

NUMBERING OF BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST ISSUES

With this issue, we restore the numbering of Berkshire Genealogist to a continuation of the numbering from Volume 3, Number 1, (first issue of 1982).

For those who will want to adjust the numbering of the last four issues, we supply these cut-apart labels to be pasted over the tops of table-of-contents pages. We trust they will be of help. We regret the inconvenience to you.

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BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 2

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The above label may be pasted over the top of the title page of  
"VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1" [May 1982]

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BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 3

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"VOLUME 1, NUMBER 2" (August 1982)

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BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST

VOLUME 3

NUMBER 4

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"VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3" (November 1982)

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BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST

VOLUME 4

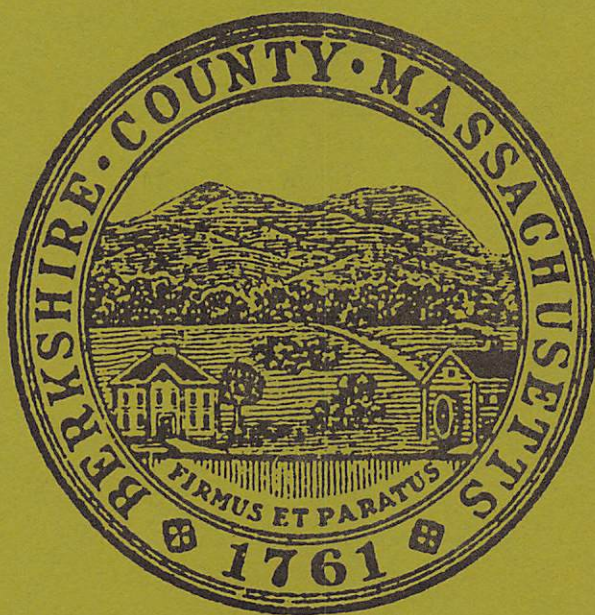
NUMBER 1

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"VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4" (February 1983)



# The Berkshire Genealogist





# Berkshire family history association

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

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS include field trips to New England research institutions, intensive one-day workshops on topics of genealogical importance and interests and much more.

BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST is a published quarterly and received by all members. Contributions of material by interested genealogists are welcome.

QUERIES are printed on a space-available basis. See the queries section for more specific directions.

BOOK REVIEWS are a part of each issue of the quarterly. Items to be reviewed should be sent to the book review editor at the association's address. No publication will be reviewed from advertising.

LOGO on the front cover is the seal of Berkshire County and is used with the permission of the Berkshire County Commissioners.

FUNDING of the association is entirely from membership and other private sources. No financial support is received from any governmental agency.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS needs to be received six weeks in advance.

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## NUMBERING OF BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST ISSUES

The last four issues are being renumbered to conform with the numbering of earlier issues of the quarterly.

Issues for 1982 are Volume 3, numbers 1 through 4. Issues for 1983 will be Volume 4, number 1 (printed as 1: 4), number 2 (this issue), and numbers 3 and 4 (to be printed).

# *berkshire genealogist*

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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 2

SPRING 1983

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Pittsfield, Massachusetts

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GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES  
IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY LIBRARIES

by Charlotte P. Davis\*

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A brief outline of genealogical resources and services available in Berkshire County libraries is being provided as an aid to members. Resources in the Lee and Sheffield libraries were reviewed in the last issue (volume 4, number 1, February 1983).

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STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY

Main Street, Stockbridge. Mrs. Polly Pierce, librarian.

The Stockbridge Library is unique among small libraries in Berkshire County in that it has not only an extensive area set aside for genealogical and historical items but it has a full time librarian to care for and add to the collection. Thus, among the small libraries Stockbridge has an outstanding, well-rounded genealogical collection. Mrs. Polly Pierce is in charge and one is free to use the genealogical facilities when she is there. If you go, do take time to see the varied and interesting Stockbridge historical items displayed in this small museum.

The large amount of genealogical material on Stockbridge people is easily researched due to the fine card files. One complete card file covers inscriptions from the town Cemetery on Main Street and the small one at Stockbridge Bowl. A Stockbridge Vital Records card file covers 1730 to 1850. The "Name File" is most helpful and leads the researcher to many books or to large file drawers containing folders of miscellaneous genealogical material and correspondence on Stockbridge families.

Stockbridge, unfortunately, was not included in the "Massachusetts Vital Records of 1850" series. The library, however, has 214 volumes of the series for other towns and the lack of printed records for Stockbridge is offset by the card file previously mentioned.

Printed genealogies are owned for the following Stockbridge families: Allen, Andrews and Clark, Barnes, Brainard, Brinsmaid, S. Buck, Banfield, Capron, Carter, Clark, Comstock, Crozier, Reunion Dickinson, Durant, John Dwight, Edwards family in Chenango County, Wm. Edwards, Timothy Edwards, Fairchild, Field (2 volumes), Field (Wells), David Dudley Field, Goodrich, Hoyt-Haight and Hight families, Ide, Morgan, Munsey-Hopkins, Rockwell, Sedgwick, Spalding, Stevens, Todd, Williams, Wells-Edlit. In addition, there are good records in file folders of these families: Ball, Barry, Bidwell, Bishop, Bullock, Canning, Curtis, Douglas, Dresser, Gardner, Godwin, Hull, Lynch, Marsh, Palmer, Plumb, Rees (or Raice), Sargent, Stockbridge, Townsend, Uhler-Chamberlain, Warner, Whitney, and Wilcox.

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\*Charlotte P. Davis (Mrs. Richard T.), 9 Navin Ave., Lee, Massachusetts

A Newspaper Clippings file on Stockbridge dates from 1938 - clippings from contemporary newspapers. Bound copies of The Visitor, printed in the town from 1841 to 1843, are here. All copies are here, in print and on microfilm, of the Berkshire News, a paper printed in Great Barrington and Stockbridge from 1889 to 1895. All of the original Berkshire Playhouse material from 1928 on is here, as well as microfilm copies. The library has a microfilm reader for use of the material.

Other pertinent Stockbridge items: Town Reports, 1859 to the present; Stockbridge school records and high school yearbooks; records of organizations, past and present; town histories by Marquand and Sedgwick (2 editions) and Miss Electa Jones's valuable history of Stockbridge, written about 1850, which includes the first Stockbridge families.

Church records: First Congregational Church, 1759 to 1950s; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1834 to 1950's; Norfolk, Connecticut, Congregational Church, 1861 to 1813.

The genealogist will find standard reference books such as Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution, Civil War Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, the printed 1790 census, Child's Gazetteer of Berkshire County, Savage's First Settlers of Connecticut and Massachusetts, Mayflower Descendants..., and recently published histories of Berkshire County towns.

Another unusual feature of the Historical Room of the library is the shelves of books by Stockbridge people or books about Stockbridge. There are over 500 books in this collection - from Jonathan Edwards to local author Margaret Gibson's latest book.

Of special interest to persons with Pittsfield connections are the printed papers of the little-known Berkshire History and Scientific Society in Pittsfield (1886-1913). Twelve small books cover such subjects as Berkshire Geology, The Western Border of Massachusetts, Early Roads and Settlements - very interesting.

A copy machine is available for a small fee.

Mrs. Pierce will answer genealogical questions by mail. A donation for this service is appreciated.

Library Hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.; Saturday 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. A phone call first might be wise as her department is closed if Mrs. Pierce is away: 413-298-5501.

#### LENOX LIBRARY

Main Street, Lenox. Mrs. Spencer Kennard, librarian.

Every library is just a little different from every other. In Lenox, while there is no special room for the genealogist, with the aid of the librarian many fine reference books and items are available in various



areas of the library.

All libraries are experiencing theft of valuable, irreplaceable books. Thus in Lenox certain books the researcher might wish to use are not found on the open shelves and one must ask for them at the desk. The four histories of Lenox, by authors Wood, Hibbard, Palmer, and Mallary, are among these, as is the unusual book East Street, hand-written by O.W. Osborn in 1890. East Street lists each land owner (in order) along this street which starts near the Pittsfield line at Chapman's Corner and runs along the east side of town (almost the full length of town) to Walker Street in Lenox Dale.

Pertinent Lenox items in the collection:

Church on the Hill Cemetery records.

Lenox Congregational Church records, 1771-1863 (Index is being prepared.)

Pictures and postcards of Lenox, easily found in the Answer File.

Edwin Hale Lincoln's glass plate (8x10) photographic collection. These pictures of all the larger estates in Lenox were taken at the turn of the century or earlier. Prints have been made from each plate, bound in books, and cataloged. The new book, Pride Palaces, was based on this collection.

Lenox vital records, unfortunately, were not printed in the "Massachusetts Vital Records of 1850" series. The Library has 169 volumes for other Massachusetts towns (not on open shelves).

Separate genealogies cover the following Lenox families: Amory, Arnolds, Astor, Crowninshield, Delafield, Fahnestock, Fairfax (of Virginia), Field (2 volumes), Field (David Dudley), Hoffman (Martin), Harrison (Benjamin), Kenyon (Simon of Hopkinton), Kemble (Fanny), Lawrence, Moffat, Napiers, Northrup, Parsons, Paterson (John), Phelps (2 volumes), Pierrepont, Rothchild, Sargent (Epes of Gloucester), Schermerhorn, Smith and Blanchard, Spargus (of Malden, Mass.), Stevens, Stokes, Wharton (Edith), Whitney, Woolsey (Howland and Newtop).

The Lenox Library has the standard reference books used by the genealogist for Massachusetts research, such as Child's Gazeteer of Berkshire County, Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the Revolution, Savage's Genealogical Dictionary, Mayflower Descendants.

This library is unique in that it has a larger than usual number of books on relevant subjects. There are, for example, six fine books on heraldry and a large reference volume, The Art of Heraldry. A number of helpful books are available to the beginner - Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources, Finding Your Roots, Searching for Your Ancestors. Often early settlers from foreign countries changed their names when they arrived in this country. You will find here two volumes on Name Changes in Massachusetts.

In the Reference Section, one finds a fine collection of helpful books; to name a few - nine bound volumes of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register; Massachusetts Genealogy (four volumes); Encyclopedia of Biography for Massachusetts and Connecticut; First Families of America; Massachusetts Volunteers in the Civil War; Dictionary of American Biography (twenty seven volumes); and Story of Western Massachusetts by Wright (four volumes).

Photocopies will be made by the librarian for a small fee. The library will answer genealogical requests by mail. A donation for this service is appreciated.

Hours: 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., daily except Sunday, Monday, and legal holidays. Telephone 413-637-0197

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AN ACT FOR ERECTING THE LOWER PLANTATION AT HOUSSAT[O][A]N-  
NOCK INTO A TOWNSHIP, BY THE NAME OF SHEFFIELD.

WHEREAS the inhabitants of a tract of land on the river Hous- Preamble.  
sat[o][a]nnock, adjo[i][y]ning southerly on the divisional line between  
this government and Connecticut, have undergone many difficulties and  
inconveniences, and by reason of their distance from any towns in the  
county of Hampshire, may labour under more misch[ie][ei]fs for want  
of a power for the regular management of their affairs, and they being  
now arrived to a competent number of inhabitants, and having ad-  
dressed this court for rel[ie][ei]f,—

Be it enacted by His Excellency the Governour, Council and Repre-  
sentatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,

[SECT. 1.] That the lands in the lower plantation, so called, at The lower plan-  
Houssat[o][a]nn[o][i]ck, of the contents of seven miles square, be and tation at Hous-  
hereby are erected into a separate and distinct township by the name atonic made a  
of Sheffield, by the metes and bounds following; viz., adjo[i][y]ning town by the  
southerly on the divisional line between this government and name of Sher-  
Connecticut, and thence extending the lines northerly on each side Hous- field.  
sat[o][a]nnock River eight miles, so as to include the quantity of seven  
miles square, agreeable to a grant of this court at their session in May,  
1722, and that a plat of the township be accordingly taken by a sur-  
veyor and chainmen on oath, and returned to this court within twelve  
months, by the grantees, for confirmation of said tract to them, their  
heirs and assigns; and that the inhabitants of the said lands be, and  
are hereby, accordingly, endowed and vested with all powers, privi-  
le[d]ges, immunities and advantages which other towns in this province  
by law have and enjoy; and the inhabitants of the s[ai]d town of  
Sheffield are hereby [e][i]njo[i][y]ned and required, within the space  
of three years from the publication of this act, to build a suitable meet-  
ing-house for the publick worship of God, and to procure and settle a  
learned, orthodox minister of good conversation, and make provision  
for his comfortable and honourable support.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid,

[SECT. 2.] That the said town of Sheffield be and hereby is declared  
to be within the county of Hampshire. [Passed June 22.]

The town of  
Sheffield to lie  
in the county of  
Hampshire.

Chapter 1, Acts /of the province of the Massachusetts Bay/ passed at the  
session begun...at Boston...30 May, A.D. 1733.

## SHEFFIELD, OLDEST TOWN IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

by Lillian Preiss\*

Nestled between the Taconic Range on the west and the Berkshire barrier on the east, the fertile interval which became the town of Sheffield was settled more than a century later than its counterparts in eastern Massachusetts. For many years it had been the exclusive domain of Mahican Indians.

The first deeds to this territory were granted by the Indians to Dutch traders from Albany in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, culminating in the Patent of Westenhook in 1705. Although they neglected to clear and make improvements on the lands as required by the terms of the grant, the patentees were nonetheless perturbed when in 1724 a settling committee appointed by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts bought from the Indians a large tract of land which included the present towns of Sheffield and Great Barrington and parts of Alford, West Stockbridge, and Lee. Conflicting claims to the land engendered much ill will between the Dutch and English and delayed settlement in the disputed territory.

In the fall of 1725, Matthew Noble traveled over the mountains from Westfield and, finding the Indians friendly, spent the winter in Sheffield, returning the next spring to fetch his daughter, Hannah. Thus the Nobles, father and daughter, became the first white settlers of the town.

At the first town meeting in January 1733, Matthew Noble was elected moderator and Hezekiah and Elisha, his sons, were chosen town clerk and constable, respectively. Other town officials elected at the first meeting, whose descendants were to make their mark in Sheffield annals, were Daniel Kellogg, John Smith, and Phillip Callendar, selectmen; Thomas Lee, Anthony Austin, and Samuel Dewey, tithingmen; and Jonathan Rotta, surveyor.

As directed by the General Court, the settling committee set aside a lot for the minister and one for the school. Although it was voted at the second town meeting, held just two weeks after the first, to build a meetinghouse and the General Court stipulated when the town was incorporated on 22 June 1733 that the inhabitants build a "suitable Meeting House for the publick worship of God," it was not until the summer of 1735 that a 45' by 35' meetinghouse was finally erected. All able-bodied townspeople were to participate in its construction, with an inducement of "Good beere and Rhumb" for the fortification of the inner man. Obadiah Noble and Ensign John Ashley were chosen to "Dool out Drink to the labourers."

Ezekiel Ashley, Daniel Kellogg, and Moses Ingersoll comprised the first "dignity committee," to which was given the awesome responsibility of seating the church-goers according to their social standing and owner-

\*President of the Sheffield Historical Commission and author of a history of the town of Sheffield.



ship of property. When a larger meetinghouse was built in 1760, about a mile south of the original, John Ashley, a prominent member of the congregation, was appointed to designate the seats in the new church.

Son of Captain John Ashley, of Westfield, a member of the original settling committee, and father of General John Ashley, leader of the Sheffield militia at the last battle of Shay's Rebellion in 1787, Colonel John Ashley was the leading citizen of Sheffield during its formative years. It was at his home in 1773 that a document (later referred to as "The Sheffield Declaration") was formulated. In fourteen provocative resolutions the group declared that "Mankind in a state of Nature are equal, free and independent of each other, and have a right to the undisturbed enjoyment of their lives, liberty and property."

In July of the following year Colonel Ashley was named chairman of a Stockbridge convention which adopted a policy of non-importation of British goods. In addition to holding important town offices, he was at various times a representative to the General Court, a sheriff of Hampshire County, a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and a member of the committee which led to the separation of Berkshire County from Hampshire County in 1761.

Colonel Ashley also figured in one of the first slave-freeing cases in Massachusetts. Mum Bett (Elizabeth Freeman) a slave in the Ashley home, overheard the colonel and other influential citizens discussing the new state constitution and determined to test its application to her status. Successfully suing for her freedom in 1781, she spent her remaining years as a beloved servant in the household of Theodore Sedgwick, her lawyer, who went on to become a United States senator, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and later a judge in the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

Other prominent citizens of Sheffield included the Reverend Orville Dewey, whose book The Problem of Human Destiny has been termed "one of the ablest works of the American intellect"; General John G. Ba chief engineer in the Army of the Potomac; Frederick A.P. Barnard, scientist and educator, for whom Barnard College was named; and George F. Root, who wrote such stirring Civil War songs as "Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!" and "Battle Cry of Freedom."

Today the town boasts residents whose ancestors were among the early English and Dutch settlers, as well as first or second generation Americans of European and Asian descent. The various ethnic strains have blended to enhance the quality of life in present-day Sheffield, a town whose prominent businesses are agriculture and antiques.

WILLS AND ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

FROM

PROBATE RECORD BOOK I, 1761-1773

abstracted by Joseph Guertin and Thelma Wells

BOARDMAN Joshua, of Sheffield, Hampshire County, Province of Massachusetts Bay, To wife Amy, one half of home lot and meadow land on both sides of the river until son Elijah is of age, then half of that half for life. To son Daniel all my outlands westerly of his house and land, except twenty acres; also my Negro Man. To son Joshua one half of home lot and meadow land eight acres west side of Main Road and on north end of Mr. Pells lot, reserving to son Elijah liberty of getting wood and timber. To son Elijah one half of home lot and meadow land on both sides of river when he is twenty one, to be partner with his mother in said lands during her life; also forty acres easterly and adjoining Jared Goodriches land. To daughter Elizabeth Whitney ten pounds. To daughter Olive Fose (or Fox) twenty acres, part of lot she now lives on, also twenty pounds more if she has a child. To daughters Roseanah Boardman, Mary Boardman, and Hannah Boardman, fifty-five pounds each to be paid out of my estate by my sons Daniel, Joshua, and Elijah, reserving two cows and a horse and household goods to my wife for her life. Lands on the Mountain or my Townock Right or my lands at the Eastward, to be equally divided, if any of them be recovered. Executors: wife Amy Boardman and son Daniel Boardman. Witnesses: Phinehas Smith, Jared Goodrich, Saml. Higby. Will made 22 Dec. 1760. Presented for probate by Amy Boardman and Daniel Boardman 13 July 1761.

Aaron Root, Jared Goodrich, and William Gort, freeholders, appointed to make inventory of the estate and make return in three months. 13 July 1761. Pp. 1-3

ROBERTS William, late of Sheffield, deceased intestate. Citation widow Lilius Roberts to appear and take on administration of the estate within ten days or to declare her refusal. /13 July 1761/ P.3

CHURCH John, deceased intestate, of Sheffield. Letter and power of administration of all goods, chattels, rights, and credits of John Church given to Thankful Church, widow and relict; bond taken of Thankful. 11 Aug. 1761 P.4

JACKSON Caleb, late of Number One so called, Berkshire County, /later Tyringham/, deceased intestate. Letter and power of administration given to Giles Jackson of said Number One. 13 Aug. 1761 P.4

JACKSON Caleb, late of Number One so called /later Tyringham/ deceased intestate. Letter and power of administration given to Giles Jackson of said Number One. 13 Aug. 1761 P.4

JACKSON John, deceased intestate, late of Number One. Letter and power of administration granted to Beulah Jackson, widow and relict; bond taken. 13 Aug. 1761 P.4-5

JACKSON Samuel, deceased intestate, late of Number One so called. Letter and power of administration given to Giles Jackson of Number One. 13 Aug. 1761

John Chadwick, Josiah Smith, and Jacob Brown, freeholders, appointed to inventory real and personal estate of Samuel Jackson; to make return at or before second Tuesday of October next. Sworn September 1761. P.5

The following abstracts are by Joseph G. Guertin, 233 Benedict Road, Pittsfield, Mass.

WALKER David, deceased, of Sheffield. Elizabeth Walker, widow, granted power of administration. 11 Dec. 1760 P.7

JOYNER William, late of Egremont. Asahel Dewey and Sarah Joyner granted power of administration for the will of William Joyner. Bartholomew Hoogooboom and Andrew Loomis were witnesses of the will. Will was disapproved for uncertainty, unintelligibleness, and inconsistency. 11 Dec 1760 P.7

HOPKINS John, of Egremont, Hampshire County, Province of Massachusetts Bay. Will. To my mother Elizabeth, I give the sole improvement of all my estate both personal and real during her life. After her decease, my estate to my brother Elias Hopkins' children. My mother may give out legacies when and to whom she thinks fit. Executor: Ephraim Fitch. Witnesses: Issac Fosberg, George Messinger, Abigail Messinger. 31 May 1761 P.8

BOARDMAN Joshua, deceased, of Sheffield. Jonathan Holcomb appointed guardian of Mary Boardman and Hannah Boardman, minors under fourteen, children and heirs of Joshua Boardman, as well to their estates as to their persons; bond taken. 1 Oct. 1761

Report of appraisal of estate by Aaron Root, Jared Goodrich, William Coit, 17 Sept. 1761. Witnesses of appraisal: Daniel Boardman, Amey Boardman, executors. Inventory of all estate so far as is known; when anything further shall appear, they will exhibit further inventory. 1 Oct. 1761 P.9

FREMAN Eli, of Berkshire County, Province of Massachusetts Bay. Will. To Anna Freman, wife, twenty pounds lawful money of this province during her life to be raised out of my estate; one third of all real and personal estate for her life. To son Silas Freman, double portion of all real and personal estate and twenty-four sheep. To daughters Seibal Freman, Marcy Freman. Mary Freman and sons Eli Freman and John Freman, equal portions divided between them of all the rest besides what is mentioned. Executrix: Anna Freman, wife. Witnesses: Eli Wright, Charles Adams, Ebenezer Hide. Will made 30 Dec. 1760 P.9

to be continued when more material is available



## THE BOOKSTALL

by Denis J. Lesieur\*

Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the Seventeenth-Century Conflicts, edited by Carole Doreski. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1982. xxvi, 260 pp. \$14.95.

This volume is sixth in a series, based on Pre-Revolutionary military records, published by the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The focus of the Doreski book is the period 1620 to 1698, including the Pequot War (1636-1638); the actions against the Narragansetts (1653-1654); King Philip's War (1675-1677); and King William's War (1688-1698). With the publication of this book, researchers now have access to material that covers Massachusetts conflicts from the settlement of Plymouth Colony to the Lexington Alarm in 1775.

The seventeenth-century Indian wars in New England have excited a great deal of historical interest and controversy. Professional historians continue to disagree as to the exact motivations behind the conflicts between the Puritans and the native Indians, as well as the level of cruelty and deception practiced by both sides. Up to now, however, genealogists have evinced little interest in the struggles. This lack of concern derives partially from the relatively small population involved, there being only an estimated 33,700 people in Massachusetts as late as 1690. Perhaps equally important, few original records detailing participation in the wars still exist. Available data are usually buried within obscure and difficult sources of varying reliability.

The Doreski volume should relieve this situation somewhat. Names of white participants in the wars are listed alphabetically, together with such information as rank, date of accounting, probable residence, conflict in which the colonist served with company and commanding officer. Unfortunately, given the sparse records available, most researchers will find only a name, date, and possibly a commanding officer or name of conflict. As the editor admits, the list is drawn primarily from such standard secondary sources as Soldiers in King Philip's War by George M. Bodge and Expedition of 1690 to Canada by Walter K. Watkins. In addition, information was culled from a number of town histories, articles in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, and a series of contemporary accounts of the conflicts. King William's War, one of the two major wars of Puritan conquest against the Indians, receives limited treatment, seriously reducing the degree of coverage provided by the book.

There are more severe problems with the volume than its limited coverage of the conflicts, however. Doreski does not provide us with the source

\*Mr. Lesieur is a librarian and the director of the Local History Department of the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

from which each name and accompanying information is obtained, thus preventing the researcher from examining the originating material. Such an omission is particularly damaging given the heavy reliance on secondary sources. In fact, there is not even a bibliography indicating sources examined and used; consequently, we are left with little sense of the scope of the work.

While the introductory history of the various conflicts is well-written and concise, one wonders whether a discussion of available sources and their locations would not have proven a more worthwhile inclusion. Such information would prove most welcome for those genealogists who will not find a sought-after name and will face the unhappy task of searching elsewhere.

Despite these reservations, Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the Seventeenth-Century Conflicts is a good beginning effort at bringing an important segment of our history within reach of genealogists and local historians.

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#### AT THE ATHENAEUM

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

AUSTIN. Descendants of John Austin of Greenwich, Connecticut: Vermont Migrations to New York and West. By Edith Austin Moore, with additions by Marion Jones, 1981. 45 pp., maps, illus., notes, index. \$20.00. Write: The Author, Silver Creek, NY 14146.

CANADA. An "Ordinary" of Arms from Heraldry in Canada. By D.E. Kennedy. Vols. 1-10, 1966-1976. 113 pp., maps, illus. Gift of Harriet Sawyer.

CANADA. Melanges Genealogiques. Cahier X. Noms Quebecois Americanises. By Raymond Gringras. 21 pp., biblio. Gift of Harriet Sawyer.

CANADA. A Topographical Dictionary of Lower Canada. 1831 edition. Microfiche. Gift of Harriet Sawyer.

EDDY. The Eddy Homesteader. February 1981-July 1982. Gift of Marjorie Griggs.

FLORANCE. We, the Florances/Florences. By Charles Wesley Florance, Jr. II, 86 pp., appendixes. \$15.00. Write: The Author, 602 Northridge, San Antonio, TX 78209.

GENEALOGICAL HELPER 1975-1981. Nibley, Utah: Everton Publishers. Bi-monthly journal. Gifts of Don Lutes and Walter McIntosh.

to be continued

## BIBLE RECORDS

From a Bible published by Phinney and Co., Buffalo, N.Y., 1858; purchased at a tag sale in Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County, N.Y., March 4, 1983. Contributed by Mary Hoyt DeGiorgis, 121 Howard St., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

### BIRTHS

/The first births recorded are transcribed as written in the Bible./

George Jenks Was Borned Sept 16th 1810

Phebe Haskins Was Borned November 22d 1814

Bentley Jenks Was Borned November 28d 1833, 1833

Sarah Ann Jenks Was Borned May 25th 1835, 1835

Georgiana Jenks Was Born December 27th 1858 27th 1858

/The remainder of the records are abstracted in one format. A change in the record maker is noted: change of hand./

### Births (cont.)

Paul Towsley, 26 Feb. 1881

Schuyler Towsley, 20 March 1889

Wallace Towsley, 13 Oct. 1852

/change of hand/:

Howard Ralph Towsley, 18 Nov. 1914, son of Schuyler Earl and Maude

Grace /Hulett written in/ Towsley

Daughter: at Pawlet: Theda Muriel 18 April 1919 daughter of Schuyler

Earl and Maude Grace Towsley

Donald Herman, 22 Jan. 1926 to Schuyler and Maude Towsley at Bennington, Vt.

/change of hand/:

Howard Paul Towsley, 8 March 1947, Son of Howard R. and Florence

Coulter Towsley /different hand and ink/ at Bennington, Vt.

Richard Schuyler Towsley, 7 April 1951, son of Howard R. and Florence

Coulter Towsley /different hand and ink/ at Bennington, Vt.

/Duplicate of Howard Paul's birth crossed out/

/change of hand/

William Paul Towsley, son of Paul and Edie, 19 July 1973

Christon Marie Towsley, 30 March 1972

Michael Richard Towsley, 23 Feb. 1973

Aime Marie Towsley, 11 Jan. 1974

These three children are children of Richard and Peggy Towsley.

### MARRIAGES

Maude Grace Hulett and Schuyler Earl Towsley, 22 July 1909, at Walpole, N.H.

Theda Muriel Towsley and Richard Rushmore Fitchett, 31 Aug. 1940, at Second Congregational Church, Bennington, Vt.



/change of hand/

Howard Ralph Towsley and Isabel Mary Casas, 17 Jan. 1942, at Congregational Parsonage, Rutland, Vt.

Howard R. Towsley and Florence Coulter, 10 May 1946, at Bennington, Vt., by Rev. Burke

Theda Towsley Fitchett and Frederick Houghton /change of hand - different ink: 7 Sept. 1946/ at Methodist Church, Pittsfield, Mass.

Grace Watrous and Paul Elihu Towsley, 26 Feb. 1902, at Pawlet, Vt., to Methodist Church

Notation in different ink: "There were no children born to this union, to the Towsley, Fitchett, or Towsley, Casas union."

Howard Paul Towsley and Edie Valentine of Bristol, Vt., 7 June 1970

Richard Schuyler Towsley and Margaret Roy of Bennington, Vt., 22 Aug. 1 1970

#### DEATHS

Nicholas Jenks, 6 Oct. 1867

Anna, wife of Nicholas Jenks, 28 Apr. 1871

Maranda Haskins, 16 Mar. 1873

George Jenks, 7 Dec. 1873, aged 63 years

Phebe Jenks, 11 Sept. 1891, aged 76

Bentley Jenks, 8 Sept. 1892, aged 59

Sarah Ann Aldrich, 6 Oct. 1904, aged 69

Each of the above entries in a different hand

/change of hand/

Wallace Towsley, 15 Jan. 1934, age 81

Georgia Towsley, 16 May 1937, age 78

/change of hand/

Donald Herman Towsley, age 6, 7 Mar. 1932, son of Schuyler and Maude Towsley

/change of hand/

Richard R. Fitchett, 24 June 1945

Isabel Casas Towsley, 26 July 1945

Schuyler E. Towsley, 10 Nov. 1954

/change of hand/

Maude Grace Hulet Towsley, Wife, 4 Mar. 1973, age 82

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Holy Bible. New York: M.L. & W. Davis, 1801. Bible is in the possession of Charlotte P. Davis, Navin Ave., Lee, Mass., who contributed this record.

All surnames in this Bible records are Morgan.

Phineas b. 7 Feb. 1742

Sylvia b. 12 May 1745

Henry b. 17 Feb. 1742

Abigail b. 24 Sept. 1771

Horace b. 5 Dec. 1773

Abigail d. 21 Feb. 1776

Abigail 2, b. 8 June 1776

Abigail 2, d. 7 Dec. 1777  
Miles b. 30 Oct. 1778

Miles Morgan b. 30 Oct. 1778  
Lucy Morgan b. 20 July 1785

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Adaline b. 14 Nov. 1803  
Phineas Woodbridge b. 20 Aug. 1805  
Harriet b. 26 Oct. 1807  
Charles b. 13 Aug. 1809  
Edwin b. 27 Aug. 1811  
Julia Ann b. 11 Sept. 1813  
Lucy b. 26 Jan. 1816  
Mary b. 27 July 1818  
Lucy d. 26 Jan. 1819  
Lucy 2 b. 7 Oct. 1820  
Miles, Jun., b. 20 July 1822, d. 10 Oct. 1822  
Adalade b. 30 Sept. 1823  
Agnes Eloda b. 10 Feb. 1826  
Harriet d. 7 May 1827  
Adalade d. 9 Oct. 1827  
Phineas Woodbridge d. 23 June 1828  
Ellen b. 9 Oct. 1828  
Miles d. 8 Oct. 1842

Mrs. Davis adds these notes about the Morgan family. Phineas Morgan was born in West Springfield, son of Miles and Lydia (Day) Morgan. Sylvia Woodbridge /Sylvia Morgan in the Bible record/ was born in Stockbridge, daughter of Timothy and Abigail (Day) Woodbridge. Their children were all born in Stockbridge.

The children of Miles Morgan and Lucy (Lester) Morgan /Lucy Morgan in the Bible record/ were born in Lee. Their son Edwin started the Morgan House in Lee.

The family of Edwin Morgan went to Michigan.

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The Old Testament. Philadelphia: M. Carey, 1812. Bible is in the possession of Mrs. Davis, who contributed the record.

#### MARRIAGES

Luther Moses and Huldah Goodrich, 2 May 1809  
Ezekiel Andrews and Huldah Goodrich, widow of Luther Moses, 20 Oct. 1833  
Luther Morgan Moses (son of L. and H.G. Moses) and Mary P. Lampson,  
November 1843

Their children:

- 1) Sarah Henrietta m. Edwin J. Smith
- 2) Luther M. Jr., m. Minnie C. Smith, 17 Jan. 1877

Stephen Goodrich Moses (son of L. and H.G. Moses) and Mary H. Atkins, 27 Nov. 1843

Their children:

- 1) Stephen
- 2) Mary
- 3) Lilly H. m. October 1885, Rev. Daniel Clark
- 4) Charles

Abiel H. Pease and Celestia Moses, 25 Nov. 1831

Their children:

- 1) Moses H. m. Adelaide M. Griswold
- 2) Sarah H. d. 1837
- 3) Francis M. m. Agnes A. Griswold

Merrick Richardson and H. Silma Moses, 25 March 1834

No children

### BIRTHS

Luther Moses, 20 Nov. 1788

Huldah Moses, his wife, 5 Jan. 1788

Their children:

- Huldah Selina, 19 Feb. 1810  
Celestia, 10 Nov. 1811  
Morgan, 9 Sept. 1813  
Luther Morgan, 27 March 1816  
Stephen Goodrich, 27 April 1818  
Alfred, 4 May 1820

Luther and Huldah Moses children by marriage

Merrick Richardson

Abiel H. Pease, 13 July 1809

### DEATHS

Morgan Moses, son of Luther and Huldah Moses, 30 April 1815

Luther Moses, 21 Jan. 1830

Huldah Moses Andrews, 10 May 1871

Luther Morgan Moses, 25 March 1881

Mary L. Moses, wife of Luther M. Moses, 26 April 1880

Stephen Goodrich Moses, March 1891

Alfred Moses, 9 Aug. 1891

Huldah Selima Moses, widow of Merrick Richardson, August 1895

Merrick Richardson

Celestia Moses, widow of Abiel H. Pease, 2 April 1887

Abiel Pease, 16 March 1878

Mrs. Davis notes that the Moses family was from Simsbury, Connecticut, in 1680 and from Windsor, Conn., before the Bible records were made.

Celeste Moses Pease settled in Lee, Mass. (See Pease Bible record to be printed in next issue.



HISTORY OF THE  
BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

by Gladys M. King\*

The Berkshire Family History Association was organized in April 1975 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, with the following officers: President, Ronald Stratton; Vice-President, Mary DeGiorgis; Secretary, Stanley Moore; and Treasurer, Richard Leab. Initially, this society was the Berkshire County Chapter of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists.

At the second meeting, held in May of 1975, a Recording Secretary, Gladys M. King, was added as were two Directors, Stephen Budrow and Reginald Arnold. In March 1976 two more Directors were added, Ruth Bass and Rev. Eugene Plasse of North Adams, to give representation to northern Berkshire members.

The second president, Mary A. DeGiorgis, served in 1977 and 1978. Denis J. Lesieur was elected president in 1978 and served until 1982.

In the summer of 1979, it was decided to become an independent organization. For a short time, the group was called the Berkshire Genealogical Society, but in November 1979 it was officially voted that the name be the Berkshire Family History Association.

Founding officers and directors of the newly independent organization were:

President - Denis J. Lesieur	Vice-President - Mary DeGiorgis
Treasurer - Kenneth Wells	Recording Secretary - Gladys King
Corresponding Secretary - Stanley Moore	
Directors - Bernice Ballou	Marjorie Griggs
Nancy Clemens	Frank Kelly
Edith Fagley	Richard Leab
Dorothy Ford	Thelma Owens
	Virginia Sliter
	John Sisson

The Society has had a long history of service to the people of Berkshire County. The earliest service project was a gift of a circulating copy of Val Greenwood's The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy to all major county libraries and of Gilbert Doane's Searching for Your Ancestors to the smaller libraries.

The latest service project is transcription of the vital records of the city of Pittsfield. A copy of the transcriptions is being placed in the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield, for use by researchers.

The Society hopes to continue this history of service to its members and the community.

\*Mrs. King is the present Recording Secretary of the Society.

## THE QUERY SECTION

by J. Bradley Cooper\*

Among the benefits of membership in a genealogical society is the opportunity for interchange of information with other searchers in the same or related areas. An important vehicle for the implementation of such interchange is the query section of a society's newsletter or quarterly. Unfortunately, this is also an area where it is well to heed the time-honored admonition, "Caveat emptor." There is no way of knowing the quality of the scholarship represented by the query itself or the response it evokes. Either set of information may be factual or may be but a hopeful assumption. To be safe, one can use the data only as a guide or stimulant to one's own research.

A published query is more than a question appearing in print. Presentation of relevant data, to establish a background upon which a reply may be based, is actually publication of genealogical material. Readers are justified in making such application of the material as suits their needs. If the application is merely to flesh out the skeleton of a personal history, inaccuracies are embarrassing but not catastrophic. If the material is to be part of a published work, inaccuracies will mislead and confuse the public for years to come.

At the risk of being pedantic, it is suggested that a query section publishes as much genealogical information as it is attempting to elicit, or more. Both the query and its answer will be improved in quality if certain restraints are observed. Data presented in the query should be the result of a search for which there exists documentation which could be cited should this be requested. Where family tradition, opinion, or assumption provided the material, warning modifier, as "possibly" or "probably," will alert the reader to provide his own verification.

The response to the query, similarly, should cite the sources drawn upon to provide the information submitted. Failing this, the answer to the query falls a bit short of the mark.

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### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR WRITING QUERIES

- 1) Give the full name, including middle name or initial, of the person subject of the inquiry.
- 2) Establish identity of the person by giving place and date of birth; place and date of death; parentage; and place and date of marriage;

\*Mr. Cooper, 221 Holmes Road, Pittsfield, is queries editor of the quarterly and a certified genealogist.

as:

John Doe, born Hartford, Conn., 12 Jan. 1900, died  
Fairfield, Conn., 19 March 1967, son of Richard and Abigail  
(Weston) Doe, married Hartford 11 June 1920.

- 3) If unable to give a complete description of the person about whom inquiry is made, start with a son or daughter for whom a good description is available and ask for that person's ancestry.
- 4) Identify spouse by place and date of birth, place and date of death, and parentage, as:  
Abigail Weston, born Middle Haddam, Conn., 16 March 1802,  
died Fairfield, Conn., 16 March 1871, daughter of Frank  
and Sarah (White) Weston.
- 5) State information desired, as: Need ancestors of John and Abigail.
- 6) Place the question at the end of the query.
- 7) Do not abbreviate the names of persons or towns.
- 8) Give the name of the state in which the town is located.
- 9) Dates should be written: day, month, and year, as: 13 Jan. 1916.
- 10) Use multiple queries rather than multiple parts of the same query.
- 11) The query should not exceed four typed lines.
- 12) Abbreviations: In order to save space, many query sections require the use of as many specified abbreviations as possible, in one instance from a glossary of upwards of two hundred items. Until the number of our queries reaches a size requiring such measures, freedom from abbreviations will make it easier for writer and reader alike.

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#### QUERIES

Unless otherwise specified, all locations are in Massachusetts.

83001

WHEELER - MCKIBBIN

Egbert Wheeler, born 15 August 1876, and Walter Wheeler, born 5 May 1880, both in Pittsfield, sons of Charles Lewis and Charlotte (McKibbin) Wheeler. Seek information on Egbert and Walter.

83002

WHEELER

Albert Lewis Wheeler, born Pittsfield 1874, died there 24 April 1900, buried West Stockbridge. Was he married? Did he leave children?

83003

## DANIELS - CATLIN

Joel Daniels of Becket and Diantha (Daniels) Catlin were children of Jahial Daniels. Were there other children? Wish to correspond with their descendants.

Grace Wheeler, Worthington Rd., Huntington, MA 01050

83004

## AYERS

E.A. Ayers, a teacher in Becket about 1875. Seek any information regarding him.

83005

## CHAFFEE - PARKER

James Madison Chaffee of Becket married Caroline J. Parker of Lenox, mid-1800s. Seek information regarding them.

Charles T. Cole, 1 Birchwood Ln., RFD #7, Manchester, NH 03104

83005

## WESTOVER

Benjamin Galt Westover, born Sheffield 29 March 1816, one of seven children. Family later moved to New York State. Benjamin moved to Illinois in 1848. Kane County, Illinois, history lists Abijah Westover, native of Mass., who moved to Jefferson County, N.Y., in 1822 and had a son Stephen and 6 other children. Seek parents, brothers, and sisters of Stephen.

Marilyn Westover, 105-N 12th St., Clear Lake, IA 50428

83006

## CAPE COD - LEE

Immediately after the Revolution there was a great exodus of families from Cape Cod to Lee, Massachusetts. No records seem to exist either on the Cape or in Lee. We would like to compile a list of these people. Need names of families that left Cape Cod and settled in Lee between 1780 and 1800.

Mrs. Richard P. Davis, 9 Navin Avenue, Lee, MA 01238

83007

## CHAMBERLAIN

Otis or John Otis Chamberlain from Maine or possibly Canada, to Danvers, Mass. married Thirza Newhall; two sons: John born 1804, Danvers, married Mary Granger; Alfred, born 1805 married Mary C. Orcutt. No record of birth, marriage, or death. Any information on Otis or John Otis Chamberlain?

Mrs. L.A. Chamberlain, 1900 S. Kanner Hwy. #10-104, Stuart, FL 33497

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The response to a query should be acknowledged and the responder reimbursed for the postage and the usual costs of any photocopies which have been sent. In addition to the effort in performing the favor, the responder should not be left out-of-pocket as well.

J.B. Cooper, C.G.

## NEWS AND NOTES

### CENSUS MICROFILM RENTAL

The National Archives and Record Service has announced resumption of access to census microfilm.

The DDD company, Census Microfilm Rental Program, P.O. Box 2940, Hyattsville, MD 20784, has been awarded the contract to provide this service. Rental for seven days is \$2.25, available through participating libraries and genealogical associations.

Initially, the 1790 to 1900 schedules and Soundex are available. The 1910 census and Soundex will be available later in the year.

Loan is scheduled to begin in early July but orders may be placed as soon as June 5. Check with your local library or genealogical association, which should have order forms and promotional literature by May 1.

/Title to microfilm given to DDD will be held by the National Archives but this does not assuage the concern of those who object to the "gift" of our government's property to a private corporation for its profit./

### MORTALITY SCHEDULES

Transfer has been completed of all original mortality schedules formerly held by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, D.C. These schedules given to the D.A.R. in the 1930s have been returned to the National Archives, along with indexes to many of them prepared by the society's staff or members.

Not all have been completely processed; those that have been, are available for use in the National Archives microfilm reading room in Washington.

### MASSACHUSETTS VITAL RECORDS

House Bill 1831 provides for the transfer of vital records, 1841 to 1910 to custody of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, where it is thought care for their preservation will be exercised while access by the researchers will be maintained. To support the bill, write Co-Chairmen, Committee on Government Regulations, The State House, Boston, MA 02133.

### CONFERENCES

July 13-16 First National Conference for Genealogists in the Northeast, Hartford, Connecticut. Write: Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 220, Davenport, IA 52805.

October 3-5 Researching in New York: A Genealogical Melting Pot. Albany, N.Y. Write: Albany Conference - GCNY, Box 299, Interlaken, NY 14847



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A map of the town of New Canaan, New York, showing its various hamlets and surrounding areas. The map is oriented with North at the top. The town is bounded by the Hudson River to the west and the New York State Thruway (I-190) to the east. Major hamlets include New Canaan, West Nyack, and Rockledge. Other labeled areas include Mount Washington, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, Otis, Monterey, Tyringham, Lee, Lenox, Richmond, Pittsfield, Hanover, Westborough, Cheshire, Savoy, Adams, North Adams, Williamstown, Clarkstown, and Florida. The map also shows the locations of the New Canaan State Thruway, the New Canaan State Thruway, and the New Canaan State Thruway.

STAMFORD CT. JUN 21. 1871



BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 1437  
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