbury New Britain, Meriden	

Source: 2003 American Community Survey

Using World War I Era Databases

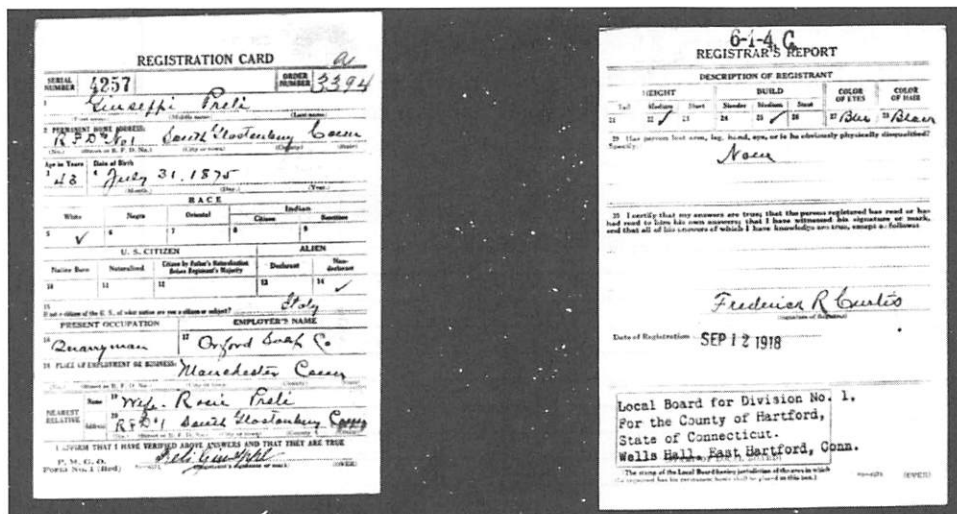
While the usual sources - census records, vital records, probate records, naturalization, land and court records - are available for tracing ancestors in the early 20th century, World War I produced some special resources. An under utilized database of great value in researching this era is the World War I draft registration. In 1917 and 1918, the United States conducted three registrations of males living the United States, including those that were not citizens. Eventually 24 million men between the ages of 18 and 45 were registered. The registrations are available on microfilm at the National Archives and Records Administration and at some libraries. They are available online at Ancestry.com.

“ITALIANS IN CONNECTICUT”



The questions varied somewhat. The first registration asked name, age, address, date of birth, citizenship status, place of birth, occupation, employer, place of employment, marital status, race, previous military service, physical characteristics and signature. This registration also asked whether the registrant had a father, mother, wife, child under 12, brother or sister under 12 dependent upon them for support. An example of a registration card is shown in the illustration (from Ancestry.com). The registrant, Nicholas Preli, aged 22 was living in

South Glastonbury, CT. He was born April 5, 1895 in Ferriere, Piacenza, Italy. He had not filed for naturalization. He worked as a farmer and was employed by Albert Carini in South Glastonbury. He was single and had an aunt in Italy dependent on him. He had no military service. He was of medium height and build with dark brown eyes and hair.



A second example, from the third registration, shows the card for Giuseppe Preli. He was 43, born July 31, 1875, and living in South Glastonbury with his wife, Rosie. He was a citizen of Italy and had not filed for naturalization in the US. He was of medium height and build with blue eyes and black hair. He worked for the Orford Soap Company of Manchester, CT. [Other than Cheney silks, Manchester’s most famous product was Bon Ami Cleanser, manufactured by the Orford Soap Co. using feldspar quarried in Glastonbury, CT.]

Source: World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 - Ancestry.com

Connecticut also has two unique databases related to World War I. These are the “Connecticut Military Census of 1917” and the “World War I Veterans Database.” On the eve of World War I, before a Federal draft registration had been called for, Connecticut anticipated the need to collect data on “men and material available for use in the event of war.” In February of 1917 the General Assembly directed Gov. Marcus Holcomb to conduct a survey of men over the age of 16 and a list of key resources (e.g. farms, crops, cars, etc.). The “Connecticut Military Census of 1917” is available on microfilm at the Connecticut State Library and at the LDS Family History Centers. In 1919, after the War, Connecticut undertook to compile a voluntary database to serve as a permanent memorial of the deeds of Connecticut’s servicemen and women.

This database contains a great quantity of information provided by the respondents on their service, opinions on the war, correspondence, etc. Some files contain photographs. The index to this database is available online on the web site of the Connecticut State Library at www.cslib.org.

Connecticut's Most Famous Italian-American



Governor (1975-1980) Ella Giovanna Oliva (Tambussi) Grasso was Connecticut's most prominent citizen of Italian ancestry. She was not only Connecticut's first Italian-American Governor; she was the first woman governor of any state to be elected in her own right without succeeding her husband. She was born in Windsor Locks, CT on May 10, 1919 to Italian immigrants, James and Martha (Oliva) Tambussi.

Photo Source: Library of Congress

She received an M.A. degree in economics and sociology from Mount Holyoke College in 1942. She married Thomas Grasso in 1942. The couple had two children, Susanne and James. Ella believed in public service and worked in the Democratic Party. She served in the Connecticut House from 1952-1957 as the Representative of Windsor Locks, she was the Connecticut Secretary of State from 1959-1971, she served the House of Representatives in the US Congress from 1971-1975 and as Governor of Connecticut from 1975-1980. She died in Hartford on Feb. 5, 1981. President Ronald Reagan posthumously awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the National Women's Hall of Fame inducted her in 1993. She was a member of the inaugural class inducted into the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame in 1994. She was uniquely honored when the State of Connecticut placed a privately-funded statue of her in a niche above the south portico of the Capitol building. Only statues of Connecticut's most illustrious and historic leaders are displayed there.

Connecticut's Italian-American Organizations

The Order of Sons of Italy in America (OSIA) is the largest and longest-established national organization for men and women of Italian heritage in the United States. Established in 1905 as a mutual aid society for the early Italian immigrants, today OSIA has more than 600,000 members and supporters and a network of more than 700 chapters coast to coast. Shown in the table are the seventeen local chapters in Connecticut.

City	Lodge Name	Filial Lodge #
Bristol	Bristol	1826
Cos Cob	Piccola Italia	2764
Danbury	Amerigo Vespucci	160
Danbury	Colonna	184
Derby	Valley Regional	151
Hartford	Ella T. Grasso Ladies	2538
N. Haven	N. Haven Sons & Daughters of Italy	2805
New Britain	Angelo Tomasso	2165
New Haven	New Haven	37
South Norwalk	Pietro Micca	744
Torrington	Concordia	20
Torrington	Anita Garibaldi	1202
Waterford	Tusana Columbus	464
Westbrook	Shoreline Sons & Daughters of Italy	2792
West Haven	West Shore Sons & Daughters of Italy	2832
Westport	Loggia Francesca	2484
Willimantic	Italian American Heritage	267

Source: www.osia.org

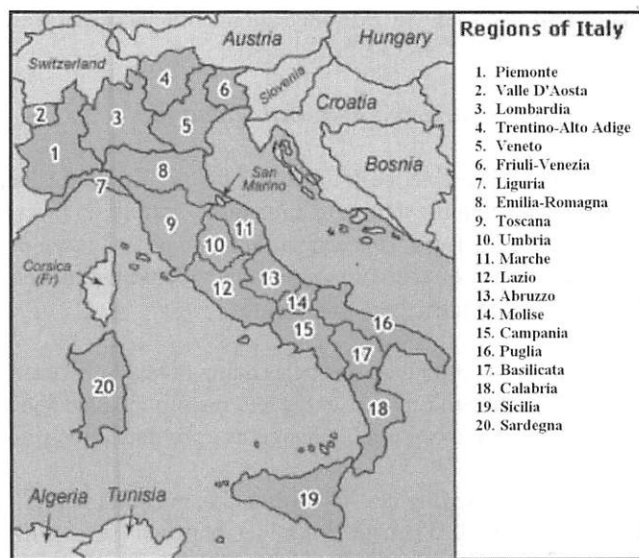
The Italian American Historical Society of Connecticut (www.italianamericansofct.org) was incorporated June 15, 1979 and it is a member of the Ethnic Heritage Center based at Southern Connecticut State University. The Society publishes a quarterly newsletter, *La Storia*, and holds regular meetings and workshops. The Ethnic Heritage Center was formed in 1988 by five historical societies based in the greater New Haven, CT area. The Ethnic Heritage Center is at 270 Fitch St., New Haven, CT, 06515, (203) 392-6126.

RESEARCHING ITALIAN ANCESTRY

by Marcia D. Iannizze Melnyk

Tracing your Italian ancestry seems like a daunting task at first, but it can be accomplished by most of today's researchers. Advances made in microfilming techniques, as well as the many Internet sites offering searchable databases, can and do make the work easier.

As with any type of research you must understand how and why the records were created and what they might contain for information. Along with the foreign language you will also have to deal with different handwriting styles, antiquated terminology and foreign customs that dictated the record making process.



*You must be sure that you have located all possible records here in this country before you “jump the pond” and research overseas. That includes all records available for census, naturalization, birth, marriage, death, obituaries, city directories, etc. You must know the individual and his/her family as *thoroughly* as possible if you hope to locate and identify the *correct* records in Italy and not those of another person with the same name.*

Source: www.big-italy-map.co.uk

The following steps – taken in this order – will go a long way in making your search successful.

Step One: *Understand the research by reading books and research guides on the subject.*

Knowing what to expect can and will make the research more successful. Along with reading books, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS or Mormon) Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, Utah, has a wonderful [Research Guide](#) covering the many additional aspects of Italian research. On the home page [www.FamilySearch.org], under “Getting Started with Family History” click on [guides](#); then at the top of the page under “Document Types” click on [research outline](#) and then scroll down to [Italian](#). Print it out (40 pages) and read it along with any other books or articles you can find. Know what you’re getting into before you jump!

There are several good books that cover researching in Italian records. Books, I recommend are *Finding Your Italian Roots, Second Edition*, by John Philip Colletta, Phd. (Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003); *A Genealogist’s Guide to Discovering Your Italian Roots*, by Lynn Nelson (Betterway/Family Tree Books, 1997); *Italian Genealogical Records*, by Trafford Cole (Ancestry Inc., 1995).

Colletta’s book is wonderfully thorough and addresses all aspects of a research project from home records to overseas. Colletta was one of the first genealogists to venture into the foray of Italian “How to” books and his book is in its second edition and very informative.

Nelson’s book will be invaluable if you’re looking at microfilmed records from Italy. She has given you a typed transcription, showing the format of the records, and then an English version of the form so you can locate the pertinent information. She also provides handwriting examples, word lists, common names and occupations as well as blank extraction forms for you to use. Nelson also includes an excellent letter writing guide and really sound advice on the research. I used her letter writing guides to write out what I was looking for and while in Italy, if I had problems making my requests understood, I simply handed them the written request – voila! Instant understanding!

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RESEARCHING ITALIAN ANCESTRY

Cole's book also covers many areas of basic research but also goes into some of the more advanced research and subsequent records you might be interested in such as military, church, tax, notary records etc.. He does provide a handwriting guide that is quite helpful when reading either the original records or viewing them on microfilm.

You should also check some of the genealogical magazines on the market. *Internet Genealogy* (by Moorshead Magazines Ltd.) that also publishes *Family Chronicle Magazine* contained an article on Italian Genealogical websites in the May 2008 edition. [general@internet-genealogy.com]. *Family Tree Magazine* [www.familytreemagazine.com]. and *Ancestry Magazine* [www.ancestryMagazine.com] also contain many helpful articles on all types of research. These publications are great for learning about all aspects of research, both here and in foreign countries. They will also keep you informed about publications or websites that might assist you.

Step Two: *Understand the language and pronunciation to determine the original surname.*

Many surnames were changed, not always by the immigrant, and having some knowledge of the Italian language and alphabet are crucial. While indexing makes our research easier it can hinder you when dealing with immigrant names. In Italy, an individual signs his surname *first* and then his given name (no comma is put between the two). This can cause misindexing of the person under his/her given name rather than surname. Understanding how the name would be pronounced by the immigrant, can also produce clues to possible misspellings that may have occurred causing you to miss them in the index.

The Italian alphabet has only 21 letters (there is no K, J, W, X, or Y) and some pronunciation rules that will help you determine if the surname you know was the original spelling or not. In most cases, unlike in English, every letter is pronounced and there are few silent letters. The letter "H" is always silent and is used to indicate an exception or change in a pronunciation rule.

In the Italian language the letter "C" followed by the letter "I" or "E" makes the English "CH" sound (as in child). If the "C" is followed by *any* other letter or vowel it is pronounced with the hard "K" sound. When an H is added between the C & the I or E it indicates that the pronunciation of the "CHI" or "CHE" combination sounds like "KI" or "KE." The same rule applies to the letter "G." When followed by an "I" or "E" it make the same sound as in George – if followed by *any* other letter, including an H, it makes the hard G as in Go.

Other Italian combinations that cause confusion are pronounced as follows:

"SCI" = English sound "SH"	"GN" = English sound "NY" as in <i>canyon</i>
"SCIU" = English sound as in <i>shoe</i>	"SCHI" = English sound "SKI"
"GLI" = the G is silent, Zavaglia would be pronounced as "Zavalia"	

Step Three: *Join an organization that specializes in Italian genealogical research.*

A genealogical society that teaches and assists members in tracing their roots in Italy is crucial. They know the ins and outs of the records, how to best access them, and can give guidance when trying to figure out those Italian hand-written records! Many members may also be able to translate records or correspondence for you, making it easier to communicate with Italian officials when necessary.

The Italian Genealogical Society of America [www.ItalianRoots.org], based in Peabody, MA, was founded in 1994 and offers meetings, lectures, newsletters, guidance and a website where members post their surnames and the comunes of interest. An organization like this has many members who have researched for years and can offer valuable advice and assistance to the novice in Italian research. Some additional genealogical organizations or websites of interest:

ItalyGenWeb – [www.italywgw.org]

Italian Genealogical Group (NY) – [www.italiangen.org]

POINT – Pursuing Our Italian Names Together – [www.point-pointers.net/home.html]

Step Four: *Get a good Italian/English dictionary and word lists*

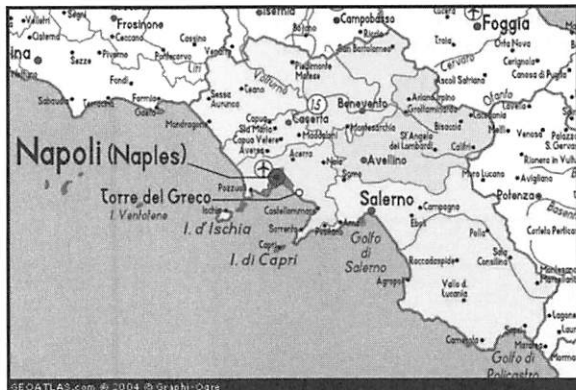
Looking at copies, originals, or microfilmed records requires a *very good* dictionary. One that translates both Italian to English as well as English to Italian is best. There are also sources for obtaining Italian word lists, other than just in books. These are helpful when the word you need is either not in the dictionary or translates to something that doesn't make sense. **Example:** The word *proietta* or *proietta* occasionally appears in birth records where the parents' names should be. The dictionary defines the word *proiettare* as to project, cast or throw. The Italian word list defines *proietta* as a foundling, meaning a child that is abandoned or deserted and the parentage is unknown.

Some books on Italian research have limited word lists. The best source is the LDS' web site [www.FamilySearch.org]. On the home page, under "Getting Started with Family History" click on **guides**; then at the top of the page under "Document Types" click on **word lists** and then scroll down to **Italian**. It is best to download the PDF file and then print it (contains 12 pages). You might also want to get the Latin one as well since many Italian church records will contain some Latin. These word lists also give you a quick overview of the language and pronunciations – well worth the time for any researcher!

Step Five: *Understand the governmental divisions and where different records are stored.*

Civil breakdowns in Italy mirror those in the US and are as follows:

American divisions:	village	town/city	county	state
Italian equivalents:	<i>frazione</i>	<i>comune</i>	<i>province</i>	<i>regione</i>



In Italy a *frazione* (meaning a fraction) is a small, unincorporated section or hamlet, of a larger town or city and often has its own set of records. Knowing the province or region isn't always helpful in finding records in Italy. If your ancestor lists Avellino as his place of birth it could refer to the province of Avellino or the city of Avellino (like our county seat). Italians tended to consider themselves Napolitano, Avellinese, or Abbruzzese rather than Italian. Italy's unification did not happen until the mid 1860s so the region or province was more significant to their allegiance or national identity.

Source: www.big-italy-map.co.uk

Step Six: *Locate the original comune (town/city) of origin.*

Records available in the United States, such as naturalization records, draft registrations or passenger manifests (lists) are some sources that may indicate an actual *comune* (town) name or place of birth. If you're unable to locate these records for your ancestor look at others who are marrying into or interacting with the family. Remember that extended families were the norm for Italian immigrants, and cousins, in-laws, or other relatives' records often offer valuable clues to a place of origin. You may have to look at other families with the same surname living in the same area (town or county), as immigrants and their relatives often settled in nearby neighborhoods to keep the extended family nearby.

It is also helpful to have a good atlas of Italy – one that lists even the smallest *comuni* (towns). The Euro Atlas of Italy (by American Map Corp. Maspeth, NY), available at many large bookstores, is one of the most complete I have found. Being able to determine the proximity of villages can help you narrow down the correct one. For a complete list of *frazioni* see Italy World Club web site [www.italyworldclub.com] where there are alphabetical lists for *comuni* and *frazioni* along with a wealth of other information.

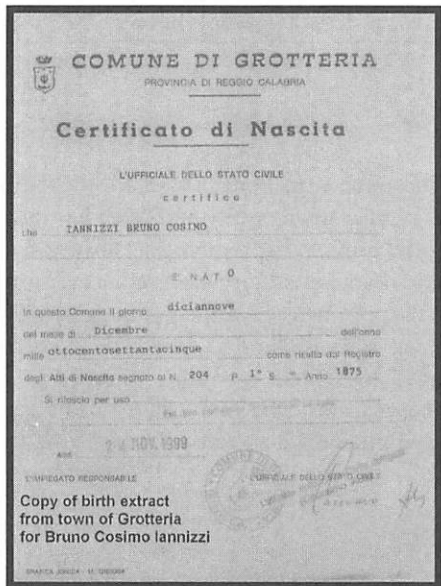
Step Seven: *Check the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church web site for microfilmed records*

The LDS (Mormon) Church, as a part of their religious beliefs, research their ancestors, and as a result have microfilmed vital records from all over the world, including Italy. The films and records are available to **anyone** by going to a local LDS Family History Center (FHC). To locate a FHC near you go to the website [www.FamilySearch.org]. Once you have located your nearby FHC you can order copies of the microfilm through them for use in that facility.

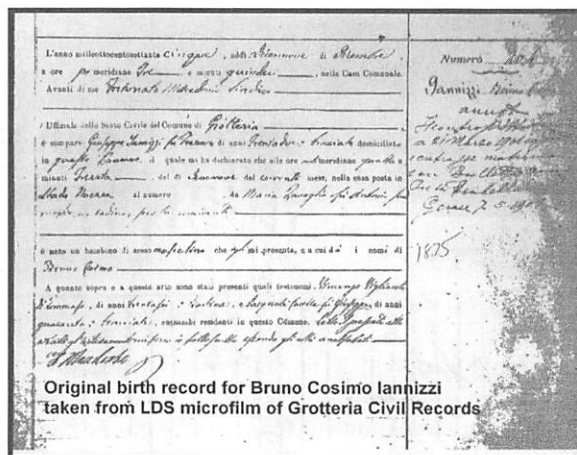
You can determine which, if any, comune or provincial records have been microfilmed by going to the website of the LDS [www.FamilySearch.org]. On the home page, under "Search Genealogical Records & Library" click on **family history library catalog**; then click on **Place Search**. Remember to look under the town, province **and** region as records may be classified and listed under any of these divisions as they are in the United States.

The further south you go in Italy the more records there are available through the LDS. The portion of Italy most covered is the area that was under the *Kingdom of the Two Sicilies* (generally south of Rome) before unification.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Today's researcher can write to Italy to obtain copies of civil records of birth, marriage or death from the *comune* (town) of origin. While this might seem easier than reading rolls of microfilm in a foreign language and bad handwriting, this isn't the best way to go about it. The records you will receive are almost always an extraction of data from the original record, filled in on a standard form, leaving out important information. Most of the microfilms available through the LDS are actual copies of the original written records and are as complete as you will get without going to Italy. Even then, some officials will only give you, or let you see, the extractions.



Birth certificate extract received from the town of Grotteria for Bruno Cosimo Iannizzi. It provides his name, date of birth, and the citation to the original book (#204 in 1875 births)



Original birth record for Bruno Cosimo Iannizzi taken from LDS microfilm of Grotteria Civil Records

Original birth record (from LDS microfilm of the Grotteria civil records). This record states "In the year 1875 on the 19 of December at 3 pm at the town hall in Grotteria a child was presented by Giuseppe Iannizzi, son of the deceased Francesco, aged 32 years, occupation bracciale (laborer); resident of Grotteria, stating that the child was born at 4:30 am on the 19th of the current month at his home in Strada Nucara (section of town around the nut tree) of his wife Maria Zavaglia, daughter of the deceased Antonio, occupation contadina (peasant farmer). The child is a male to be named Bruno Cosimo. Witnesses to the recording are Vincenzo Vigliardo, son of the living Tomasso, age 36y, occupation barbieri (barber) and Pasquale Carella, son of the living Giuseppe, age 40y, occupation bracciale (laborer)." There is an additional notation on the right, under Bruno's name, indicating his marriage on 21 March 1901 to Anna Pieta Isabella Bullatta.

The way the original records are kept has many nuances that provide valuable information that cannot, and will not, be included in the extraction. **EXAMPLE:** If a marriage record lists the groom as *Scali Nicodemo di Salvatore* it indicates that Nicodemo's father is still living. If it states *Scali Nicodemo figlio dell fu Salvatore* it indicates that Nicodemo is the son of the deceased Salvatore. This information is helpful in determining when to look for Salvatore's death record. How the document is worded can be just as important as the dates and names. Words that appear after an individual's name can indicate their profession, marital status, or age such as:

<i>nubile</i> – single female	<i>celibe</i> – single male
<i>vedova/o</i> – widow/widower	<i>minoranza/o</i> – not of legal age
<i>filatore/filatrice</i> – spinner	<i>gemelli</i> – twins

Civil records in Italy were generally not begun until about 1809/10 in the south and not until 1866 in the north (after unification). They are often divided into two groups – the 1809-1865 years and then 1866 - 1900/1910 time period with some areas being covered through the 1920s or 1930s (such as parts of Sicily). Sicilian records don't begin until 1820-25 rather than the 1809/10 time period.

Civil records might include births (*nati*), banns of marriage (*pubblicazioni* or *notificazioni*), marriages (*matrimoni*), or deaths (*morti*). You should also look for records that are classified as *Processetti* or *Allegati di nati*, (*matrimoni*, *pubblicazioni* or *morte*). The *processetti* and *allegati* are groups of supplemental records that were required to be filed when a birth, marriage, banns of marriage or death record was issued. They're often very informative. The *allegati di matrimoni*, for instance, might include the birth certificates of the spouses, marriage or death records of their parents, death records for any previous spouses, and many other minor records. Another record group that you might find is the *Atti diversi* or miscellaneous records and could contain almost anything. You might also find *indici decennali* (these are indexes that cover a ten-year period).

Many record books contain their own index while some have none. Indexes were created in different formats. Some are alphabetical by surname, some by given name and some even by the date of event. While this can be frustrating it is just one of the things you'll have to overcome. The actual records are in chronological order beginning in January and going through December.

The name of the child is listed with the surname first and then the given name (sometimes listed alphabetically under the given name). The next column lists the parents. The *padre's* (father's) given name is listed first (his surname will be the same as the child) followed by the *madre's* (mother's) maiden name and then her given name. **NOTE:** Women are almost always listed under their maiden name in all records.

In some indexes the months are abbreviated. Be sure to check the actual date on the record as abbreviations can be confusing. The notation 11 *9bre* indicates 11 *novembre* and **not** 11 *settembre*. The year isn't indicated because the index covers only one year. Also note that in Italian the months are not capitalized, but begin with a lower case letter.

The abbreviations are used for the months from September through December as follows:

<i>7bre = settembre</i>	<i>8bre = ottobre</i>	<i>9bre = novembre</i>	<i>Xbre = dicembre</i>
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A marriage index usually encompasses two lines and is alphabetized by name of the groom, not the bride (given names are often abbreviated, so be alert). If you don't know whom the woman married you'll have to scan the columns looking for the bride's name or her parents. There is rarely a bride's index.

Death indexes follow a similar format as the birth indexes with the inclusion of a profession column for the individual. **IMPORTANT:** When looking for the death of a woman you must look under her maiden name and not her married one. Women in Italy maintain their maiden name throughout life - even to the death certificate. Somewhere near the bottom of the death record it may be listed whom she is the wife/widow of. **This rule also applies to passenger lists (from ports in Italy) – she will likely be under her maiden name.** If you can't find a female or her children try looking under both the maiden and married name as the children should be listed under the father's surname. Indexers are often unaware of this fact and misindexed either the woman or her children under the incorrect surname.

RESEARCHING ITALIAN ANCESTRY

Remember, you can do this. With proper preparation, thorough background information from United States records, and a willingness to learn you will be rewarded. I even got to meet relatives on my last visit to my ancestral homeland!



Marcia Iannizze Melnyk is a professional genealogist who has taught beginning and advanced genealogy courses for more than 15 years. She is President, and a founding member, of *The Italian Genealogical Society of America* [www.ItalianRoots.org]. She created and taught the popular *Genealogy 101* course for the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, MA for six years. She is a popular speaker and has lectured nationally, as well as throughout the New England area and Canada for many years. She is the author of *The Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, Fourth Edition*, *The Weekend Genealogist: Timesaving techniques for effective research*, *The Genealogist's Question and Answer Book* and *Family History 101* as well as articles in genealogical publications.

Marcia is a member of the *Association of Professional Genealogists* (APG), former executive board member of the *New England Regional Genealogical Conference* (NERGC), as well as many local and national societies. She was also the recipient of the *Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Genealogy Volunteer of the Year Award* in 2004.

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EARLY ITALIAN SETTLERS of GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT

by R.G. Tomlinson, CSG #55L

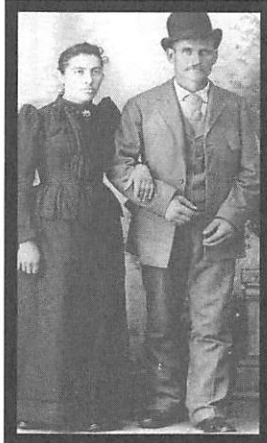
In 1890, Bartholomew Carini led a group of eight men from the Province of Piacenza in Northern Italy to Connecticut to work as wood hewers. Bartholomew had received a letter from a friend in Chester, CT saying that such work was available. This group came from the somewhat isolated Nure Valley of Piacenza that did not have a defined passage over the Apennine Mountains until the early 1960's. Piacenza, just south of Milan, has a rugged mountain terrain. Wrestling a living from this land was difficult and the young men were eager for new opportunity.

The group found work in Glastonbury, CT, turning its oak and chestnut forests into railroad ties that were in great demand for the expanding railroads and trolley lines. The work paid \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day. Most soon returned to Italy, but Bartholomew Carini and August(o) Preli would settle in Glastonbury, although they may also have traveled back and forth to Italy a few times. In various census records Bartholomew gave his date of arrival in the United States as 1888, 1890 and 1892. In the 1900 census August gives his date of arrival as 1890, but is also found arriving at Ellis Island on 18 April 1892 on the ship, Amsterdam, which may have been a second trip.

The decision to settle permanently in Connecticut had to be significant for August Preli since his family roots in Piacenza could be traced back to 1674. In 1892, August married Bartholomew's relative, Esterina Carini. Bartholomew Carini sent for his wife and two sons, who arrived from Italy in 1894. In 1893 August and Bartholomew became the first of the Italians to own land in Glastonbury. August bought a home lot with 37.5 acres on Matson Hill and later 100 acres of farmland. Bartholomew would eventually become the largest landowner in Hartford County with more than 2,700 acres by 1911.



The Italians shared their homes with other immigrants. The 1900 census shows that Bartholomew's household consisted of his wife, five children, his brother and seven boarders. The boarders were single young men who had come from Italy at various times from 1887 to 1900. Seven of them listed their occupation as "wood chopper," but Bartholomew listed himself as a farmer as he had begun a fruit farm on his land. The same census shows that August's household, in addition to his wife and three children, included a boarder and his brother Anthony's family of six that had arrived from Italy in 1898.



Wedding Picture, 1892
August and Esterina Preli
(Courtesy: F.R. Preli)

With the good news about the rewards of hard work in the United States and with encouragement from the recent settlers, a flood of immigrants came from Northern Italy to Glastonbury. Members of Scaglia, Quagliaroli, Cavanna, Bisi, Varni, Palmeri, Dondero, Bussa and Perragalo families soon made Glastonbury their home.

In addition to wood chopping, many of the Italians worked in the mills and factories, but later moved into fruit farming. This turned out to be a very wise move because, as blight destroyed the chestnut trees, the railroad tie business died out. Glastonbury farming had long been in decline except for the Hale Brothers peach orchards. Some farms were worn out and deserted as people moved west to more fertile land. The hard working Italians, however, revived the farms and cleared new land. This often involved the arduous tasks of moving large boulders and clearing roots and stumps. The Italian population swelled due both to immigration and to a robust birth rate. By 1909, there were 250 Italians living on 50 farms in Glastonbury.



Louis Preli Sr. & Jr., Bartholomew & Francis Preli, With Patriarch August Preli in 1933

August Preli and Esterina eventually had four sons, Anthony, Louis, Bartholomew and Joseph, and a daughter, Mary. When the incumbent Yankee families opposed building a new school for the exploding population of children produced by the Italian immigrants, August

donated the land, Bartholomew furnished the lumber, and both men labored to build the badly needed school.

Italian farmers prospered and by 1938 had fruit farms covering more than 700 acres in Glastonbury. Later some leveraged their large land holdings to enter construction and real estate. Many descendants of the original Italian immigrants live in Glastonbury today and provide much of the energy and support for commercial, civic, educational and religious activities in the town. Approximately 20% of Glastonbury residents today claim Italian ancestry.

Sources:

Glastonbury from Settlement to Suburb, M.G. McNulty, Glastonbury, 1970, *The Tillers of Matson Hill*, The Hartford Courant, April 10, 1938 *A History of Saint Augustine Church, 1877-2002*, Glastonbury, 2002, *Immigrants in Industries, Part 24 Recent Immigrants in Agriculture*, Report of the Immigration Commission, Washington Printing Office, Doc. 633, 1911, Glastonbury Land Records, US Census Records, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, Map of Italy, Peckatrail.com, Ellislandrecords.org, Wikipedia.com, Ancestry.com. Photos courtesy of F.R. Preli

*** Research Tip:** Researching this story uncovered an issue that may affect many others. In the 1900 census, the enumerator entered Bartholomew Carini as "Carine Bartholomew." Therefore, in addition to the misspelling, every member of the family was listed as "Bartholomew" and they are not found by searching the index for the surname, "Carini." This reversal of name order for Italian families in the early census records is not uncommon.

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT

A REVIEW OF GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RECORDS

by Jane Bouley CSG # 5600

Branford, Connecticut is six miles east of New Haven on Long Island Sound. The first settlers of New Haven negotiated the purchase of several tracts of land from the Mattabesech Indians in 1638, which included the territory of "Totokett" later called Branford. The Totoket Indians who lived here retained for their own use the peninsula known as Indian Neck into the 18th century. In 1644 about thirty families from Wethersfield and New Haven settled the plantation of Totokett. The boundaries included the present day North Branford to the north, west to the East Haven, and east to Guilford. Reverend John Sherman was the first minister and a meetinghouse was built in 1644. The First Congregational Church of Branford has served the community since that time. The name Branford eventually replaced Totoket, presumed to be named for Brentford, England. Branford was originally part of the New Haven Colony until the latter was absorbed by the Connecticut Colony in 1665. In protest of the more liberal religious rules of the Connecticut Colony, about half the population along with their minister Abraham Pierson left Branford in 1666 and founded Newark, New Jersey.

Branford was a farming and coastal trading community until the railroad went through in 1852, which brought the Industrial Age. Two factories producing locks and malleable iron employed hundreds of workers, many of whom came from Europe in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The railroad and later the trolley opened Branford's shore to summer tourism. Branford became a popular resort and twenty summer hotels lined the shore in the early 1900s. Today Branford is a residential community with a population of nearly 30,000 people.

Branford is fortunate to have original town records available to the public. Records of North Branford, Northford, Wallingford, Guilford, Milford, New Haven, and East Haven should also be consulted for possible Branford connections. A summary of genealogical records is as follows:

Vital Records: The original books can be found at the Town Clerk's office in the Branford Town Hall. There are indexes to the vital records but some are difficult to follow. The Barbour Collection, abstractions from the vital records, is widely available. There are some errors and omissions in the Barbour Collection, particularly volume and page numbers. Volume I and II of the town records were transcribed in the early 1900s in typed form with indexes. Copies of the typescript are available at the Town Hall, Blackstone Memorial Library, and the Branford Historical Society. All town records were kept in the same volume until 1786 when vital statistics were separated. Birth, marriage and death bound certificates starting in 1890 are also at the Town Clerk's office.

Land Records: The original books can be found at the Town Clerk's office in the Branford Town Hall with indexes. Some are on microfilm at the State Library.

Church Records: Branford church records are all housed privately with each individual church. The First Congregational Church Records are available on microfilm and abstracted in book form (alphabetical by surname) at the Connecticut State Library. The records of the church are not complete for the first sixty years. Trinity Episcopal Church Records are also available on microfilm at the State Library. Researchers should also consult North Branford and Northford church records.

Cemetery: The major research tool for Branford cemetery records is the Hale Collection found at the State Library. Sexton Books were started in 1884 and are found in the Town Clerk's office. There are private records belonging to the Center Cemetery Association and some recent work has been done on photographing and transcribing gravestones.

Probate: Branford was part of New Haven Probate Court until the early 1700s, then part of the Guilford Probate Court until 1850. A Branford Probate office was established in 1850 and the probate books since that time are at the Branford Town Hall. The Guilford Probate office has probate books, and Guilford Probate packets and microfilm are at the State Library.

Census Records: Widely available online and on microfilm at various repositories.

Newspapers: Branford newspapers were the *Branford News* 1878, *Branford Gleaner* 1878-1879, *Branford Opinion* from 1896 until March 1913, and the *Branford Review* from 1928 until the present. Local newspapers are on microfilm at the Blackstone Library and Connecticut State Library. Also check New Haven newspapers and the *Shoreline Times* in Guilford for Branford news.

Published Histories: There has never been a significant published history of Branford. Instead, consult chapters in New Haven histories; check town, church, and neighborhood books, manuscripts and booklets.

Other Sources: The Branford Historical Society has a large archive collection including family, public and private papers. The Society has over 10,000 photographic and postcard images of Branford that are housed at the local Blackstone Memorial Library. The library has genealogies of Branford families, New Haven county histories, census and local newspaper microfilms, databases and transcriptions of census and other record groups, scrapbooks, city directories starting in 1895, and town annual reports which were published starting in 1871. Other libraries with significant Branford related material are the New Haven Museum and Historical Society, Yale University Library, the Connecticut Historical Society, and the Connecticut State Library.



REMEMBERING ONE OF OUR OWN
by Thomas F. Howard, CSG # 5777

Genealogical Road Shows sponsored by the **Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, Inc.** are one way that the group remembers one of their own, **Donna Holt Siemiatkoski**. Donna was instrumental in founding the GPGC and was the Charter President of the organization. She remained active until her death in August 2001.

Donna was active in several genealogy and historic groups. She was a founder and the first President of the **Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor**. She was a member of the **Daughters of the American Revolution**. She served on the Board of Governors of the **Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.** Donna played a key role in the **New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.**, sponsors of the Hartford Conference in April 2007.

In her memory, NERGC has established the **Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Volunteer of the Year Award**. This award is presented at each biennial conference of the **New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.** in recognition of an individual who has provided outstanding volunteer service. Organizations that wish to nominate prospective candidates can get more information from the NERGC website at www.nergc.org or by contacting the Donna Award coordinator Dick Roberts at rroberts1861@charter.net.

Past Winners of the Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Award

- 2002: Cecilia Marianne Rose
- 2003: Rev. Dr. Robert L. Rafford
- 2004: Marcia D. Melnyk
- 2005: Cheryl Willis Patten
- 2006: Cherry Fletcher Bamberg

The CPGC created a fund in Donna's name to provide books for repositories in Connecticut with genealogical and historic interests. To date several thousand dollars have been given to the Connecticut State Library, the Connecticut Historical Society and many other institutions. Until recently the Donna Fund was running out of funds.

The **Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council** began sponsoring Genealogical Road Shows for interested towns through the Connecticut Town Clerks Association resulting in a steady and sustaining increase in the fund for the foreseeable future. If groups or towns are interested in underwriting and promoting a Road Show please contact Olivia Patch the CPGC coordinator for the Road Shows at olivia42539@aol.com.

Connecticut's Probate Records

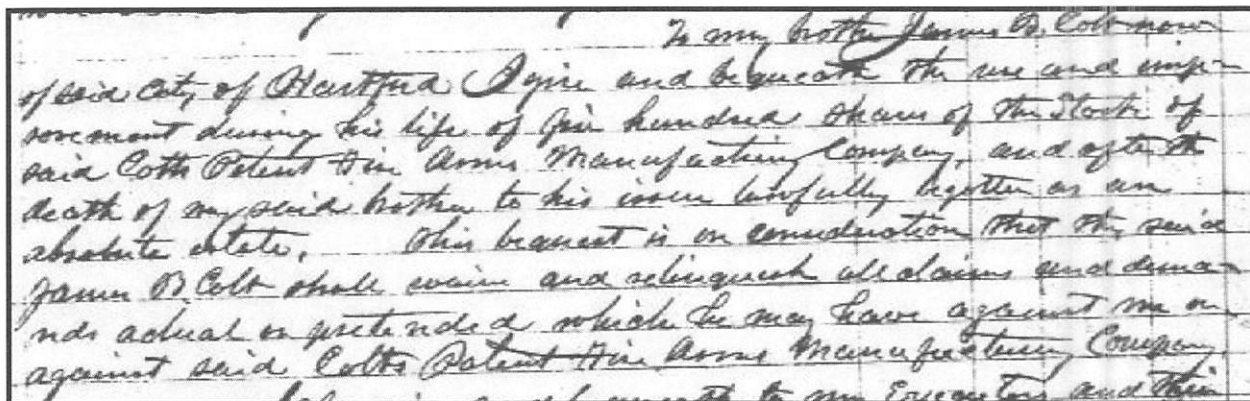
Editor's Foreword: Prior to the formation of probate courts in 1698, papers related to wills and estates were kept as part of colonial court records. These are found in various publications and microfilms, and some can be found online. (See the "Research Guide to Probate Records at the Connecticut State Library" [www.cslib.org.probintr.html]).

Some abstracts of early probate records have been published. Most of the original estate papers prior to 1900 and the probate court record books to about 1915 are archived at the Connecticut State Library and are available on microfilm at the library or the LDS Family History Centers. However, a great number of records and papers are held at the various probate districts and are relatively difficult to access. As discussed in the following article, recent efforts have been underway to convert all of these into digital images.

DIGITIZING CONNECTICUT'S PROBATE RECORDS

by Tim Wacker

For the past five years, probate courts throughout Connecticut have been transforming how they maintain one of the oldest, active family record archives in the county. The last will and testament of the likes of Samuel Colt, Harriett Beecher Stowe, Aaron Burr and Mark Twain are being replaced with an anonymous assignment of ones and zeros as the court creates a first-of-its-kind digital data base that is earning praise from administrators for its ease of use and mixed reviews from genealogist suspicious of the new system.



to my brother James B. Colt now
of said City of Hartford I give and bequeath the one and imp-
portant during his life of five hundred Shares of the Stock of
said Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, and after the
death of my said brother to his issue lawfully begotten as an
absolute estate. This bequest is on consideration that the said
James B. Colt shall waive and relinquish all claims and deman-
ds actual or pretended which he may have against me or
against said Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company
his heirs and assigns to an Executor and their

Excerpt from the Will of Samuel Colt giving stock in the Colt Patent Fire
Arms Manufacturing Company to his brother, James B. Colt

"The whole Connecticut probate court system is evolving," said Patrick McNickle, director of sales and marketing at Newington-based Continental Imaging Technology, which has been assisting court staff in several communities across the state to install the system. "We're taking this 17th century court into the 21st century," McNickle said. "Index cards, microfilm, even the paper records are going the way of the buggy whip and we're replacing them with state-of-the-art computer technology."

Starting with the Hartford court five years ago, millions of Connecticut's probate records dating back to the 1700s have been electronically scanned and digital photos created for storage in an ever-growing electronic library. Court IT staff have custom-designed and are using software from California-based Laserfiche.

In Hartford the courts' old index card system featured hundreds of thousands of cards crammed into machines that served them up like a giant Rolodex of 500 to 1,000 cards per tray. The court also had over 2,000 rolls in its microfilm library, including reams of hand-written documents. Those index cards and celluloid images are being replaced with digital images stored in Laserfiche with the names, dates, addresses or towns specific to that probate document electronically tagged to them. Now, when a court clerk needs to find records in the database it is as easy and accurate as looking up sport scores on the Internet.

These virtues were not lost on probate court officials who started thinking about a statewide system. Their concept was to create these individual electronic court databases and then consolidate them into regional databases so that one town's probate records could be viewed from another town's computer terminals. That vision has been slowed somewhat by the difficulty of unifying so many different court systems, some dating back centuries, into one package. Still, according to McNickle, about 30 percent of the state's 123 probate courts have been converted to the Laserfiche system since 2003; and five courts in the northeast corner of the state have been consolidated into Connecticut's first regional probate court.

Many genealogists are unaware of these developments. Of almost a dozen contacted for this article, only three had heard of the new system. In Hartford, where genealogists may come by appointment, probate court staffer, Julia Borofski, said she is seeing some increased usage even though copies cost \$5 a page. "You are talking about an old probate system and you are talking about a huge change," she said. "We do get a few more people coming in here looking at the old stuff. And we do get a lot of genealogists looking through family trees. It's much faster than the old system."

Among those genealogists is John Andrew Hoda, of Milford. He was impressed by the speed of the system as he saw it scanning probate records at the Bridgeport Probate Court in early February. But he still has reservations about what the new system will mean for people who depend on those scanned documents to make a living. His biggest concern is for the impromptu notes and information that judges and court administrators often tuck onto the side of the probate documents as a case makes its way through the courts. The forms and documents are often rich with details added on the spot and that often say more about the case than the legalese and boilerplate, according to Hoda. It's those notes that Hoda fears might be redacted when the documents are scanned into a permanent electronic archive. "You're not sure of what you're getting when it's being digitized," he said. "Sometimes the hard copy file will offer more information than just the forms and the findings of the court. I can almost guarantee you that, that informal information will never make it into the electronic files."

How the system ultimately serves genealogists like Hoda has yet to be seen, but court administrators are happy. They claim that the cost of retrieving probate court records has been cut from sixty cents a page for microfilm records to six cents using the new system. It has also been possible to eliminate dozens of filing cabinets. The Bridgeport Probate Court records room, which literally sagged under the weight of all the paper probate files just three years ago, is now a lot roomier. And finally, the threat of the physical disintegration of historic paper documents has been averted as the digital images can be accessed while the original documents stay safely locked away.

"It's turned out to be much more than we ever expected," said Plainville probate judge Heidi Famiglietti. "It's just so much more efficient and with that efficiency come speed and accuracy."

Tim Wacker is a freelance writer and public relations consultant in Newburyport, MA. He can be reached at tiwack@comcast.net.



QUERIES

There is a limit of three Queries members may submit per issue. Mail to: CSG Queries Editor, PO Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033

*CSG # 571 Richard W. Bonney
373 High Rock St.
Needham, MA 02492-1539*

John **WHITING** b 24Feb1760 d 3Sep1810 Washington DC m Orpah **DANFORTH**. Want b m d dates and places of their son Solom Whiting b 1797 prob Lancaster MA.

Rev Jerome Schenck **ANDERSON** s of Julius & Harriet (**DAVIS**) m Elizabeth **DOUGLAS** b pos Stonington CT res Stonington CT & Charlestown Twp Chester City & Philadelphia PA s Jerome b 22Sept1843. Need bdt bpl ddt dpl bur of Rev Jerome.

Henry **ALLEN** b Lenox Macomb Co MI b 8Jul1868 d Seattle King Co WA 16Feb1903 m Hastings Adams Co NE 18Mar1890 Alta Amilia **BANKER** Juniata Adams Co NE 9Jan1874. Need names and vit rec of par of Henry.

*CSG # 3832 Marjorie W. Anderson
89 Sleepy Hollow Road
North Stonington, CT 06359-1422*

Hannah **NEWBURY** b c1761 d c1792 m c1780 Joseph **ROOKER** b Springfield MA 17Oct1760 d Whitehall NY 19Dec1822 s of Joseph & Damaris (**FROST**). Need anc of Hannah.

CSG # 5069 *George F. Knight Jr*
293 Elmfield St.
West Hartford, CT 06110

Amy **OSTERBERG** b New York ? 25Oct1870 d Middletown CT 11May1932 m East Haddam CT 25Apr1885 John **BARTMAN** s of William T & Mary (**ADAMS**) b Hadlyme East Haddam CT 5Nov1865 d Hadlyme East Haddam CT 10Feb1920. Need par and sib of Amy

Aphia **HARRIS** b Norwich (Bozrah) CT ? c1783 d Lisbon CT 31Oct1849 m c1803 Simon **TRACY** s of Jabez Sr & Hannah (**EDGERTON**) b Norwich CT 10Feb1777 d Lisbon CT 3Mar1848. Need par and sib for Aphia.

CSG # 8648 *James H. Leatherbee II*
PO Box 445
Hadlyme, CT 06439
oldhadlyme@snet.net

Deborah **MINOR/MINER/MINERO?** b Lyme? ca 1735 m ca 1755 Amos **FOX** s of Benjamin and Azubah (**TUTTLE**). Need par of Deborah (Note: Jacobus ltr says Deborah not of large **MINOR/MINER** family and suggests name may have been **MINERD** or other similar name)

Eunice **CLARK/CLARKE** b Lyme? 11Apr1742 m E Haddam 6Feb1759 James **BOGUE** Jr b E Haddam 3Sep1738. Need par of Eunice

CSG # 12076
Harry W. Kinsley Jr
PO Box 67
Limerick ME 04080

David **BENEDICT** s Ebenezer and Ann b Danbury CT 1799 dau Anna Maria named after his mother. Ebenezer had three other children, Abel, Mahala and Maria. Would like info on Ebenezer.

CSG # 17871
Karen Harris
43464 Meadowlark Cir
Clinton Twp MI 48036
jharris008@comcast.net

2008 Literary Award Winners

CSG is proud to announce the 2008 Literary Awards who were honored at the Annual Meeting May 17, 2008. The Grand Prize of \$1,000 for New England Genealogy was presented to Vicki S. Welch for *And They Were Related, Too*. The \$500 Prize for New England Genealogical Resource was presented to Jean E. Perreault for *Footprints Across Connecticut from Simsbury 1930 Census*. The Fledgling Essay Prize of \$250 was presented to Skyler Bradford for *Something to Appreciate*. Miss Bradford is a ninth grade student at Masuk High School in Monroe, CT.

The winning books are included in the following reviews. Other entries will be reviewed in the future. The Fledgling Essay will be printed in a future edition of *The Connecticut Nutmegger*.

BOOK REVIEWS by Gregory Thompson

AND THEY WERE RELATED, TOO, A Study of Eleven Generations of One American Family, by Vicki S. Welch, 6 1/2 X 9, 623 pages, fully indexed. Available from Xlibris Corp, www.Xlibris.com. Hardcover \$35.00, Softcover \$27.00.

This fascinating book takes the reader on a journey researching and discovering the Native American - African American heritage of a family the author is very near and dear to. It is well documented and illustrated. Biographical material is extensively used to make this publication an interesting journey for the reader. Arranged in chapters, one for each generation, each person who had children was given a number and carried on in the next chapter. A must for the researcher of Native American - African American roots.

FOOTPRINTS ACROSS CT FROM SIMSBURY 1930 CENSUS, By Jean E. Perreault 8 1/2 by 11, Infinity Publishing Co, West Conshohocken, PA. Available from CT Society of Genealogists, P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Softcover, \$31.95 plus CT tax and shipping.

The author transcribes the 1930 Federal Census and supplements the material by matching up the families using various Vital Records, Cemetery Inscriptions, Pension Records, Newspapers, City Directories, Church Records, etc. to make the Vital Records of the family complete. This is a must for those whose families lived in the area during the early 1900's. Fully indexed and beautifully written, this book was the 2008 Literary Award Winner of the CT Society of Genealogists.

To Enter the 2009 Contest
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Frank J. Doherty
1830 BILLINGSHURST CT.,
ORLANDO, FL 32825
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A Publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

Fall 2008

Vol.1, No.3

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*Researching CT Irish
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Irish by the Numbers

*Put Your Genealogy
Skills to Work on Your
Class Reunion*

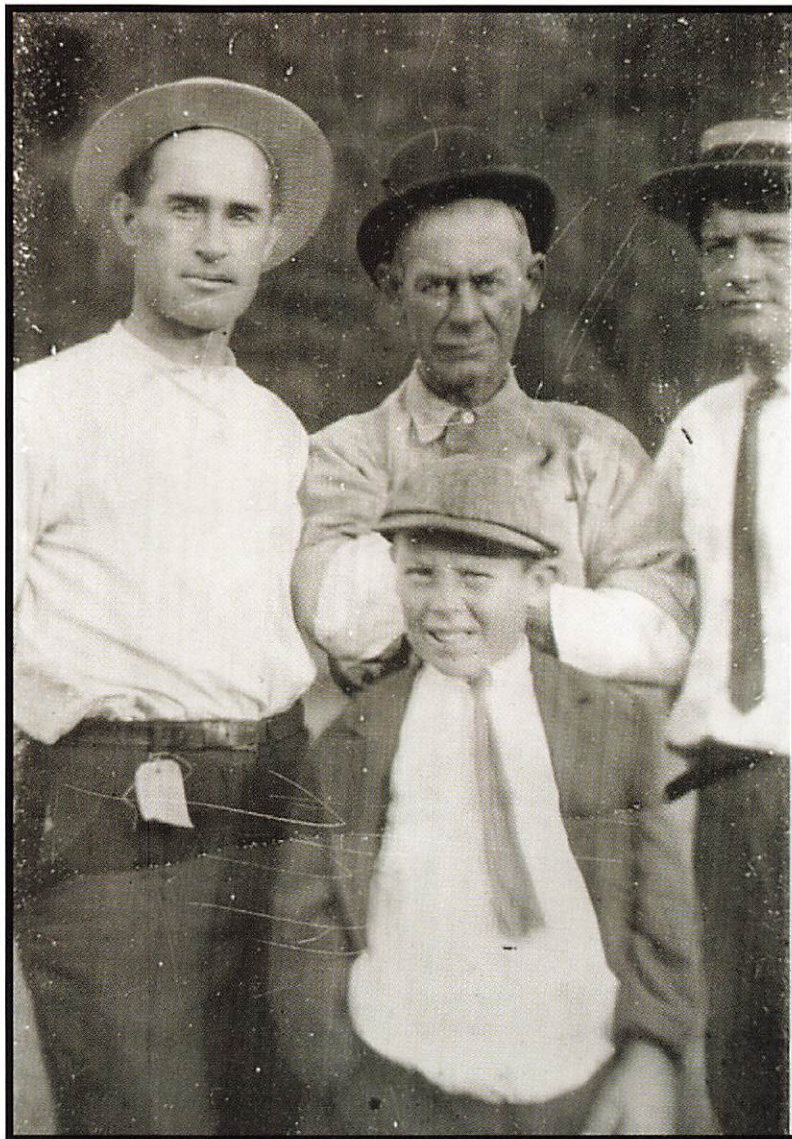
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English in Connecticut



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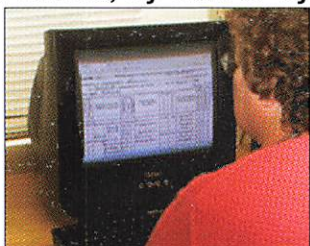
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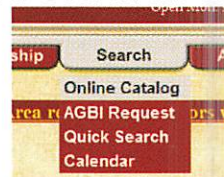


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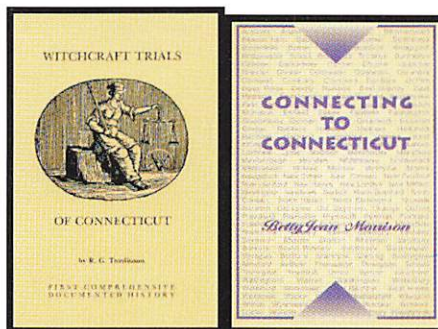
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Key information for genealogists on each of Connecticut's 169 towns. Local holdings of vital and probate records and other data sources. Includes contact data. 350 pgs.

Connecticut Genealogy News

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Fall 2008 **Vol.1, No.3**

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Winter Issue: Germans in Connecticut
Spring Issue: English in Connecticut

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President's Message



We are now well into Fall, settling into a new genealogy year and celebrating Family History Month in October. With so many calendars and/ or dating styles [our calendar years begin on January 1; the fiscal year of CSG's legal operations begins May 1; and our CSG program year begins in September] it sometimes feels as though we're

still running around in the Julian-Gregorian-Old-Style-New-Style dating system (which many of us still cannot fathom). One thing that does remain a constant is our own individual research "year." Looking back, it may seem there was no "beginning" per se; however, we also understand there will never be an "end." One's research, we have finally learned, is never "finished."

Each of us should go back periodically and review our earlier research (which we surely marked with a date!). Very likely, there has been a discovery of yet another repository, source, or method that could make those earlier results somewhat outdated or incomplete. Many times just reviewing old notes and/or sources, seen in a newer light, can reveal vast information not earlier garnered from the same page. Here is where we benefit from our detailed source citations, in order to return to the place where we found the earlier data.

Education in the correct use of these sources and/or methods comes in many forms; programs, seminars, and regional or national conferences come to mind first. The camaraderie with other genealogists at regularly scheduled events is multiplied, even if merely on the listening end. We must take the opportunity to strike up an introduction with fellow researchers at the library (keeping it brief, since library time is precious, as we all know!).

The sharing of these conversations can be priceless to all parties. During the continual performing of our own research tasks, we need to be mindful of new learning opportunities.

With that in mind, enter one of my favorite topics – NERGC, or "Nerk" – New England Regional Genealogical Conference. The next one, called "Discovering Family Treasures," will take place in Manchester, New Hampshire from 22-26 April, 2009 (please see article on page 4 of this issue). Hope to see you there!

Janet Horton Wallace, President

In Memoriam

Helen H. Hodge

The Society has been saddened to learn of the death in September of Helen H. Hodge, our office manager for some fifteen years covering the 1990's and more. Helen will be remembered for her generous help when anyone phoned the office for research hints or data, and for her strong interest in the workings of the Society. Flowers and condolence messages have been spread upon her family, from CSG. A full memorial tribute will also appear in the next issue of the "Nutmegger."
-- JHW



Editorial

We continue to be gratified by the enthusiastic responses you have expressed for our new publication. We welcome all comments whether positive or negative. Let us hear from you and any suggestions for topics or authors for future issues of CT Genealogy News. (e-mail: csginc@csginc.org)

Our series continues to focus on the major ethnic groups represented in Connecticut. The theme for this issue is "Irish in Connecticut." More than 18% of Connecticut's residents claim Irish ancestry making this the second largest single ethnic group in the state. We are proud to present a pair of major articles in this issue: "Researching Irish Ancestry," by Neil Hogan a well-known authority on Irish ancestry and a prolific author and "Researching Irish Ancestry" by Paul R. Keroack a genealogist and reference librarian who has specialized in Irish and French-Canadian research for twenty-five years.

We also present an interesting article by CSG Board Member, Don Naples, on how to "Put Your Genealogy Skills to Work for Your Class Reunion."

We are working on future issues that focus on "Germans in CT" and "English in CT." Germans are the "quiet" ethnic group that surprisingly is the fourth largest in CT. Our theme for the "English" issue is that people did not stop coming from England at the end of the "Great Migration," but continued to arrive in significant numbers well into the 20th century. If you have contribution to make to our coverage of these groups, please let us know. How can we make this Connecticut Genealogy News more useful to you?

Richard G. Tomlinson, Editor

**CSG BOARD AT THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING**



PROPOSED BY-LAW REVISION

The Board of Governors has approved the following revision of the by-laws refining the definition of "Subscription Membership" which becomes effective if certified by a vote of the membership at the meeting on November 15, 2008. The revision strikes the final phrase after Nutmegger and inserts the words shown in parentheses.

"Subscription Memberships shall be available to libraries, genealogical or historical societies, educational and other institutions. A Subscription Membership shall entitle an institution to receive physical hard-copy mailings of The Connecticut Nutmegger as may be published during the membership year. The institution shall also be eligible to receive electronic copies of other Society publications and member communications..."

("...and Connecticut Genealogy News and electronic or hard copy of other Society publications and member communications as the Board may designate.")

**TENTH NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL
GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE**

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) will hold its tenth genealogical conference at the Radisson Hotel and Expo Center in Manchester, New Hampshire 22-26 April 2009.

Some 54 speakers, led by featured speakers James Hansen, FASG; Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, FASG; and Megan Smolenyak will provide eighty lecture sessions devoted to a wide range of topics in tracks on: Finding Genealogical Treasure; Recording Your Family History for Future Generations; Migration, Immigration, and Naturalization; New England Research; French Canadian Research; and more. There will also be a First-Timers Session, special interest groups, and optional workshops.

Look for registration information, including the full registration brochure, at the NERGC web page, www.NERGC.org, and check the conference blog at nergc2009.blogspot.com.

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IRISH IN CONNECTICUT

By Neil Hogan

The story of the people who emigrated from Ireland to America and to Connecticut has been skewed somewhat by a tendency to think of them all as Catholics whose names begin with "Mc" or "O," and who came after the potato famine of the 1840s.

Actually, Irish-American and Irish-Connecticut history is more nuanced than that. The floodtide of immigration from Ireland did occur in and after the famine era and it was largely Catholic. But, from the earliest years of our state there was a steady influx of people of diverse Irish ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries Pioneers

In 1637, just three years after the first English settlement, John Dyer, a Windsor militiaman described as a "Catholic Irishman," fought in the war against the Pequot Indians. In 1653, Amos Richardson, a Boston resident who subsequently moved to the New London area, wrote to a Connecticut friend:

"lactly arivinge a ship from Ireland with servants ... I bought fower which is a man and his wife and two other women ... those which have tryall of Irish servants heare have found them to be good and soe I hope these will prove ... I shall be at Pequitt (an early name for New London) shortly ..."¹

In 1727, Scots-Irishmen James and William McNall, James Shearer and John Lawson settled in Union, Connecticut, making it the only town in the state founded by people from Ireland. They brought with them, according to the town historian, two staples from the land of their birth: "the Irish potato as food for man and the foot-wheel for spinning flax." In that same era, another Scots-Irishman, Edward Pattison, came from County Tyrone to Berlin, Connecticut, and began the first manufacture of tinware in the colonies. He also went on the road selling his products and became a prototype of the famous Connecticut Yankee peddlers.²

In 1736 and 1737, the Congregational Church in Stonington admitted some Anglo-Irish Protestant immigrants: John Moxleys, his wife Mary, and Rose Alworth. They all brought with them certificates of good standing from their churches in County Cork. In 1744, the Rev. James Lyon ran into considerable opposition when he was appointed vicar of the Anglican church in Derby. Lyon complained that as soon as parishioners learned "from what country I came ... they abused me, calling me 'an Irish Teague and Foreigner.'" ³

In the early 1700s, several families of the powerful Norman-Irish Butler Clan settled in southeastern Connecticut. A district in Waterford, CT, was called Butler-Town. The progenitor of one of the Waterford families was Walter Butler, who came to America as a sergeant in a British regiment and was commissioned lieutenant in 1711. Walter and his son John went west to the Mohawk Valley of New York where John commanded the famous Tory outfit, Butler's Rangers, in the Revolutionary War.⁴

Among the early Irish were a large number of indentured servants, some of whom probably came involuntarily and definitely were looked upon as undesirables. When, for example, John Lyman settled in Hartford in 1655, the town fathers required that he provide a bond of 10 pounds "that his Irish boy Cornelius shall carry good behavior toward all the members of this jurisdiction so long as he continues his servant in this commonwealth."⁵

Early Connecticut newspapers contain numerous references not only to runaway African-Americans, but to runaway Irish: Robert Chambers, "an Irish man servant," sought by Nathaniel West of Tolland; Michael Shields sought by Abel Morse of New Haven; William Mosley sought by Ichabod Fitch of Lebanon; stonecutters Andrew McDonagh and Thomas Craige sought by New Milford quarry owner Angus Nickelson.⁶

Coming to America as an indentured servant did not always turn out badly. A female redemptioner, Mary Jordan, discovered her life's partner on the voyage. Jordan fell in love with the ship's captain, James Rogers of New London, and they were married in New London on Nov. 5, 1675. Rogers often referred to Mary as the richest cargo he ever shipped and the best bargain he ever made. Edmund Fanning, an indentured servant in Stonington, fathered a long line of sea captains. A namesake Edmund Fanning sailed the ship Betsey from Stonington around Cape Horn and on to Canton where he exchanged sealskins for a cargo of Chinese silks and spices that netted him a \$120,000 fortune. Matthew Lyon of County Wicklow, an indentured servant of a Woodbury merchant, eventually purchased his freedom, served at Saratoga, and was elected to Congress from Vermont in 1797.⁷

IRISH IN CONNECTICUT

The Revolutionary War found Connecticut's Irish on both sides of the dispute as were their Connecticut Yankee counterparts. John Flynn, a blacksmith in Woodstock and grandson of an Irishman who settled in Massachusetts, was a trumpeter in a Connecticut cavalry unit. Timothy Herlihy of Middletown, a major in the Connecticut militia during the French and Indian War, threw in his lot with the redcoats in the Revolution and moved to Nova Scotia after the war. Anglo-Irishman, William Heron, who came from Cork, lived in Redding, and was branded a double agent. One historian calls him "a rich and testy old gentleman ... who was a Tory by choice, but sometimes the other thing by profession ..."⁸

Nineteenth Century Floodtide

The dynamic that drove Irish immigration throughout the 19th century was that Ireland had a surfeit of downtrodden, poverty-stricken laborers; Connecticut had an ever-growing need for their labor. When the ship *Augusta* from Ireland laid over in New London in 1797, the editor of the *New London Bee* urged local employers to seize the opportunity to hire 40 passengers who were on their way to Philadelphia to find jobs. The immigrants, he said, were "mechanics of different branches, farmers, labourers &c of both sexes, who are desirous, while they lie here wind-bound, of engaging themselves with any gentlemen who will make immediate application."⁹

A few years later, when the federal government, as a security measure, checked on foreigners in the United States during the War of 1812, it found that many Irish aliens had found work throughout the state: Patrick Davitt, hatter in Milford; William Johnson, tallow chandler in New London; Joseph Manypenny, weaver, Danbury; John May, wheelwright, Woodbury; John Williams, hatter, Norwalk; John Wood, hatter, Danbury; James McFarlane, currier, New London; William Ledger, farmer, Litchfield.¹⁰

During that same period, brownstone quarries were booming with the help of Irish immigrants. In Deep River, 100 laborers, many of them Irish, excavated eight quarries. In the cemetery behind St. John's church in Middletown, the second Catholic parish in Connecticut, dozens of Irish immigrants lie beneath grave markers fashioned from the very stone they quarried across the river in Portland.¹¹

Estimating the Irish Population of Connecticut

A booming industrial state located between the major ports of New York and Boston, Connecticut's economic opportunity attracted thousands of refugees. The 19th century emigration during the potato famine, during which at least a million Irish died and another million emigrated, was simply a continuation on a larger scale of what went before. In 1845, the Irish-born in Connecticut probably totaled 5,000-6,000 souls. In 1850, the U.S. census, the first to list place of birth for every resident, found more than 26,000 Irish natives in Connecticut. In 1844, William Tyler, first bishop of Hartford estimated that his diocese included 9,000 Catholics. The diocese comprised both Connecticut and Rhode Island. In various letters preserved in the University of Notre Dame archives at South Bend, Ind., Tyler estimated that the majority of the 9,000 were Irish and resided in Rhode Island. It seems reasonable to estimate roughly 4,000 Irish Catholics in Connecticut in 1845. To the number of Catholic Irish must be added many Scots-Irish and some Anglo-Irish Protestants. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated in *Historical Studies of the United States, Colonial Times to 1970* (White Plains, N.Y.: Kraus International Publications, 1989), Part 2, Chapters N-Z, pp. Z 1-23, that there were in Connecticut in 1970, 3,700 Irish people with roots in Ulster out of a total of 5,974 people of Irish stock.

Many Irishmen worked in the digging of the Farmington and Enfield canals. A Catholic priest visiting them in 1828 found them in families and baptized their infants: Thomas Sullivan, Mary Doran, Eleanor Walsh, John Grinnel, Patrick Curry, John O'Brien, Margaret Hayes, Dennis Fitzpatrick, John Murray and Mary Fox. Railroads followed. On 1870 census returns, construction of the Airline Railroad can be plotted by page after page of Irish workers in towns like Durham and Colchester.¹²

The greatest number of them settled in cities, but census returns in 1850 show enclaves of Irish in almost every town and hamlet in the state as well. They were not always welcomed with open arms. Newspapers like the lordly *Hartford Courant* spoke of "Irish louts" and "this throng of bigoted Irish." Louts or not, the Irish took whatever jobs were available and there were plenty – textile mills, railroad construction, gun and ammunition factories, brass manufactures, farming, domestic service – in the labor intensive and rapidly expanding economy of that era.¹³

The newcomers were quick to seize opportunities. A Congregational Church minister in Newtown wrote, "As fast as our American families fall into decay and are obliged to sell their property, the Irish buy it up and

by hard work improve it."

Religion



Father Michael J. McGivney, Founder of the Knights of Columbus. Born in Waterbury, Connecticut on Aug. 12, 1852 to Patrick and Mary (Lynch) McGivney, who had immigrated from separate towns in County Cavan, Ireland and met and married in New York. In 1882, Father McGivney, led a group

of New Haven Irishmen in founding the Knights of Columbus as a fraternal benefit society. He served parishes in New Haven and Thomaston and died 14 August 1890 at the age of 38.

The Catholic Church grew by leaps and bounds along with the immigrant population. When the famine began in 1845, there were only three Catholic churches in Connecticut; by 1850, there were 15 with three more in the works and 20 outlying congregations served by itinerant priests. Irish nuns of the Sisters of Mercy – Mother Frances Warde and Sister Paula Lombard, Sister Baptist Coleman, Sister Teresa Murray and Sister Lucy Lyons – established the first convents and staffed the first Catholic schools in New Haven and Hartford.¹⁴

Military



During the Civil War, one newspaper described Connecticut’s Irish as “strong in their patriotic devotion.” They enlisted in all the state’s regiments and they even raised their own Irish Regiment, the Ninth Connecticut Volunteers. The Ninth left New Haven in November 1861 with 845 men and lost 250 men during the war. A monument honoring their service stands at **Bayside Park near New Haven Harbor.**

In 2005, the National Park Service invited Connecticut to place a monument to the 9th in the Vicksburg National Military Park. The monument is under construction and scheduled to be dedicated in October 2008.

Sports



Connecticut alone produced three Irish Baseball Hall of Famers in the 19th century: **Roger Connor of Waterbury**, James O’Rourke of Bridgeport, and Ned Hanlon of Norwich. Connor was the “home run King” preceding Babe Ruth. Connor was born in Waterbury 18 May 1857 and died there 4 January 1931. He played from 1880 to 1897 and in 1881 he

hit the first Grand Slam in Major League Baseball. On Opening Day at the Polo Grounds in 1883 he hit what may have been

the longest home run ever and ignited America’s fascination with long-ball hitters. He hit 138 home runs in his career and was named to the Hall of Fame 1976.

Organized Labor

In 1871, a New Haven Irishman, James Grogan, was elected first president of the first statewide labor organization, the Connecticut Labor Union. In 1886, D.T. McNamara, William Healey, P.H. Fagan and John Garvey were leaders in the formation of the Connecticut Federation of Labor.¹⁵

Scots-Irish Notables

Proportionally, Scots-Irish immigration was not large in this period, but Scots-Irish had deep roots in the state and continued to play important roles in its affairs. In the 1840s, Robert Bonner, a native of Ulster, immigrated to Connecticut and earned a reputation as the fastest typesetter at the Hartford Courant before moving on to become owner-publisher of the New York Merchant’s Ledger and president of the Scotch Irish Society of America.

Distinguished lawyer, judge and lieutenant governor, Charles J. McCurdy, whose grandfather settled in Lyme around 1750, was one of six delegates to a Peace Convention that made a last-ditch effort to avert the Civil War. In the 1860s, William Gillespie of County Tyrone settled in Stamford and began publishing a newspaper. He was joined by his brothers, Edward and Richard. Together they published for many years what is still Stamford’s newspaper of record, the Advocate. The Rev. Alexander Irvine, the son of a Scots-Irish cobbler and his Catholic Irish wife, was a fiery crusader for social and economic justice as pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Fair Haven during the 1890s.¹⁶

Twentieth Century Blossoming

The seeds sown by people from Ireland in 18th and 19th century Connecticut blossomed to the benefit of their descendants and to the commonweal in the 20th century.

Leadership

An indication of things to come throughout the century occurred in 1904 when the state capital city elected its first Irish mayor, Ignatius A. Sullivan. Irish influence in politics spread rapidly with a succession of state governors and U.S. representatives and senators: James Glynn, William Kennedy, Thomas Reilly, Robert A. Hurley, James C. Shannon, John Dempsey, Thomas J. Meskill, William A. Neill, Brien McMahon, John A. Danaher, Augustine Lonergan.



John Dempsey was Governor of Connecticut from 1961 to 1971. He was the first Connecticut Governor since the early colonial period to be born overseas and the only naturalized citizen ever to serve as Governor. Dempsey was born in 3 January 1915 in Cahir, County Tipperary, Ireland. He came to the United States with his family when he was a boy. His father worked in a Putnam textile mill and later Dempsey also worked for a local mill before opening an automobile agency in the community. He married Mary Frey in 1940 and they had four children. He died 16 July 1989 in Killingly, Connecticut.

The state's Scots-Irish produced another governor, James A. McConaughy, who also provided educational leadership as president of Wesleyan University.¹⁷

While mainly moderate, the Irish retained a bit of their rebel edge. In 1918, Wallingford's Martin F. Plunkett ran for governor on the Socialist Party ticket, and was arrested under the Espionage Act for his trouble. When he campaigned for mayor in Hartford in 1922, Scots-Irishman Anson T. McCook proudly proclaimed that his great-grandfather, George McCook, fought side by side with Robert Emmet in the 1803 rebellion of the United Irishmen.



An unsung national heroine of the women's suffrage movement, **Catherine Flanagan** of Hartford, was arrested while picketing the White House in 1917. After spending a month in jail, she crossed the nation stumping for endorsement of the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the right to vote.¹⁸

Other Connecticut Irish women rose to prominence. In a career with the Raybestos Brakettes and the Meriden Falcons, Joan Joyce of Waterbury, granddaughter of Irish immigrants, won fame as the finest women's softball player in history. Julia Corcoran of Norwich was the state's first female factory inspector; Susan O'Neill of Waterbury, one of its first female attorneys. On stage, Eileen Farrell, a native of Willimantic was America's favorite soprano during the middle of the 20th century. Mary Howard made the best-seller lists with novels like *Bridgeport Bus*, whose setting was an Irish household in her hometown.¹⁹

Connecticut Irishmen of Note



Pulitzer Prize winner Eugene Gladstone O'Neill, considered by many America's greatest playwright; was born 16 October, 1888 in New York to Irish-born actor, James O'Neill and Ella Quinlan O'Neill. James O'Neill often said that the map of Ireland was written all over his son's face. O'Neill won the Nobel Prize the Literature in 1936. His boyhood home in New London, Connecticut, called the Monte Cristo Cottage in honor of this father's acting fame playing the Count of Monte Cristo, is a Registered National Landmark.

Other noted Connecticut Irishmen include Pulitzer Prize winner, sportswriter Jim Murray; novelists John Gregory Dunne and Thomas Flanagan; historians Jay Dolan, Paul Kennedy and Ben Kiernan, an Australian Irishman who settled in Connecticut as founding director of Yale's Genocide Studies Program.²⁰

Down through the years, Irish ex-patriots and immigrants involved themselves in the struggles of Ireland for independence and for an end to its sectarian animosities. In 1842, at the first St. Patrick's Day parade in New Haven, the featured speaker of the day, Scots-Irishman William Erigena Robinson urged Irishmen of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds to set aside their differences and work for the betterment of Ireland.

In the 1990s, two Connecticut Irishmen, United States Senator Christopher Dodd and United States Representative, Bruce Morrison, worked tirelessly to start a process that would at long last bring peace to Northern Ireland. Morrison also won the gratitude of all Irish by sponsoring the so-called "Morrison visas" which helped ease the path of immigration to the United States.²¹

New Millennium Prospects

On the 2000 census returns, a half million Connecticut residents claimed Irish descent and another 40,000 claimed Scots-Irish descent. Thus, those who trace their roots to the pint-sized Emerald Isle at the far western boundary of Europe comprise almost 18 percent of the 3.4 million people in Connecticut at the start of the new millennium.²²

The end result of generation upon generation of immigration over the past 300 years, the Irish presence enriches every aspect of Connecticut life from politics and business to education and entertainment. At the grassroots level, Irish clubs in New Haven, Fairfield, Glastonbury, Danbury, Waterbury, Stamford and other communities are thriving as are Irish traditions like summer festivals, St. Patrick's Day parades, language classes, genealogy groups, step and set dancing lessons, music "seisuns," historical organizations and Irish pubs.

While demographics foreshadow a continuation of the trend toward lower levels of Irish immigration, the Irish threads in the tapestry of Connecticut's wonderfully diverse population show no signs of unraveling or fading in the near future.

Author



Neil Hogan is a retired newspaperman who was an editorial writer, Sunday history columnist and weekend editor of the New Haven Register, and also editor of weekly newspapers in Wallingford and Cheshire. He has written seven books on the Irish in Connecticut, on the Naugatuck Valley, on New Haven labor history and on Newington history. He formerly was executive director of the Newington Historical Society, president of Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society, and a member of the board of directors of the Greater New Haven Labor History Association. He has done public relations writing for the Connecticut Education Association and Connecticut Audubon Center in Milford. He is a native of the Finger Lakes area of New York State, is a graduate of St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., and lives in Wallingford. Neil can be contacted at neilh@att.net.

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IRISH BY THE NUMBERS

by R.G. Tomlinson CSG #55L

In the accompanying story, "Irish in Connecticut," it is noted that the bulk of the 18th and 19th century Irish immigrants to Connecticut went to the urban centers. Modern demographic data reflects something else. The data shows an interesting difference in the modern distribution of Irish in Connecticut between county and city. New Haven County, for example, has the largest number of Irish at 158,652, but they comprise less than 7% of the population of the city of New Haven. Similarly, the county of Hartford has the third largest Irish population at 138,955, but only 3,631 live within the city Hartford and they comprise only 3% of its population. Rural Tolland County, with no large cities, has only 33,500 residents of Irish ancestry and yet these make up 23% of the population making Tolland the most predominantly Irish County in the State of Connecticut.

Overall, Irish make up more than 18% of the population of Connecticut, second only to those with Italian ancestry. However, Irish do not dominate the urban centers, accounting for only 9% of the population of Connecticut's ten largest cities.

Table I: Distribution of People with Irish Ancestry in Connecticut – 2006 ACS Survey

County	Irish	Total Pop	% Irish
New Haven	158,652	845,244	18.8%
Fairfield	155,276	900,440	17.2%
Hartford	138,955	876,927	15.8%
New London	50,018	263,293	19.0%
Litchfield	40,973	190,119	21.6%
Middlesex	34,403	163,774	21.0%
Tolland	33,500	148,140	22.6%
Windham	22,450	116,872	19.2%
Total	634,227	3,504,809	18.1%

City	Irish	Total Pop	% Irish
Stamford	14,556	118,029	12.3%
Waterbury	13,494	104,341	12.9%
Norwalk	11,925	78,141	15.3%
Danbury	11,240	78,155	14.4%
New Haven	8,513	127,288	6.7%
Bridgeport	6,500	136,282	4.8%
New Britain	5,917	71,432	8.3%
Hartford	3,631	119,977	3.0%
Total	75,776	833,645	9.1%

Table II: Irish Immigrants to the USA Per Decade - 1820 to 2000

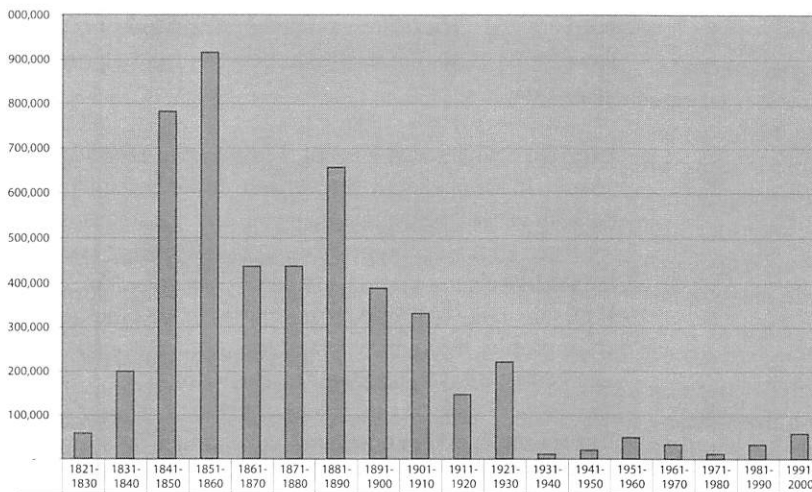


Table II shows the number of immigrants to the United States for each decade beginning in 1820. This data is taken from the Statistical Abstracts of the Federal Government Census Records. As noted in the previous article, “Irish in Connecticut,” there were Irish settlers coming to America as early as the Colonial Era. However, large-scale Irish immigration did not occur until after 1800.

Irish immigration accelerated with the large canal building projects of 1810-1830. The huge migration of the 1840s and 1850s associated with the potato famine is clearly evident. In 1850 more

than 200,000 Irishmen entered the United States and in the pre-Civil War decade from 1850 to 1860 more than one million Irish came to America. From the Civil War to the early part of the 20th century, immigration continued at a steady but less spectacular rate. Within this period, there was a second notable “spike” in immigration in the decade from 1880 to 1890 as booming industrialization and the growth of manufacturing in America created a great need for labor. The year 1883 saw 80,000 Irish immigrants to the U.S. *Source: Federal Statistical Abstracts*

RESEARCHING IRISH GENEALOGY IN CONNECTICUT

by Paul R. Keroack CSG # 02561

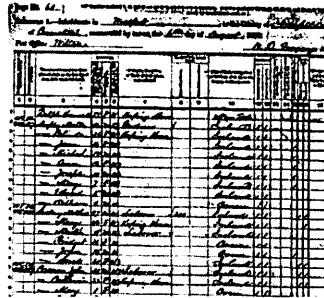
The following essay will primarily address search strategies most useful in tracing the largest group of Irish emigrants to Connecticut – tenant farmers and laborers who arrived in large numbers between 1820 and 1900. While the sources and suggestions discussed below are applicable to any emigrants, I will concentrate on those most suited to Irish research in this state.

The circumstances of 19th century emigration often present problems of identifying individuals who may have arrived singly, or in impoverished circumstances and/or who relocated frequently in search of economic opportunities. Before the rapid industrial expansion caused by the Civil War, many Irish emigrants were employed as casual labor, farm labor or servants (gardeners, stablemen, drivers). Canals, shipping and railroads were large employers for these laborers.

As Roman Catholic parishes were founded and manufacturing firms hired Irish workers, stable families began to be listed in city directories and town vital records. "Chain migration," a desire to live near other emigrants from their home area and to attend Catholic religious services can add clues to the research process. Census records from 1850 onwards which list all family members provide a way to begin to distinguish families over time. Despite the fact that most Barbour indexes of town vital records end in the early 1850s, they do provide ready access to many of these earlier Irish arrivals. It is also clear from Barbour extracts that a number of Irish emigrants contracted marriages before civil officers and Protestant clergy.

Family relationships may need to be reconstructed using data from multiple sources. Look for every surviving fact relating to the immigrants and their extended families. Including wider family links may compensate for the inevitable missing or ambiguous facts. Neighbors, co-members in parish and fraternal organizations, marriage witnesses and baptismal sponsors may have migrated together and settled nearby. However, phonetic spelling, wildly estimated ages and numerous individuals of the same name can make this a difficult process.

Migration patterns in towns or neighborhoods in Connecticut cities may indicate origin from the same area in Ireland. Many Irish surnames are prevalent in certain portions of that nation. An analysis of surnames for the extended families in ones ancestry may help find at least the Irish county of origin, vital in conducting further ancestral research, which for many Irish Americans is to at least to locate the town or parish of origin of their emigrant ancestor.



Original records now available online and in microform are indispensable to today's genealogists. In each category below, access to records in these formats is noted. Many can be found in the Connecticut

State Library in Hartford (CSL) and in other libraries throughout the state. Most microforms are also available for nominal rental through the Family History Libraries (FHL) of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Location of these libraries in Connecticut and listing of the films for rental can be found at www.familysearch.com. Many other useful records are now available by subscription on www.Ancestry.com as noted below, and other online databases, some without charge.

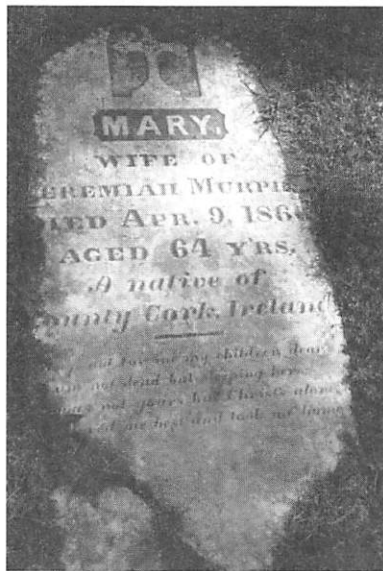
Information Sources

Vital Records are kept by towns and cities. These have been microfilmed by the FHL to about 1900 and are available in this format at the CSL. The Barbour Index to Connecticut vital records from colonial times to about 1850 has been published in separate volumes by town. More recently, the Ricker Compilation (Barbour Index with additions) has been published on a single CD. The State Department of Health (www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp) has also collected vital records from all towns since 1897. To assist in their access, a death index 1949-2001 and a marriage index 1959-2001 have been created. These are included in Ancestry.com. Access to the records is also available in person at the Hartford office or by mail.

City Directories can be useful in locating families in urban areas. In Connecticut the earliest editions date from 1838 through the 1880s, depending on the city. Death dates of adults are listed annually within the directories from the mid-1920s to the 1980s, which can assist in finding obituaries. Directories are available in the CSL and most libraries in the cities they cover, on microfilm through 1960 and the original books thereafter; selected years available via Ancestry.com.

Baptisms & Marriages include names of sponsors and witnesses. For access inquire at the parish and/or diocesan archives. The Roman Catholic archdiocese and two dioceses have informative websites. Town and city registers usually include all Protestant marriages. The name of the officiating minister may indicate which church or denomination may possess the original record.

Cemetery Records are found in Hale Collection of cemetery headstones, created in 1934 and available at the Connecticut State Library and on Family History Library microfilm. While



easy to use, only names and dates were copied, with a few exceptions. Other potentially useful facts such as place of birth in Ireland and family relationships were not included. Other and more recent compilations may be available in local libraries and historical societies or published online at sites such as www.findagrave.com. Many volunteer transcriptions of cemetery inscriptions have been posted at

www.rootsweb.com, as part of the GenWeb project, usually grouped by U.S. state and county. Some cemeteries and funeral homes have burial records, though many others have not survived. Some towns include burial registers among the vital record books, which may compensate for some missing cemetery burial records. [The photo shows the grave marker of Mary Murphy, who died in 1864 and showing that she was born in County Cork ... not an unusual notation on Irish graves.]

Federal Censuses from 1790 through 1930 have been microfilmed by the National Archives, and for 1880, 1900 and 1920 were indexed by the Soundex system. More recently they have been scanned online and every-name indexed by Ancestry.com. Connecticut residents have free access at www.iconn.org to scanned images and a partial index prepared by HeritageQuest.com. While easy to use, no index is perfect. If a name of interest is not found or similar names create ambiguity, some experts suggest consulting the older Soundex index (also microfilmed), whose creation entailed a careful transcription of each family name. The census bureau also prepared mortality schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880 – deaths of persons during the year preceding the census date.

Newspapers in Connecticut seldom mentioned Irish emigrants by name in early 19th century except for accidental deaths and legal offenses. Depending on the newspaper, obituaries and marriages for most persons began to be gradually included later in the 19th century. The Hartford Courant is full-text searchable on www.iconn.org through 1922; and though 1984 at the Connecticut State Library (Connecticut residents may obtain a state library card at the CSL which allows home access to the 1923-1984 Courant). Other daily newspapers are on microfilm at the Connecticut State Library and in local

libraries; check www.cslib.org/newspapers.htm for sources. Selected historical newspapers are increasingly being offered online by subscription, but so far coverage of later 19th century Connecticut papers is minimal. CSL also has on microfilm the monthly “Catholic Transcript,” in Hartford and Bridgeport editions (1898- present), which include many Irish-American obituaries.

Coroner’s reports are on microfilm at the CSL from July 1883 into the 1930s. Reports were made for untimely deaths. These may include accidents, murder and suicide or when the physician could not determine a cause of death.

Probate of wills, guardianships and adoptions was handled by the probate court system; the Connecticut State Library has on microfilm original probate papers (filed alphabetically by surname within each probate district) in two series, from Colonial times to 1881 and from 1881 to 1915 (the latter only for probate districts alphabetically from Ansonia through New Haven). Also at the library, included in films of town records, are probate record books in which the relevant documents were copied by the clerk, as they were filed. These generally include up to or past 1915, so can substitute for the actual documents not filmed as noted above. However, unlike the papers, which are bundled together, documents in the town records may be separated over a period of years, as each was recorded when filed. Each volume includes indexes by name of the decedent. All of the above were filmed by the FHL and are available through their libraries. While many Irish immigrants never used probate, it is worth checking these records since crucial information on family relationships may be included within the documents.

Tax records have survived in some towns, though they may be archived elsewhere. Check for these if the ancestor owned land, a house or a business.

Fraternal organizations, such as Ancient Order of Hibernians, Knights of Columbus, Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society or Catholic Foresters, may have surviving records listing members. Officers’ names were often printed in city directories in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Civil War records are now indexed at www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/index.html and at Ancestry.com. Locally, obituaries and cemetery headstones may indicate the regiment in which the soldier served. Surprisingly, many Connecticut Irish served in regiments from other states. Full records, including pension applications, can be obtained from the National Archives for a fee. Some of these are now available online with a subscription to www.footnote.com. Many libraries own histories of Connecticut regiments.

World War I Draft Records for men born between 1872 and 1900 are searchable at Ancestry.com. World War II draft cards

(for “older” men, b. 1877-1897) are available from the same source. Connecticut compiled a unique military preparedness survey in Feb. 1917. In 1940 Connecticut published a 3-volume roster of those who served in the war ... Service records: Connecticut men and women in the armed forces of the United States during World War I, 1917-1920. Publisher Hartford, CT, Office of the Adjutant General, State Armory. Home address, age and birthplace of each veteran are included, as well as details of subsequent service. Many libraries own these volumes. The National Archives website www.archives.gov includes much information on access to historic military records.

Notices Seeking Missing Family Members and Friends



were placed by Irish-Americans from 1831-1921 in the “Boston Pilot,” a Catholic newspaper distributed nationally.

Published as “The Search for Missing Friends” by the New England Historic Genealogical Society in eight volumes, it is offered online at the society’s website, by subscription. Some Connecticut libraries own the printed volumes, although online keyword searching is naturally easier. A free search of the same information, under the title “Information wanted, 1831-1921” is available from Boston College at www.infowanted.bc.edu.

Immigration – Lists of passengers entering the country from 1820 on were kept by order of the federal government. Virtually all surviving lists were microfilmed by the National Archives. Many Irish emigrants to Connecticut in the 19th century arrived via New York or Boston, although others came across the northern border, having sailed to Canada. Free searches include entries at Castle Garden, 1855-90, www.castlegarden.org; (may be incomplete) and for Ellis Island 1892-1924 at www.ellislandrecords.org. For Boston, Passenger manifests for 1848-1891 are online at the Massachusetts Archives. Lists of “Famine Irish” immigrants to New York (1846-1851) were extracted by the Balch Institute and published in multi-volume book form and are also available on a free database at www.archives.gov. A limitation here may be whether the Irish could be fully distinguished from other “British subjects” and whether all relevant vessels were included. Ancestry.com identifies their search parameter as U.S. Ports of Entry 1820-1957. However, before the federal government took charge of the processing in October, 1906, information for an immigrant arrival was often minimal. Without a clear knowledge of where and when an emigrant landed, identifying a particular individual may be difficult, especially if he or she traveled apart from an identifiable family group. (1900-1920 censuses indicate year of immigration, as given by the subject). Many of the above databases have been expertly indexed by www.stevemorse.org.

Naturalization – Papers were filed in state or local courts until Sept. 1906, when the federal process was instituted. An index of naturalization records in Connecticut from 1792-1939 is on microfilm at CSL, by surname via Soundex indexing. With the information from these index cards, copies of the original document(s) can be obtained from the National Archives branches in Massachusetts. Not all documents related to each applicant have survived and many have only basic information (i.e., name, age and date of citizenship). Federal censuses from 1900-1920 indicate naturalization status of foreign-born residents. Voter registration records would indicate naturalization dates for immigrants, based on their right to vote in a given year.

Selected Research Centers

Those that have Ancestry Library Edition are denoted by (a).

- * **Cyreneus A. Booth Library** – Newtown (a)
- * **Bridgeport Public Library** (a)
- * **Bristol Public Library**
- * **Cheshire Library** (a)
- * **Connecticut Ethnic Heritage Center**— [Irish Historical Society Collection] – New Haven
- * **Connecticut Society of Genealogists** - East Hartford (a)
- * **Connecticut State Library** - Hartford (a)
- * **Danbury Public Library** (a)
- * **Ferguson Library** - Stamford
- * **Godfrey Memorial Library** - Middletown (a)
- * **Greenwich Public Library** (a)
- * **Hamden Public Library** (a)
- * **Middletown Library** (a)
- * **New Canaan Public Library** (a)
- * **New Haven Free Public Library**
- * **Otis Library** - Norwich
- * **Pequot Library** - Fairfield (a)

Reference Sources

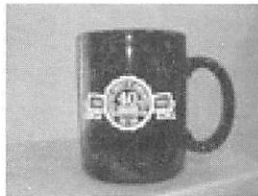
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Author



Paul R. Keroack is a native of Norwich and a resident of Stratford, Connecticut. He is a reference librarian at the Norwalk Public Library and has been an amateur genealogist for 25 years, specializing in Irish and French Canadian research. He is a member of both the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society and the French Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut and has frequently contributed articles to the publications of both organizations. He can be reached at pkeroack@sbcglobal.net.



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"Preservation of Modern Imaging Systems" with Just Black & White's Dave Mishkin

"Genealogy & Technology: An Old Hobby With a New Twist" with the Brookfield Historical Society's Jack Scully

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Put Your Genealogy Skills to Work for Your Class Reunion

by Don Naples CSG # 14420

I'm on the Reunion Committee for my high school class. We get together every five years to plan our reunion weekend activities. Our 50th reunion was coming up and we wanted to make a special effort to locate missing classmates and to pay tribute to those who had died since graduation.

I volunteered to research dates of death for people whose names were on a list of deceased classmates compiled over the years by one of my classmates. He gave me a copy of his complete roster of classmates. Our class was large – 585 graduated. The “Deceased List” had 75 names on it and another 110 or so were listed as “Address Unknown.” The Committee figured that some of these “missing” classmates could have died during the 50 years following our graduation.

I began by checking the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). I used our Class Yearbook to verify the spelling of the names. There are several websites that have links to SSDI data. Since I dislike paying for on-line information, I selected a free site that is frequently updated. A very good site in this regard is <http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/ssdi.cgi>, maintained by Ancestry.com. I quickly found nearly all of the male classmates on our deceased list and most of the females who were listed under their married names. Figure 1 shows the searchable parameters available for the SSDI, with my assumptions entered.

Figure 1. Social Security Data Index Search Form

The image shows a web form titled "Social Security Death Index". It contains several input fields and dropdown menus. The fields are: Surname (with an "Exact" dropdown), First Name, Middle Initial, SSN (with dashes in the second and third positions), Issued By (with "Connecticut" selected), Age at Death, Birth Date (Year: 1938, +/- 2 yrs dropdown; Month: Any; Day: Any), Death Date (with an "Exact" dropdown), Last Residence (City, County, State, Zip), and Last Benefit. At the bottom are "Submit" and "Reset" buttons.

I couldn't find death dates for two of the males on the Deceased List, one of whom was a high school friend of mine named Ron who was listed as dying in 1990. I had last talked with him in the 1970s, when he was looking for Civil War cannons in New Hampshire lakes. He had an uncommon last name, so I “Googled” him (at www.google.com) and found a number of references to a historian by that name in Maine.

The next thing I did was to go to www.zabasearch.com and search for my classmate in Maine. Zabasearch.com is a useful site because it reproduces names, addresses and phone numbers from public records in the U.S. Unlike other resources, it also lists month and year of birth when known. Searches may be nationwide or limited to a single state. As in genealogy searches, another person with the same surname and proximate year of birth could be a spouse or sibling of my classmate. This is especially handy for people with unusual surnames because a national search often lists relatives of the person I'm looking for. (It helps to have unlimited long-distance telephone service!) Zabasearch.com offers additional information – such as criminal reports, background check, address history and current contact information – for a fee, but I only use the free service. Figure 2 shows the format and content of a typical Zabasearch data entry:

Figure 2. Sample Zabasearch Data

<p>JOHNATHAN DOE Born Aug 1938 175 MAPLE STREET Recorded 04/ 01/ 2007 E. HARTFORD, CT 06118 (860) 555-6789</p>
--

Zabasearch.com usually provides the date the entry was recorded. This is helpful in determining the latest known address of the missing classmate. My “deceased” friend had two addresses in Maine. I called one of the telephone numbers and got no answer. Calling the other number triggered an answering machine greeting recorded by a woman. I left my name with a message for Ron to call me at his convenience. The next day he called and learned that he had been dead for 15 years. I found my other “dead” classmate by the same method, alive and well in Colorado.

Looking for missing classmates was a bit more difficult, because I didn’t know where they lived and was unaware of the married names for many of the females on the list. I started with SSDI searches to see if they had died. I could limit the search results for people with common names by choosing an approximate birth year (the same as mine) and by guessing that their Social Security cards were issued in Connecticut. Surprisingly, I did not find any of my missing classmates listed in the SSDI.

Next I logged onto www.classmates.com, one of the more popular school reunion websites. There I found about 50 of my New Britain High School classmates. The nice thing about this site is it lists both the maiden name and current married name of the women. For members who pay a small annual fee it also provides a map to their location. While it does not provide addresses or phone numbers of classmates, zooming in on the map shows the state and often the town they live in. With that information I can log onto Zabasearch.com to look for them. One can also send an e-mail message to a listed classmate via the Classmates.com website. This is passed through the website anonymously and is often a dead end because the classmate must log onto Classmates.com and go to the Message Center to learn about any incoming mail. A more promising source of information is the Announcements feature, where I’ve posted a list of “missing” classmates.

Another resource for genealogists is the Town Clerk’s office of the place where the high school is (or was) located. Armed with my blue membership card from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, I was able to look up birth dates for several classmates and the get names of their siblings. I also looked up marriage records (and found married names) for some of the females in my class who got married in that town. This gave me more leads to refine SSDI and Zabasearch.com searches.

Armed with my blue membership card from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, I was able to look up birth dates for several classmates and the get names of their siblings.

While writing this article I noticed that Zabasearch.com now offers searches on Yellow Pages, White Pages, Public Records, and Google, in addition to its own Zabasearch.com. I entered my own name and state, then clicked on “White Pages”. It turns out to be a link to www.addresses.com (not to be confused with another site called www.address.com). While Addresses.com does not provide birth-year information, it does link to a public records pay site that produces a no-cost list (with ages) of people with names matching the name of the person searched, as well as previous cities lived in and the names of everyone with the same surname associated with the address of the person searched. This is really valuable in helping to find the right Robert Jones or John Smith.

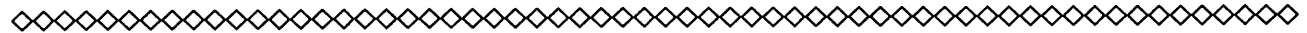
In a few minutes I was able to locate a classmate who had disappeared for 50 years with no phone and no address. Although his name produced no Zabasearch.com result, he had two public records in Missoula, Montana and his parents’ death notices showed up in a Google search. Since his mother had died less than five years ago, her name and address were still listed in the Zabasearch.com database. Being curious, I tried clicking on “More info available for a fee” to skip the White Pages search. That links directly to the same pay site as the White Pages, provides the same information plus the number and type of records available for the person in the selected Zabasearch.com listing, plus buttons to click on to purchase various reports for \$49.95 each. Unless there is a legal proceeding involved, there is nothing to be gained from purchasing a detailed report.

Our 50th reunion has come and gone. At least nine of my classmates have died in the two years since that celebration, including the man who had maintained our class database for more than 40 years. By default, I have become our class record-keeper. The word is getting around and my classmates are sending me tracking information via e-mail and telephone messages. My goal is to account for every person in my high school class. I still have a long way to go, but it’s comforting to know that my genealogy experience is a big help in this endeavor.

ANNOUNCING THE 22ND ANNUAL LITERARY AWARDS AND FLEDGLING ESSAY CONTESTS SPONSORED BY THE CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

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QUERIES

There is a limit of three Queries members may submit per issue. Mail to: CSG Queries Editor, PO Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Lucinda **BONNEY** b NJ 28Aug1792 d ca1860 m ca1812 Joseph **BENNETT** b Brattleboro or Bennington VT 7/11Sep1788 d ca 1860. lived in 1860 Tiffin TWP Defiance Co. OH had many ch. Need names dates & places of par of Joseph and Lucinda.

Interested in desc of **BLOOD BONNEY GIBBS & WHITING** families.

*CSG # 571 Richard W. Bonney
373 High Rock St
Needham MA 02492-1539*

Rosalie **GENET** b New York 1846 m East Cambridge MA Joseph **DARSONVILLE** b Paris France 4Jan1841 had 6 ch: Gussie, May, Emma, Eugene, Rosalie and Ida. Need ddt and dpl for Rosalie.

*CSG # 04392 Donald Guenther
1115 Waterbury Rd
Cheshire CT 06410*

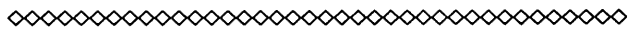
Diodate **JONES** Sr b ca1769 d Colchester CT 23Mar1849 m East Haddam CT Mary **SMITH** d Thomas Jr and Mary (**GREEN**) b East Haddam CT 16Jan1767 d East Haddam, CT 4Mar1813. Need par bdt and bpl for Diodate.

*Judith L Cardinal
CSG # 17415
5049 San Simeon Dr
Santa Barbara CA 93111*

Deborah **MEACHAM** d of Samuel & Bethia (**PEASE**) **MEACHAM** b Norwich CT 10Apr1746 m Stonington CT 25Nov1761 Ezekiel **MAIN**. Want ddt dpl of Deborah.

Polly/Mary **MAIN** d of Ezekiel & Deborah (**MEACHAM**) **MAIN** d McCordsville IN 23Oct1863. Want bdt bpl & info on par.

*CSG # 19433 Judy Taylor
328 Cambridge Street
Brush CO 80723
Hbtaylor03@msn.com*



BOOK REVIEWS

by David M. Brunelle & Gregory E. Thompson

FINDING YOUR IRISH ANCSTORS, A Beginners Guide, by David S. Ouimette. 180 pages, Indexed, Illustrated, 8 1/2 x 11, Softcover. ISBN 1-59331-293-8, 2005. Provo, UT 84604 or online at Ancestry.com. Cost \$14.99 plus \$6.19 shipping and \$1.90 tax.

This well written book contains many examples and illustrations of the resources available to your in your quest for your Irish Ancestry. The glossary in this book is very helpful to the beginning researcher to understand the meaning of many Irish terms. This volume is divided into four main sections: Getting Started, Major Records, Other Records and Where to Research.

Getting Started includes the basic concept of genealogical research, starting at home with your relatives, becoming familiar with Irish Records in America, Canada, England and Australia and then expanding to knowledge of Irish History and Geography, the origin and local use of family and given names and the custom of naming children.

The section on Major Records will guide you to the resources that are available for Irish birth, marriage and death certificates, census and census substitutes, land and property records (including the Tithe Appointment book, Griffiths Valuation, canceled and current land books.

The Other Resources section includes where and how to research gravestones inscriptions, newspapers, commercial an social directories, wills and administrations, national school registers and occupational records.

The final section includes the address or website of libraries, history centers and archives to research before and during your visit to Ireland.

Researchers that have always wanted to trace their Irish roots but were overwhelmed with the task can finally begin with this extremely helpful beginners guide. **DMB**

THE ROYAL DESCENTS OF 600 IMMIGRANTS to the American Colonies or the United States by Gary Boyd Roberts, 910 pages, Hardcover, Indexed, ISBN 978-0-8063-1786-1 2004 with 2008 Addendum, Coda and Final Addition. Published by the Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. Order from the Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 206, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953. GPC#4963. Cost \$75.00 plus \$5.00 P&H or \$7.00 UPS Ground Service, Maryland & Michigan residents add 6% sales tax.

This comprehensive scholarly work outlines the descent of 650 immigrants and includes the addition of 35 new immigrants since the last printing. This book contains a helpful table of contents and an introduction with nine appendices that lists immigrants and royal figures in specialized categories including 300 historical figures, immigrants where royal descent is much altered since RD 500, immigrants with caveats and others. Both the 650 Immigrant Index and the Appendices list the last page of the immigrant's descent information. This information takes the researcher back many generations. This well researched volume is an extremely useful resource for the family genealogist or anyone interested in historical research. **DMB**

Reviews of the 2008 Literary Awards Contest Entries

DESCENDANTS OF MATTHEW WHIPPLE OF IPSWICH, MA. 15 GENERATIONS OF WHIPPLES, compiled by Blaine Whipple, 1834 SW 58th Street, Suite 105, Portland, OR. 97221-1455, 4 Hardcover Volumes, 2007. \$200.00 plus shipping. Self published through Gateway Press, Baltimore, MD.

This incredible publication in 4 volumes is thoroughly researched and documented and a must for Whipple researchers. Mr Whipple spend many years compiling this fabulous resource of an early Massachusetts family.

Volume I, contains background information on Matthew Whipple and provides much biographical information.

Volume 2 and 3, contain the genealogical collections of descendants containing thousands of descendants, well documented and full of biographical information.

Volume III, contains the Index and an extensive bibliography of the family. Mr Whipple spend over 50 years compiling this information and the detail and expert documentation of this work makes it a first class publication. **GET**

MY GENEALOGY, by Margaret Hamilton Hoak, self published by author, and not for sale.

The writers discovery of her family begins with John Bailey, who sailed to American in the Winthrop Fleet in the ship Angel Gabriel in 1635. Various family lines are listed in her manuscript to give a rounded view of her ancestry, including the pension record of a revolutionary War Patriot she is very proud of. **GET**

SURVEY OF OLD TAFTVILLE CEMETERY, compiled by Jennifer Soltis, and Simsbury Historical Society, Inc. Softcover, 69 pages, 8 ½ by 11. Purchase from Simsbury Historical Society, \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.

This excellent resource includes section and row, name, date of birth (when available) age, relationship, and a section with additional details on various remarks. Includes pictures, a map, and other useful information. For those collecting cemetery records, this is a must to add to your collection, especially if you have Simsbury, CT roots. **GET**

CITIZENS OF FORT FAIRFIELD, MAINE. By Linda J. Zapatha, 8 ½ by 11, Softcover, 306 pages. Purchase from author, 47 Belanger Rd, Caribou, ME. \$45.00 plus \$8.50 shipping and handling.

This book covers families and individuals from 1850 to 1904, of Fort Fairfield, ME. Including census, some birth dates, marriage dates, female surnames, home addresses, occupation, death dates and detailed cemetery information. Comprehensive in scope, this book is a wonderful source of information for those with Fort Fairfield, ME roots. **GET**

THE ROCKWELL FAMILY IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY, CT, compiled by Kenneth W. Rockwell, 8 ½ x 11, Hardcover, DMT Publishing Co, 900 N. 400 West, North Salt Lake City, UT. 524 pages, \$40.00 plus shipping and handling.

This book give background and historical information on the Rockwell family of Fairfield Co, Ct and England. It discusses the hometown of Fitzhead, in England and

BOOK REVIEWS (cont)

covers some descendants to the sixth generation. Very well researched with sources, if you are a Rockwell family member and have roots in Ct. This is the book for you. **GET**

BOUND FOR MUNSUNGUN, 8 ½ by 11, paperback, by Jack Ahern. Published by Pear Tree publishing, www.PearTreepublishing.net.

This interesting narrative and history of the early sporting camps of North Maine, is informative and contains many stories from Mr. Ahern's extensive knowledge of these camps and his ability to get those who knew the history to open up to him and discuss information with him. The book contains pictures, and other documents to make the publication quite attractive. **GET**

FOOTPRINTS ACROSS CONNECTICUT FROM SIMSBURY 1930 CENSUS



Jean E. Perreault

During April of 1930, at the very onset of the Great Depression, 3624 men, women and children living in Simsbury, Connecticut were enumerated in the decennial U.S. Federal Census. Now 77 years later, the lives of most of these individuals have ended, but each of their personal histories lives on through public records that reveal their origins, their military service, their occupations, their families and their eventual demise. Vital statistics, prior census records, town directories, newspaper articles and obituaries are but a few of the many sources which serve to document the lives led by these early 20th century Simsbury residents. (Softcover ISBN 0-7414-4157-98).

Winner of CSG's 2008 Literary Awards Contest for best Genealogical Research Publication!

See book review in the Summer issue of Connecticut Genealogy News by Gregory E. Thompson!

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CONNECTICUT GENEALOGY NEWS

A Publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

Winter 2008

Vol.1, No.4

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NERGC

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*English in
Connecticut*



Gerson Fox of Bavaria, Founder of G. Fox & Company, Oil
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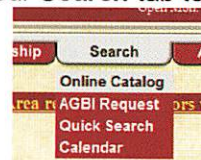


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President's Message



Writing a President's Message every few months is a difficult thing to do, because I don't wish to appear to be telling members "what to do." Having said that, I'll proceed with telling you what to do! Very simply, please get involved. Hopefully it will be with CSG in some way, but for our out-of-New England members, for whom it is not practical to be on committees or attend programs,

please understand that we hope you'll be involved in some genealogical purpose within your own community or area.

Attending programs or conferences, helps to increase our own knowledge base, at the same time providing the opportunity to share our snips of experience with those who are just starting out in genealogy. Getting back to CSG, we all know that funding is necessary to the support of your Society, but our donation of time and expertise is, on occasion, as valuable in the long run as a written check for the moment. You will be hearing about financial concerns from our Treasurer; meanwhile, your Board is hard at work, with monthly meetings, in-house and via Email, to handle the work of your Society.

Each of our fifteen Board members brings his or her own special experiences to the table. They, along with the several committees they head, give an inordinate amount of quality time in the prudent management of our full operation. If you should be interested in offering your services as a board or committee member, please be mindful that we need you. Responsibilities and tasks of each of the committees will be outlined in successive issues of this Magazine.

While reading these descriptions, please remember that each CSG member can be helpful by contributing at least one idea that may smooth the work of committee members, whether such idea came from your local church or hobby club. If you hear of a good genealogical speaker in your locale, please report the contact information to our office. This Message continues to stress that magical word "participation," and I thank you sincerely for yours.

Janet Horton Wallace, President

Editorial

We are very proud and pleased that our long-time member, Dan Lynch, has published what may become the best selling guide to using the Internet for genealogy ever written. For years Dan's seminar presentations have been enthusiastically received. The usual response of attendees has been, "You should write a book" ... and now he has ... ***"GOOGLE YOUR FAMILY TREE, Unlock the Hidden Power of Google.***

I was an early reviewer of this book and it has become my companion to lead me through the maze of the Internet. If you want to know why I am so enthusiastic about this book, read the review in this issue. We aren't neutral about the value of this book ... CSG is selling it. Buy it ... you won't be disappointed.

We continue our focus on the major ethnic groups represented in Connecticut and the current issue features "Germans in Connecticut." German is the fourth largest single ethnic group in the state. We are proud to present a major article in this issue on "Researching German Ancestry," by Nancy Lister, who has been a very popular speaker and authority on this topic.

We are also pleased to present an article by Cynthia Harbeson, on the G. Fox & Co. Collection of the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS). In addition CHS has graciously made available many of the illustrations contained in this issue, including the oil painting of Gerson Fox featured on the cover.

Richard G. Tomlinson, Editor

Calendar of Events

February 21, 2009: PANEL OF EXPERTS with Greg Thompson, Edwin Strickland II, Tom Howard, Olivia Patch, Jim Leatherbee II, CSG Library, 178 Maple St., East Hartford, CT, 1:30 p.m. Bring your questions on genealogy and tracing your ancestry. This event is open to the public and is free of charge. Donations gratefully accepted.

March 21, 2009: QUILTS AND FAMILY HISTORY, **Carla Bue**, South End Senior Center, 70 Canterbury Street, East Hartford, CT, at 1:30 p.m. FREE, but donations gratefully accepted. Open to the public.

April 18, 2009: RESEARCHING AT THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Judith Johnson and Elizabeth Abbe, Connecticut Historical Society and Museum, One Elizabeth St., Hartford, CT, FREE of charge, donations gratefully accepted. Advance reservations are required. Open to the public.

April 22-26, 2009: TENTH NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL CONFERENCE, Expo Center of New Hampshire and Radisson Hotel, Manchester, New Hampshire. See page 18 for details.

May 16, 2009: CSG ANNUAL MEETING, with Irene Lambert, "DISCOVERING THE PERSONALITY TRAITS OF YOUR ANCESTORS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF GRAPHOANALYSIS, Presentation of Literary Awards, Election of new officers/governors Hawthorne Inn, Berlin CT. Time: 9:00 a.m. Annual Business Meeting/Literary Awards Presentations. 1:15 p.m. for program. Cost is: \$39.50 (no discount applies) and includes lunch. Speaker only fee is \$20.00. PLEASE No

walk-ins. Advance reservations required. Meal choices are: Roast Loin of Pork, Chicken Marsala or Salmon w/ Citrus Butter (Vegetarian Lasagna available upon request). This event is open to the public.

**For reservations or more information,
please contact the CSG Office 860-569-0002.**

CSG NEWS

Hog River Journal Partnership

We are pleased to announce that the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. has become an "Organizational Partner" with the Hog River Journal, a quarterly magazine published by the Hartford Public Library. CSG joins fifteen other partners, representing some of the most important historic, cultural and educational organizations in Connecticut.

The Hog River Journal links readers back to Connecticut's past innovators, reformers, artists, and just plain folk; to epic events and private moments; to major monuments and objects of everyday life. Each issue offers an illuminating photo essay, oral histories, stunning museum objects, must-see destinations, plus four in-depth feature stories. The river for which the journal is named was originally called the "Little River" in Colonial Times and later called the "Park River." It was buried in twin concrete conduits under the city in the early 1940s. HRJ has announced that it is considering adoption of a new name.

One of the benefits to CSG members from our partnership is the eligibility for discounted subscription to HRJ. See the web site at www.hogriver.org for a subscription application and indicate that you are a CSG member.

JOINT SECRET PROJECT

We are excited about a secret joint project that we have entered into with a major genealogical society. The result of this project will be to bring a great deal of valuable CSG material on line in searchable, digital form. Watch for a detailed announcement in 2009 and watch our web site at www.csginc.org for this new resource.

Acknowledgements

THE CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CHS)
As noted, this issue of the magazine owes much to The Connecticut Historical Society for its help in providing material. CHS has a terrific library that is largely underutilized by genealogists. The Research Center at the Connecticut Historical Society at One Elizabeth St. in Hartford is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from noon until 5pm and from 9am to 5pm on Saturdays. There is a small admission fee for non-members. For more

information about the Connecticut Historical Society, visit www.chs.org.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Nancy Lister, the author of "Reserching German Ancestry," is a genealogist who has retired from teaching Latin and German at Rockville High School. She began her family history search in Cleveland, Ohio while in high school and since then has located her families' backgrounds in Germany and the German family information for many others in the U.S. and in Germany. She has spoken several times in Connecticut on the subject of research for German ancestors. She holds a B.A. from Ohio Wesleyan, an M.A. in Latin Literature and Classical Civilization from Trinity College in Hartford and is a candidate for the PhD degree in Roman Provincial Archaeology from the University of Passau in Germany.

Cynthia Harbeson, the author of "From Account Books to Wedding Dresses: The G. Fox & Co. Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society," is the reference librarian and assistant archivist. Since 2007, she has been working on a grant-funded project to catalog the G. Fox & Co. related materials in the CHS collections. She can be reached at CHS.

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GERMANS BY THE NUMBERS

by Richard G. Tomlinson, CSG # 55L

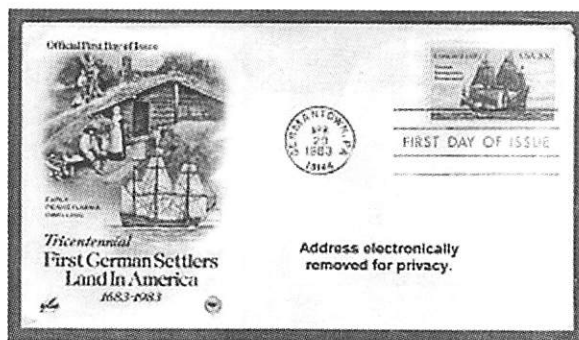
Persons with German ancestry comprise the largest single ethnic block (23%) in America. Connecticut was not the most popular destination for German immigrants, who were more likely to head for Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the Midwest. Nevertheless, in the make-up of Connecticut's population today, people with German ancestry comprise the fourth largest group (10.1%); outranked only by the Italians (19.2%), Irish (18.1%) and English (10.8%).

When Did They Come?

The 17th Century

Germans have been represented in small numbers among the earliest settlers of America. There were at least eight among the settlers of Jamestown in 1608. One difficulty in enumerating German immigrants is the fact that Germany did not exist as a distinct, unified country until well into the 19th century. Therefore, immigrants from German-speaking territories would describe themselves in terms of their locality or principality, e.g. Palatines, Hessians, Badeners, etc. In addition, the shifting of boundaries over the years sometimes makes it difficult to determine whether an immigrant were from "Germany."

In 1683 significant German immigration to America began. In October of that year the ship, Concord, arrived in Philadelphia with thirteen German families from Krefeld. These mainly Quaker and Mennonite settlers founded Germantown, Pennsylvania. In 1983 a Special Presidential Commission presented a report on "Three Hundred Years of German Immigration to America, 1683-1983," and President Reagan authorized the issuance of a Tricentennial commemorative stamp featuring the landing of the Concord.



The 18th Century

In 1709 the Palatine immigration began. In addition to other problems, the winter of 1708/9 was extremely severe. It was called "the year the birds froze in the air." That spring a mass emigration began of people from this region along the Rhine and Naab Rivers. So many arrived in America over the next few years that sometimes any German immigrant was called a "Palatine."

During the Revolutionary War, the British brought 30,000 Hessian troops to America. Several thousand of these eventually settled here. (See *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, vol. 41, No. 1, June 08, "Study of a Hessian Soldier," Robert Webler.)

In 1790, the first U.S. Census found a significant German population. Pennsylvania alone counted 225,000 Germans, nearly one third of its population.

The 19th Century

The nineteenth century saw wave after wave of immigrants coming from Germany. During most of this period, more Germans arrived every year than from any other country. By the end of the century, more than five million had settled in America. Table I shows the number of German immigrants per year from 1821 to 1900.

Table I: German Immigration to the U.S. – 1821 to 1900

Year	Immigrants	Year	Immigrants	Year	Immigrants	Year	Immigrants
1821	183	1841	15,329	1861	31,681	1881	210,486
1822	148	1842	20,370	1862	27,529	1882	250,630
1823	183	1843	14,441	1863	33,162	1883	194,786
1824	230	1844	20,731	1864	57,276	1884	179,676
1825	450	1845	34,355	1865	83,424	1885	124,443
1826	511	1846	57,561	1866	115,389	1886	84,403
1827	432	1847	74,281	1867	133,426	1887	106,875
1828	1,851	1848	58,465	1868	55,831	1888	109,717
1829	597	1849	60,235	1869	131,042	1889	99,538
1830	1,976	1850	78,896	1870	118,225	1890	92,427
1831	2,413	1851	72,482	1871	82,554	1891	113,554
1832	10,194	1852	145,918	1872	141,109	1892	130,758
1833	6,988	1853	141,946	1873	149,671	1893	96,361
1834	17,686	1854	215,009	1874	87,291	1894	50,386
1835	8,311	1855	71,918	1875	47,769	1895	36,351
1836	20,707	1856	71,028	1876	31,937	1896	31,885
1837	28,740	1857	91,781	1877	29,298	1897	22,633
1838	11,683	1858	45,310	1878	29,313	1898	17,111
1839	21,028	1859	41,784	1879	34,602	1899	17,476
1840	29,704	1860	54,493	1880	84,638	1900	100,135
Totals	164,015		1,386,333		1,505,167		2,069,631
	Grand Total						5,125,146

Source: Federal Statistical Abstracts

In the decades of 1830 – 1840, the industrial revolution reduced the opportunities for cottage industries such as home-spun cloth. This caused many Germans to seek economic opportunity in America. More than half came as “redemptioners,” having their passage paid in exchange for a period of servitude. Other factors prompting emigration were the forced unification of the Lutheran and Reformed churches and several crop failures.

The rise of resistance to dictatorial monarchies in Europe following the French Revolution produced a failed revolution in Germany in 1848. Many intellectuals and well-educated liberals fled to America over the next few years. These “Forty-Eighters” headed particularly to the Midwest and put a permanent stamp on the politics of states like Minnesota. This wave of immigration peaked at 215,000 in 1854.

Immigration then slowed due to a recession in Germany and slowed again with the start of the American Civil War. After the Civil War another large wave of immigration began, fueled by many factors, including “pull” from the established German community in the U.S. and “push” from the lack of opportunity and freedom at home. Otto von Bismarck established a unified Germany in 1870. A power struggle between Bismarck and the Catholic church caused many Catholics to leave for America.

Emigration from the German Empire slowed dramatically from 1873 to 1879 and then resumed stronger than ever. In the peak year, 1882, 250,000 Germans reached America. Emigration remained strong until the mid-1890s when the German economy grew more robust.

Germans in CT



German Population Density – 1872 (Source: Wikipedia)

As noted, most German immigrants did not target Connecticut. However, as seen in the accompanying map, by 1872 the German enclaves in the Hudson valley extended into western Connecticut.

Germans coming to Connecticut were predominantly craftsmen and entrepreneurs rather than farmers or laborers. In New Haven several German breweries opened (see CT Heritage Gateway, www.ctheritage.org). In Hartford, Germans were skilled workers, blacksmiths and merchants.

Bavarian Jews founded Congregation Mishkan Israel in New Haven in 1840 and Beth Israel in Hartford in 1843. The first German Roman Catholic Church in New Haven was organized in 1858; followed by a German Lutheran Church in 1865 and Baptist in 1868.

By 1860 over 8,000 German immigrants lived in Connecticut. Samuel Colt imported machinists from Germany to work in his Firearms factory. He also brought most of workers in a small village near Potsdam to set up a furniture manufacturing operation that utilized the willow trees surrounding his factory. The Cheney Mills in Manchester purchased looms from Germany and brought over weavers and maintenance workers to tend them.

Several German language newspapers were established in Connecticut, beginning with *Hartford Zeitung* in 1858. In all, 30 German newspapers were published in CT in the last half of the 19th century.

Table II German Language Newspapers Published in Connecticut

CITY	TITLE	DATES OF EXISTENCE
BRIDGEPORT	Bridgeport Zeitung	23 May 1877 to 10 April 1878
HARTFORD	Connecticuter Zeitung	Ceased 1863 (Hartford & Boston)
HARTFORD	Hartforder Anzeiger	1877 to 1878
HARTFORD	Der Hartforder Herold (Ed. of England Staaten Zeitung)	1907 1883 - 1885
HARTFORD	Hartforder Zeitung	April 1859 to ?
HARTFORD	Der Hartforder Stadt=Press	1881 to ?
NEW HAVEN	Connecticut Beobacher	ca. 1865 to 1871
NEW HAVEN	Connecticut Freie-Press	ca. 1875 o 1907
NEW HAVEN	Connecticut Republikaner	1867 to 1901
NEW HAVEN	New England Anzeiger	ca 1876 to 1884
NEW HAVEN	New Haven Anzeiger	ca 1891 to 1910
WATERBURY	Waterbuty Beobacher/Waterbury Observer	ca. 1898 to 1917
WESTPORT	Westporter Herald	1898 to 1951

Source: CSL Website. Originally prepared by the Connecticut Newspaper Project, Connecticut State Library, Nov. 1996. Revised by the History and Genealogy Unit, Nov. 2000.

Persons of German Ancestry in Connecticut - 2007

According to the 2007 American Community Service Survey, approximately 362,000 persons in Connecticut claimed German ancestry. This amounted to 10% of the State's population. Table IV shows the German population as a function of county. Across the State, almost all counties have a fairly uniform percentage of their population with German ancestry (the exception is Litchfield County). Therefore, the most Germans live in the counties with the largest populations; Fairfield, New Haven and Hartford in Southwestern and Central CT.

Table III: German Ancestry By CT County (ACS 2007)

County	Germans	% Total	Total Pop	% German
Fairfield	95,859	26%	900,440	11%
New Haven	79,173	22%	845,244	9%
Hartford	74,707	21%	876,927	9%
New London	32,248	9%	263,293	12%
Litchfield	30,060	8%	190,119	16%
Middlesex	19,453	5%	163,774	12%
Tolland	17,789	5%	148,140	12%
Windham	13,222	4%	116,872	11%
	362,511	100%	3,504,809	10%

Table IV: German Ancestry In CT's Largest Cities (ACS 2007)

City	County	Germans	Total Pop	% German
Stamford	Fairfield	9,903	118,029	8%
Danbury	Fairfield	7,642	78,155	10%
New Haven	New Haven	6,022	127,288	5%
Norwalk	Fairfield	5,839	78,141	7%
Waterbury	New Haven	4,045	104,341	4%
New Britain	Hartford	3,711	71,432	5%
Bridgeport	Fairfield	3,179	136,282	2%
Hartford	Hartford	2,189	119,977	2%
		42,530	833,645	5%

The German population is not heavily concentrated in the major cities. As shown in Table IV, only 42,530 out of the 362,511 or 12% live in the eight major cities of CT. Furthermore, in those cities they are greatly outnumbered by other ethnic groups and typically do not constitute much more than 5% of the city's population. Only Danbury reaches 10%. Therefore, in contrast to the Italians and Irish, there is no Connecticut City with a dominant German flavor.

Researching German Ancestry

by Nancy Lister, CSG # 2777

Introduction

Is your name Bower, Snyder, White, Zimmer, Smith, Fox or Wild? Do you assume that your name originated in England? Are you aware that many of these names were German? Or were names changed from German so that your family was acceptable in the United States? Do you know that your family may have been part of a huge immigration from Germany in the middle to the end of the nineteenth century?

Concerns in Tracing Your German Origins

When you or your ancestors say they were German, does that mean they came from modern Germany or from some German speaking land. When you read in the US 1860 census that your ancestor came from the Rhineland, you need to understand that could have been Germany or France, possibly Belgium or the Netherlands. German speaking people came from what is today Belgium, Luxemburg, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, the remains of the Holy Roman Empire and peoples of the former Soviet Union and other parts of Europe. These facts have significant impact on family research for the Germans. Not only did family names change so did place names. For example, the town Neuren at the edge of Germany in 1910 is now Nyrska and is a part of the Czech Republic

When you undertake the process of finding your German ancestors, you need to be content with a starting point of approximately 1650, the end of the Thirty Years War. That war so devastated the middle of Europe as roving armies traveled back and forth, destroying villages, cities, crops and the countryside to such an extent that most record keeping was lost and many people were dislocated. It is estimated that one third of the population of what was Germany, about 7,000,000 people, died or were killed.

German Names

Consider the issues of names. Try all the alternative forms for your ancestor's name. In George F. Jones' book, *German Names* 2nd Edition, my ancestor, Jakob Burkhardt, spelled B U R K H A R D T, could also be found under Burgard, Burgarts, Burkhard, Burhard, Burhart, Burkart, Burckhart, Berghart and a variety of other spellings, and his first name JAKOB or JACOB. I know, however, that because he lived near the French/German border, he also used the name Jacques Bouregard and spoke French and German. In early German his name is also Burcardius, from the Latin. In the German language until the 1870's there was a feminine form of the last name so the name Ertel for the man became Ertelin for a woman.

About 50% of all German men had the name Johann or Jakob with a middle name that frequently became the name by which he was called. (a *Rufname*). So Johann M. could be Johann Michel, or just Michel and Jacob W. could be Jakob Wilhelm or just Wilhelm.

We have found also that about 50% of all German women were named Anna or Maria. Thus my great-grandmother was Anna Barbara, called Barbara, her mother was Anna Marguerithe, as was her sister and so on.

Perhaps you know that your family is German but their name is Farmer. It may very well be that your ancestor, somewhere along the line, fearing discrimination, changed his from *Bauer* (farmer in German)

German Geography

Because of the many boundary changes of the German-speaking peoples, it is important not only to identify the locality in which your ancestor resided, but also to know the name of the political entity where that town is now located. The name of the town may no longer exist on official maps of Germany and may not be recognized officially as any kind of corporate political entity or it may exist only as a *Stadteil*, part of a larger city. In the late 1960's Germany incorporated many small towns at the edges of cities into the city itself. For example, the town of Rottenbauer that was a village of 800 separate from Wurzburg when my great-grandmother left there in 1872. Today it is a *Stadteil*, a section of the city of Wurzburg but it is not shown on a usual map of Germany.

When you find records for your ancestors that specify a German state or area for their home, you may find that that area no longer exists on a modern map. After the Franco-Prussian war (1871), many former states were amalgamated into larger

states; likewise after the Second World War former states were again assumed into larger states. This process happened again after unification in 1991. It will be helpful for you to find your ancestors' historical state and then to find the former capital of the original state. It is most likely that your ancestors' files are in that city's archives.

Here are the states (*Land, state, plural, Länder*) of modern Germany (Germany since 1991) and the historical kingdoms, duchies and divisions of Germany. The city-states of Berlin, Hamburg and Bremen contain no additional internal territories. Some territories are no longer part of Germany. Most of East Prussia (*Ostpreussen*) and *Silesia (Schlesien)* and part of Pomerania (*Pommern*) are now in Poland. Similarly Alsace (*Elsass*) and Lorraine (*Lothringen*) are in France.

The States of Germany

State, Capital, Regions

Berlin, capital Berlin

Bremen, capital Bremen

Hamburg, capital Hamburg

Baden-Württemberg; capital Stuttgart

Grand Duchy of Baden, Principality of Hohenzollern, Kingdom of Württemberg.

Bavaria (Bayern); capital Munich

Kingdom of Bavaria (excluding Rheinpfalz), Duchy of Sachsen-Coburg.

Brandenburg; capital Potsdam

Western portion of the Prussian Province of Brandenburg.

Hesse: capital Wiesbaden

Free City of Frankfurt am Main, Grand Duchy of Hessen-Darmstadt (less the province of Rheinhessen), part of the Landgraviate Hessen-Homburg, Electorate of Hessen-Kassel, Duchy of Nassau, District of Wetzlar (part of the former Prussian Rheinprovince), Principality of Waldeck.

Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen); capital Hannover

Duchy of Braunschweig, Kingdom of Prussia, Province of Hannover, Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Principality of Schaumburg-Lippe.

Mecklenburg-Vorpommern; capital Schwerin

Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (less the principality of Ratzeburg), west portion of the Prussian province of Pomerania.

North Rhine-Westphalia (Nord Rhein Westfalen); capital Dusseldorf

Prussian province of Westfalen, northern portion of Prussian Rheinprovince, Principality of Lippe-Detmold.

Rheinland-Palatinate (Rheinland Pfalz); capital Mainz

Part of the Principality of Birkenfeld, Province of Rheinhesse, part of the Landgraviate of Hessen-Homburg, most of the Bavarian Rheinpfalz, part of the Prussian Rheinprovince

Saarland; capital Saarbrücken

Part of Bavarian Rheinpfalz, part of the Prussian Rhein province, part of the principality of Birkenfeld

Sachsen-Anhalt; capital Magdeburg

Former Duchy of Anhalt, Prussian province of Sachsen.

Saxony (Sachsen); capital Dresden

Kingdom of Sachsen, part of the Prussian province of Silesia

Schleswig-Holstein; capital Kiel

Former Prussian province of Schleswig-Holstein, Free City of Lübeck, Principality of Roseburg

Thuringia (Thüringen); capital Erfurt

Duchies and Principalities of Thuringen, part of the Prussian province of Sachsen



Germans In Connecticut

Why, then did the Germans come to Connecticut? Mostly they came for economic opportunities as in the example of Rockville, where Germans began building homes in the 1850's for the families that seem to have been recruited to work in the developing woolen mills. The history of Vernon, written by Ardis Abbott, states that in 1870 the largest group of foreign born in Rockville were Germans. They came to Hartford for the industry there; they came to Meriden and Waterbury for the metal industries there.

As far as I can determine, Germans who came to our state, came in largest numbers after 1850 with the exception of the few Hessians in Fairfield County. Here I am speaking of Germans who came directly to Connecticut, not those who came first to New York State and then moved here in the second or third generation.

To find your German ancestors in Connecticut the process is basically like other genealogical research.

First, assemble all the information you have about your family. Meet with the older members of the family who may have memories handed down by previous generations. Write down everything these relatives tell you. Discredit nothing. Collect all the documents that your family has preserved. Using the chart below, try to transliterate, (write the German letters from the old script into our modern alphabet.)

Fraktur Chart Courtesy of the German Genealogy Group, November 2008.

Second, try to determine the location from which your Germans came. Try the Meyers Lexikon listed in the bibliography, under Ancestry. First find the state or the *Land* and then scan carefully a good German map of that state. Good state maps of Germany are available from standard book dealers. Use the Internet.

Third, use all the research materials available. The Church of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Family History Library in Salt Lake City has a good Research Guide covering German Research. Ancestry.com and Ancestry.de (for Germany) have collections of German records. Not all church records have been microfilmed as some churches prohibit or, at least, restrict access to their records.

Be careful using Census records. Your ancestor may be listed as coming from Wurzburg, Franken, Bavaria, all of which indicate the same place. The census records may show a Johann Ludwig Schmidt in 1860 and then 10 years later a Ludwig Schmidt, who are probably the same person. Likewise they may show a Anna Maria Schmidt and later a Maria Schmidt, again the same person. Consider all the people shown at one residence and then look for the neighbors, who may be relatives or friends. Immigrants settled in enclaves near the people they knew in the "old country."

Consult the passenger immigration lists and be certain to note what other people are listed near your ancestor in the list. They could be friends or relatives.

Capital letters		Lower case letters		Roman	Fraktur	Written
A = A	N = N	a = a	n = n	Aa	A,a	A,a
B = B	O = O	b = b	o = o	Bb	B,b	B,b
C = C	P = P	c = c	p = p	Cc	C,c	C,c
D = D	Q = Q	d = d	q = q	Dd	D,d	D,d
E = E	R = R	e = e	r = r	Ee	E,e	E,e
F = F	S = S	f = f	s = s	Ff	F,f	F,f
G = G	T = T	g = g	t = t	Gg	G,g	G,g
H = H	U = U	h = h	u = u	Hh	H,h	H,h
I = I	V = V	i = i	v = v	Ii	I,i	I,i
J = J	W = W	j = j	w = w	Jj	J,j	J,j
K = K	X = X	k = k	x = x	Kk	K,k	K,k
L = L	Y = Y	l = l	y = y	Ll	L,l	L,l
M = M	Z = Z	m = m	z = z	Mm	M,m	M,m
				Nn	N,n	N,n
				Oo	O,o	O,o
				Pp	P,p	P,p
				Qq	Q,q	Q,q
				Rr	R,r	R,r
				Ss	S,s	S,s
				Tt	T,t	T,t
				Uu	U,u	U,u
				Vv	V,v	V,v
				Ww	W,w	W,w
				Xx	X,x	X,x
				Yy	Y,y	Y,y
				Zz	Z,z	Z,z

Fourth, if you know or have found the town where your ancestors lived in the U.S. visit the town and the town's cemeteries. Try to determine what church your ancestor attended and where the records for the church are. German immigrants established many of the Lutheran churches. Also visit the town hall to determine if there were (or still are) German clubs, music organizations and athletic groups. Such organizations often have records of their members. Some towns in Connecticut had German schools, although most were closed at the time of the First World War. Records of those schools are available, often in the town hall or historical society.

Many Connecticut towns have cemeteries where Germans are buried in specific sections. For example, in Grove Hill Cemetery in Rockville, approximately 40% of the graves are German. The inscriptions are written in German with poetry and sayings appropriate to the deceased. Be sure to check town histories. They are usually available in the local library or in the town's offices.

The Connecticut State Library has some copies of German newspapers published in various cities in the state. Although the collection is far from complete, some editions contain obituaries of Germans. They are worth checking out.

Fifth, after you have exhausted these sources, consider making contact with officials in Germany. In the last few years the government in Germany has established two centers for German historical research. The *Deutsches Auswanderung Haus* in Bremen has extensive which are increasing constantly. And Hamburg's Balinstadt (see the bibliography for this article which posted on the CSG web site, www.csginc.org) is compiling exit materials from that city. Because Bremen and Hamburg were the two major ports for emigration both cities have established research facilities. Their e-mail addresses are listed in the bibliography. They will undertake searches and will communicate with you in English. There is a fee at both centers. "Ancestry.de" has records similar to "Ancestry.com."

It is possible to write to the mayor of the town and ask for help. Most towns now have websites and can be found by simply using the name of the town and *.de*. [For example: *Munich.de*.] Germans are friendly people, usually ready to help.

Many towns in Baden Wurttemberg have found town historians who have compiled the family data from the citizen registers, the church registers of marriage records, birth and death, and some military records. It was most good luck to find such a book for Jacob Burkhardt's family from Walldorf. This record contains more than 4,000 entrees; its title is *Walldorfer Familienbuch, 1650-1900*. Klaus Ronellenfisch, a local mathematics teacher, compiled the data and annotated the 823-page volume. Included here is entry number 0105 that chronicles John Jacob Astor's family

In the last entry for Johann Jacob (John Jacob Astor), we see that he was born on the 17th of July, 1763 and died in New York on the 30th of March 1848 as Walldorf's "Great Son" City. He was the son of Johann Jacob Astor, a Reformed citizen, a butcher, who was born the 7th of July 1724 in Waldorf and who died the 18th of April 1816. His mother was Maria Magdalena von Berg, who was Lutheran; she was born the 10 July, 1730 in Ittlingen and died the first of May, 1764. If you find that your German town has such a research tool, you will discover much about the lives of your ancestors. Space does not permit an evaluation of the materials in the on-line bibliography. It is intended only as a starting point for your search for German ancestors.

0105	♂ 15.04.1749 Wdf ref.: <u>Johann Jacob Astor</u> , ref., Bg., Metzger, * 07.07.1724 Wdf, † 18.04.1816 Wdf. Eltern: <0103>, weitere Ehen: <0107> und Maria Magdalena vom Berg, luth.. * 20.07.1730 Ittlingen, † 01.05.1764 Wdf, Eltern: Joh. Dietrich u. Maria Ursula Bemerkung: Tod EF: "Elisabetha, Fr.d. Michael Astor, Bg. u. Metzgerstr."!? K I N D E R: (ref.) Peter * 04.03.1750 † 15.02.1752 Georg Peter * 28.04.1752 nach London, ab 1818 New York Johann Heinrich * 09.01.1754 † 1831 starb in New York Catharina * 21.04.1757 ♂ Ehringer Johann Melchior * 31.10.1759 nach Neuwind (Horn S.17/18) Johann Jacob * 17.07.1763 † 30.03.1848 Walld. "großer Sohn", † New York
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In preparing this article, I realized that what is available about German genealogy was far greater than what is needed for a periodical article. What I have offered here is a intended to be a first step in finding your German ancestors. Hopefully, you may establish a contact with relatives still living in Germany.

Gerson Fox & Family, Connecticut's Greatest Merchants

by Richard G. Tomlinson, CSG # 55L

There may be no other family that has had an impact on Connecticut to equal that of Gerson Fox and his descendants.



Gerson (sometimes spelled Gershon) was born in Germany on 15 December 1811. His biography (see *Hartford Jews, 1659-1970*, by Rabbi Morris Sliverman, published by The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, 1970) says he was born Gershon Fuchs in Bekunstadt. Since there is no such town today, the name of the town may be in error. The place of Fox's birth may have been Burgkunstadt in northern Bavaria or it could have been meant that he was born "by" (Bei) Kunstadt in eastern Bavaria.

{Illustration Source: *Gerson Fox*, The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut}

Gerson and his brothers, Isaac and Louis, emigrated to America. He may have arrived as early as 1830, but definitely was in Hartford in 1842, when he signed a petition. He married Hannah Bamberger (who was also born in Bavaria, 24 May 1814) about 1848.

Their son, Leopold, was born 6 December 1848. Gerson's name appears in the 1850 census, although there are some apparent errors in the entry that may be due to language issues. Gerson's name is written as "Garson" and Hannah's as "Jani." Their ages are given as 32 and 28, respectively, but they were actually 39 and 37. (Later census records show the ages correctly.) However, there can be no doubt that the 1850 entry refers to Gerson since Leopold is correctly listed as their two-year-old son and Gerson is described as a merchant born in Germany.

Gerson (1811-1880) and Hannah (1814-1875) had five children; all born in Hartford.

Leopold, b. 6 Dec. 1848, d. 12 Jan. 1900

Moses, b. 25 Dec. 1850, d. 13 Jan. 1938

*Anna, b. 21 Apr. 1853, d. 29 Oct. 1856

Emma, b. 6 June 1855, m. Leopold Siman Plaut, d. 6 Aug. 1955 NYC.

Issac, b. 18 Dec. 1858, d. 9 Apr. 1939

Gerson began as a door-to-door peddler and in 1847 opened a "fancy goods" store, I. & G. Fox, with his brother, Isaac Fox. After a year, Isaac left for New York and Gerson renamed the store, G. Fox & Co. (see accompanying article on the G. Fox & Co. collection of the Connecticut Historical Society.) This store eventually grew to become the dominant retail store in New England for the latter 19th and early 20th century. It would be difficult to overstate the extent to which this store became the centerpiece of commerce in Hartford.

*Breaking a Stone Wall

A long-standing mystery about the family of Gerson Fox involved whether or not he had a daughter, Anna, who died young. Only indirect references existed and no actual evidence. During the research for this article, the vital records of Hartford, on microfilm in the Connecticut State Library, were examined and, it was found that in the year 1856, the death of an "Ana Fuchs" was recorded. Fuchs was the German name of Gerson Fox, but he had not used this name for years. The parents of Ana were not given, but her age at death was three years, six months and ten days. Looking back through the records to 1853 revealed the birth of an unnamed girl ... father's name, "Gerson Fox" ... mystery solved!



Moses Fox clerked in his father's store and left school at age 13 to work full time. Gerson died in 1880 before the opening of a new four-story store. Upon Gerson's death, Moses took over leadership of the store and expanded it greatly during his life. In 1917 the store was completely destroyed in one of Hartford's worst fires. Encouraged by the fact that customers voluntarily paid their bills even though the billing records had been destroyed, Moses rebuilt the store. The new, 11-story structure was an enormous store by the standards of the day. Continued expansion made it the largest privately-owned department store in the country.

Theresa, Beatrice & Moses Fox

Photo Credit: The Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, Connecticut

Moses married Sophie Korn in 1878. Sophie died in Hartford on 25 March 1883. Moses married Theresa S. Stern in 1886. She was born in Newburgh, NY on 23 Feb. 1865, the daughter of Ferdinand and Fannie (Kurtz) Stern.

Moses (1850-1938) and Sophie (1862-1883) had one daughter, born in Hartford.
 Sophie, b. 18 March 1882, d. 1891

Moses and Theresa (1865-1932) had two daughters, born in Hartford
 Beatrice, b. 17 July 1887, m. George Samuel Auerbach, d. 29 Nov. 1968
 Fannie, b. 4 July 1896, m. Frederick S. Auerbach, 2m. Leslie R. Samuels,
 d. Apr. 1981, NYC

It was Moses' daughter, Beatrice, who carried the G. Fox store tradition forward. She moved to Salt Lake City, Utah after her marriage on 5 April 1911 to George Samuel Auerbach (13 July 1884 - 13 Nov. 1927), but they both returned to Hartford to help Moses rebuild the store. After the death of her husband, George, Beatrice became more involved with the operations of the store. When her father, Moses, died in 1938, Beatrice became President of G. Fox & Co. Under her management the store thrived and continued to grow. With the success of the store, Beatrice Fox Auerbach became one of the most influential and powerful women in the history of Connecticut. In 1965, Beatrice sold her stock in the store to the May Department Store Company, but remained as President of the G. Fox & Co. until shortly before her death in 1968. In January 1993, the May Company closed the downtown Hartford store ending the 146-year history of G. Fox & Co.

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**From Account Books to Wedding Dresses:
The G. Fox & Co. Collections at the Connecticut Historical Society**
by Cynthia Harbeson

For more than a century, G. Fox & Co. was the place you went for all of your shopping needs. It began in the spring of 1847 when Gerson and Isaac Fox established a store on Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut under the name of I. & G. Fox. The store sold items then known as fancy goods – silk fringes, cravats, collars, ribbon shawls, edgings, muslins, parasols, thread, gloves, lace, veils, and prints.

The brothers had emigrated from Germany in the 1830s and arrived in Hartford by way of New York City where they worked as wholesalers. Their contacts served them well in their new Hartford store, as they brought in the latest New York fashion items weekly. The store was a quick success among the Hartford upper class, who were eager to keep up with all the latest trends. The next year when Isaac Fox returned to New York, Gerson changed the store's name to G. Fox & Co., which it remained for the next 145 years.

The store quickly outgrew its small quarters and in February 1866 moved to 412 Main Street, opposite Christ Church. At the time of his death in 1880, Gerson Fox was preparing to relocate his store once again to a new four-story building, also on Main Street. Gerson's son Moses Fox continued his father's plans of expansion and by 1915 G. Fox & Co. occupied five buildings. On the night of January 29, 1917, a disastrous fire swept through the G. Fox property, destroying records, merchandise, and building interiors.

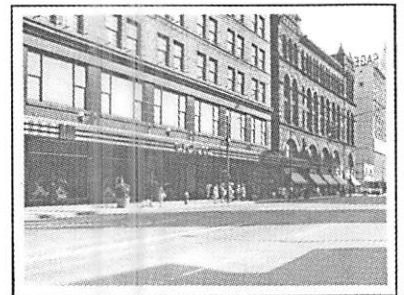


The G. Fox & Co. building after the 1917 fire. Gift of the Children of Georgette and Richard Koopman. Connecticut Historical Society.

While many believed that Moses Fox's decision to rebuild his store would lead to the disastrous end of his business career – some even referred to the project as 'Fox's Folly' – Moses Fox strongly believed in his company and its community. His faith in the people of Hartford was repaid as customers began pouring into the temporary credit offices to pay their bills, despite the fact that all credit records had been lost in the fire.

During construction of the new building, all G. Fox & Co. employees remained on the payroll and a few days after the fire, the company resumed business in temporary quarters in buildings scattered throughout the city. The new eleven-story, fireproof building, connected to the merchandise warehouse by an underground tunnel, was completed in February 1918 and by April the store had resumed its full operations.

The fire not only resulted in a new, more elaborate home for G. Fox & Co., but also brought Moses Fox's daughter, Beatrice Fox Auerbach, back to Hartford. Beatrice's husband, George Auerbach, was secretary of Auerbach Co., the second largest department store in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the time of the fire, but relocated to Hartford to assist his father-in-law in rebuilding G. Fox & Co. When George Auerbach died suddenly ten years later, in November of 1927, Beatrice Fox Auerbach assumed her husband's position as secretary. Initially intended her involvement with the company to be temporary, Beatrice continued to work at G. Fox & Co. for the next forty years, succeeding her father as president upon his death in 1938.



G. Fox & Co. building on Main Street in Hartford. The Connecticut Historical Society.

Beatrice Fox Auerbach became a leader in the retail community, even beyond Connecticut. Under her innovative leadership, G. Fox & Co. was one of the first stores in the country to establish the five-day work week and create advancement opportunities for minorities. Her presidency coincided with the heyday of G. Fox & Co., which rose to become the largest privately-owned department store in New England. In 1965, Mrs. Auerbach sold G. Fox & Co. to the May Department Stores Company, continuing on as the store's president until shortly before her death in 1968. For several years, G. Fox & Co. continued its pattern of expansion, this time into branch stores throughout the state and into Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York.

With the opening of branch stores and the growth of suburbia, business at the downtown Hartford location declined rapidly. In 1993, the May Company closed the G. Fox & Co. store on Main Street and merged the branch stores with its larger, Boston-based subsidiary, Filene's. At the end of business on January 22, 1993, after an impressive 146 year history, G. Fox & Co. closed its doors for the last time.



However, the company's closing did not spell the end of G. Fox & Co.; the store lives on through the G. Fox & Co. collections at the Connecticut Historical Society. Because of the generous donations from G. Fox & Co., members of the Koopman and Schiro families, and former employees and customers, the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) has a diverse range of materials documenting the department store and the Fox family. Holdings relating to G. Fox & Co. range from training manuals to store merchandise including clothing, eyeglasses, golf clubs, and even hair nets. The employee newsletter, named the Go-Getter, illustrates the working lives of employees and documents store activities. Photographs documenting building construction, store employees, interior views, and early company outings also help to provide a lasting record of G. Fox & Co.

Beatrice Fox Auerbach (second from left) meeting with G. Fox department heads. Gift of the Children of Georgette and Richard Koopman. The Connecticut Historical Society.

The documents and objects in the collections relating to the Fox family tell the stories of the people behind the store. Particularly interesting are the records relating to Beatrice Fox Auerbach; her travel journals, correspondence, guest books, and even her early academic notebooks, create a more complete and intimate portrait of who she was and how she ran her store. The bulk of Mrs. Auerbach's correspondence in the CHS collections consists of letters from her friend and former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

The friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Beatrice Fox Auerbach lasted from around 1946 until Mrs. Roosevelt's death in 1962. Roosevelt stayed with Auerbach a number of times and her name occasionally appears in Beatrice Fox Auerbach's guest books, which collectively make up another gem in our collections. Beginning in 1914, just three years after her marriage to George Auerbach, these four guest books continue until just two months before she died. Each guest book contains a complete array of messages, signatures, and, occasionally, illustrations or poems that pay tribute to Beatrice Fox Auerbach's storied hospitality.

As well as offering a broader view of Beatrice Fox Auerbach, materials in our collections provide glimpses into the lives of other members of the Fox family. For instance, relatively little is known about the life of Gerson Fox, but items such as his portrait, account book, and a letter written in German to his son, Leopold, help to distinguish man from myth. Likewise, the legal and financial documents of Moses Fox offer information about this publicity-shy businessman that would otherwise remain unknown.

Wedding dress purchased at G. Fox & Co. Gift of Toby-Sue Hano. The Connecticut Historical Society.



In addition to cataloging and preserving G. Fox & Co. related materials, the Connecticut Historical Society conducted an oral history project to capture the memories of former G. Fox employees that add to our understanding of the history and importance of the Hartford department store. Over thirty former employees were interviewed and transcripts, as well as audiocassette tapes, of these interviews are available in the CHS Research Center.

G. Fox & Co. continues to be an important part of both Hartford and Connecticut history even after its existence as a store. The collections available at the Connecticut Historical Society provide a wealth of information for researchers and in early 2009 web pages, accessible through the CHS website, will provide additional access to the materials. For those among us who still remember the once great giant of New England department stores, the store merchandise, photographs, and other materials offer an opportunity to reminisce about G. Fox & Co., a place that was so much more than just a department store. No longer the place to shop for the newest fashion, G. Fox & Co. still has a place in Connecticut history.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Richard Tomlinson and Mavis Davis

GOOGLE YOUR FAMILY TREE, Unlock the Hidden Power of Google, by Daniel M. Lynch, Softcover, 8 1/4" x 10," 352 pgs., 2008, Published by FamilyLink.com, Inc., 1234 N. 900 East, Provo, Utah, 84604, illustrated, indexed, Available from CT Society of Genealogists, P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033. \$34.95 plus CT Tax and \$4 P&H.

Popular computer-wise speaker, Dan Lynch, has responded to the numerous requests to put his material in writing. In this reader-friendly, illustrated guidebook he both tells and shows how to harness the power of Google for genealogical research. This may become the best-selling book ever published for genealogists. Google has over 20 billion pages and they are available to be searched for free. Today, the average user submits queries with less than four words and almost none of the available commands. The typical result is an unmanageable flood of "hits," most of which are not relevant. Dan shows how a structured query, that employs such things as quotation marks, asterisks, titles, OR commands, etc., can produce the handful of "dead-on" findings the genealogist really wants. The book takes you step by step from the simple to the advanced search. Even if you think you know Google, you will learn scores of new and useful things, like how to structure a query so that a search for Patrick Lynch will find Patrick Eugene Lynch as well as that passenger listing for Lynch, Patrick ... items which will never show up in a simple search. The author has created a companion website, www.GoogleYourFamilyTree.com, to enhance the utility of the book and to provide for future developments, such as the introduction by Google of new search capabilities. **RGT**

ERIN'S SONS: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada 1761-1853, by Terrence M. Punch, FRSAI. Softcover, 8 1/2" x 11," 308 pages, 2008. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co. 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953. Price: \$30.00

This book contains a brief history of Irish emigration, giving major ports of departure and of arrival in Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic Provinces with a short discussion of the periods of each wave of immigrants. There are mostly lists, too many to discuss here, but they are all in alphabetical order, with many maiden names given. They include Ulster Scots in Nova Scotia in 1761, Irish immigrant burials in Halifax 1800-1842 and Church records there, some passenger lists, on to "Military Attrition in British America." Some list only a few names, others 15 to 20 pages and with a good index. This would be a resource for anyone researching this area and the bibliography might give further possibilities. **MFD**

FINDING YOUR CANADIAN ANCESTORS, A BEGINNERS GUIDE, by Sherry Irvine and Dave Obee. Softcover, 8 1/2" x 11," 269 pages, 2007. Published by Ancestry Publishing, 360 West 4800 North, Provo, UT 84604. Contact the publisher for ordering information.

This book is very well organized for finding genealogical information in Canada, including censuses, vital records, cemetery, probate, and land records, etc. Each section gives where to find the record, its content, genealogical/research considerations, alternative and supporting sources including web sites and a bibliography. The first part of the book is for Canada as a whole and includes Native Americans, Acadians and Loyalists. The second is province by province and equally as informative. **MFD**

THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN GRUMMAN(T) OF CRANFIELD BEDFORDSHIRE, AND FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT AND HIS WIFE SARAH TRY, compiled by Marion Grumman Phillips. Hardcover 6" x 9," 334 pages, 2007. Published by New England Historic Genealogical Society, available from Picton Press, www.pictonpress.com. Price: \$49.95.

Mrs. Phillips was aided by some very well known researchers and has compiled an informative genealogy giving background in England, of the probable parents of John Grumman, immigrant. After a short chapter on early settlements in New England and New Jersey, she gives the family of John and Sarah (Try) Grumman in early Fairfield County and insight into life there at that time. She follows their sons John III, Joseph and Samuel through 3 generations. There is a brief chapter on the early settlements in New Jersey and their families there. John III is carried on through the 12th generation. The gem here is an exceptionally important and fascinating chapter about Mrs. Phillips' father, Leroy Grumman, founder of Grumman Aircraft Co. Joseph is carried to the 12th generation, and Samuel, the 11th. This is a well documented, well indexed, interesting family history. **MFD**

FYI

Watch for the article featuring the history of the Connecticut Nutmegger in a future issue of NEHGS' New England Ancestors magazine!

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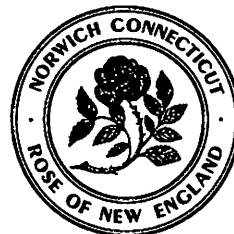
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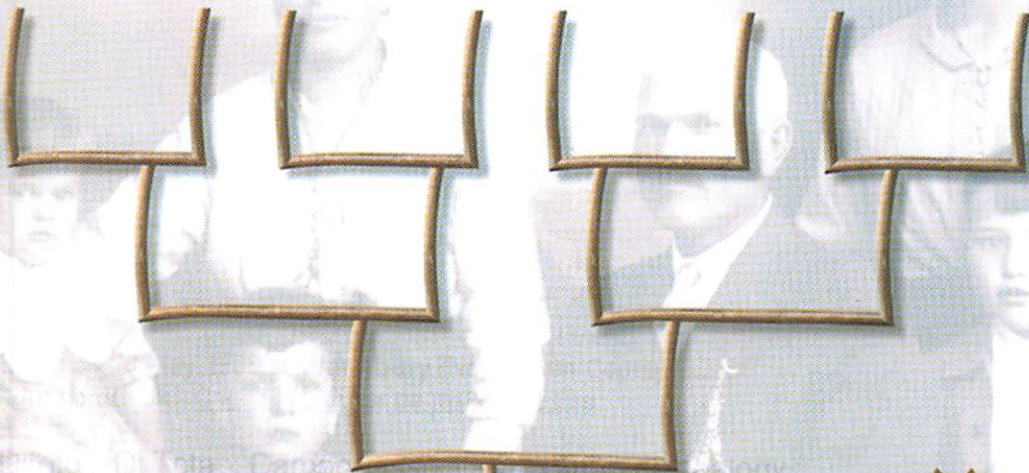
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