

berkshire genealogist

Newsletter of the Berkshire Genealogical Society- Box 1437 Pittsfield

Vol. 1 No. 1 August, 1978

Help Wanted

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, with energy, imagination and drive to edit the newly expanded newsletter of a dynamic, growing genealogical group. No prior experience necessary. Call 442-1559 or write Denis J. Lesieur, Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA. 01201

Annual Event

A happy crowd of over 80 people attended the third annual meeting of the Berkshire Chapter held at the Stanley Club in Pittsfield on May 22, 1978. Ronald Stratton was presented a plaque for outstanding accomplishment as the founder and first president of the group by out-going president, Mary DeGiorgis.

Robert Anderson, the evening's guest speaker, discussed the migration patterns of settlers in Berkshire County in the early 18th century, placing the development of the county within the larger perspective of New England history.

New officers elected for the coming year are as follows:

President:	Denis J. Lesieur
Vice President:	Reginald Arnold
Treasurer:	Ronald Stratton
Corresponding Sec.:	Stanley Moore
Recording Sec.:	Gladys King
Directors:	Ruth Bass, Mary DeGiorgis, Dorothy Ford, Carol Hayes, Frank Kelly, Richard Leab, Kenneth Wells.

President's Report

The past few years have been exciting ones for genealogists. Spurred by the American Bicentennial and the "Roots" phenomenon, genealogy has captured the hearts and minds of thousands of Americans. Locally, the Berkshire Chapter has enjoyed a dynamic growth, evolving into the largest affiliate in the state.

Despite the high levels of energy and enthusiasm generated by genealogists, however, family history remains relatively unexplored and undeveloped. We have done much, but even more remains to be done - ranging from accurate and thorough indexing of vital records to educating novice genealogists in the proper basics of research.

I believe that the Berkshire Chapter can do many of these things, and do them well. Within the next year, we hope to not only continue our excellent monthly speakers programs, but also offer a workshop on genealogy. For those unable to attend the meetings, a tape recording of the speakers will be made available.

We also plan to issue regularly an expanded newsletter. An important addition to our activities will be a series of "special projects" involving members in such valuable work as producing a guide to cemetery locations in the county.

The key word is "involve". We need your help and support to do all this. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know.

I thank you for selecting me as your president, and look forward to working with all of you in the coming months.

- Denis J. Lesieur

Programs

September 25 -- GENEALOGY IN THE
CONNECTICUT VALLEY

Ellen Coty, Librarian in the
Genealogy and Local History Room of
the Springfield Public Library will
discuss the varied resources available
for the genealogist in the Connecticut
Valley.

October 23 -- GENEALOGY IN THE NEW
YORK STATE LIBRARY

The New York State Library has
recently moved into new quarters, ex-
panding both its shelf space and poten-
tial for public service. James Carsaro
Senior Librarian in the Manuscripts
and Special Collections Division, will
discuss the new building and the in-
credibly rich collection of genealog-
ical material that the State Library
contains.

NOTE: All meetings are held in the
Berkshire Athenaeum auditorium at 7 p.m.

?? Queries ??

Having problems with an elusive
ancestor? Take advantage of the col-
lective knowledge and experience of
Berkshire Chapter members. The BERK-
SHIRE GENEALOGIST will print queries
from members free, subject to the
following conditions:

(1) One query each to a 3" X 5" card-
typing or printing information, (2)
Limit of 40 words, (3) Use no abbrev-
iations, (4) Indicate alternate
spelling of surnames, (5) Give date,
place and relationship of the ancestor
sought, (6) Include name, address,
Zip Code and membership number on the
reverse of each card, (7) Editor
reserves the right to edit material.

There is, at present, no limit to
the number of queries a member may sub-
mit. Please send material to Box 1437,
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201.

Of Courses...

As the popularity of genealogy has
increased, so have the opportunities,
and need, for properly learning the
"how's" and "why's" of family research.
* * * * *

Harvard University - Introduction to Family History and Genealogy.

Taught by Robert Anderson, profes-
sional genealogist and lecturer. The
course will be given on successive Satur-
days, October 21 and 28, for four hours
each day. For more information write the
Harvard Center for Continuing Education,
Lehman Hall B-3, Harvard University, Cam-
bridge, Ma. 02138 or call 617-495-4973.

Berkshire Community College - Introduction to Family History and Genealogy.

Taught by Denis J. Lesieur, Super-
visor of Local History and Literature
Services at the Berkshire Athenaeum. The
course will examine the practices and
principles involved in researching your
family history. Learn how to find and
use both primary and secondary sources;
how to research in the library, town hall,
and courthouse. Field trips with re-
search experience planned.

The course will be held on Thursday
evenings, 7:15 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. for a
ten week period beginning September 7th.
Registration will take place in the lobby
of the Administration Building of Berk-
shire Community College on August 28, 29,
and 30 from 1 p.m. - 9 p.m. Cost is
\$30.00. For more information contact
Denis J. Lesieur at the Berkshire
Athenaeum.

Footnotes

There is now an Afro-American
Historical and Genealogical Society in
Washington, D.C. James D. Walker, re-
search specialist at the National Archi-
ves and a former Chapter guest lecturer
is the first president. For further
information write P.O. Box 13006, T
Street Station, Washington, D.C. 20009

Ethnic Genealogy

For decades most of those tracing their ancestors have concentrated on colonial, Yankee forebears. But in recent years many people have become interested in the origins of immigrant ancestors who arrived in this country between about 1840 and 1920, and with this increased interest has come an increased demand for information about these immigrants.

Many of those who want to study this part of their ancestry are anxious, and in fact over-anxious, to start looking in Ireland, or Italy, or Poland, for their great grandparents. But before commencing transatlantic research, all such persons should be told quite forcefully, "Do your homework!" Before attempting to trace a Joseph Donovan or an Abraham Cohen in the old country, the researcher should seek out and analyze every scrap of evidence that he can find on this side of the ocean.

The first step is to interview all living relatives, especially the older ones. This includes not only grandparents, aunts, and uncles, but more distant relatives such as great-aunts, great-uncles, first cousins once-removed, in-laws, and so on. Ask especially for the names of other relatives, and for any clues, even if only oral tradition, about the immigrant's place of origin. The most important single piece of information that can come from one of these interviews is the name of the village, even if horribly misspelled; this can save years of searching in the old country.

The next step is to sort through any family papers - a family bible, old letters, naturalization or military papers - anything that might have a clue about ages, birthplaces, or other relations.

Once the researcher has exhausted the resources at home, and in relatives' homes, he should proceed to the collection of data from public sources, of which the most important are probably vital statistics and the Federal census. Vital statistics are gathered by each state of the Union, but their accessibility varies from state to state. If the information can be

obtained, look up every birth, marriage, or death record of every relative who has been identified in the work at home. More often than not, a death record, for instance, of an immigrant ancestor will only say that the place of birth was Ireland, or Russia; but once in a while the province (county), or even village or town, will be given in the civil registered vital records.

If the migration event being studied took place before 1900, then the Federal census for that year, and, if appropriate, for 1880, should be studied. These records contain information on age, place of birth, citizenship status, relations, and much else. These census records are available at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and in a number of regional branches of the National Archives.

A number of other sources should also be checked for information on the migrating family or individual - naturalization papers, ship passenger lists, city directories, newspaper obituaries, records of fraternal clubs, and many more. Information on the location and interpretation of many of these records, and of vital statistics and the census, can be found in a most useful book by Val D. Greenwood - The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1974).

Many books have been published which treat individually one or another of the many ethnic groups in the American population. Some of the best are listed below.

Blockson, Charles L., with Ron Fry, Black Genealogy (Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1977)

Falley, Margaret Dickson, Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research, 2 volumes (Evanston, Ill., 1962)

Smith, Clifford Neal and Anna Piszczanczaja Smith, Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research (N.Y., 1976)

Johansson, Carl-Erik, Cradled in Sweden (Logan, Utah, 1972)

Rottenberg, Dan, Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy (N.Y., 1977)

-Robert Anderson

New Arrivals!

Each week new books flow into the genealogy collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum - books you might need for your research but don't realize we now have. To help solve this problem, we will be publishing an occasional descriptive listing of some of our more significant new arrivals.

Beard, Timothy Field and Demong, Denise.

How to find your family roots.

N.Y.: McGraw-Hill, 1977.

A monumental and indispensable reference work, particularly valuable for its attention to ethnic and minority genealogy, as well as foreign research. Contains the most extensive bibliography in print, nearly 800 pages of material covering the United States and most foreign nations, including Tibet!

Boyer, Carl, ed.

Ship Passenger Lists; National and New England (1600-1825).

Newhall, California: The Author, 1977.

Excellent compilation of many of the hard-to-find immigrant lists mentioned in Lancour's bibliography. Includes nearly 6,000 immigrants from sixteen European countries. Necessary source for immigrant ancestor research.

Everton, George B., Jr.

The handy book for genealogists.

6th ed., rev. Logan, Utah: Everton, 1971.

Traces developmental history and chronology of counties for all states. Contains maps, and lists of research sources and collections, for each state. A "must book" for all beginning genealogists.

Gardner, David E. and Smith, F.

Genealogical research in England and Wales.

3 vols. Vol. 1, 7th ed., 1967; vol. 2, 4th pr., 1970; vol. 3, 2nd ed., 1966. Salt Lake City: Bookcraft.

Best books for both England and Wales. Directed toward the American researcher. Comprehensive; highly accurate.

Hughes, Arthur H. and Allen, Morse S.
Connecticut place names.

Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1976.

Immensely useful guide to the names, past and present, of communities and natural features in Connecticut. Contains an alphabetical index of all place names as well as an extensive bibliography of historical material.

Rottenberg, Dan.

Finding our fathers: A guidebook to Jewish genealogy.

N.Y.: Random House, 1977.

First manual in English on Jewish genealogy. Well written and researched, although limited in scope primarily to American Jews of East European ancestry. More than half the book is devoted to a descriptive listing of over 8,000 family names prevalent between 1800-1900. Far from definitive but useful nonetheless.

Swift, Esther Munroe.

Vermont Place-Names.

Brattleboro, Vermont: Stephen Greene Press, 1977.

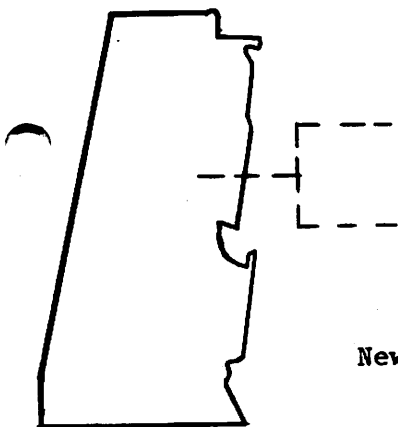
Excellent and absorbing reference source. Offers a brief but thorough survey of Vermont state history; examines Vermont's fourteen counties town by town, detailing the derivations of their names, and contains an invaluable appendix listing New York "patents", Vermont charters and New Hampshire grants.

Tyler, John W.

Connecticut Loyalists.

New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977.

A scholarly analysis of loyalist land confiscations in Greenwich, Stamford and Norwalk, Connecticut. Surveys the background of the loyalist conflict in three major Connecticut communities. Contains valuable listing of Loyalists in each town, together with their property holdings and eventual re-settlement location.



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Newsletter of the Berkshire Genealogical Society Box 1437 Pittsfield

Vol 1, No 2

November-December, 1978

Daytripping

Ever wish you could stalk those elusive ancestors in one of the region's large, well-equipped genealogical research institutions - the Connecticut State Library, the Connecticut Historical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society - the New York State Library - but find yourself defeated by the terrors of long distance travel, non-existent parking and high travel expenses?

The Berkshire Genealogical Society may have the answer to your problems! We are planning to sponsor a series of bus trips to area genealogical research institutions. Participants will enjoy staff guided tours of the institutions, followed by plenty of free research time.

Our first excursion is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 28 at the Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Historical Society. Cost will range from six to ten dollars, depending on the number of people going. We will leave at approximately 7 a.m. and return sometime around 5 p.m.

If you are interested, please send your name, address and telephone number to Denis J. Lesieur at the Berkshire Athenaeum as soon as possible. Space is limited and bus reservations must be arranged within the next several weeks.

Grave Issue

As mentioned in the August issue of the Berkshire Genealogist, the Society hopes to sponsor a series of "special projects" involving our members in valuable and needed research and field work. Our first such project is a location guide to cemeteries in Berkshire County. Directly below is a short progress report of the Cemetery Committee, chaired by Richard Leab of Dalton:

In the "small world" category, two members of our Cemetery Committee discovered a mutual relationship. Edna Bailey Garnett and Richard Leab found that they have a great uncle in common. Edna is related to the man's first wife, and Richard to his second wife.

The Committee is slowly taking shape and several members are already working on their assigned towns.

More help is needed, and anyone interested in providing help or information may contact Denis J. Lesieur, Richard Leab or Mary DeGiorgis, or write to Box 1437, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201.

- Richard Leab

\$ Dues \$

Dues time again! The amount remains the same - \$6.00 for individual memberships, \$8.00 for family - despite inflation!

A notice in the October 1978 issue of MASSOG may have caused some confusion among members. Please send your dues to the Society's Treasurer, Ron Stratton, P.O. Box 1437, Pittsfield, or any officer in our Society. DO NOT send any money directly to MASSOG.

Programs

PLEASE NOTE: The high cost of postage prohibits us from notifying members prior to each monthly meeting. The listing below is your official notification for the next three programs. So don't lose it! Remember, all meetings are held in the Berkshire Athenaeum auditorium at 7 p.m. Please come.

NOVEMBER 27 - A GENEALOGICAL GLIMPSE INTO COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK.

As the Town Historian for Canaan, N.Y., Anna Mary Dunton has acquired a detailed and intimate knowledge of eastern Columbia County's history, and its importance for genealogists, whether from Massachusetts or New York. There was, and still is, a great deal of migration between Columbia and Berkshire Counties - that missing ancestor may have moved to New York State! Come and find out.

DECEMBER - NO MEETING SCHEDULED

JANUARY 22 - BACK TO BASICS: A WORKSHOP

In a refreshing departure from traditional programs, this meeting will actively involve the members in the activities. The audience will divide into small discussion groups, each of which will deal with a specific subject of basic importance to genealogy. Each group will be led by a moderator who possesses expertise in the subject area. The topics to be covered include:

- Immigrant Ancestor
- Vital Records
- Regional Genealogy
- Major Research Institutions
- Migration Patterns
- Military Records

AND MORE!

? Queries ?

Please send QUERIES to Box 1437,
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201.

WRIGHT - Want parents of Enoch WRIGHT, b.Pittsfield, 26 March 1763, d. 7 May 1810, Whitehall, Washington County, N.Y. Wife was Tryphena West of Tolland, CT. (Write: Frank J. Kelly, P.O. Box 302, Lee, MA. 01230)

TUFTS - All TUFTS descendants sought for a mammoth pictorial, biographical, and genealogical encyclopedia. (Write: Tufts Kinsmen Project, P.O. Box 571, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026).

PARKER - George W. b.? where? parents? d.??1871, ae. 92yrs. Buried W. Arlington, VT. - Tombstone record in W. Arlington, VT. Wife Ellis Walden, d. 20 Oct. 1869 - 90yrs. - p. 129 Arlington Cemetery Record Books. (Write: Mary DeGiorgis, 121 Howard Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201).

LENDRUM - Jane, parents? b. 27 Dec. 1796, Ireland? where? d. 1 July, 1885 at Arlington, VT. Death Certificate gives her birthplace as Ireland, no county/town: "ae. 88yrs. 7 mo. female, widow, old age". - V.R. Arlington, VT., town clerk m. James Crofut, 2 Dec. 1819 at Arlington, VT. - Crofut Bible Record. (Write: Mary DeGiorgis...).

CROFUT - David B.? where? parents? Buried W. Arlington Cemetery, VT. d. 1 March 1835. "In the 80th yr. of his age" - Monograph "David Crofut of Arlington, VT." by Mrs. David Thomas of Scarsdale, N.Y. who spends August in Arlington, VT. says his father was James of Ridgefield, CT. (Write: Mary DeGiorgis 121 Howard Street, Pittsfield, MASS. 01201)

COOPER - BUCKLIN - SLOCUM - Desire info. on Hepzabeth COOPER & family, sister of Nathaniel, b. 1779 where? She & husband John BUCKLIN, residence Adams, MA. signed papers relinquishing rights to estate of her gr.-father Benjamin SLOCUM on 21 Aug. 1800. (Write: Mrs. Sarah Kingsley, 1272 Fyler Rd., Kirkville, N.Y. 13082).

COOPER - Desire info. on Nathaniel COOPER, tailor, Quaker, Saratoga, N.Y. b. 3 Jan. 1767 where? son of Samuel & Elizabeth (Slocum) COOPER of Adams, MA. d. 1839, Saratoga, N.Y. Wife-Amy? issue-Jeremiah, Samuel, Benjamin, James, Jarvis Allen, Hiram, Nathaniel, Elizabeth, Esther, Sarah, Mary & Amy. (Write: Mrs. Sarah Kingsley...).

Take A Chance!

The illustrations of Stockbridge resident Norman Rockwell glow with the warmth and spirit of real people living very real lives. His well-known painting, "A Family Tree" is no exception. In designing a "typical" American family tree, Rockwell not only displays the sweep of three hundred years of American history, but also captures the excitement and fascination of genealogy.

A full size, color print of this exuberant painting can be yours by purchasing a ticket to the BERKSHIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY raffle for only \$1.00. At the same time, you will be contributing to the continuation and expansion of the Society's various projects. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Denis J. Lesieur, Mary DeGiorgis or Gladys King, or at the next monthly meeting on November 27th.

W. Mass. Genealogy

If your ancestors hail from Hampshire County please don't neglect the Forbes Library (20 West St. Northampton, 01060, 584-8850) which has long contained a fine historical collection. Of course, New England family histories, genealogical magazines, town histories (especially Hampshire County), printed vitals of Mass. towns, and standard heraldry sources are included in the collection. But beyond this can be found an index to the "Hampshire Gazette" (1786 to the present) with special attention given to biography and genealogy; card indexes and abstracts of area cemetery, marriage records, etc.; as well as a collection of area town papers (in manuscript and microfilm). At present the Local History and Genealogy Collection is being shifted to allow better public accessibility. I would therefore recommend, if at all possible, visiting during weekday work hours when individual staff assistance can be given.

The Jones Library in Amherst (43 Amity St. 01002) has a separate Local History and Genealogy Collection best used during weekday work hours. The Westfield Athenaeum also contains a

Genealogy Collection (6 Elm St. 01085). If the home of your ancestors was in one of the small towns surrounding any of these libraries I suggest that you contact them for information.

Even older than our libraries and just as helpful to the genealogist are the area's town and county records. I have found the Northampton City Clerk's staff most helpful. Book indexes of vital records (1654-1914) are accessible through alphabetical listings by name for each year. After 1911, specific records must be requested. Fees are necessary only for official copies. Mail inquiries are answered as staff and time permit. Springfield record keeping follows a similar pattern as does that of most area towns and cities. Our library patrons and I have found the Springfield City Clerk's staff very willing to help genealogists. The City Clerk's office (City Hall, 36 Court St. 01130, 736-2711) holds all official Springfield vitals. They are listed in book form, alphabetically for ten year periods. After 1900 specific records must be requested with name and approximate date. Again no fees are required except for official copies or extensive research.

Hampshire and Hampden County records can prove quite confusing to the uninitiated. Hampshire County, until 1812, was a part of Hampshire County, with its seat at Northampton. As such, all probate records dating prior to 1812 are in Northampton (Registry of Probate, 33 King St.). This is not, however, the case with land records. For a number of political and geographic reasons, a Registry of Deeds was created at Springfield to administer to the entire original county of Hampshire. This arrangement continued until the division of Hampshire and Hampden Counties. Consequently, all land records dating before 1812 for both counties are in Springfield, (Registry of Deeds, Hall of Justice, 50 State St.). After 1812, all records are in the respective county seats.

Springfield's Registry of Probate keeps a card index of name, date, and record number of wills (after 1812) and divorce records (1923 to the present). Divorce records before 1923 are kept in the Superior Court. After obtaining the record number request the official record from the clerk by form. No fees are required except for official copies.

The Registries of Deeds in both Northampton and Springfield are similarly organized. Chronologically and alphabetically arranged grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer) indexes give the deed number. Deeds are found on open shelves in numbered volume accessible to the public.

It may be helpful to know that in each city the library and public record buildings are all within easy walking distance of each other as well as parking lots, a choice of lunch or dinner restaurants, and historical and art museums.

There are a vast number of related sources but I will limit myself to only mentioning a few here.

The Latter Day Saints Church in Springfield sponsors lectures and courses in genealogy. LDS microfilms may be ordered and used in their nearby stake library in Manchester, CT. (30 Woodside Ave. 203-649-6547). Hours vary, but were last listed as: Tues - Fri. 10-2, Wed. 7-9, Sat. 9-2. The Springfield Library has a set of LDS publications indicating the extent of their microfilming project.

The Connecticut State Library in Hartford (231 Capitol Ave. 06115, 566-4777) has an excellent collection of CT. state genealogies and local histories. Remembering not only the proximity of our borders but also that Enfield, Suffield, Somers and Woodstock were once a part of Massachusetts, you can estimate the value of this collection. Included in the collection are card indexes to, abstracts of, the Connecticut State Vital Records to 1850, the CT. Federal Census 1790-1850, cemetery records to 1933, and many other genealogical sources.

Our shifting state borders call to mind our equally changeable town boundaries. For instance, Agawam was formed in 1855 from West Springfield, Chicopee in 1848 from Springfield, Holyoke in 1850 from West Springfield, Longmeadow in 1783 from Springfield, and Ludlow in 1774 from Springfield. The moral of the story is to brush up on the town's history and to check the records of neighboring towns if your families records are not where it would seem that they should be!

As you may know the towns of Enfield, Greenwich, Prescott, Pelham,

Millington, New Salem, and Dana are partly or wholly under the waters of the Quabbin Reservoir. Many records of these towns are now found at the Windsor Dam Headquarters, Belchertown. Indexes and transcripts relating to these towns are found at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (101 Newbury St. Boston 02116).

Cemetery and church records are apt to vary somewhat in regards to accessibility, thoroughness, etc. The Springfield Library does have some typescripts of area church and cemetery records, but there are many more that we do not have. I have found that Springfield's cemeteries have record offices which keep regular hours and are very willing to check for a record by phone inquiry.

As for the Berkshires (where I have yet to finish searching for the traces of my own family) all that need be said is to contact the Berkshire Athenaeum's Genealogy and Local History Collection!

- Ellen M. Coty

GENEALOGY AND LOCAL HISTORY DEPARTMENT
SPRINGFIELD CITY LIBRARY
220 STATE STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01103

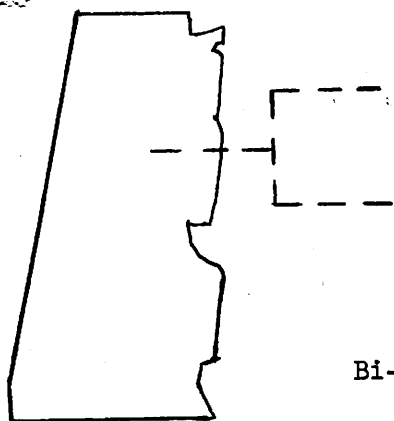
COLLECTION INCLUDES:

Springfield City Directories-1845 to the present-Springfield Newspapers 1824 to the present (except Sept. 26, 1946 - Feb. 19, 1947 newspaper strike) - Springfield Families Springfield Vital Records 1636-1800's - Pynchon Records Area records 1638-1696 - Wilbraham Vital Records to 1850 - Indexing of Springfield Newspapers; Springfield Union 1912-33, 1935-41; Springfield Republican 1899-1902; all Springfield Newspapers, January 1976 to the present - Deaths, Ordinations, and Marriages 1800-1850; - Cemetery Records; Longmeadow, Westfield, Wilbraham, and West Springfield - Maps and Atlases.

FRENCH CANADIAN MATERIALS

Drouin 1608 - 1760
Tanguay 1608-1700, 1701, 1763

MATERIAL MAY BE PLACED ON RESERVE FOR WEEKEND AND EVENING USE. TELEPHONE AND MAIL REQUESTS ARE WELCOME.
Hours 9-5, Monday-Friday
Telephone 739-3871 Ext. 25



berkshire genealogist

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Berkshire Genealogical Society

Vol. 1, No 3

March - April, 1979

"Vital" Issue

Consider this fact: Only 12 states in this country currently permit open, public inspection of vital records. Massachusetts is one of the twelve - for the moment. There are now four bills before the Massachusetts General Assembly for consideration, two of which would severely restrict the access of genealogists to vital records.

Traditionally, genealogists have not proven politically motivated, preferring to concentrate on the hunt for elusive ancestors. This orientation must change, however, for genealogical research to successfully continue. Birth, marriage and death records are the basic foundation on which to build sound genealogical research. Without adequate access to them, genealogy will prove impossible.

Consequently, the four bills before the Massachusetts Legislature should be of basic interest to you. It is up to you, as genealogists and voters, to express that interest to your state representatives, and to do so strongly. These men are not genealogists, with little or no knowledge of the implications of these bills to genealogical research. TELL THEM. They do understand the value and power of votes.

The bills filed with the Massachusetts General Court are as follows:

SENATE BILL #345: to permit the opening of birth records to members of a legally incorporated genealogical society immediately, and to the public after 70 years.

SENATE BILL #344: to repeal the requirement that certain births be recorded as "illegitimate".

HOUSE BILL #147: to close vital records for genealogical research until 100 years after a birth, and 50 years after a death or marriage.

HOUSE BILL #148: to permit the state commissioner, or state registrar, to issue regulations relative to birth, marriage and death. This could possibly result in the closing of vital records by administrative ruling, as happened in New Jersey in 1978.

The final decision regarding your position on these bills is, of course, a personal one. Please consider the implications of each proposal carefully. As a guideline, the Federation of Genealogical Societies suggests that Massachusetts genealogists approve the two Senate bills and disapprove the two bills originating in the House.

Speaking as President and editor, I would also consider the two Senate bills in a positive light, particularly Senate Bill #345, since it presently appears that some sort of vital records legislation will be passed in 1979.

The Board of Directors of the Berkshire Genealogical Society will offer a formal position following its next meeting.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES. The Massachusetts Senator for Berkshire County is John H. Fitzpatrick. The name of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from Berkshire County for your district is available from the public library. You may also wish to contact Rep. Robert Ambler and Senator McKenna, Co-Chairman of the Government Regulations Committee, which is responsible for the bills mentioned above. Address all correspondence to the representatives to the State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1437
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201

Queries

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Denis J. Lesieur
VICE PRESIDENT	Reginald Arnold
TREASURE	Ronald Stratton
CORRESPONDING SECT.	Stanley Moore
RECORDING SECT.	Gladys King
DIRECTORS	Ruth Bass, Mary DeGiorgis, Dorothy Ford, Carol Hayes, Frank Kelly, Richard Leab, Kenneth Wells, Susan Frisch

BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR	Denis J. Lesieur
EDITORIAL ASST.	Carol A. Nykorchuck

The BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST welcomes contributions from members of the Berkshire Genealogical Society, and other interested genealogists. Please send all material, including queries, to the above address.

Programs

MARCH 26 - WHEN YOU NEED A PRO...!?

Ever wonder what a professional genealogist does, and why? Or even whether you might like to try your hand at it? Come to our program and find out. A panel of professional genealogists will discuss a variety of topics relating to the professional genealogist, including when, or whether, to hire a professional; the training and knowledge needed to become a professional; how to avoid frauds and incompetents; what does C.G., C.A.L.S., C.G.R.S. mean and are they important? In addition, the panel will answer questions from the audience.

APRIL 23 - FIELD TRIP TO BOSTON

We are tentatively planning a day-long field trip to the N.E. Historic Genealogical Society, plus other research institutions in Boston. There will be a guided tour of the facilities and collections, and free time for research. Details will be announced.

BEAL-RIPLEY. Will provide info. on desc. of John BEAL and/or William RIPLEY. Send SASE. (Write: John D. Beal, Jr. 3012 Bayless Dr. SW, Huntsville, Alabama 35805)

PRATT. For PRATT DIRECTORY, any info. on PRATT families in MASS. Will also provide free info. (Write: Jane Pratt Lovelace, Hidden Lake Rd., Higganum, Connecticut 06441)

COOPER-BROWN. Desire info. on Sarah COOPER & family, sister of Nathaniel, b. 1776 where? m. 7/2/1792 Adams, Mass. Allen BROWN of Cheshire; issue-Alexis, Allen, Andrew all of Cheshire, & Waterman of Farmington. (Write: Mrs. Sarah Kingsley, 1272 Fyler Rd., Kirkville, New York 13081)

COOPER-BROWN. Desire info. on Samuel COOPER & family, brother of Nathaniel b. 1778 where? m. Feb. 1803, Abigail BROWN. (Write: Mrs. Sarah Kingsley, 1272 Fyler Rd., Kirkville, N.Y. 13081)

DRESSER, CALEB - d. 3/11/1821, MARY FREEMAN, wife, d. 3/24/1871, both at Stockbridge, Mass., desire info. on parents. (Write: Mrs. Donald Kern, Rigor Hill Rd., Ghent, New York 12075)

HUTCHINSON, AMOS b. ca 1743, d. 1827, served Berkshire Co., Col. Ashley's Regt. wife, MARY BROWN b. ca. 1747, d. 1847, m. Union, Tolland Co., Conn; 3/20/1766, both lived Hillsdale, N.Y. died Venice, N.Y. Desire info. on parents. (Write: Mrs. Donald Kern, Rigor Hill Road, Ghent, New York 12075)

TYRINGHAM CEMETERY RECORDS
TYRINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
from typescript in Local
History and Genealogy
Department at the Berkshire
Athenaeum.

GILMORE - Arthur Sr. 1885,
Elizabeth (HARRINGTON)
his wife 1887 - Arthur F.
Jr. 1916-1955.

KAMMERER - Percy Gamble,
1885-1946.

SMITH - Irene W., no dates - Eleanor,
wife, no dates.

TWAX - Katherine, 1953 - Elizabeth, 1954.

VINCENT - William, no dates - Eva his
(TWING) wife, no dates.

HEATH - Almon P. son of Newton A. &
(WOODEN) Cora J. died 2/5/1896 ae 22
married Cora J. his wife 1868-1920.

BARNES - Edna M.H. 11/21/1901 - 17 yrs,
1 mos, 21 da. Mary wife of George L.
Barnes. 9/29/1847 - 10/29/1902 ae 55,
George L. 1838-1915 G.A.R.

TWING - Wilbur C. 1872.
(BARNES) Flora M. his wife 1872-1950.

BRASEE - George N. 12/3/1863 - 3/17/1911
Anthony 1898-1900, Sarah, his wife 1834.
Harry son of Lyman & Martha Brasee,
7/2/1894 - 1/26/1904.

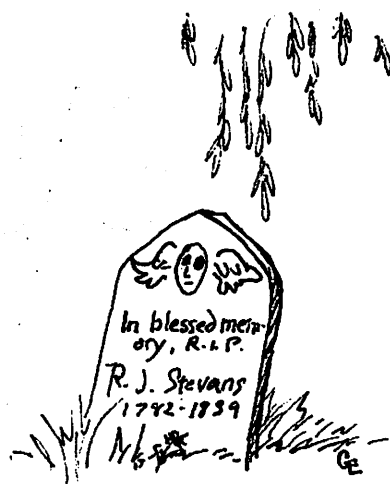
STANNARD - William M. 1/29/1833-3/6/1908
(HEATH) - Clara M. 12/12/1844-1/1/1913
STANNARD - William son of F.W. & E.M.
Stannard 1899-1921.

(PIXLEY) - Ellen M. 1868-1947 his wife.

WOODEN - Lucy M. Brasee wife of Hiram
Wooden 1886-1912.

STEDMAN - Mae Belle H. 1872-1943, Earl R.
son of M.B.H. & W.H. 1903-1941, William
Henry 1871-1954, Walter C. 1897,
Katherine S. his wife 1896-1955.

HAWKINS - Hannah wife of Jeremiah
11/10/1882 ae 73, Jeremiah 9/8/1860,
ae. 61.



WARREN - George Dale 1899-
1944.

(DORMAN) - Lila 1892.

MOORE - Richard Nelson 1898-
1939.

KIPP - Louisa dau. of H.M.
& L.P. Kopp.

STANTON - Julius R. 1876-1946.

CAMPBELL - Dora A. wife of John
1871 - 1945.

DORT - Robert Gilman 8/15/1892 -9/20/
1950.

PERKINS - Kate Riggs wife of Edward
Perkins 5/12/1892 - 12/31/1948.

SWEET - John W. 1852 - 1933.
(HEATH) Emma H. his wife 1850-1929.

LORING - Benjamin F. 1867-1929.
(WHITE) Georgia his wife 1877-1944.

BOSWORTH - G.L.B. 1861-1936.
G.N.B. 1897-1920.

SIRES - Bertha B. 1876-1920.

KOPP - George F. 1863-1929.
(STEDMAN) Lillie S. his wife 1864-1911.
(LINTHAM) Sadie his wife, no dates.

SLATER - Edward H. 1856-1938.
(SMITH) Etta J. his wife 1856-1948,
Duane S. their son 1886 - 19--.
(HARRINGTON) Alida H. wife of Duane 1887-
1918.
(BRYANT) Grace D. wife of Duane, 1895 -

HALE - George E. 1848-1920.
(DORMAN) Alice M. wife of Geo. Hale,
1851 - 1938.

HALE - Clarence W. 1876-1938. William W.
1855-1938.
(DORMAN) Henrietta wife of Wm. Hale,
1853-1920. Charles H. Hale 1851-1934.
(HEATH) Arianna his wife 1851-1938.
Everett L. Hale 11/22/1879 - 1955.

TAYLOR - James B. 1848-1928.
(CANON) Electa his wife, 1842-1873.

(GARFIELD) - Fannie A. his wife, June 6,
1880 - May 15, 1916.

MOORE - Herbert E. 3/3/1867-8/5/1938.
(INGALLS) Lydia his wife 12/31/1859-
12/3/1913.

(CANNON) Lillian C. wife of Herbert
Moore 8/29/1865 - 12/31/1945.

MOORE - Gary D. 1869-1950.
(NELSON) Elna his wife 1868-1924.

DORMAN - Frank G. 1868-1952.
(WORDEN) Lillian his wife 1873-1963.

STEDMAN - Jessie Sophis dau. of W.H. &
M.B. Stedman 3/18/1907 - 8/26/1909.

MINNING - Myron F. 1875-1934.
(LANGDON) Maud E. his wife 1873 -

ROUSE - Alton W. 1877-1934
(GARFIELD) Blanche his wife 1873 -

DOWD - Chauncey 1827-1906.
(COLLINS) Laura his wife 1831-1911.

CANNON - Paul D. 1901-1934.

MYRES - Eloise L. 1869 -
Stedman D. 1916-1931.
Charles R. 1883-1941.

CLARK - Wilbur S. 1893 -
(McCARTHY) Carrie L. his wife 1902-1953.

FISHER - Leroy P. 1880 - Mary N. wife.
Eugene L. 1910-1945.

BAILEY - Henry S. 1900 -
(McCARTHY) Esther his wife 1913-1939.

HOWARD - Sidney 6/26/1891-8/23/1839.

JUDD - Albert O. 1870-1943.
(WILLIS) Minnie A. 1872-1936.
Francis A. 1917-1933.

EVANS - Louis H. 6/4/1939. Frances Helen
his wife, no dates, Mary E. Webster
Evans 4/30/1937.

HISCOX - Edward T. 11/27/1927. Louise E.
his wife, no dates, Francis E. 1939.

CLARK - James S. 1863 - 1935.
(SNOW) Carrie E. his wife 1886 - 1950,
buried in Otis - Edith 1886-1895, James E.
1867-1927.

ROBERTS - Isaac H. 1874-1911, Laura M.
his wife, 1876-1954, Rowena A. their
dau. 1903-1931, George T. son 1908-1943.

STEDMAN - Marshall W. 1859-1935, Libbie
M. his wife 1863-1943.

CANON - Arthur G. 1875-1915.
(GARFIELD) Flora L. his wife 1871-1917,
Alice their dau. 5 yrs. 9 mos.

LYMAN - Nancy Mae - 89

JOHNSON - Stephen C. 10/4/1817-2/27/1888.
(WILCOX) Lucy A. his wife 6/14/1823,
their children William H. ae 18 mos.,
George W. ae 2 mos., Walter S. ae 8 mos.,
Gustavus W. ae 10 mos., Lucy L. ae 2 mos.,
Westly M. 2 mos.

MOORE - Lucian Barber 1838-1910.
(JUDD) Sarah his wife 1835-1906.
Fuller - Helen T. dau. 1859-1941.

CANON - Nathan 1848-1922.
(NORTHUP) Florence E. his wife 1847-1936.
Clifford their son 1885.
(GARFIELD) Abigail D. wife of Clifford
Canon 1878-1953.

GARFIELD - Wallace W. 10/22/1837 -
11/10/1911.
(CANON) Hannah A. his wife 7/17/1840 -
12/6/1907, Lena G. dau. 1870.

LANGDON - Ralph J. 1860-1931.
(CUTTING) May A. his wife 1869-1949.
Ralph Jr. son 1905-1919, Eland J. 1898-
1899, Mar. & Mildred 1909-1909.

LANGDON - Horace E. 1852-1923, M. Louise
his wife 1850-1911.

GILMORE - Catherine Kelley wife of Giles
Gilmore 1865-1925.

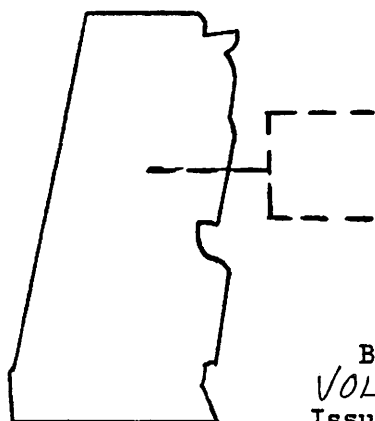
VAN ORMAN - Barbara 1925-1929.
Chester 1899-
Hazel M. his wife 1906.

DUBE - Eleanor dau. of J.H. & A.W. Dube
12/26/1919 d. 1920.

PICKENS - Joan K. dau of A.M. & A.L.
Pickens 1941-1942.

WADSWORTH - Mary Jane 1951-1952.

CANON - Ira 3/26/1934 ae. 74, Olive, his
wife 5/18/1853, ae. 84.



berkshire genealogist

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of the Berkshire Genealogical Society
VOL I
Issue No. 4

July - August, 1979

Annual Event

The Stanley Club in Pittsfield was the scene of the fourth annual dinner meeting of the Berkshire Chapter. A congenial crowd of over 50 people witnessed the presentation of the group's annual public service award by President Denis J. Lesieur to George E. Williams, President of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the evening's main speaker. Following the presentation, Mr. Williams gave some lively and penetrating advice on the legal rights of genealogists and their on-going efforts to maintain open vital records.

The evening ended on a high note with the raffle of the Norman Rockwell print, "Family Tree," which was won by Rita Payson, the Town Clerk of Lenox and the Society's guest for the evening. She was accompanied by Phillis Ward, Tax Collector of Lenox.

Officers elected for the coming year are as follows:

PRESIDENT:	Denis J. Lesieur
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Mary DeGiorgis
TREASURER:	Reginald Arnold
CORRESPONDING SECT.	Stnaley Moore
RECORDING SECT.	Gladys King
DIRECTORS:	Ruth Bass, Bernice Ballou, Nancy Clemens, Edith Fagley, Dorothy Ford, Frank Kelly, Richard Leab, Thelma Owens, John Sisson, Virginia Siter.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A tape of George Williams' speech is available for use by interested members in the Local History Department of the Berkshire Athenaeum.

MASSOG Issue

As many of you know, the Berkshire Chapter in the last several years, has experienced increasing problems of communication and cooperation with the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists. By 1978-9, the relationship had deteriorated sufficiently that the membership voted to withhold dues payments to MASSOG until matters had been resolved.

In conjunction with this action, a letter stating our grievances was sent to MASSOG. The response was unsatisfactory. As a result, at a special membership meeting called on Monday, June 18th, to discuss the problem, the members present voted to withdraw from MASSOG unless the state indicated a willingness to address and solve our grievances at a MASSOG Board of Directors meeting scheduled for June 23rd.

Happily, the state officers present at that meeting displayed a sincere wish to try to heal the breach between the two groups. In addition, Lesley Hall, the President of MASSOG, has agreed to come to Pittsfield on August 10th to meet the membership and answer any questions or complaints you may have. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Berkshire Athenaeum.

If you care about the future of the Berkshire Genealogical Society, please come to this meeting. We finally have an opportunity to receive answers to questions that have been troubling us for too long a time. The decision regarding continued participation in MASSOG is a highly important one that will affect the direction and growth of this group for many years to come. In addition, this is your chance to have influence in the shape and form that genealogy will take in Massachusetts.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1437
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Denis J. Lesieur
VICE PRESIDENT: Mary DeGiorgis
TREASURE: Reginald Arnold
CORRESPONDING SECT.: Stanley Moore
RECORDING SECT.: Gladys King
DIRECTORS: Ruth Bass, Bernice Ballou, Nancy Clemens, Edith Fagley, Dorothy Ford, Frank Kelly, Richard Leab, Thelma Owens, John Sisson, Virginia Siter.

BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR: Denis J. Lesieur
EDITORIAL ASST.: Carol A. Nykorchuck

The BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST welcomes contributions from members of the Berkshire Genealogical Society, and other interested genealogists. Please send all material, including queries, to the above address.

Calling ...!

In an effort to maintain closer contact and clearer communication with the membership, the Berkshire Society has established a telephone committee. Volunteer members of the committee receive a short list of members, whom they call each month with information of Society meeting dates and program events.

If you would like to be placed on the calling list - or would like to volunteer to make a few calls - please let us know.

Queries

DODD-CARPENTER. Wish to corr. with desc. of DODD family in Berkshires. Need clues for BERTHA (BETHIA) DODD, b. 5 Dec. 1787, d. 3 Apr. 1824, m. 9 March 1808. AMOS CARPENTER JR. where are the church records for Adams, 1750-1850? (Write: Mrs. Lloyd R. Knauss, 82 East Cedar St., Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601)

NEWELL. Need names, b. & d. dates parents of MARTH NEWELL b. Dalton, Ma. July 1776, m. JOHN CURTIS Dalton, Ma. She died 5 Sept. 1861. (Write: Joseph A. Mannix Jr., 33-18 161 St., Flushing, N.Y. 11358).

WARREN. Desire info. on any desc. of family of BENJAMIN WARREN b. 1728, wife HANNAH LEWIS b. 1738. All children b. in Tyringham. Dau. MERCY WARREN b. 1779 m. LEVI DORMAN b. ?. They are my Gr. Gr. Grandparents, need m. & d. records. (Write: Mabel Wirsing, Star Rte. #4 - Box 109, Fifield, Wis. 54524).

DORMAN. Like to contact any desc. of DANIEL WELL DORMAN, wife MARY PERRY REMINGTON of Tyringham. Desire STEDMAN kin to write. Believe DANIEL brother of LEVI DORMAN. (Write: Mabel Wirsing...).

COWEN. Is JENNIE COWEN, wife of MYRON VARY, buried in Garfield Cemetery, 1890, Stephentown, N.Y. the same SARAH JANE COWAN found in Hancock Vital Records listed as daughter of LORENZO & ALICE COWAN, b. 28 April 1853? (Write: Eileen L. Whitney, 11-35 Westview Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10603).

LUSCIA-LUCHA. North Adams city directories for 1890-1, "93-4, "97 list a PETER LUSSIER/LUSCIA. Was he son of CHRISTOPHER & AMELIA (GOODROO) LUCHA born 11 Dec. 1859 Moriah, N.Y.? (Write: Eileen Whitney, 11-35 Westview Ave., White Plains, N.Y.).

LEWIS-GIDEON. Parents?, b. before 1767 in R.I.? Conn.? d. after 1800, probably in New Ashford? Wife SARAH CARD, 1790 New Ashford census shows 4 sons, 3 daughters. (Write: Carol Jacobson, 595 Idylwood Dr., SE, Salem, Or. 97302).

A Correction

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CHESHIRE, MASS.
Rayner & Petitclerc (*974.43 C 42)

NOTE: RE: Peleg Whitford - Page 198.

Peleg Whitford, for whom Whitford's Rocks east of Statford's Hill is named (now town of Cheshire) did not fall or jump from the rocks!! He moved first to Shaftsbury, Vermont ca 1779. There his daughter Hannah and son William were born, (William-August 14, 1781). About 1801, Peleg with first wife Ruth Tibbetts, moved to Addison Co. Vermont, east of the Village of Addison. He died Oct. 31, 1831, and is buried in what was the Advent Church Cemetery; this is now on a farm. (Peleg's home, built in 1801 at Addison, is still standing and occupied--1979, May).

William Whitford wrote what he recalled of what his father, Peleg, told him of the family history, going back to Newport, Rhode Island, Pasco Whitford 1640. (Now completely documented for Peleg's line by me-M. Hammersmith). Copies of William's writing in manuscript form, are at the Historical Society of the State of Vermont at Montpelier, and possibly at the New England Historical & Genealogical Society.

William married Elizabeth Luther, daughter of Samuel & Elizabeth (Gardner) Luther of Swansea, Mass. (See Luther Family in America by Leslie L. Luther, available from son in Florida. See current Genealogical Helper ads).

I will correspond and share or trade information with any interested descendants.

My descent is from Charlotte (Whitford) Brown, descendant of William and Charlotte's husband Warren Stone Brown of Panton, Addison Co., Vermont. (Warren's father - Wareham Brown)

Mary Powell Hammersmith (Mrs.)
1424 Lark Lane
Naperville, Ill. 60540

What's Fair ...

The Ethnic Fair is one of the major community events in Pittsfield each year. Normally, five to ten thousand people or more attend the Fair. This year, there are two special changes to the Fair. It is being held at B.C.C. on August 19th, and secondly, the Berkshire Genealogical Society has been invited to participate and arrange an exhibit.

This is a unique opportunity for our Society to gain a tremendous amount of visibility and also dispel an all too prevalent stereotype of a "New England Yankee" only avocation. In reality, of course, the opposite is true. The majority of genealogists are of ethnic background, products of the great waves of 19th century European immigration.

We need your help to make this effort successful. If you have any family items that indicate an ethnic heritage, particularly photographs, that you would be willing to loan, please let us know. In addition, we need ideas and help in actually constructing our exhibit booth.

Please contact DENIS LESIEUR at the Berkshire Athenaeum.

Course Info

"AN INTRODUCTION TO GENEALOGY" - a ten week course, will be offered by the B.C.C. Continuing Education Division beginning in September, 1979. Taught by Denis J. Lesieur, Supervisor of Local History and Literature Services at the Berkshire Athenaeum, the course will, in a basic "how-to" approach, examine the practices and principles in researching a family history. Participants will learn how to research published and manuscript records in the library, town hall and courthouse. For further information, contact Denis Lesieur at the Berkshire Athenaeum.

New Arrivals

Each week new books flow into the genealogy collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum - books you might need for your research but don't realize we now have. To help solve this problem, we will be publishing an occasional descriptive listing of some of our more significant new arrivals.

APPLETON, WILLIAM S. ed.

Boston Births, Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths, 1630-1699. Boston Births, 1700-1800. 2 v. in 1. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978 rep. Originally published as the 9th and 24th Reports of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston. Covers over 50,000 people. Contains almost every entry of birth; marriage and death recorded in Boston during its first 70 yrs.; every entry of baptisms recorded by the First Church for the same period. Good source.

BUENKER, JOHN D. ed.

Immigration and Ethnicity: A Guide to Information Sources. Detroit: Gale Research, 1977. Broad general survey of published sources of the last twenty years on various European, Oriental and Hispanic groups: the nature of American immigration and ethnicity. Also contains list of repositories specializing in ethnic and immigrant research. Useful.

FRENCH, ESTER GRISWOLD, comp.

Revolutionary War Veterans Buried in Columbia, County, New York. 2 v. Chatham, N.Y.: The Author, 1978. Alphabetical listing of more than 600 veterans and spouses, with birth and death dates, the town and cemetery where buried, the gravestone inscription and service record. Useful.



GANNETT, HENRY.

A Geographic Dictionary of Connecticut and Rhode Island. 2 v. in 1. Baltimore: GPC, 1979, reprint.

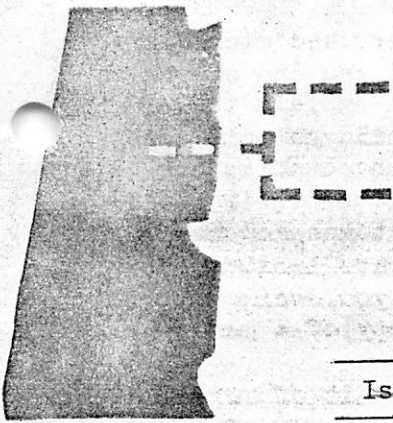
Originally published in separate vols. in 1894 by the U.S. Geological Survey. Lists alphabetically geographic features (lakes, rivers, mountains, etc.) with relation to the town or county and to the applicable U.S. Geological Survey atlas map. Good for tracing obscure locations.

PRUITT, BETTY, ed.

Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1978. In 1771, The Massachusetts General Court required town assessors to prepare a detailed person-by-person inventory of real personal property. This computerized transcription provides information on more than 36,000 heads of households in 152 towns. The list is arranged by town and towns are grouped by county. An alphabetical index of names is provided. Very valuable.

SHERMAN, ROBERT M. ed.

Mayflower Families Through Five Generations. Vol. 2 Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1978. The second volume of the Mayflower Society's ambitious project to trace the ancestry of all the Mayflower passengers. This book deals with the Chilton, Mores and Rogers families. As with volume one, it is well researched and authenticated. A complete index of persons, and a key to abbreviated titles are useful features. Well done and very useful.



berkshire genealogist

A Publication of the Berkshire Family History Association

Issue No. 5 Vol 2, No 1

January - February 1980

Roots Reviewed

As we stumble, bruised and battered, into 1980, we will undoubtedly find ourselves surrounded by postmortems of the 1970's in newspapers, magazines, and on television. It is equally certain these analysis will be grim and gloomy, given a decade that began with the Vietnam conflict and ended with the crisis in Iran, with shortages of energy and overabundance of inflation in between. Its been a tense, tumultuous and trying ten years.

And yet.....We enjoyed the American Bicentennial celebrations, witnessed a dramatic and touching Papal visit to the U.S., experienced unheralded prosperity - and, most of all, survived.

And, there was ROOTS. If there is one interest group which can look back on the 1970's with equanimity and pleasure, perhaps it is genealogists. Inspired by the dual phenomena of the Bicentennial and "Roots", thousands of Americans rediscovered their ancestors and, in the process, a portion of their own identity.

As the popularity of family history increased, so did its profitability. New "how-to" books tumbled by the dozen from the publishing companies; new genealogical magazines appeared in mailboxes; and Continental Trailways even pushed "Take our Routes to Your Roots" bus tours. Countless local genealogical organizations sprouted alongside national associations such as the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Some died quickly, others withered slowly, still others continued a steady growth toward maturity and success.

Born in the heat of the Bicentennial, the Berkshire group has endured difficult

times and continued to prosper. The past four years have been both exciting and fulfilling. Now we are entering the new year with a new name, and a new dedication. We have before us an opportunity to fashion a dynamic and creative organization dedicated to furthering our knowledge and awareness of family history, both our own and others. I hope that all members will join in making our group the most active and successful organization in the state. We have the people, the talent, and the resources. So let's do it!

DJL

New York Vitals

As most serious researchers are now aware, New York State has opened its early vital statistic indexes to the public. Researchers can visit the state offices in Albany¹ and use the microfiche index to locate their ancestors.

The microfiche cards are arranged in trays by birth, death or marriage and there are two complete sets of each so more than one researcher can work at any given time. The records begin with the year 1880 and, while there are very few entries for the early years, each succeeding year is more complete. Births are available through 1904 and marriage and death records are available through 1929.² The indexes are arranged by year and then alphabetically. You will find some births and marriages filed by the Souder System.

On the microfiche, you will find the person's name (surname and then given name), date of birth, marriage or death, the town where event occurred and the file number. To obtain a copy of an

(cont. on p.2)

entry, you fill out a search form giving the name, the index number, the year and type of record requested. You must be careful to copy the correct file and year number as the clerks DO NOT check to see that the name on the document they are copying matches the name on your request sheet. After filling out the request sheet, which has room for ten requests, give it to the clerk at the front desk. She will collect a fee of 25¢ per copy wanted and tell you that the copies will be forwarded by mail. This may take from two weeks to two months, depending upon their work load. You may request any number of copies but as of October 1979, each researcher will only be sent ten copies per month. Because of this new limitation, it may take several months to receive all of the copies that you have requested. Each copy that you receive will be stamped "For Genealogical Research Only"

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 1437
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201

OFFICERS

President: Denis J. Lesieur
Vice Pres.: Mary Hoyt DeGiorgis
Treasurer: Kenneth Wells
Corr. Sect.: Stanley Moore
Rec. Sect.: Gladys King
Directors: Bernice Ballou, Nancy Clemens, Edith Fagley, Dorothy Ford, Marjorie Griggs, Frank Kelly, Richard Leab, Anne O'Connor, Thelma Owens, John Sisson.

BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: Denis J. Lesieur
Editorial Assts: Joseph Maciora, Carol Nykorchuck, Kathy Reilly

The BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST welcomes contributions from members of the Berkshire Family History Association, and other interested genealogists. Please send all material, including queries, to the above address.

If you have never used microfiche, the staff will assist you and answer any questions. They will explain the Sounder System. Should you come across an unfamiliar town (no counties are given on the index), ask to see their booklet that lists New York towns and the counties where they are located. Knowing the county may help you decide whether or not you want a copy of a particular entry.

Another helpful bit of information is that you may call ahead and reserve a microfiche reader.³ This is a good idea if you are traveling from a distance. On a visit this past summer, I had to wait an hour before a reader became available - this can be frustrating if you have a limited amount of time. If you haven't called ahead and this happens to you, ask to reserve a machine for later in the day and go across the street to the New York State Library, which in itself is well worth a visit.

Having access to this index can be a tremendous help - even with its limitations. The cost of copies is very reasonable. But the best part is that you are able to do your own research. Use of this index has enabled me to find several previously unknown children, the married names and spouses of several aunts, other families with the same surname, relatives who had resettled elsewhere in the state and even a death record that Albany had previously searched for and could not find. Research in New York can be difficult but having access to this index certainly is a step forward for genealogists.

Eileen L. Whitney
White Plains, New York

¹ State of New York, Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Records, Second Floor, Tower Building, Empire State Plaza, Albany, N.Y.

² By law in New York, there is a 75 year restriction on birth records and a fifty year restriction on marriage and death records.

³ Bureau of Vital Records, 518-474-2005, ask for Mrs. George.

Newz From The North

The North Berkshire "Fort Massachusetts" sub-chapter reorganized this Fall with the following officers:

Chairman - Marjorie E. Griggs

Secretary - Carolyn Bass

Treasurer - Edna Rudnick

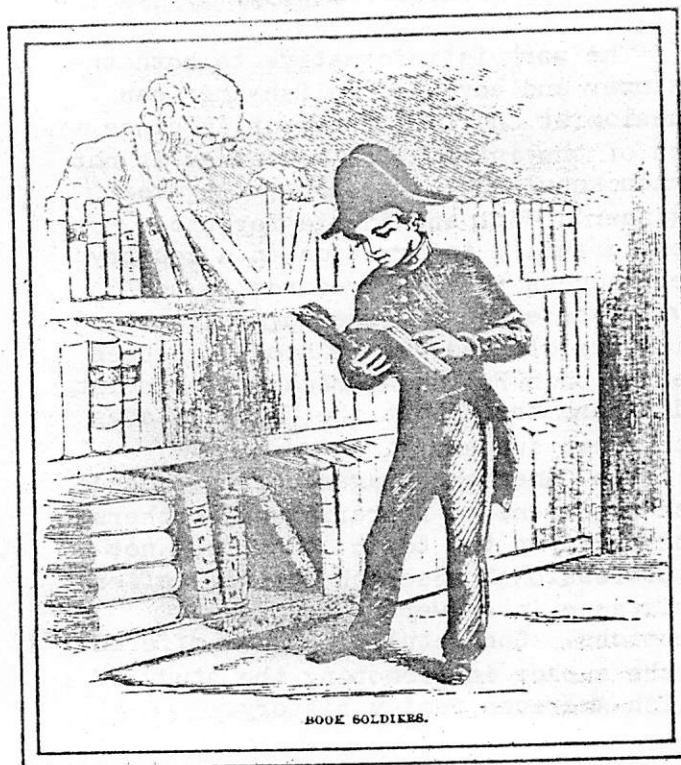
Program Committee - Bernice Ballou
and Annette Jenks

The meetings are being held in the Parish House of the St. John's Episcopal Church, North Adams, at 7:30 P.M. Starting in January, the meetings will be held the third Tuesday of each month.

The October 26th meeting was attended by 14 members and two guests. Denis Lesieur, President of the Berkshire Family History Association, Pittsfield, attended the meeting and gave a brief summary of what had transpired with MASSOG. He also spoke of the trip to Boston on November 17th to visit the New England Genealogical Society. Elsie Manson of North Adams was the guest speaker of the evening and spoke on her Genealogy which she has been compiling since 1960.

The November 13th meeting was "Favorite Ancestor" Night and was attended by 12 members and two guests. Many interesting items handed down in families were shown, including one of the original nails manufactured at the Saugus Iron Works in the 1600's (owned by the Jenks family), a cane carved in 1855 from wood from the holly tree on a plantation in Virginia, a beautifully framed wedding certificate with not only pictures of the bride and groom but also a photo of the minister who performed the ceremony. Highlight of the evening was a pair of tiny spectacles in a tin case which had belonged to Harriet Whitney's great, great grandmother c. 1816.

There was no meeting in December. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 15 at 7:30 P.M. Anyone with an interest in genealogy is invited to attend. Come a few minutes early and enjoy a cup of coffee and a chance to visit with the members.



BOOK SOLDIERS.

Book Reviews

Ames, Mary Ann Boczon. HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR PERSONAL POLISH FAMILY HISTORY. New Carrollton, Maryland: The Author, 1976. Pp. i, 30 \$4.00
Order from: Mrs. Mary Ann Boczon
Ames, 6642 Andrian St., New Carrollton, Maryland 20784.

The purpose of this intriguing book is "to locate family historical data and possible members of the family living in modern day Poland." There are twelve sections. They are: I) Introduction, II) The Genogram, III) Locating the Family in Poland, IV) Census Data, V) Passenger Lists, VI) Petition for Naturalization, VII) Archives and Other Resources, VIII) Cemeteries, IX) Physiognomy, X) Surnames, XI) Epilogue, and XII) Bibliography. Section II deals with the diagraming of family members in reference to family size, longevity of family members and family occupations by using rectangles for males and circles for females. Section IX is devoted to the application of the study of facial and body characteristics which is not common in genealogy, but is a part of the family history study.

(cont. on p. 4)

The work is informative to both the beginner and advanced Polish-American genealogist and family historian since much of the information contained is not common knowledge. The book is a great beginner's tool and an aid for those seeking family information in a country where access to vital records is not always the easiest. The suggestions which are offered in the book have been used by this Polish-American genealogist and others throughout the United States with great success.

Mrs. Ames encourages correspondence with researchers, librarians and others interested in the topic. She does not do professional research but will offer assistance in answering concise questions. Congratulations are offered to the author in promoting the study of Polish-American family history.

Joseph G. V. Maciora
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Streeter, William & Morris, Dauphne H.,
comp. THE VITAL RECORDS OF
CUMMINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS, 1762-1900.
Hartford, CT: The Authors, 1979.
Pp. lxii, 415. \$28.00.
Order from: William Streeter, Main
Street, Cummington, MA 01026.

In 1902, in an unusual display of fiscal sanity, the Massachusetts General Court passed an act providing for the purchase of five hundred copies of published vital records of Massachusetts towns to 1850, to be distributed free to public, college and other libraries throughout the Commonwealth. With the exception of a brief hiatus during W.W.I., the purchases continued until 1932. During that period, the records of nearly two hundred towns were published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Essex Institute, and other historical institutions and individuals.

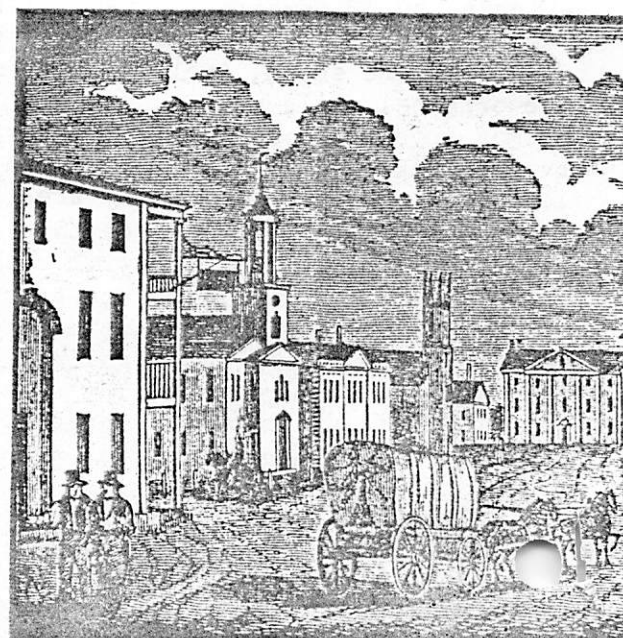
Designed solely as statistical compilations of births and baptisms, marriages and intentions, and deaths, the volumes drew upon civil, church, cemetery and private records for their factual base. The quality and reliability varied,

depending upon the skill, knowledge and enthusiasm of the compilers.

The following forty plus years witnessed little further activity in publishing vital records, leaving the two extreme ends of the state - Cape Cod and the Berkshires - particularly untouched. The appearance of The Vital Records of Cummington is therefore especially encouraging. The compilers have given genealogists access to heretofore difficult to find information, and have done so in a stylish, impressive manner.

Actually, the title of the volume is a deceptive one. There is, of course, the normal birth, marriage and death statistics, stretching from the time of settlement in the 1760's until 1900. They are drawn from town, cemetery and private records, and presented in the now standard format of an alphabetical surname listing under each category of activity. Discrepancies from the town clerk's official records are noted, together with the source of additional data - a safeguard not always found in other printed vital records.

There is also much more, however. The compilers have drawn upon a wide range of records, including private diaries and correspondence, as well as military and U.S. Census data to create a broad profile of the town and its people. Several chapters, highlighted by letters to and from early Cummington



Drawn by J. W. Barber—En
CENTRAL PART C

migrants and their families, provide a penetrating glimpse of eighteenth and nineteenth century migration patterns between this region and the West and Midwest. The settlers who remained behind are examined in a brief six page section which seeks to sort out the various Cummington families into coherent and identifiable family lines. Unfortunately, since the sources for much of the information are not listed, the careful genealogist must treat this segment with caution, as only supposition and not established fact. A rather safe supposition is the delight with which genealogists who have risked poison ivy and snake bite in search of ancestral gravestones will receive the gravestone index to all known Cummington cemeteries, along with correspondingly numbered charts for each cemetery.

There is much to be found in this book - lists of soldiers from Cummington who fought in the pre-1800 wars, lists of legal name changes, etc. - much more than can be detailed here. Suffice it to say that in The Vital Records of Cummington genealogists have a wealth of vital information, as well as a model for future such compilations.

Denis J. Lesieur
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Footnotes

The BBC has once again demonstrated its penchant for creative television programming. The British Broadcasting Company has been running a popular television program on researching family history. British archivists anticipate an upsurge in reference demands on record offices for genealogical sources. Apparently the rise has already begun - the Cornwall Record Office, for example, has instituted a system of appointments for searches, and its searchroom is now closed to the public except by prior appointment. American genealogists planning research in England would be well advised to check beforehand to ensure access to material.

A bibliography describing 1,300 newspapers published in fourteen central New York counties from the 1790's to the 1970's has been published by the New York State Historical Association and the South Central Research Library Council. Entitled A Bibliography of Newspapers in Fourteen New York Counties, the 316-page volume contains information about newspapers in the counties of Allegany, Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tomkins, and Yates. The work was edited by Sylvia G. Faibisoff and Wendell Tripp. Information about each newspaper includes place of publication, frequency of issue, format, years of publication, editors and publishers, political views, and a brief commentary. Of special value is the inclusion of the names of individuals, libraries, and other depositories that have issues of the newspapers. The volume is available for \$14, postpaid, from Fenimore Bookstore, New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown, N.Y. 13326.

Her Majesty's Stationery Office has recently published the sixth and latest edition of Record Repositories in Great Britain (London, 1979). It lists 231 archives offices and is a useful directory for researchers. This new edition, however, has been severely criticized for its omission of a number of important archives services on the basis that they merely service the archives of their employing body.



Books Received



Schenectady, N.Y.
Write: The Compiler, 2347
Algonquin Rd., Schenectady,
N.Y. 12309

The books listed are gifts to the Local History and Genealogy Collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum. The name and address of the person from whom the book may be purchased is included unless otherwise requested.

ALEXANDER. Peter Pine Alexander Family, 1761-1898. By Edythe Fader. Concrete, WA: The Concrete Herald, 1975. \$4.50. Write: The Author, 1814 Douglas St., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

ALEXANDER. Western Pioneers: The Descendants of Peter Pine Alexander. By Edythe Fader. Concrete, WA: The Concrete Herald, 1977. \$12.50. Write: The Author, 1814 Douglas St., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

ATTRIDGE. The Attridges of Massachusetts and Their Descendants. By Paul T. Atteridg. Houston, TX 1978. Write: The Author, 123 Plantation Rd., Houston, TX 77024

BRIGHAM. From Whence We Came: A History of The Thomas Brigham and Related Families. By Elden L. Brigham. Ann Arbor, MI: Edwards Bros., 1976. \$15.00. Write: The Author, Rte. 1, Evart, MI 49631

CALAWAY. Descendants of the "Connecticut Calaways" and Family Album Illustrated. By Merle Leland Calaway. Conneaut, OH, 1976. \$13.00. Write: Mrs. Julia Calaway, 260 Mill St., Conneaut, OH 44030

CHENEY. The Descendants and Ancestors of Claudius Franklin Cheney. By Leonard Earl Cheney. 1978. \$20.00. Write: The Author, 504 Fullerson Drive, Roswell, N.M. 88201

HAVEN. Richard Haven of Lynn and One Line of His Descent. By Amy Lemert Hake, compiler. Schenectady, N.Y. 1976. \$9.00. Write: The Compiler, 2347 Algonquin Rd., Schenectady, N.Y. 12309

HAKE. Hake and Robb Families of Pennsylvania. Direct Line Ancestors of Robb A. Hake. By Amy Lemert Hake, comp.

JAGER. John Jager and His Descendants in America to the Sixth Generation. By Gordon S. Swift. Northampton, MA 1976. Write: The Author, 228 Audubon Rd., RFD 1, Northampton, MA 01060

KENNERSON. Ancestors and Descendants of Woodbury Kennerson, 1822-1913, of Marlboro, Massachusetts... By Hazel E. Kennerson Lafler. Morristown, N.J., Compton Press, 1977. \$17.00. Write: The Author, 75B Troy Dr., Springfield, N.J. 07081

KLOS, STOBBER. The Ancestors and Descendants of Frank Klos and Anna Mary (Stober) Klos. By Joseph James Klos. Stillwater, OK 1977. \$10.00. Write: The Author, 2029 W. Sherwood Ave., Stillwater, OK 74074

LARSEN, UGGERBY. Larsen and Uggerby Families, One Branch Descended from Carl Dencher of Denmark. By Roy A. Foulke. Bronxville, N.Y. 1977. Write: The Author, 9 Midland Gardens, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708

LARY. Lary Family Genealogy. By Carleton Edward Fisher. Rockland, ME: The Courier Gazette, 1977. Write: The Author, 195 Fairway Village, Largo, FL 33541

MERRILL. Lineage of Charles Cullen and His Descendants. By Harold Merrill Lawrence. Portland, ME 1973. Write: The Author, 80 Whitney Ave., Portland, ME 04102

MILLER. The Descendants of Henry and Polly Miller of Bedford, N.Y.... By Eric E. Hovemeyer, compiler. 1977. \$20.00. Write: The Compiler, 22 Evergreen Ave., Apt.C-1, Hartford, CT 06105

SEAGER. The Seager Families of Colonial New England. By C. T. and C. W. Seager. Brevard, NC 1978. Write: The Authors, Rte.#3, Box 45A, Brevard, NC 28712

SMITH. The Tangier Smith Family: Descendants of Col. William Smith of The Manor of St. George, Long Island, New York. By Ruth Tangier Smith & Henry Bainbridge Huff. Farmingdale, N.Y.: The

Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America, 1978. \$5.00 Write: Henry Bainbridge Huff, 300 Central Park West, New York, N.Y. 10024

SWETT-ALLEN. Swett-Allen and Allied Families. By Rebecca Allen Swett. Edited by Susan Swett Forrester. Concord, MA 1978. Write: The Editor, 29 Icing Lane, Concord, MA 01742

WINSLOW. Tracing Shadows. The Record of a 19th Century Vermont Family: Their Ancestors and Descendants. By Elizabeth Sharpe Lincoln. Lincoln, R.I. 1978. Write: The Author, 247 Fishing Cove Rd., Wickford, RI 02852

DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.

Production of fine genealogical publications has greatly accelerated at the same time that many libraries have suffered serious budgetary restrictions. Yet, if our collections are to remain of value and usefulness, we must continue to add updated information. One solution is to appeal to the generosity of genealogists. If you have back issues of periodicals, extra copies of family genealogies - even copies of research notes or family charts - please consider donating them to the Athenaeum. In doing so, you will be also aiding the many other genealogists who use our collections.



Footnotes

The Massachusetts Library Association now has a Local History and Genealogy Section, composed of librarians with a professional and/or personal interest in these fields. These are the people genealogists deal with in libraries throughout the state. Consequently, they welcome your comments regarding any books, activities, etc. that you would like instituted, continued, or discontinued. They're willing to listen. Talk to them. Contact Denis Lesieur, The Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, this country's leading authority on Jewish Genealogy and a former guest speaker to our group, is now the editor of Toledot, The Journal of Jewish Genealogy. Cost for an annual subscription is \$8.00 from Toledot, 808 West End Avenue, Suite 1006, New York, N.Y. 10025. This journal is currently the only known publication exclusively devoted to Jewish Genealogy.

Queries

ANDREWS. Looking for OBED ANDREWS, b. 1770, probably in the area where N.Y. State and Massachusetts abut. Any leads appreciated. (Write: Ronald P. Koch, 2778 George Urban Blvd., Depew, N.Y. 14043)

CANFIELD. Looking for JOHN CANFIELD, b. about 1800, either in N.Y. or CT. (Write: Leah Dewey Towner, 3724 Maplewood St., Sioux City, Iowa 51104)

CARD. Looking for SARAH CARD, daughter of William Card of New Ashford and ? , b. ? . Wife of GIDEON LEWIS, once a resident of New Ashford. (Write: Carol Jacobson, 595 Idylwood Dr. SE, Salem, Oregon 97302)

CROSSETT. Looking for MARY CROSSETT, parents - William Crossett and Elizabeth ? b. 25 July 1746 in Pelham, MA. d. ? . Husband George Thompson of Pelham, m. 5 Dec. 1765. (Write Carol Jacobson, 595 Idylwood Dr. SE, Salem Oregon 97302)

DEWEY. Want to share info. on DEWEY family. (Write: Leah Dewey Towner, 3724 Maplewood St., Sioux City, Iowa 51104)

HOWE - GRAY. Looking for (female) GRAY daughter of James Gray and Esther Sabins of Leverett, Mass., married (male) HOWE. Had 2 children, Horace and Esther who were left with grandfather James Gray after the death of their parents (d. before 1812) (Write: Mrs. Dorothy Gray Theurer, 151 East Penning Ave., Wood River, Illinois 62095)

PECK. Looking for ORILLA PECK b. ? (circa 1790) probably somewhere in western Mass. m. JAMES GRAY, Jr. son of James and Esther(Sabins) Gray. date of marriage ? (1805-1812?) place ? (Write: Mrs. Dorothy Gray Theurer, 151 East Penning Ave., Wood River, Illinois 62095)

SABINS. Looking for ESTHER SABINS, b. ? (circa 1760) m. ? JAMES GRAY of Pelham (before 1790) place ? . (Write: Mrs. Dorothy Gray Theurer, 151 East Penning Ave., Wood River, Illinois 62095)

THOMPSON. Looking for GEORGE THOMPSON, b. about 1742 ? in Pelham. d. after 1784 in Pelham ? . Son of James Thompson and Martha of ? . Married MARY CROSSETT of Pelham 5 Dec. 1765. Father of John David Thompson, b. ? in Pelham. (Write: Carol Jacobson, 595 Idylwood Dr. SE, Salem, Oregon 97302)

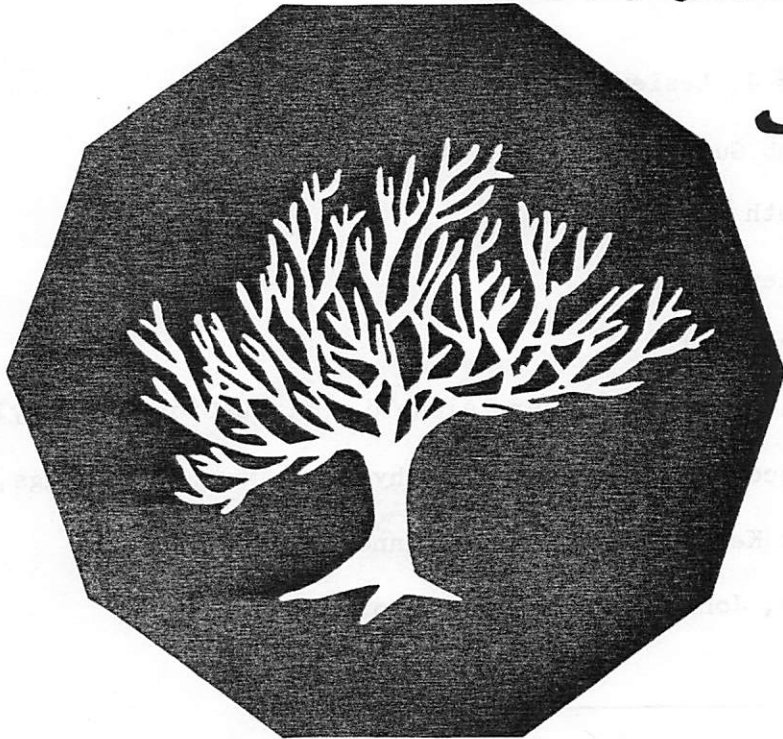
TYRREL(L) - WOLCOTT. Looking for BENAIAH TYRRELL/Turrell/Terril, etc. b. 1761 Lanesborough, Mass. d. 1828 Town of Schroon, hamlet of Severance, Essex Co., N.Y. m. cal785 BETSY WOLCOTT. Ch.: 1)Wolcott, b. 1786 m. Sarah Toms Lockwood; 2)Laura G., b. 1788, m. Thomas Potter; 3)Rila, b. 1790, m. Harriet Jones; 4)Stillman, b. 1793, m. Rosamond Hermon/Herrimon; 5)Salome, b. 1797, m. Lemon Garfield. Need more data re mother and children. Who were parents/ancestors of BENAIAH & BETSY (WOLCOTT) TYRREL? Poss. Benajah's father was Samuel or Jared. (Write: Margaret C. Percival, 6 Buell Court, Houston, Texas 77006)

our ancestors



"I'd always hoped you'd marry someone with a more impressive family tree!"

berkshire genealogist



VOLUME 2 NUMBER 2

Spring, 1981

A Quarterly Publication of the
Berkshire Family History Association
and
The Berkshire Athenaeum

Berkshire family history association

% P.O. Box 1437

Pittsfield, MA 01202

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The Berkshire Family History Association is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to advancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of family history in the United States and elsewhere.

MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone interested in family history. Annual dues are \$6.00 for individuals, \$8.00 for families and \$4.00 for students.

MEETINGS are held monthly from September through May, featuring both amateur and professional genealogists discussing a wide variety of topics.

SPECIAL EVENTS include group trips to New England research institutions; intensive one-day workshops on topics of genealogical importance and interest; as well as film series and much more.

Editor

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VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

Spring, 1981

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Genealogy & Statistics (1 + 1 = !)

Many of my acquaintances have questioned my intensive search for my ancestors, however, I feel I am searching for my heritage. This has always been my motivator. It was during a discussion with my co-workers, where again I was unsuccessfully defending my hobby that I happened on an idea. Why couldn't there be more to genealogy? Something for everyone or at least a broader aspect.

I have always been fascinated with numbers. Be it series, repeating sequences, percentages or distributions. Why not apply statistical analysis to genealogy? Now what would be a good starting point? At this point I decided to use my ancestral history as the basis, with access to a time sharing computer I started.

As I have worked on my charts I noticed what appeared to be a number of births in the fall. So, therefore, an analysis of birth months of my direct ancestors. As can be seen by the table below 26% of the births occurred in just two months, April and October. Conversely there was only 9% of the births in May and December. This is too great a difference to shrug off as chance, particularly when considering the total number of births involved.

At this time reasons for this pattern of births has not been fully investigated other than assume the seasons were partly responsible.

With the results of the below the next area of interest was death months. Here the variance between months was not as great but still two months had a greater number of deaths. This is shown in Table. II. An explanation for the greatest number of deaths in March and December is unknown unless the onset of cold was a factor and then illness lingering into March.

Now what would be more logical than life expectancy. With all of the claims we now live longer this was the next application of "Statistics". Without considering the impact on the results I evaluated the life span of my ancestors. The results turned out to be very misleading because of the information used. All of my ancestors survived adolescence, hence their life expectancy was greater than anticipated. In fact many lived to a very old age. See Table III.

TABLE I

Sample Size = 172
Standard Deviation of Sample = 3.38
Minimum Value = 1

Sample Mean = 6.31

Maximum Value = 12

Month	Freq.	Percent	Graph ($x = \frac{1}{2}\%$)
Jan.	11	6.40	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Feb.	17	9.88	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Mar.	18	10.47	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Apr.	23	13.37	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
May	8	4.65	xxxxxxxx
June	13	7.56	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
July	10	5.81	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Aug.	12	6.98	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sept.	16	9.30	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Oct.	26	15.12	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Nov.	10	5.81	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Dec.	8	4.65	xxxxxxxx

TABLE II

Sample Size = 280
 Standard Deviation of Sample = 3.54
 Minimum Value = 1

Sample Mean = 6.52

Maximum Value = 12

Month	Freq.	Percent	Graph ($x=\frac{1}{2}\%$)
Jan.	17	6.07	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Feb.	26	9.29	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Mar.	32	11.43	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Apr.	27	9.64	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
May	23	8.21	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
June	17	6.07	xxxxxxxxxxxx
July	22	7.86	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Aug.	21	7.50	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sept.	21	7.50	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Oct.	23	8.21	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Nov.	18	6.43	xxxxxxxxxxxx
Dec.	33	11.79	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

TABLE III

Sample Size - 243
 Standard Deviation of Sample = 15.94
 Minimum Value = 29

Sample Mean = 68.71

Maximum Value = 97

Age	Freq.	Percent	Graph ($x=\frac{1}{2}\%$)
20-29	2	0.82	x
30-39	12	4.94	xxxxx
40-49	22	9.05	xxxxxxxxxx
50-59	26	10.70	xxxxxxxxxxxx
60-69	46	18.93	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
70-79	69	28.39	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
80-89	50	20.58	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
90-100	16	6.58	xxxxxxx

As surprising as the above results are, it leads to the final, for now, study. This was to be an analysis of the life expectancy of the known children of my ancestors, which of course included by direct ancestors. As it turned out, this was an insurmountable task or at least one that would be time consuming beyond merit with about 200 families to consider, that had an average of 5 to 10 children.

The choice for which families to use to establish a comparable data base and which

to exclude was difficult. The first choice was families of the direct line to the original Barnard immigrant. This was over a period of 300 years and spanned 9 generations. The remaining 6 family lines chosen were those that married into the Barnard line.

As can be seen by the Table IV information in the clusion of children had a considerable impact. Particularly in the 0 - 9 age group. Of particular interest was the change in Mean Value.

TABLE IV

Sample Size = 692
Standard Deviation of Sample = 31.32
Minimum Value = 0

Sample Mean = 52.59
Maximum Value = 104

Age	Freq.	Percent	Graph ($x=\frac{1}{2}\%$)
0-9	124	17.92	xx
10-19	12	1.73	xxx
20-29	48	6.94	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
30-39	52	7.51	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
40-49	40	5.78	xxxxxxxxxxxx
50-59	56	8.09	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
60-69	92	13.30	xx
70-79	88	12.72	xx
80-89	128	18.50	xx
90-99	48	6.94	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
100-109	4	0.57	x

The results in Table III and IV are not consistent particularly in the 60 to 90 age group. Only a considerable larger sample size would determine trends and possible explanations.

The above is limited to my family history and does not make a distinction as to time period or distinguish between male and female. This is a project for a later date.

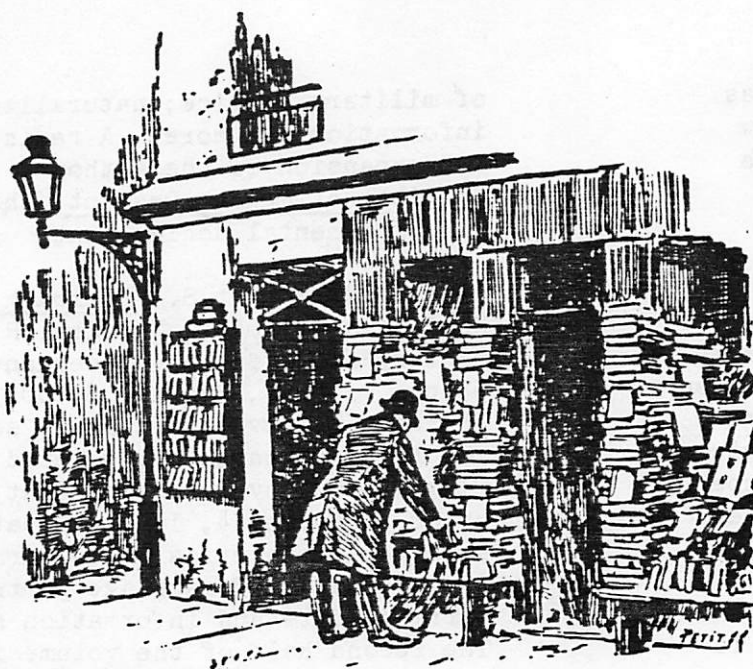
W. Charles Barnard

Footnotes

TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS IN CANADA.
By, Patricia Kennedy, Jean Marie LeBlanc
and Janine Roy. This pamphlet published by the Public Archives of Canada gives an excellent description of what is available from the various archives both National, Provincial and Private. It provides information on Published Sources,

Census Records, Vital Records, Land Records, Estate, Military, Navy, Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship records. This 34 page pamphlet is available free of charge from the Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1A-0N3.

T
h
e



Bookstall

Beaman, Alden G. comp. Rhode Island Vital Records, New Series. Washington County Marriages From Probate Records 1685-1860. Princeton, Ma.: The Compiler, 1978. 379 pp. \$25. Provides a supplement to James N. Arnold's Vital Record of Rhode Island series. Marriages often not recorded in civil records will appear in probate records, as the parent mentions his children in his bequests. Format is similar to that used for published marriage records, with surnames of husbands and wives arranged alphabetically. The names of parents are also included. Rather than the date of marriage, however, the date of the writing of the will or other probate document is provided, together with a reference to the location of the document. Since many Massachusetts families emigrated from Rhode Island, Beaman's work is a welcome and valuable reference source.

Camp, Anthony J. Everyone has Roots, and Introduction to English Genealogy. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978. 189 pp., notes. \$9.50.

A very literate, witty introduction to genealogical research in England. The first few chapters, which treat "The Roots Phenomenon" and genealogical research in general should be read by all genealogists, both for the style and shrewd wisdom. One of the best guidebooks to emerge in the "post-roots" period.

Donahue, Mary E. ed. Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers 1702-1722 Queen Anne's War to Dummer's War. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1980. \$14.95. Fifth in a series of publications jointly sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars, the Massachusetts State Archives and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. As with the other volumes in the series, this book is simple in design, valuable in content. An alphabetical listing of all soldiers' enlistments provide the names, rank, dates and length of service, and company. Such information as residence, date of accounting and regiment also appear when known. A concise, informative introduction provides a history of the conflicts occurring between 1702 and 1722.

Jonasson, Eric. The Canadian Genealogical Handbook. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Wheatfield Press, 1978. 352 pp., maps, charts. \$10.00. The first and perhaps best guidebook to Canadian genealogy. The location and holdings of major research institutions, and the nature and availability of Canadian records are explored thoroughly. The last chapters are a province by province breakdown of available research institutions and research material for those with specific geographical interests. The most serious weakness of the book is the lack of an index, although a detailed table of contents mitigates this problem somewhat.

Smith, Leonard H. Vital Records of Southeastern Massachusetts. Vol. 1. Eastham and Orleans. Clearwater, Florida: The Author, 1980. 269 pp. \$25. A facsimile reproduction of the vital records trans-

criptions of George Robert Bowman as published from 1901-1935 in the now defunct Mayflower Descendant. Both Eastham and Orleans, as with many Cape Cod and Western Massachusetts communities, were not included in the Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850 series. The articles are presented chronologically, in the same order as they appeared in the Mayflower Descendant. An alphabetical surname index is provided, with reference given to the original volume and page number. An index using the pagination of the book itself would have proven more useful and efficient. As the only published index to Eastham and Orleans vital records, however, the volume is a useful addition to the field.

Stevenson, Noel C. Genealogical Evidence, a Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History. Laguna Hills, Ca.: Aegean Park Press, 1979. 233 pp., charts, notes, indes. \$12.30. An exploration of legal records, their origin, use, content and reliability in genealogical research. A lawyer and genealogists, the author is able to present legal and technical terms in a clear and understandable, if somewhat dry, manner. The scope of the book ranges from the question of illegitimacy to the simplified rules of evidence applied to genealogy. Especially useful is the chapter listing legal terms and their definitions. A valuable book for both beginning and experienced genealogists.

Stern, Malcolm. comp. First American Jewish Families. Cincinnati, Ohio: American Jewish Archives, 1978. 419 pp., notes, index. \$75.00. This is a big book, both in size and content. Over 14 inches in length, this volume is a compilation of family tree charts of Jewish families established in America prior to 1840. The index contains over 40,000 names of both Jewish and non-Jewish descent. The coverage extends to present, whenever possible. Data drawn from a myriad of sources, both secondary and manuscript, includes date and places of birth, marriage and death; records

of military service; naturalization information and more. A revision and expansion of the author's 1960 American of Jewish Descent, this book is a monumental achievement.

Wakefield, Robert S. Plymouth Colony Marriages to 1650. Warwick, R.I.: Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1978. 53 pp., 31 pp., index. \$7.00. The book is divided into two segments. The first 53 pages are devoted to listing Plymouth Colony marriages that occurred prior to March 24, 1650. Citations are arranged alphabetically by surname, and include names of marriage partners, marriage date and information source. The second half of the volume is a reprint of a 1926 pamphlet by Charles Thornton Libby treating the question of who first stepped ashore from the Mayflower. Despite its satirical tone, the segment includes good information on Mary Chilton descendants.

Books submitted for review should be addressed to Denis J. Lesieur, Editor, Berkshire Genealogist, the Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201.

All the titles reviewed may be examined in the Local History and Literature Services area of the Berkshire Athenaeum.

At The Athenaeum

The books listed are gifts to the Local History and Genealogy Collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum. The name and address of the person from whom the book may be purchased is included unless otherwise requested.

BARNARD. Barnard and Allied Families, Vol. 1. By, Walter Charles Barnard, 1980. Pp. 172, charts. \$22.50. Write: The Author, 3817 Grand Avenue, White Bear Lake, Mn. 55110.

EASTMOND. Eastmond-Benson Genealogy and Biography. By, Col. Theodore Larned Eastmond, 1979. Pp. 270, illus., surname index. Write: The Author, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941.

HADLEY. Our New England Hadley Family and Allied Families. By, Elsie Eggleston Kempton, 1979. Pp. 232, illus., \$25.00. Write: Mrs. Arthur A. Ernst, 8118 Dunsinane Ct., McLean, Va. 22102.

KEELER. Ralph Keeler of Norwalk, Conn. and his Descendants. Vol. 1. By, Wesley B. Keeler. Pp. 213, index. \$15.00. Write: Wesley B. Keeler, 480 Morris Street, Albany, N.Y. 12208.

MANSFIELD. Mansfield Genealogy. By, Geneva A. Daland and James S. Mansfield, 1980. \$16.00. Pp. 307, indexes. Write: The Authors, Beaver Pond Rd., Lincoln, Ma. 01773.

MARCY. History and Genealogy of John Marcy, 1662-1724, Woodstock, Conn. and Many of his Descendants Eleven Generations. By, Charles Edney Marcy, 1980. \$26.00. Pp. 686, photographs, illus., index. Write: Marcy Investment Corp., P.O. Box 99839, Pacific Beach Station, San Diego, Ca. 92109.



MUNN. Munn Family Genealogy. By, Jean Farrar Munn, 1980. Illus., charts. Write: The Author, 30 Hawthorne Dr., Normal, Ill. 61761.

READ. The Ancestry of Clarence Walter Read (1872-1930) and the Descendants of Squire Read (1756 - 1822). By, Edith Read Redman, 1979.

STANFORD. Moses Stanford, Minuteman: A Stanford Family History. By, Lois Remington Smith, 1978. Pp. 296, illus. Write: The Author, 1290 Clark Way, San Jose, Ca. 95125.

TAFT. The Taft Family Gathering: Proceedings at the Meeting of the Taft Family at Uxbridge, Mass., August 12, 1874. Reprinted by, Beatrice Taft Pickard and Richard Taft Messinger, 1979. Pp. 112, notes, index. Write: The Authors, Westwind Acres, Norwell, Ma. 02061.

WARREN. Ancestral Lines of James A. Warren and Leonard H. Warren. By, James A. Warren, 1978. Pp. 297, illus., charts, maps. Write: The Author, 46 Reed St., Coxsackie, N.Y. 12051.

WARREN. Genealogy of Elihu Warren, a Descendant of Richard of the Mayflower and of William Sumner, with Allied Families. By, Raeola Ford Cooke. \$15.00. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1980. Pp. 197, illus. Write: The Author, 2060 11th Avenue E., Twin Falls, Id. 83301.

Campbell, A.M. comp.
"Tyringham Cemetery Records."
Typescript located in Local
History and Genealogy Depart-
ment, Berkshire Athenaeum,
Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

STANLEY, Anna dau. of John
& Ellen C. Aug 11, 1821,
1 yr. I.C.H. 21, 1798
scratched in stone.

HILL, Josiah Dec. 20, 1835, ae 80.

DOUD, Simeon L. drowned in flood
Apr. 20, 1886, ae 63, Catherine B.
his wife Apr. 20, 1896, ae 57, Riley
J. Aug. 18, 1862, ae 2 yrs, 9 mos.,
Hattie M. dau. Aug. 28, 1862, ae
5 yrs. 7 mos.

STEDMAN, Marshall Sept. 5, 1845, ae
83, Maria R. Dec. 12, 1912, ae 79,
Lyda M. Feb. 21, 1926, ae 12 yrs.
5 mos., Lewis M. Feb. 21, 1926 ae 55.

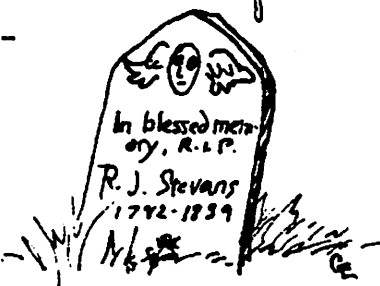
STEADMAN, E.W. Co. F. 49th Mass.
Inf. Fannie dau. of E.W. &
Henrietta Stedman.

CLARK, Daniel, Jan. 1, 1819 -
Oct. 5, 1902.
(STEDMAN), Sophia his wife,
Mar. 27, 1822 - Nov. 11, 1872.
(SMITH), Janette his wife, Oct.
1830 - Aug. 23, 1901.

CLARK, Hamlin F. Apr. 11, 1843-
May 25, 1913 G.A.R., Frank DeLos
Clark, July 28, 1873-Mar. 1, 1930.
(SMITH), Lila W., July 24, 1875-
Dec. 14, 1935, his wife

JUDD, Milton, May 23, 1885, ae 79.
Margaret his wife, Apr. 3, 1879,
ae 77.

LANGDON, Lydia Judd, Jan. 20, 1832-
Jan. 19, 1907
(JUDD), Mary Jane Langdon, Jan. 20,
1832-Jan. 19, 1907, ??



HOWE, George, Aug. 9,-
Apr. 25, 1898.
(COLLINS), Armenia his wife
Feb. 5, 1837-Dec. 14, 1909.

HEATH, Eunice L., July 29, 1814-
Sept. 30, 1894, wife of Lucien
R., Lucien R., Mar. 5, 1815-
Apr. 20, 1934.

BENTON, Henry, 1854-1922. Jenny,
his wife, 1861-1940.

HEATH, Dea. Cyrus, Mar. 7, 1878,
ae 75, Clara his wife, Mar. 22,
ae 75.

STEDMAN, Hiram Wallace, Feb. 8,
1873-July 12, 1915, Lucinda wife
of William, Feb. 25, 1880, ae 80.
William Stedman, June 9, 1870,
ae 75.

CRITTENDEN, Martha, Feb. 28, 1885,
ae 77.

HALE, John, Feb. 27, 1871, ae 40
yrs., 9 mos.
(PIXLEY), Nancy his wife, Jan. 26,
1904, ae 79, Mary Elizabeth, 5 mos.
11 days.

TURNER, Jessie M. dau. of Wm. &
Mary Turner, Oct. 1, 1867, ae 15.

WEST, Geo. E. 1850-1853, Isabelle,
1854-1867, Pauline R. 1852-1875,
George W. 1822-1893, Jennie B.
1859-1941.

BEACH, Mary J. dau of Edmund &
Abigail Beach, Oct. 28, 1851, ae
19, Delia A. Nov. 14, 1882, ae 72,
Edmund A. Aug. 13, 1878, ae 70,
Gilbert M. 1838-1909, Ellen F.
his wife, 1836-1869, Frances his
wife, 1836-1911.

JOHNSON, Elizur E. Aug. 4, 1878,
ae 24, Corintha M. Jan. 14, 1845,
ae 15 mos., Henry P. Nov. 17, 1866,
ae 19, Myron, Dec. 11, 1868, ae 54,
Susan his wife, Apr. 23, 1905,
88.

HALE, Eli Gilbert, Oct. 10,
1889, ae 73.

STEDMAN, Henry B. s of C.H.
& M.E. Mar. 20, 1871, ae 2
yrs. 5 mos., Charles H.
Sept. 28, 1848, April 2, 1892.
May Estelle his wife, Nov. 15,
1846-Jan. 10, 1930.

HEATH, Albert G. d. May 24, 1905,
ae 81, Maria B. his wife, May 1,
1892, no age, George A. s.
Aug. 15, 1848, ae 2.

POMROY, Henry, Dec. 3, 1864, ae 2,
Riley, Dec. 7, 1864, ae 16, son
of Rusyell & Mary Pomroy.

SCUDDER, Royal, June 29, 1853, ae
14, William, Mar. 19, 1857, ae 15.

BROUSON, Rachel A. Oct. 27, 1872,
ae 26.

JOHNSON, Georgette E. dau of Myron
& Susan, Apr. 8, 1852, ae 13,
Stephen, Sept. 16, 1860, ae 75,
Sarah his wife, Dec. 8, 1866.

HEATH, Mrs. Chloe, Nov. 23, 1820,
ae 82 wife of Mr. Sallomen Heath,
Rawson, s. of Sollomon & Sally
Heath.

BATTLE, James, Dec. 18, 1815,
ae 87, Kezia his wife, Oct. 22,
1846, ae 93, Ithiel s. Oct. 18,
1827, ae. 75 S.A.R.

WILSON, Euphedia J. wife of
Charles Wilson, Dec. 5, 1836,
ae 27.

HEATH, Harry, Feb. 9, 1866, ae 52,
Eliza A. his wife Nov. 8, 1858,
ae 42.

HEATH, Solmon, Feb. 3, 1866, ae 90.
(BATTLE), Sally his wife, Dec. 18,
1858, ae 77.

BENTLEY, Hannah wife of Charles
Bentley, Sept. 13, 1846, ae 72.

JONES, Thomas, Oct. 8, 1841,
ae 87, Lydia his wife, Aug. 5,
1838, ae 84.

HEATH, Ann Eliza, July 23, 1838,
ae 9 yrs. shild of Ezra and Eliza,
Ezra Esq. Oct. 30, 1858, ae 73,
Eliza his wife, Aug. 3, 1864, ae
77½.

JOHNSON, May, wife of Benjamin,
July 22, 1842, ae 65, Benjamin,
Mar. 23, 1844, ae. 77.

CHENEY, John R. s. of Wm, Jr. &
Eliza, Sept. 19, 1848-9, Charles
W. s. of Wm, Jr. & Eliza, Dec. 18,
1851, ae 15.

HAWK, Clarissa dau. of Abraham &
Esther Hawk, Mar. 18, 1818, ae 8,
Abraham s. of A. & E. Hawk, Nov.
10, 1819 ae 18, Mrs. Esther wife
of Abraham Hawk, Aug. 29, 1820,
ae 48. Very old stone in m of ?.
Hill C.M.

MANSFIELD, Mrs. Louisa, May 12,
1805, ae 28.

HAWLEY, Flossie, May 1892-1950,
Clara Lydia, 1899 dau./pf George
Henry, George Henry, Nov. 20, 1866,
Aug. 11, 1916.
(LANGDON), Myrtle L. his wife,
Apr. 1, 1872-Sept. 15, 1940.

MAXFIELD, Minnie B. dau. of George
& Ida, Sept. 15, 1872, 1 yr.

CHADWICK, Frankie R. s. of George
& Cordelia, Dec. 11, 1860, 2 yrs.

WEST, Charles H. Aug. 28, 1831,
ae 9 mos, 9 days.

HAMM, William S. Jan. 25, 1893,
Bernice his wife, Sept. 24, 1897-
June 23, 1918, Ruth H. Hamm d.
5 days.

STEDMAN, Robert G. 1920-1922, C.
Robert, 1882-1939.

Queries

BRADLEY. Clara, Dau. of George Bradley of Lee, wife of George A. Field, d. in Neb. 1888. Desire info. on related Bradley family. (Write: Margaret J. Field, 8122 Dunsinane Court, McLean, Va. 22102)

BRADLEY. William (1730-1809) b. probably in Conn. d. in Lanesboro. Husband of Lois? (Write: Nancy Clemens, 43 Gale Ave., Ptfld, Ma. 01201)

BRAZEE. Desire to correspond with anyone having info. on Brazee and Bump families in Berkshire Co. Any data from earliest history onward will be appreciated. (Write: Michael Disbrow, 3140 N. 47 Rd., Manton, Mi. 49663)

BROWN. Need ancestors and desc. of Lois (Goodrich) and Oliver Brown. Resided Ptfld., Ma. from 1790 until d. Some family members lived in Ptfld. in 1889. (Write: Carole A. McCarty, 40 W 081 Prairie Spring Dr., St. Charles, Ill. 60174)

BUMP. See Brazee query

COLT. Comp. book on Colt/Coult family. Researching Allen, Bacon, Brown(e), Caldwell, Campbell, Cheever, Clapp, Clark, Colt/Coult, Crane, Downer, Ely, Gerhard, Giddings, Gillett, Goldwaithe, Greene, Griswold, Harris, Higley, Hubbard, Judd, Laflin, Leonard, Loomis, Lord, Lyman, Merrill, Morley, Noble, Orne, Peck, Pickering, Pomeroy, Pratt, Rathbone, Root, Sargent, Selden, Skinner, Strong, Thompson, Turner, Tuttle, Webster, Wells, Wightman, Wingate & Williams families. If you are related to any of above, send outline of family in Colt?Coult family. (Write: Mary K. Phillips, Lenox Heights, Apt. 7F, Lenox, Ma. 01240)

CROCKER. Elizabeth Crocker, b. ca. 1769 perhaps Stockbridge, Ma. Married Lee, Ma. in 1794, John Reed. Need

ancestry of Elizabeth. (Write: Jean Denison, P.O. Box 126, Union Hill, N.Y. 14563)

CURTIS. John b. 1773 Oxford, Ma. Died 3, July, 1852, Dalton, Ma. Married Martha Newell of Dalton. Need date of m. (Write: Joseph Mannix, 33-18 161 St. Flushing, N.Y. 11358)

FIELD. Albert Field of South Adams m. Abigail M. Porter of Cheshire, 8 Oct. 1842, in New Lebanon, N.Y. Had one child, moved to Wisc. between 1853 & 1860. Carpenter by trade. Need parents and any info. on both. (Write: Margaret J. Field, 8122 Dunsinane Court, McLean, Va. 22101)

GOODRICH. Need info. ancestry of Abner Goodrich, son of Moses. Resided Ptfld., Ma. 1780-1815. Brothers Elijah, Moses, Charles; sisters Betsey (Charles Bassett) Lois (Oliver Brown). Married Deborah Wilson 1807. Married Sally Knowles 1828. D. 1842. (Write: Carole A. McCarty, 40 W 081 Prairie Spring Dr., St. Charles, Ill. 60174)

GOODRICH. Looking for d. record for Moses Goodrich, d. Ptfld., Ma. between 1820-1830, Father of Abner, Elijah, Charles, Moses, Betsy & Lois. (Write: Carole A. McCarty, 40 W 081 Prairie Spring Dr., St. Charles, Ill. 60174)

MYERS. Moses d. Austerlitz, N.Y. April 1, 1841. In West Stockbridge, Ma. in Feb. 1775, at wedding of Joseph Myers and Lydia Mudge. Were Joseph & Moses brothers? Seek origin of each. (Write: Philip Boyce, 9077 Rancho Real, Temple City, Ca. 91780)

NEWELL. Martha b. 1776, Dalton, Ma. d. 5, Sept. 1986. Need names and all data of her parents. (Write: Joseph Mannix, Flushing, N.Y. 11358)

Footnotes

PIERCE. Molly Pierce, b. Dec. 1771, m. Charles Johnson ca. 1792 probably in Ma. or N.Y. Molly d. March 4, 1815. Children named: Charles Johnson, Jr. (b. 1793), Polly (b. 1795), Chester, Patty, Ebenezer, Ola, Wheeler, Amos and Marandy. Need info. about Molly and Charles. (Write: Mrs. Barbara S. Cunniff, Rt. 1, Rock Falls, Ill. 61071)

PORTER. Abigail M. Porter, b. ca. 1827. Lived in Cheshire, Berkshire Co., and m. Albert Field 1842. D. in Platte Center, Nebraska. Need info. on parents. (Write: Margaret J. Field, 8122 Dusenane Ct., McLean, Va. 22102)

PUTNEY. Ebenezer Putney, b. Oct., 1740, Charlton, Ma., m. Susannah French and settled at Goshen, Ma. Searching for parents and siblings of Ebenezer and Susannah. (Write: Barbara S. Cunniff, Rt 1, Rock Falls, Ill. 61071)

PUTNEY. Lt. Ebenezer and Susannah (French) Putney had 8 children who lived to maturity: Joseph, Elisha, Nahum, Moses, John, Amaza, Polly & Hannah. Ebenezer d. Goshen, Ma. 14, Jan., 1802. Wish to contact desc. willing to exchange Putney Family info. (Write: Barbara S. Cunniff, Rt. 1, Rock Falls, Ill. 61071)

RILEY. Need info., especially ancestors & desc. of following related families who lived near Sheffield, Ma. ca. 1790: David Riley (Rileigh) & possible son Sylvester; Samuel b. ca. 1748 & Sally Austin; David b. 1740 & Lydia (Westover) Chatfield; Benjamine and Abigail (Fitch) Braman. Desc. moved to Cayuga Co., N.Y. (Write: Sheila Linenfelser, 11311 North Dr., Brooklyn, Mi. 49230)

BERKSHIRE COUNTY FAMILIES. Desire contact with descendants of following individuals and families who lived in Berkshire County early 1800's: Canfield, Camfield, Jared Huxley, Lucius Smith, Comfort & Mary Shove, Asa & Esther Hewitt, Brooks family. (Write: Jean Denison, P.O. Box 126, Union Hill, N.Y. 14563)

The Massachusetts State Archives recently announced improved reference service in the use of the PASSENGER LISTS OF ALIENS ENTERING THE PORT OF BOSTON, 1848-1891. These lists are comprised of passenger manifests as prepared by the captains of vessels as they arrived in the port of Boston. They contain such information for each immigrant as: name, age, sex, date of arrival, vessel, occupation, birthplace, country of citizenship, last residence, destination, mental/bodily condition and where appropriate, family members.

The State Archives has a WPA-generated alphabetical name index on cards which abstracts most of this information. Inquiries regarding the lists may be directed to the Research Room Staff of the Archives. The Research Room is open to the public on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The phone number is 617-727-2816.

PROLOGUE, the Journal of the National Archives, now contains a feature article called "Sources at the National Archives for Genealogical and Local History Research." The Winter 1980, Vol. 12 No. 4 concentrates on "Records of the Southern Claims Commission" an article by Sarah Larson. Subscription rates are \$8.00 per year, \$15.00 for two years, \$20.00 for three years.

The Last

Word

"Sorry, these records are not open to the public." How many times have you been confronted by this statement after having requested a birth, marriage or death record? Chances are, too often. Massachusetts now ranks as one of the few states to allow genealogists and other researchers access to vital records. And, now, even this state is threatening to revoke this right.

The reasons behind the national movement to limit access to vital records are a mixture of complex and simple issues, as well as legitimate concerns and absurd fears. Public officials are rightfully worried over the misuse of birth certificates by criminals, and the abuse of records by inconsiderate researchers. On the other hand, to exclude everyone from public records is analogous to shooting a mosquito with a shotgun.

What can you, as a concerned genealogist and citizen, do? First, keep in contact with the Berkshire Family History Association. We will keep you informed of developments in this area. Secondly, contact your state legislator and make your displeasure with bills to close vital records known. Make sure to mention the specific bill number in your letter. Ask for a reply.

At present, two bills are before the state legislature regarding vital records. House Bill 229 is a long, complex one

completely recodifying the present laws on vital records. This bill would appear to present the Registrar of Vital Records with too much administrative power, conceivably allowing him to limit access to vital records by administrative ruling. All other bills dealing with vital records have been combined into a study package, House Bill 6323, for further investigation. At this point it is not possible to ascertain the eventual shape and scope of this bill, which makes it less than desirable. It is our belief that any vital record legislation passed should reflect the input of genealogists and historical researchers. It is up to you to inform your representatives about the importance the vital records hold to your research. Please do so.

Thirdly, consider joining our vital records transcription project, now working on Pittsfield records. Our goal is to have all the area vital records indexed and available to the public at the Berkshire Athenaeum. Obviously, this project is an immense one and we can use your help - even if it is only a few hours/week. If interested contact the co-chairmen, Anne O'Connor or Joseph Guertin, both of Pittsfield.

Lastly, remember your responsibilities as a genealogist to respect and protect the records themselves. More on this later.

A

Family History Recycling Center ?!

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Our natural resources are limited. We now realize that fact, having learned some very harsh lessons. National attention has shifted toward the conservation and efficient use of all our resources - oil, timber, water, the list is a long one. But what about information? Isn't that one of our most necessary, and valuable, resources? If we can recycle paper and metals, why can't we recycle information?

That's what we intend to do in local and family history at the Berkshire Athenaeum. Although our budget proves increasingly unable to keep pace with rapidly accelerating cost of books and research materials, the Athenaeum must try to maintain, and improve, the quality of our services to you. We can do it, with your help. We can do it, at little cost to us or to you. Here's how:

* **FAMILY HISTORY FILES:** If researchers send us duplicates of their research notes, family pedigree charts, etc., or allow us to copy them, we can create an extensive file of nonpublished material listed by surname and available to everyone.

* **PAST PERIODICALS:** Magazines tend to multiply almost as rapidly as rabbits. If you have back issues of genealogical magazines at home, and don't need them, give them to us. They will help us build our periodical collection, giving our many genealogists wide access to up-to-date information.

* **GIFT GENEALOGIES:** If you publish, or inherit a family genealogy, consider donating a copy to us. In this way, you assure constant, broad use of the book and the information it contains. Also, all genealogies donated to us are tax deductible, based on estimated value.

ALL DONATIONS appear in the **BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST**, the publication of the Berkshire Family History Association, with the name of the donor, if so wished.

TOGETHER, we can continue to make family history an exciting and rewarding experience.

If you agree, please contact: Denis J. Lesieur, Supervisor
Local History and Literature Services
The Berkshire Athenaeum
1 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

berkshire genealogist



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

WINTER-SPRING, 1982

A Quarterly Publication of the
Berkshire Family History Association
and
The Berkshire Athenaeum

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Pittsfield, MA 01202

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The Berkshire Family History Association is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to advancing knowledge, understanding and appreciation of family history in the United States and elsewhere.

MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone interested in family history. Annual dues are \$6.00 for individuals, \$8.00 for families and \$4.00 for students.

MEETINGS are held monthly from September through May, featuring both amateur and professional genealogists discussing a wide variety of topics.

SPECIAL EVENTS include group trips to New England research institutions; intensive one-day workshops on topics of genealogical importance and interest; as well as film series and much more.

or

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BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST

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VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

Winter-Spring, 1981

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A NINETEENTH CENTURY TRAVELER'S DIARY

communicated by Anne O'Connor

AT THE ATHENAEUM

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THE BOOKSTALL

FAMILY NEWS

RESEARCH REPORTS

VITAL RECORD

QUERIES

communicated by Anne O'Connor

(EDITORS NOTE: One of the most exciting aspects of family history can be the discovery of diaries, letters or other personal documents of our ancestors. Beyond the factual data such material can yield, these documents also often give us a revealing glimpse into the actual life of people who lived so long ago. The following diary fragment allows us to share the experiences of a 19th century traveler).

Julius Rowley, the author of this diary, was born in Sharon, N.Y. on March 18, 1801. He died in Warnerville, N.Y. on February 10, 1846. At the time of his death he was a physician in Warnerville, having also served as coroner of Scholharie County.

May 30th 1817 Saturday

Left New York at Six in the Morning-what wind we had was fair-Made all Sail-Past Almshouse-half after 6 oclck-entrd Hurl Gate-7 oclck-Low Tide-the Bryny element in great commotion-Steam Boat Fulton past us and came too this side the Gate-to wait a favorable Tide-past Cow Bay... At half after 11 old Neptune expected the common Toll & left us well pleased-at half past 12 the wind packs up & in our backs we skim the Briny Deep-Began to Rain... Past New Haven 3 oclck... 1/4 before 5 made Falkney Island... Ancor 10 oclck in the Evening-in Say Brook Harbor.

June 1st 1817 Sunday

This Morning we find ourselves in the land of steady Habits-and in view of that place where

the Assembled counsel of piety and Wisdom drew up the Exiles for the Government of Church in Connecticut. Our Anorage is in the stream which passes between Vermont and New Hampshire-thro the western part of Massachusetts-quarter past 8 oclck weighted Ancor and commenced beating up the connecticut River-Wind North West-This River likewise passes by that unhallowed place where late the deputies of the New England States in Convention to disturb the unity and peace of the Nation-Would that it might experience the effect of DR Williames power for sinking the Island of Great Britton-On this River also lies Pettebaug which during the late War signalised itself by repulsing Coots attack upon the Shipping-Wonderfull Bravery-Unexampled patriotism-Governer Tompkins with one Nod of his finished face & powdered head would have disappeared the whole Coots Band & Soon sent them to Old Davy-But there people stood by and saw all their shipping burnt to the Waters edge-without so much as lifting a Broomstick in the Defence of thir Country-this place deservedly take the Name of Coots Town or Borough -- Past Pettepeuig 11 oclck Wind continued... 1/2 past 1 oclck Came to an Ancor in Chester Cove-Discharged 4 passengers We are now in the center of Fanaticism the superstitious tenets of the priest ridden people of Connecticut will not permit the bagge of the discharged passengers to be landed & we are obliged much against our inclination to wave the benefit of a fair and promising gale and lie at Ancor till Monday-Servise was duly performed onboard by one of the passengers-Singing & Devout Meditation by us All-

At The Athenaeum

The books listed are gifts to the Local History and Genealogy Collection of the Berkshire Athenaeum. The name and address of the person from whom the book may be purchased is included unless otherwise requested.

COLEMAN. Coleman Family History.

By Mrs. Marvel Simpson, 1980.

\$15. Write: The Compiler,
305 W. 13th St., Tama, IA. 52339

FANCHER. Fanchers In America.

By Marjorie Weber, 1980.

61 pp., illus. Write: The
Author, 136 E. 56th St., New
York, New York 10022

FELLOWS. Eleven Generations of
the Fellows Family, 1639-1976.

Supplement, 1979. By Maxwell H.

Fellows. 40 pp. Write: The
Author, 591 Central St., Framing-
ham, MA. 01701

HARRISON. Thirteen Generations
of the Harrison Family, 1638-

1980. By Maxwell H. Fellows,

1980. 22pp. Write: The Author,
591 Central St., Framingham,
MA. 01701

HUNTER. Three Sisters: A
Genealogical History of the
Hunter, Dickey and Lathrop

Families. By D. Clyde Donaldson,

1980. 209 pp., illus., charts,
index, \$30. Write: The Author,
7 Interlachen Rd., Hopkins, MN. 55343

KIEHL. Some Ancestors and
Descendants of Adam Kiehl

(1842-1903) and Philippine

Edinger of Otisco, Onondaga

County, N.Y. By Ralph A.

Kiehl, 1980. 178 pp., illus.,

maps, index. \$15. Write:

The Author, 1187 Jamacha Rd.,
Cajon, CA. 92020



MIDDLEFIELD, town of. A History
of the Town of Middlefield,

Massachusetts. By Edward
Church Smith & Philip Mack Smith,
1924. 662 pp., maps, photos,
index.

MOSHER. Descendants of Hugh Mosher
& Rebecca Maxson through Seven

Generations. By Mildred Chamberlain

& Laura Clarenbach, 1980. 795 pp.,
index. \$22.50. Write: The Author,
128 Potters Ave., Warwick, RI. 02886

NEW YORK STATE. Expansion in New
York. By Ruth L. Higgins, 1976

rep. of 1931 ed. Philadelphia,

PA.: Porcupine Press. \$15.

Donated by Mrs. George Clark Fred-
erick.

SAXBE. Thomas Saxbe (1810-1860)
and his descendants. By William

Bart Saxbe, Jr. Baltimore: Gate-

way Press, 1980. 147 pp., maps,

charts, index. \$15. Write: Tje

Author, 15 N. Main St., Mechanics-
burg, OH. 43044.

UNDERHILL. Underhill Genealogy Vol.

5 & 6. By Edwin R. Deats & Harry

Macy, Jr. Baltimore: Gateway Press,

1980. 1725 pp., illus., index. \$50./

set. Write: Underhill Society of

Amer., Inc., P.O. Box 712, Oyster

By, New York 11771

Unless endowed with unlimited amounts of money and time, most genealogists will have to rely on correspondence for a good part of their research. While frequently time consuming and sometimes frustrating, genealogical correspondence can also prove quite rewarding and relatively painless. The key to success resides in eliminating as many potential problems as possible before the letter even reaches its destination. The following suggestions may help you achieve that happy state known as "painless postage performance."

The first point to remember is that your correspondence represents you - it will probably serve as the only contact you have with your correspondent.

Limit your requests. Do not ask for too much. Nothing will destroy cooperation faster than overbearing or over-ambitious demands. Additional information can be secured in later correspondence.

Make your requests easy to answer. Ask specific questions and keep your letter as short as possible. Write your questions in outline form or in a questionnaire format. Send forms such as pedigree charts only to experienced genealogists. To the uninitiated, such forms are only confusing.

Keep a copy of all correspondence. Without copies, duplication of prior requests is all too easy, while follow-up requests become almost impossible.

Thank your correspondent for his or her help. Always maintain good relations with your sources, since you never know when you may need their help again.

Remember, in many cases, their help is a result of cooperation, not obligation.

Always include an offer for payment of services rendered. Whenever writing to public officials or institutions, always indicate a willingness to pay for costs incurred. NEVER ENCLOSE CASH - you will probably never see either your money or your information again. Only enclose checks or money orders for small sums. In dealing with other genealogists, an exchange of information is often more appropriate and appreciated. You should express a willingness to pay for copies, but also offer to share information.

Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Remember that postage for genealogical inquiries can add up into very expensive figures, particularly for public institutions on tight budgets. In the case of international correspondence, it is important to remember that our postage is not valid on letters sent from another nation. The simplest solution is International Reply Coupons, which can be purchased at your post office. These coupons can be exchanged in any country belonging to the Universal Postal Union for postage stamps representing the minimum postage for an unregistered letter sent by surface mail to another country. Normally, surface mail requires one coupon, air mail demands two coupons. Exact information on the proper procedure is available at the post office.

for communities and newspapers cited adds much to the value and utility of the book.

GENEALOGIST'S HANDBOOK FOR NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH. New England Library Association, 1980.

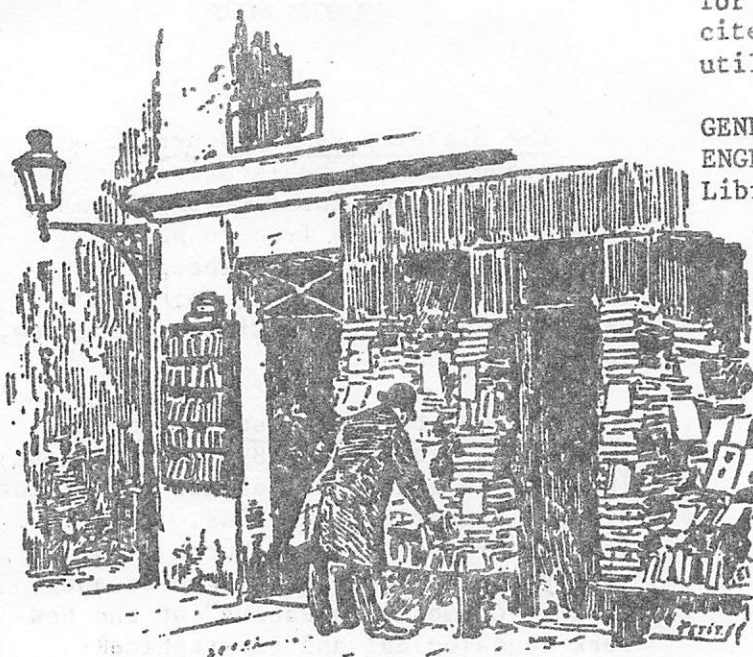
129 pp., maps, index. \$5. Until the appearance of this publication, genealogists all too frequently found themselves reliant upon only their own ingenuity and perseverance in attempting to discover the location and accessibility of records and research collections. The New England Library Association has performed a fine and valuable service to researchers, producing a guide that not only explains the record keeping systems for each

New England state, but also details the operating hours, basic holdings and operating procedures for each state's major research institutions. Anyone involved in New England genealogical research should have a copy.

Holbrook, Jay Mack. BOSTON BEGINNINGS 1630-1899. Oxford, MA.: Holbrook Research Institute, 1980. 295 pp., tables. \$45.

One of the most fascinating, and perhaps significant, developments in American genealogy in the last decade has been the use of computer technology in family history research. It promises to eventually revolutionize the field. As this volume demonstrates, computers now enable researchers to compile and publish huge masses of data heretofore too unwieldy and time-consuming to handle, thus allowing them to produce much needed indexes. The Holbrook book concentrates on heads of households in 17th century Boston, listing them alphabetically together with the year of the record, its purpose and title. A wide variety of sources were examined, ranging from tax lists to published histories. BOSTON BEGINNINGS is important both as a fine research tool and an example of the potential of computer technology in genealogy.

The



Bookstall

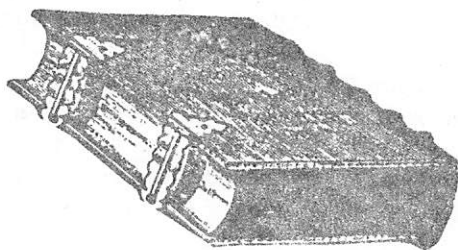
Faibisoff, Sylvia & Wendell Trip eds. A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NEWSPAPERS IN FOURTEEN NEW YORK COUNTIES. Cooperstown, N.Y.: New York State Historical Association, 1978. 316 pp., index. \$14.00.

Newspapers are a vital source of information for both genealogists and historians. Unfortunately, they are also often sources of frustration. Despite the availability of such bibliographies as those by Clarence S. Brigham and Winifred Gregory, determining the existence and location of 18th and 19th century newspapers is usually a perilous exercise, at best. The appearance of this volume will ease considerably the problem for the fourteen counties comprising south central New York State. The bibliography, which initially appeared as installments in NEW YORK HISTORY, contains not only the inclusive dates and frequency of publication, the location and size of existing copies but also such information as the identity of the editors and publishers, its politics and noteworthy events in the papers' development. Material is arranged alphabetically by town within county groupings. A thorough name and subject index

Niles, Reg. THE REG NILES SEARCHBOOK FOR ADULT ADOPTEES. Garden City, N.J.: Phileas Deigh Corp., 1978. 99 pp. \$13.95.

This small book is the result of the author's work with the Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association. The first 25 pages contains questions and answers most often expressed by adoptees in search of their origins. The bulk of the book is an alphabetical listing of record sources for each state in this country, as well as selected foreign nations. Comments regarding the availability and legality of adoption records follow many entries. While of primary value and use to adoptees searching for their parents, the SEARCHBOOK is of interest also to genealogists.

Maas, David E. ed. DIVIDED HEARTS, MASSACHUSETTS LOYALISTS 1765-1790, A BIOGRAPHICAL DIRECTORY. Boston, MA.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1980. 169 pp., notes. The sixth of a series of publications by NEHGS detailing Massachusetts participants in early American wars. This book is an keeping with the high quality of the previous publications. A brief history of the Loyalist experience in revolutionary America is followed by an alphabetical directory of Loyalists, including such information as date and place of birth, residence during pre-war years, date of departure, place of exile, date of return, identity of family members, type of suffering experienced and Revolutionary service. Such varied sources as court and probate records, legal records and private diaries and letters were extensively searched.



FAMILY NEWS

The Blakeley Family Journal, in its second year of publication, includes all spellings and locations. Blakeley related queries are free to both subscribers and nonsubscribers. For further information write to: Nancy Blakeley Ruff, 13 Iris Circle, Longview, Texas 75601.

The Chamberlain Association of America was formed in 1897 to stimulate interest in and to perpetuate the history of the Chamberlain Families. Members are encouraged to send church records, family Bible records, etc. to be added to the "Chamberlain Papers" at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. Please address all correspondence, newsletter queries and membership dues to: The Chamberlain Association of America, 131 East 78th Street-E, New York, New York 10021.

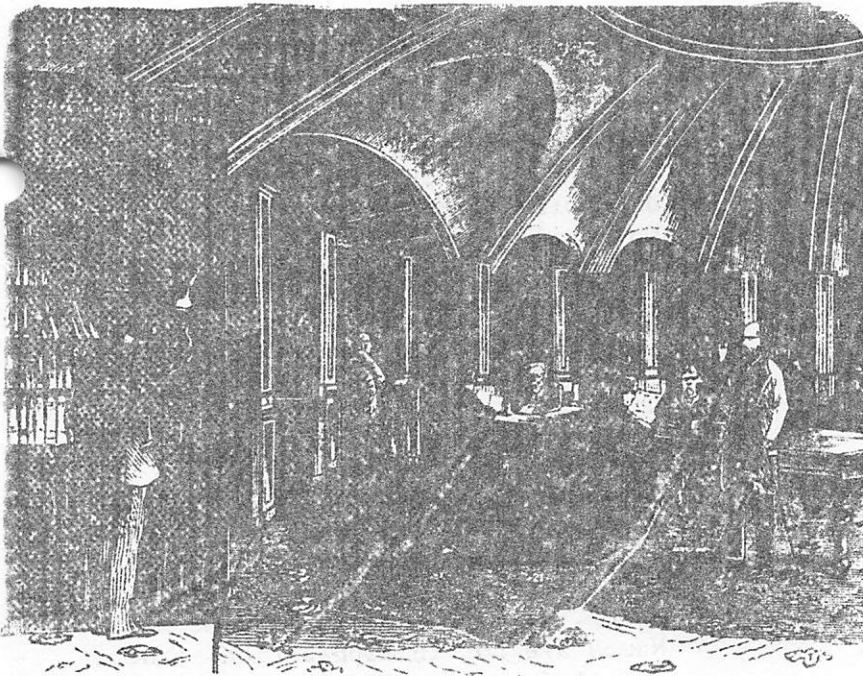
The Elkins Family Exchange, a newsletter for all Elkins searchers, is published three times a year. Included are queries, census data, marriages, biographies, etc. Members are encouraged to send data for publication. For further information, 7188 Baker Lane, Sebastopol, California 95472.

A Graves Association was announced at the Annual Graves Gathering in Atlanta on 15 August. Another Graves Gathering will be held at the Williamsburg Inn, Williamsburg, Va., on 17 October to coincide with the Bicentennial Celebration of the Siege of York. For further information, send an SASE to: Graves Association, Box 216, Fayetteville, Ga. 30214.

The Griswold Linkage is a magazine published to help identify the many Griswold and related families who remain unconnected to the early Griswold ancestors. Contributions from interested genealogists on any and all data of the surname Griswold is welcome. A feature entitled "Those Other Problems" allows any subscriber to submit one conventional query of 25 words or less free for each issue. These queries need not be related to the Griswold family. For more information contact: Genealogy, 5721 Antietam Dr., Sarasota, Florida 33581.

RESEARCH REPORT

We are introducing a new feature designed to provide current news of developments in libraries and other institutions that may have an impact on your research. We invite comments or news that you may have on research libraries and record depositories.



CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL SOCIETY...

Members of the Connecticut Historical Society will now be able to exchange genealogical information in a "Query Column" in the CHS newsletter, NOTES AND NEWS. Each query must be limited to 25 words and should contain at least one date and location. The newsletter is issued in September, November, January, March and May of each year. Queries must be received by the 15th of the month preceeding publication. Write: Query Editor, Hartford, Ct. 06105

DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY...

In an attempt to compensate for inadequate funding, the Denver Public Library instituted in October, 1981, fees for use of the library by nonresidents. Charges include \$10 for a one-day reference pass, \$20 for a mail information request, and \$200 for an annual library card. All library users must now have a card in order to gain admission to the central library.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES...

The news from this vital agency is less than cheerful. Under a pending Administration proposal, the National Archives would suffer a 12% budget cut, from 89.8 million dollars to 79.3 million dollars

for fiscal year 1982. Because approximately 44% of the budget covers fixed costs such as space and utilities, 12% cut actually translates into a 21% reduction in the remainder, most of which involves personnel.

What do all these numbers mean for you and me? There are no certain answers until Congress passes an appropriations bill and it is signed by the President. The Archives has projected, however, the following as potential consequences: (1) the Archives would close on weekday evenings and Saturdays; (2) interlibrary loan of microfilm from Ft. Worth would cease; (3) the regional archives branches would not receive microfilm copies of the 1910 census when it is opened to the public next year, and (4) the Institute on Genealogical Research for 1982 would be cancelled.

Genealogists who wish to express their opinion regarding the National Archives budget should contact their federal representatives as soon as possible. Write to your Senators in care of the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Contact your Representative in care of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Continuing in the saga of the National Archives budget, the agency has also announced an increase in the cost of reproducing veterans' record files, from \$3.00 to \$5.00 each. Also,

prepayment is required when the cost is known. Check, money order, Master Charge or Visa is accepted. A price quotation can be obtained by requesting the order form for copies of veterans' records - NATF Form 26. Write: Military Service Records (NNCC), National Archives, Washington, D.C. 20408.

NEWBERRY LIBRARY...

The Newberry Library will temporarily suspend its services to readers, reference services by telephone and mail, photo-duplication services, and inter-library loans February 1 through April 30, 1982. The halt in service is not due to budget reduction but rather the Newberry's move into larger, new book-stack building. The existing structure will also be renovated.

Library fellows and readers with urgent research or publication deadlines may apply to the Library's Review Committee for special limited service during the closing. The deadline for applications is December 1, 1981. Requests after that date will require at least 3 weeks to process.

Most services to readers should resume in May, 1982. Researchers are advised, however, to call or write before visiting the Library.

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY...

The Manuscripts and Special Collections section of the New York State Library has acquired a significant group of records documenting the history of children and charitable institutions in New York State. The records of the Albany Orphan Asylum, presently known as the Parsons Child and Family Center, consist of minutes of the board of directors, annual reports, superintendent reports, records of indentured children, admissions records, and case files. The records date from

1831 to the present although only pre-1900 records are open for public use.

For more information, contact Jim Corsaro, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library, Albany, New York 12230. Tel. 518-474-5963.

SPRINGFIELD CITY LIBRARY...

The Genealogy and Local History Department has recently acquired the 1855 and 1865 Massachusetts State Census on microfilm. These census are microfilm copies of the original manuscripts. Reels are labelled by place, with no individual name index. Names are not in alphabetical order.

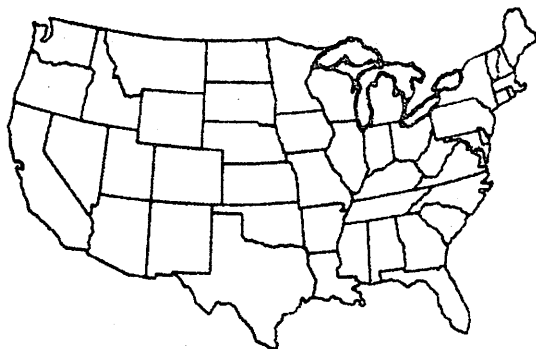
Information in the census includes the name of every resident family member, age, sex, color, place of birth, marital condition, occupation, and more.

These microfilm reels are housed in the Reference Department, together with the U.S. Census microfilm of Massachusetts. The Reference Department is open 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Footnotes

Mary Ellen Bolduc, an expert in Loyalist research, will contribute an occasional column on research sources and techniques in tracing Loyalist ancestors, both in this country and in Canada. Look forward to the first article in the next issue!

vital record



CALIFORNIA

In July, 1980, the California Legislature passed a bill to allow counties to destroy copies of birth, marriage and death records dating after 1905. The legislation was introduced at the request of Los Angeles County which no longer had storage space for the records. The bill passed quietly with no opposition or publicity.

The law posed a serious threat to genealogists. Copies of vital records held by the state are not accessible to the public. Copies can be obtained only through the mail, often after a 3-4 month wait. Without county records, genealogists faced few alternatives to this cumbersome process.

A coalition of genealogical, historical, medical and legal groups formed in opposition to the law in 1981, under the name Friends of California Vital Records. They spearheaded the introduction of a bill which would allow counties to maintain their vital records or transfer them to a nonprofit agency qualified to grant proper protection and access.

The bill passed the state House of Representatives in September, 1981, and will be the subject of hearings in the Senate beginning in January, 1982.

INDIANA

Legislation restricting access to vital records is now in effect in this state. Public Law 33, Acts 1981 specifies that a local health official can provide birth or death certificates only upon proof that the certificate is necessary for the determination of personal or property rights, or for compliance with state or federal law.

The state registrar is empowered to permit access to the records only if the applicant has a direct interest in the matter recorded and that the information is necessary for the determination of personal or property rights

IOWA

Iowa health officials are relaxing controversial rules that restrict public access to birth, marriage and death records. Unless state law expressly prohibits the release of specific information, it will be made available to the public.

A task force of county court clerk, genealogists and news media representatives have proposed numerous changes in the type and amount of vital record information accessible to researchers.

Birth, death and marriage records remain closed on a state level, but open on a county level.

MAINE

The Maine State Archives has received 126 reels of microfilm containing birth, marriage and death records for the state from 1923 - 1953. Births are listed alphabetically by the father's surname, with illegitimate births omitted.

A bride's index to marriage records dating from 1895 - 1955 has been compiled to accompany the already existing bridegroom's index.

MICHIGAN

A new fee schedule for certified copies of birth, marriage and death records has been implemented. A charge of \$10 for a copy is now levied, with additional copies costing \$3 each.

COLVER. Jonathan Colver, b.1726 Litchfield, CT., d.1808 in Canaan, Columbia County, N.Y. Will lists him living on road "near meeting house." Need confirmation that 1770 was that date of settlement from Litchfield. Need place of burial. Was he or his sons, Jonathan b.1758, the recorded Rev. War vet.? (Write: David C. Brecht, 20 Partridge Rd., Pittsfield, MA. 01201

COOK. Need info. on Samuel B. Cook, b. Torrington, CT. 1783; m. Sarch ?; in War of 1812; d.1856 Oswego Co., N.Y. (Write: Margie Wood, 38 Renee Dr., Dalton, MA. 01226

EDDY. Bildad Eddy b.1790 Woodford, VT. d.1873 North Adams, MA. Is he son of Obadiah & Phebe (Prouty) Eddy? He m. Roxanna/Roxane ? b.1790 Whittingham, VT. What was Roxanne's maiden name and who were her parents. (Write: Mrs. marjorie Griggs, 73 River Rd., North Adams, MA. 01247

FAIRFIELD. Enoch Fairfield and wife Betsy Drew in Bristol County, 1823? Was he related to John Fairfield of Lenox/Pittsfield and/or Enoch Fairfield of Pittsfield, ca. 1810/20? (Write: Catherine Huber, 26 Deerfield St., Pittsfield, MA. 01201

FAIRFIELD. Need date & place of d. of Enoch Fairfield and wife Betsy Drew, parents of Fanny Fairfield Watkins. Last Known residence in Dalton, 1854. (Write: Catherine Huber, 26 Deerfield St., Pittsfield, MA. 01201

KREIGER. Need/share info. on Johann Jaria (John George) Kreiger (Creeger, Krigger), 1710-85, Dutch miller of Hoosuck Falls, Pownal and Williamstown. He m. Margaret Schumacher 1741 in Albany, N.Y. Related names are Madison, Cook & Tanner all of Berkshire Co. or VT. (Write: Margie Wood, 38 Renee Drive, Dalton, MA. 01226

PERRY. John Perry, Jr. b. August, 1759, Hinsdale, MA; on January 16, 1781. Tabitha Raymond, Holden, MA.; d. Feb. 8, 1839. Does he connect with Cromwell's Scotch prisoner George Perry, deported Nov. 11, 1651 on the "John & Sarah" to Boston? My g-g-g-grandfather is John. (Write: Mrs. Robert C. Harsh, 3010 Derby Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43221

SNOW. Solomon Snow b. 1755 son of Lemuel & Margaret ? Snow, m. Lavinia Guild of Whately, MA. Was Solomon b. in Stafford, CT? (Write: Mrs. Marjorie Griggs, 73 River Rd., North Adams, MA. 01247

WATKINS. Need date & place of m. of Horace Watkins and Lucy Howard, ca. 1821. They are parents of Charles B. Watkins. (Write: Catherine Huber, 26 Deerfield St., Pittsfield, MA. 01201

WATKINS. Need date & place of d. of Horace Watkins and Lucy Howard, paretns of Charles B. Watkins. Was Horace son of Elisha Watkins & Deliverance Curtis of Peru? When & where was Horace b.? (Write: Catherine Huber, 26 Deerfield St., Pittsfield, MA. 01201

QUERIES