



Berkshire family history association

P.O. Box 1437
Pittsfield, MA 01201

NEWSLETTER
September, 1984

This publication comes to you with a two-fold aim: to update our members as to completed and ongoing projects, and to keep the membership as well-informed as possible about coming events.

Looking Back

1984 has been a busy year for the Berkshire Family History Association. This spring we conducted a research instructional program for members willing to volunteer their time researching genealogical queries at the Berkshire Athenaeum. The 14 volunteers have made great headway in reducing a backlog of mail, and we look forward to this program's continued productivity in 1984-85.

Our annual tag sale netted an impressive \$2500, which will be used to purchase genealogical materials, including the recently acquired Corbin Collection, for the Athenaeum's local history department. Many thanks to Don Lutes, Thelma Wells, and all who sorted, tagged and contributed items, and their time, to this event.

Over 30 members - enthusiastic genealogists all - participated in our April bus trip to the New England Historic Genealogical Society's research facilities in Boston. We suggest members reserve seats early for future trips, if the waiting list for this venture was any indication of its popularity.

The highlight of the BFHA's undertakings this year was our very successful seminar, Gateway To The West. This event brought together over 100 genealogists from New England, New York State, and points west. In addition to the exchanging of "roots and branches" among those present, participants were fortunate in hearing NEHG's Gary Boyd Roberts and George Sanborn present an enlightening, as well as entertaining, genealogical program. To Bernice Ballou, Mark Windover, and ALL of our members who worked so hard to make this seminar a success, the association extends a sincere THANK YOU.

Our annual dinner was held this year at Berkshire Community College. Guest speaker Ralph Crandall, Director of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, spoke on the materials available at his society's Boston facilities. The evenings combination of fine food and good fellowship was a fitting conclusion to a successful 1983-84 season.

Coming Events

Our program committee has scheduled an impressive series of fall lectures. So mark your calendar now for our Thursday meetings.

SEPT. 27 TIMOTHY BEARD, member of the American Society of Genealogists, and author of How to Find Your Family Roots

Topic: NEW YORK RESEARCH - NEW ENGLAND CONNECTIONS

OCT. 11 FRANCES WYNNE, genealogist and educator

Topic: TEACHING GENEALOGY.

NOV. 15 MARCIA EISENBERG, member of BFHA, and editor of the Berkshire Genealogist

Topic: SUBSTITUTES FOR VITAL RECORDS

Because our spring program was so successful, the BFHA and the Berkshire Athenaeum would like to conduct another instructional research workshop this fall. All interested members, and friends, should contact the Athenaeum's local history department for more details.

Plans are underway for another spring seminar, tentatively scheduled for May 17. This seminar will have a specific western Mass. focus, including such subjects as genealogical collections, town records, and western Mass. families. More detailed information will be forthcoming in our January newsletter.

We welcome any contributions or suggestions for future newsletters. Send to:

BFHA Newsletter
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