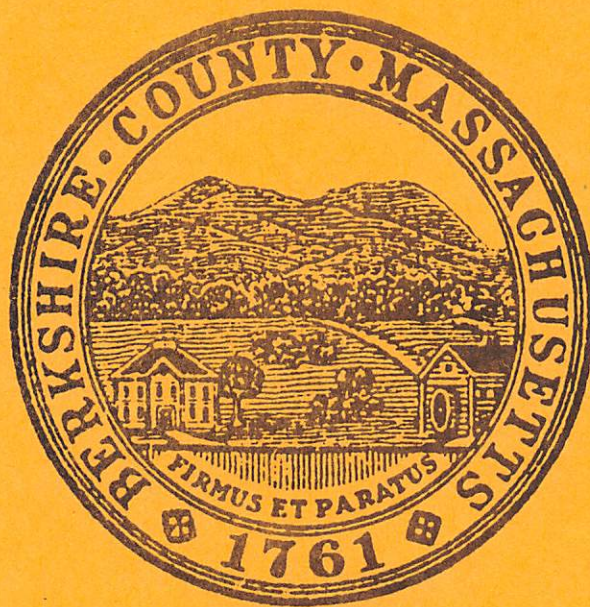


# The Berkshire Genealogist





## BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

\* \* \*

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

MEMBERSHIP is open to anyone interested in family history and genealogy. Annual dues are \$8.00 for individuals, \$10.00 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 research trips to New England institutions and intensive one-day workshops on topics of genealogical importance and interest.

BERKSHIRE GENEALOGIST is published quarterly and received by all members. Contributions of material are welcome. Send to the editor, Marcia Eisenberg, Main Road, Tyringham, MA 01264.

QUERIES are printed for members as space is available. See the queries section for specific directions.

BOOK REVIEWS are a part of each issue. Send items for review to the book review editor at the association's address.

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

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS needs to be received six weeks prior to publication date.

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Berkshire Family History Association  
P.O. Box 1437, Pittsfield, Ma 01202.



# *berkshire genealogist*

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FALL 1984

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**BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

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**Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

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## THE EARLY HISTORY OF NORTH ADAMS

Annette Jenks\*

Toward the middle of the 18th century, the General Court in Boston directed surveyors to lay out towns in the northwestern corner of Massachusetts because it was concerned about establishing its ownership of the territory against the infringements of settlers from New York State and protecting Massachusetts from marauding French and Indians.

The land was surveyed, once in 1739 and again in 1749, when it was divided into two townships, East and West Hoosuck, covering what is today Clarksburg, North Adams, Adams, and Williamstown. The committee on surveying made a notation that "...A great part of the land is considerably loaded with timber...the rivers running through the center of the east township for more than four miles northerly and southerly and about a mile east and west appear rich and good...adjoining the said townships lies the Great Hoosuck Mountain (so called) which is about seven miles from side to side on which mountain there is a sufficient quantity of land for a township or two..."

With this encouragement, in 1750, the State granted Captain Ephraim Williams 200 acres of land in East Hoosuck, on condition that ten acres be reserved for a fort and that a saw and grist mill be built.

Captain Ephraim Williams became commander of the fort that was erected there in 1750, but before he could build the mills according to the stipulation of the grant, he was killed in a skirmish with the French and Indians at Crown Point, New York.

Fort Massachusetts was situated on a broad flat meadow near the Hoosuck River, south of an east/west Indian trail running from the Connecticut Valley to New York State. Soon after the fort was built, its soldiers began to build homes in West Hoosuck where land was available close to a smaller fort strategically placed near established Indian trails.

In the latter part of the 18th century, families migrating north and west from the populated areas of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island were looking for broad acres to farm. The need to sustain themselves independently and to produce enough extra for bartered goods was the economic pattern of the times.

In East Hoosuck the valley was narrow and the hills were

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\*Librarian, Williamstown Public Library.

steep. There was little room for developing large fields that would sustain farming. Worse yet, the soil on the forest floor was not suitable for growing farm crops. The poor soil did, however, support giant pine trees, the largest stand of firs in the area, as well as an ample number of white oaks.

In 1762, East Hoosuck was offered for sale at auction. Nathan Jones, who bought it for 3200 pounds, took on Elisha Jones and John Murray as partners in this land speculation. It wasn't until 1776 that forty-eight building lots of 100 acres each were laid out, and Israel Jones, Elisha's son, having then become a resident, was authorized to admit sixty settlers.

With the firs for lumber and the river for waterpower, men who thought to make a living running a mill rather than farming, began to settle in the narrow valley. This pattern of commerce set a precedent for the future growth and development of the area. One hundred years later North Adams was considered to be one of the major manufacturing cities in New England.

When East Hoosuck was incorporated in 1778, the residents changed the town's name to Adams in honor of Samuel Adams, prominent leader in the American Revolution, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and afterward governor of Massachusetts. At that time, the town was laid out as it was first surveyed, seven miles long and five miles wide, the only township in Berkshire County forming a perfect rectangle.

There were two distinct villages from the very beginning, one in the north section of the town and one in the south part. The southern section was called the South End in records as early as 1780, and a different set of settlers arrived to farm the fertile meadows and to develop the river's waterpower. By 1810 it was a large, thriving community with ten times the number of inhabitants as North Adams.

Prior to 1785 North Adams had only five houses. In that year, a great flood descended the mountains from the winter run-off, swelling the banks of the river until they overflowed and destroyed a saw and grist mill owned by Oliver Parker, Jr., on the upper branch of the Hoosuck. Fifty thousand feet of sawed lumber beside the mill were also swept away. This was a memorable flood, but spring freshets would flood the entire center of the village every year, damaging or carrying away the buildings located there, bringing huge boulders and trees in their wake. For that reason, the early settlers built many of their homes on the hillsides rather than on the level land near the river, and the development of the town was slowed considerably.

When the saw mills turned out lumber to sell to the sur

rounding communities, the discarded slabs began to pile up beside the mills. Local residents, none of whom had much money, began to use these pieces for their buildings and fences. By doing this, they earned the village the title of "Slab City." The stumps left from cutting the huge oaks and pines created problems in attempting to clear the land for building and for farming. They were such a serious problem that a stump-pulling "bee" was organized in 1806 and fifty men turned out to clear Main Street of the obstructions. One stump proved too difficult to remove and remained on Main Street impeding traffic until 1858.

Such was the early picture of North Adams. The residents were industrious but poor. The records show most families were issued tax abatements year after year because they had no money to pay their taxes. But it was a small, close-knit community. Giles Barnes, an early settler, is credited with saying that a family would make soup of beef bones one day, pass the bones to another family the next day, and soup would be made each day from the bones until the whole settlement had profited from them.

Giles Barnes was probably the first entrepreneur, building the saw and grist mills on the east side of the Hoosac River shortly after the death of Ephraim Williams in 1752. He probably built the first house in town also, a low, one-story structure, on the west side of Marshall Street near the corner of Main. The families of Josiah Wright, Eli Colton, Samuel Day, and William Farrand were the other residents living in North Adams in the years before 1785.

By 1794 only six more homes had been built when Jeremiah Colegrove, Sr., moved to East Hoosuck from Rhode Island. Soon after he arrived, Mr. Colegrove and his brother-in-law, Elisha Brown, bought Giles Barnes's property, including the dilapidated mills now forty years old, and eighty acres of land comprising the center of the city today. Mr. Colegrove, taking over sole ownership the following year, built two new mills and a larger dam, then started a new business producing flaxseed oil in a new mill on the west side of the river. The oil was pressed into cakes and used for cattle feed. The seeds, being a by-product of flax which was grown extensively in the area, helped local farmers in their bartering for other goods and services. Mr. Colegrove also made another important contribution to the development of the town by taking on the responsibility of building most of the roads in North Adams.

Another important industry was started by David Estes. He bought the large plot of land north of Colegrove's property, which included part of the north branch of the Hoosac River, and began producing nails. Mr. Estes cut the nails by hand after importing the necessary tools from Rhode Island and the

nail rods from Connecticut. The nails were exported to Greenfield and Albany in large quantities. There was a local market, too, with most of the buildings in the area being constructed with Mr. Estes's nails, which were known to be exceptionally strong. Possibly some of those nails are still in some of the early houses remaining today.

The first store in North Adams was opened in 1793 by Marshall Jones, Israel's son, west of the village beyond the fort. Before that, residents had to travel five miles to Williamstown to do their shopping.

The earliest meeting house and church was built midway between the north and the south part of town, probably as early as 1766, near the crossroads between South Church Street and Curran highway. The early cemetery is still there. Most of the early settlers were from Connecticut, and they had a Congregationalist background. By 1782, the north village had erected a meeting house on Church Street and the Friends Society had been formed in South Adams. Both sections were developing and moving their separate ways, each with its prominent and well-known residents.

Josiah Holbrook was a colorful early settler in North Adams, a man of giant stature, with a booming voice, and an independent spirit. He lived in a log house on State Street, opposite where Haskins School stands today, and it was said that when he was outside his house his whisper could be heard on Main Street. He was one of the American volunteers at the Battle of Bennington in 1777. Tradition states he captured thirteen Hessian soldiers while they were drinking from a spring near the battlefield, seized their guns and herded them like sheep into the American camp. When General Stark asked him how he managed to capture so many men singlehandedly, he said, "I surrounded them, sir."

Israel Jones was probably an exception to those struggling to get along in the village. The farm he owned was the original property around Fort Massachusetts and was one of the finest in the region. He surveyed and laid out the first roads in town, was a trustee of Williams College, a justice of the peace, and a founder of the Congregational Church in North Adams. As he gained in prosperity he built a fine new house and had the first one-horse carriage in the north village. Fortunately, he lived to see prosperity come to North Adams.

Despite the fact that most manufacturing plants and businesses were not permanently profitable because capital, labor-saving machinery, and ease of transportation were all lacking, North Adams slowly grew. The list of businesses and manufacturing enterprises located in the city is impressive. The first bank established in Pittsfield in 1818 helped by financ-



ing local enterprise which resulted in a surge of growth in the 1820s. The coming of the railroads further increased the prosperity in both the north and south villages. With each section feeling prosperous and secure, the old town of Adams was officially divided into Adams and North Adams in 1878, with Mount Greylock, the "Great Hoosuck Mountain" mentioned by the original surveyors, rising above them in towering splendor.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### PROVINCE LAWS. -- 1778-79.

#### Incorporation of East Hoosuck

Apparently, the process of incorporation was not made an easy one as the following extract from the section [Notes.] in volume 5 of the session laws reveals. Editor.

"East Hoosuck April 24th AD 1778

We the Subscribers, Inhabitants of Said East Hoosuck So Called, in the County of Berkshire in Said State, Humbly Shew, That it is now Thirteen Years since the Settlement of This Town Began, and the inhabitants are Considerably increased, and altho' we have made repeated Application to the General Court for Incorporation; as yet we have not obtained it, and as we have & do Still Suffer Greatly for want of Said privilage. Would humbly request o this Honourable Court to grant Us Town privileges; with the name of Adams.

And whereas this Honourable Court hath Seen fit for Several years past to Call for State taxes from the Inhabitants of this Township ... We humbly request of this Honourable Court to forgive Said taxes...And whereas the General court in the Sale of this Township Reserved three Sixty third parts Thereof For publick use, we can find only two or three hundred Acres of the poorest Land ..Humbly request...that they may be found, and we may have the Benefit of them, as bound in duty Shall Ever pray

Aseph Cook  
Amasa Ives  
Didemus Parker  
Barnard Haile  
Isaac Hathaway Junr  
Samel Perry  
Samll Todd  
Samuel Marshall

Jedediah Hurd  
Ambrus Parker  
Nathaniel Parker  
Josiah Mix  
Samuel Cook  
Enos Parker  
Giles Barns  
Lemuel Leavenworth

Stephen Ives  
David Ives  
Justus Holt  
Jeremiah F Greene  
Jonathan Moffatt  
Andrew Parker -

Massachusetts Files: Bills, 1778"

# GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY LIBRARIES

by Charlotte P. Davis\*

## HINSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Maple Street

Mrs. Olive Drosehn, Librarian

This fine Gothic library building was built in the 1800s with money left by Mrs. Mary Plunkett Twining for that purpose. The will specified that the architecture was to be Gothic. Actually only one wing is used for the library; the History Association uses the other. The energy crunch made a lower ceiling practical but a visit to the second floor reveals the original beautiful Gothic ceiling. Bookcases in the library are simply beautiful as well.

A genealogist will find the standard reference books by Pope, Childs, Field, Beers, and Cook on the history of Massachusetts and Berkshire County and a number of recent histories of Berkshire County towns and neighboring towns. Also Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution; and the Vermont Revolutionary Rolls.

Books pertinent to the town of Hinsdale:

Hinsdale War Memorial containing names of those in the Revolution, Civil War, Spanish-American War, Mexican Expedition, and World War I

History of Hinsdale Academy (1848-1866)

Town Reports 1865 to the present

Town Fire District 1900-1971

Directories 1914-1946

The early history of Hinsdale and the Plunkett Woolen Mill are covered well by scrapbooks and newspaper clippings that are sorted, labeled, and filed.

One finds an unusual amount of early church records. The First Congregational Church of Christ of Hinsdale records from 1795 to 1980, annual records and roll call of members 1944 to 1979, and Centennial Book 1795-1895. Also the Congregational Church Records of Peru, Mass., 1749-1903.

Inscriptions from gravestones in Hinsdale and Peru: Maple Street Cemetery, Hinsdale Cemetery, private cemetery north part of Hinsdale (Cady Farm), private cemetery south part of Hinsdale (Goodrich Farm), South District near Spring Farm, South

\* Mrs. Richard P. Davis, 9 Navin Ave., Lee MA 01238

## District of Peru.

Perhaps other libraries in the county have the following fine books but I have not discovered them: Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution (5 vols.) and Correspondence of the Revolution (4 vols.) - letters to Washington.

Biographies and genealogies - Biographical Review (1911); Naval Officers Biography (Jones, Woolsey, Perry, Dale) by Cooper; History of Woodstock (genealogy of Connecticut Woodstock families); and biography of the Reverend Flint.

Hinsdale was included in the series Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850. The library has the volume for its town and 211 of the other 239 volumes.

On the second floor, stored two-deep on the shelves, are the Acts and Resolves\* including those of Massachusetts Bay (1693-1780) 6 vols. They have been moved here recently and while unsorted, appear to include every volume ever published in this series. We hope this fine collection will be put in order so it will be accessible for research.

Hours: Tuesday 3 P.M. - 5 P.M. Wednesday 2 P.M. - 5 P.M.  
Saturday 10 A.M. - 12 Noon and 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.  
Telephone: 655-8186

\* \* \* \* \*

\*On the Acts and Resolves:

These are still published yearly by the Commonwealth and a copy sent to every library in the state. For many years the state cautioned the librarians not to throw them away; now it does not insist, so very few libraries have kept the older issues. It appears that Hinsdale has the most complete set of these volumes, although Egremont also has a fine collection.

These books record all the superior court cases heard in the state each year. Information in court trials sometimes reveal a person's family and is often valuable to the genealogist.

Charlotte P. Davis

\* \* \* \* \*

CORRECTION: In the last issue (5:3), Mrs. Davis reported on the genealogical holdings of the North Adams Public Library. The library was incorrectly identified in the Table of Contents.



## STATE CENSUS OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1855

## BECKET

(Continued from Vol. 5, No. 3, page 62)

## Abstract by Meta Stark

1	1	Stephen W. Carter	41	M	Farmer	Mass.
		Rowena T. Carter	43	F		Conn.
		George G. Carter	19	M		Mass.
		Hannah R. Carter	15	F		"
		D. Nash Carter	4	M		"
		Mary A. Carter	2	da	F	"
		John Lapham		M	Laborer	"
2	2	(?) C. Foster	28	M	Farmer	"
		Mary L. Foster	27	F		"
		Mary T. Foster	12	F		"
		Charles W. Foster	8	M		"
		George H. Foster	4	M		"
		Laura Foster	1	F		"
		Eleanor Foster	67	F	Farmer	"
3	3	William Clark	44	M	Farmer	"
		Honorio A. Clark	43	F		"
		Alonzo Prentice	22	M	Laborer	"
		William L. Meacham	17	M	Laborer	"
4	4	James R. Phillips	28	M	Farmer	"
		Susana Phillips	61	F		Mass.
		Joseph L. Phillips	21	M	Laborer	"
		William R. Phillips	24	M	Tailor	"
5	5	Calvin Morey	54	M	Farmer	Conn.
		Harriet Morey	51	F		"
		Philander F. Morey	21	M	Farmer	Mass.
		William C. Morey	18	M	Farmer	Conn.
		Mary E. Morey	16	F		"
		Movella H. Morey	11	F		Mass.
6	6	Alden Cushman	49	M	Farmer	"
		Persis Cushman	51	F		"
		Sally Cushman	51	F		"
		Myron Cushman	21	M	Farmer	"
		Mary Frances Cushman	17	F		"
		Oliver Cushman	15	M		"
		Sarah L. Cushman	11	F		"
		Lucy [?] Ann Barns	14	F		"
7	7	Mazaldus A. Sowle	27	M	Farmer	"
8	8	John See	24	M	Laborer	"
		Harriet See	21	F		"
		Mariette See	1	F		"
9	9	Lorin Walbridge	54	M	Millwright	Conn.
		Abigail Walbridge	51	F		"
10	10	Kendall Baird	52	M	Farmer	Mass.

		Lucinda Baird	48 F		"
		Catherine Baird	17 F		"
		Frederick K. Baird	11 M		"
		George K. Baird	8 M		"
		John Davis	45 M	Laborer	England
		Gilbert Wording	18 M	Teamster	Mass.
		Jane Ferris	22 F B		"
11	11	Isaac Glud	53 M	Laborer	England
		Eliza R. Glud	38 F		Mass.
		William J. Glud	13 M		"
12	12	Johnson King	67 M	Blacksmith	Conn.
		Susan King	61 F		Mass.
		George A. King	8 M		"
13	13	Lewis M. Sowle	50 M	Farmer	"
		Betsey R. Sowle	46 F		"
		Mary L. Sowle	21 F		"
		Emily A. Sowle	16 F		"
		Enoch A. Sowle	14 M		"
14	14	Joshua Shaw	46 M	Farmer	"
		Julia R. Shaw	43 F		N.Y.
		Julia E. Shaw	19 F		Mass.
		George Shaw	17 M	Farmer	"
		Albert A. Shaw	14 M		"
		Sobrina Horton	56 F		N.Y.
15	15	John Makely	24 M	Laborer	Mass.
		Jane Makely	21 F		"
		George C. Makely	4 M		"
16	16	William Westover	46 M	Farmer	"
		Lucretia A. Westover	35 F		"
		Rowena A. Phelps	9 F		"
		George Hazard	18 M	Farmer	Mass.
17	17	Pliny A. Dearing	45 M	Farmer	"
		Mary Dearing	37 F		"
		Nancy Dearing	77 F		Conn.
18	18	Aldin Sowle	78 M	Physician	Mass.
		Nancy Sowle	63 F		"
		Nancy E. Sowle	46 F		"
19	19	Rowena Thomas	65 F	Farmer	Conn.
		Mary Thomas	38 F		Mass.
		Wealthy Ann Bostwick	27 F		"
		George T. Bostwick	4 M		"
20	20	George M. Thomas	45 M	Farmer	Conn.
		Almena B. Thomas	44 F		Mass.
		Prentice C. Thomas	2 M		"
21	21	Marina S. Thomas	43 M	Farmer & Lumberman	"
		Elmina R. Thomas	36 F		"
		Harriet E. Sowle	14 F		"
22	22	Kinsman W. Broga	66 M	Carpenter	"
		Miriam Broga	57 F		"
		Charles T. Broga	17 M	Farmer	"
		Ruth M. Sowle	8 F		"
		Robert McKay	55 M	Laborer	"

23	23	George W. Baldwin	41	M	Merchant	Conn.
		Harriet M. Baldwin	42	F		"
		Hiram Simons	9	M		"
24	24	Kinsman D. Broga	26	M	Turner & Farmer	Mass.
		Demaris Broga	24	F		N.Y.
		Harriet L. Broga	4	F		Mass.
		Franklin D. Broga	2	M		"
		John F. Brown	22	M	Laborer	N.Y.
25	25	Charles W. Dixon	55	M	Farmer	Conn.
		Susan Dixon	41	F		Mass.
		Herbert Hatch	7	M		"
26	26	Ephraim Walker	61	M	Farmer	"
		Emily Walker	41	F		"
		E. A. Walker	22	M	Salesman	"
		Wayland Walker	18	M	Farmer	"
		Philemon Walker	12	M		"
		Martha A. Walker	8	F		"
		Orpha J. Walker	7	F		"
		James T. Walker	4	M		"
27	27	Patrick Casey	36	M	Laborer	Ireland
		Elizabeth Casey	31	F		"
		Patrick Casey, Jr.	14	M		Mass.
		Bridget Casey	12	F		"
		John Casey	9	M		"
		Elizabeth Casey	7	F		"
		Catharine Casey	5	F		"
		Ellen Casey	4	F		"
		Michael Casey	3	M		"
28	28	Thomas L. D. Choffer	25	M	Farmer	"
		Angeline Choffer	23	F		"
		George Choffer	2	M		"

to be continued

\* \* \* \* \*

### IS THIS YOUR FAMILY?

Ann M. Husted of Alford kept an autograph album sometime between 1830 and 1840. She had a brother John. The names of the towns of Covington (Wyoming County), and Le Roy and Batavia (Genesee County), New York, are in the album.

The album was found in a used book store in Kalamazoo, Michigan. If it belongs in your family, you may have it for the cost of acquisition and search from the man who rescued it from bookstore oblivion. Address: Robert N. Brewer, 1135 Sherwood, Kalamazoo, MI 49001.



## ANCESTOR TABLES

(Rules for submission are in Volume 4, Number 3, Summer 1983)

X. Deborah Elaine McVean, 1611 South Oak, #130E, Arlington, TX 76010

## I

1. Deborah Elaine McVean, 1957- ; Dallas, Arlington, Tex.

## II

2. Marshall Michael McVean, 1927- ; Roscoe, Ft. Worth, Dallas, Tex.

3. Barbara Loueva Roberts, 1929- ; Ft. Worth, Dallas, Tex.

## III

4. George Franklin McVean, 1879-1944; Tex.

5. Mary Etta Morgan, 1884-1933; Ark., Tex.

6.\*Eugene Lewis Roberts, 1887-1962; Pittsfield, Mass.; Ft. Worth, Tex.

7. Ellie Blakeslee Neal, 1894-1962; San Antonio, Ft. Worth, Tex.

## IV

8. John Dixon McVean 1847-1924; Tex.

9. Mary Sofronia Hudson, 1847-1926; Tex.

10. Abner Morgan, 1857-1931; Ark., Tex.

11. Josephine Rebecca Pruett, 1859-1939; Tenn., Ark., Tex.

12.\*Franklin Pierce Roberts, 1847-1903; Lanesboro, Pittsfield, Mass.

13.\*Ida M. Reynolds, 1852-1890; Pittsfield, Mass.

14. George D. Neal, 1873-1932; Tex.

15. Loueva Alberta Ballard, 1877-1950; Tex.

## V

16. Daniel McVean, 1800-1858; N.Y., Tex.

17. Mary Catherine Hudson, 1830-1863; Tex.

18. Peter B. Hudson, Jr., 1792-1853, Tex.

19. Sarah Hardin, 1814-1879.

20. Permenter Morgan, 1818-1891; N.C., Ark.

21. Margaret Thomas, 1829-1900; N.C., Ark., Tex.

22. James P. Pruett, 1820-1905.

23. Anna Bennet, 1839-

24.\*Comfort W. Roberts, 1821-1886; Stephentown, N.Y., Pittsfield, Mass.

25.\*Almira Pettitt, 1818-1907; Canaan, N.Y., Pittsfield, Mass.

26.\*William Henry Reynolds, 1830-1895; Stephentown, N.Y., Pittsfield, Mass.

27.\*Jane Esther Bills, 1824-1896; Pittsfield, Mass.

28. George D. Neal, 1848-1900; Mo., Tex.

29. Martha A. Carmon, 1847-1916; Tex.

30. Anthony Ballard.

31. --- McCoy

## VI

- 32.\*John McVean, 1770-1817; N.Y.
- 33.\*Catherine Edmonds, 1777-1864; N.Y.
34. Howell Hudson, 1798-1842; Tenn., Tex.
35. Jeanette Hardin, 1800-1878; N.C., Tex.
36. Abner Morgan, 1790-1860; N.C., Ark.
- 37.\*Elizabeth Wilkerson
38. John Allen Thomas.
39. Rhoda Collins.
- 40.\*Josiah Roberts, 1787- ; N.Y.
- 41.\*Polly ---, 1793- .
- 42.\*Christopher Pettitt, - .
- 43.\*--- Williams, - ; N.Y.
- 44.\*Nelson L. Reynolds, 1807-1890; N.Y., Pittsfield, Mass.
- 45.\*Mary Ann Daniels, 1810-1874; N.Y., Mass.
- 46.\*Artemas Bills, 1778-1948; Wilmington, Vt., Pittsfield, Mass.
- 47.\*Mary N. Kirker, 1828-1869; N.Y., Pittsfield, Mass.
- 48.\*John Carmon, - ; La.
- 49.
- 50.\*Donald McVean, 1734-1811; Scotland, N.Y.
- 51.\*Jennet McNaughton, 1750-1830; Scotland, N.Y.
- 52.\*--- Edmunds
- 53.
- 54.\*Samuel Daniels
- 55.\*Lydia ---
- 56.\*Calvin Bills, - ; VT.
- 57.\*Lois ---.
- 58.\*John Kirker, - ; N.Y.
- 59.\*Mary ---.
- 60.\*Permenter Morgan, 1755-1824; Va., N.C.
- 61.\*Gracey Jones, 1755-1834; N.C.
- 62-63.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### AT THE ATHENAEUM

PRICE. The descendants of Edmund and Jane (Webb) Price. By M. Frederick Amos, et al. vii, 268 pp., index. \$10.00. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton M. Foreman, 1518 S. Woodlawn, Tacoma, WA 98465.

PRINCE. The Prince family of Hull and Boston, Mass., "The Line of Elder John through Captain Isaac Prince". By John B. Prince, comp. 1979. 293 pp., illus., index. \$15.00. Write: The Author, 960 St. George Blvd., Apt. 515, RR No. 3, Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 817.

PROLOGUE, Journal of the National Archives. Vol. 13, no. 4, Winter 1981; Vol. 14, No. 1, Spring 1982, No. 3, Fall 1982.

RANDOLPH. The descendants of Edward Fitz Randolph and Elizabeth Blossom 1630-1950. By Louise Aymar Christian and Howard Stelle Fitz. 1950. 220 pp.; 44 pp., index. \$26.00. Gift of Bernice O'Brien, P.O. Box 8, Becket, MA 01223.

ROHRBACH. Rohrbach genealogy Volume III. The Rohrabough, Rohrbough... By Lewis Bunker Rohrbach. Rockland, Me.:Courier Gazette, 1982. 376 pp., illus., index. \$34.95. Write: The Author, 43 Sea St., Rockport, ME 04856.

RIDER. Narrative of a Yankee family, Rider/Ryder descendants of Eleazer, third son of William Rider of Sherborn, Mass. 1982. vii, 152 pp., maps, index. \$20.00. Write: Louise Ryder Young, comp., 1850 Bethany Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

ROCKETT. Rockett, Carpenter, Millican, Wise, Stevens, Selman, Ware Abernathy, Rhodes families, 1681-1981, and seventy-six connected kinsmen. By John Franklin Rockett(e). Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1981. xii, 1001 pp., illus., maps. Write: The Author, P.O. Box 133, Bradenton Beach, FL 33510.

ROSE. Rose-Steel anthology. 1982. By Ben L. Rose. 201 pp., index. \$15.00. Write: The Author, 1221 Rennie Ave., Richmond, VA 23227.

Alexander Rose of Person County, North Carolina and his descendants. By Ben Lacy Rose. 1979. 268 pp., index. \$20.00. Write: The Author.

The family of William Taliaferro Thompson, Jr., and his wife Anne Claiborne McIlwaine. By Ben L. and Anne Thompson Rose. 1982. 248 pp., charts, index. \$14.00. Write: The Author.

RUDD. Some ancestors and descendants of Joseph Rudd, Jr., 1740-1842. By Dorothy Rudd DuMond. 1982. xix, 204 pp., charts, index. \$12.00. Write: The Author, P.O. Box 5, Ulster Park, NY 12487.

ST.JEAN. The St. Jean and Trahan families. By William St. John. 1983. 82 pp., chart, illus., biblio. \$15.00. Gift of W. and Barbara St. John, 5 Sunny Acres, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

SEXTON. Early Sexton roots in America. BY Velma Odeal Gehrke. viii, 260 pp., illus. \$16.00. Write: The author, 3235 S.E. 148th Ave., Portland, OR 97236.

SHEFFIELD, Mass. Centennial celebration of the town of Sheffield, Berkshire Co., Mass., June 18th and 19th, 1876. Xerox copy, 103 pp. \$10.00. Gift of Dr. Craig Glenn Gunter, 6000 - 112th St. S.W., Tacoma, MA 98499.

SHERMAN. In search of Caleb: A Research report of the History and lineage of some of the descendant of William Sherman, "The



Pilgrim" of Marshfield, Mass. By Sherman William Bear. 1978, v, 41pp., map, index. \$6.00. Write: The Author, Box 69, Rt. 1, Elliottsburg, PA 17024.

SMELTZER. The Smeltzers of Kilcooly. By Marjorie R. Smeltzer. Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1981. vi, 198 pp., index. \$16.95. Gift of Rebecca Lloyd, 65 Williams St., Pittsfield, MA 01201.

SMITHSON. The Smithsons and relatives. By Jessie Hezekiah Smithson. Edited by Kenneth Smithson. 1981. ii, 369 pp., illus., charts, maps, index. \$20.00. Gift of C. Eugene Smithson, P.O. Box 694, 1813 5th St. N.W., Hickory, NC 28601.

STOCKWELL. The Stockwell family, adventures into the past, 1626-1982. By Irene Dixon Stockwell. xvi, 772 pp., illus., index. \$37.00. Write: The Author, 2106 Hillcrest Dr., WI 53545.

STONE. The family of William Stone, one of the first-settlers of Guilford, Connecticut, 1619. 1980. \$13.95. Write: The Author, 80 S. Main St., Homer, NY 13077.

VAN SCHAICK. Descendants of Cornelius Aertsen Van Schaick. By Melwood W. Van Scoyoc. 1982. x, 778 pp., illus., index. \$47.50. Write: The Author, 707 Gulfstream Ave., Apt. 703, Sarasota, FL 33577.

WATKINS. Watkins, a beginning, genealogy. By Jane E. Bickford. 1982. viii, 522 and 105 pp., photos, index. \$32.00. Write: The Author, RFD #1, Box 1280, Lisbon Falls, ME 04252.

WIEGAND. Roots, branches and twigs of our family tree. By Madelon Wiegand. 1979. 38 pp., illus. \$5.00. Write: The Author, 149 W. Main Rd., Conneaut, OH 44030.

ZIEGLER. Roots and branches of a Ziegler family tree, 1767-1880. By Alta Buckingham, comp. 1981. 495 pp., charts, illus., index, maps. \$22.85. Write: The author, RR 1, Box 198, Beaver Crossing, NE 68313.

\* \* \* \* \*

"What is research but a blind date with knowledge?"

Ethel W. Williams

## JENNY-ALOGY OR JEANIE-ALOGY

The sacred word is often mouthed in our hearing, even by erudite precisionists, as if the first syllable were rhymed with *hygiene*. A pedantic etymologist may rightly object that the first syllable is derived from the Greek word (*genos*), the first vowel being epsilon, invariably short...This mispronunciation may derive from the fact that there seems to be in English a rule that a short vowel followed by a single consonant and e is lengthened, e.g., *lane*, *gene*, *thine*, *shone*, *dune* as against *man*, *went*, *thin*, *along*, *dun*. To explain an error, however, is not to condone it...

The word is commonly misspelled by the careless as *geneo-**logy* by mistaken analogy with *biology*, *physiology* and the like. The vowel before -log- is controlled by the preceding syllable, not the following. That is why it is *genealogy* not *geneology*.

George E. McCracken

Reprinted, with the kind permission of Mr. McCracken, editor, from *The American Genealogist*, 50:3:145 (1974).

A mnemonic from your editor:

the generally gentle gentlefolk, genuine gentlemen and gentlewomen, who were your progenitors, contributed to your genetic inheritance and make up the generations recorded in your genealogy.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMORY OF A BOY'S PART IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

To W<sup>th</sup> I. Adams Esq<sup>r</sup>, Boston

From Uncle Boics. 1846

When General Washington took command of the American Army at Cambridge in 1775 the British troops were limited in their possessions to the town of Boston, Bunkerhill in Charlestown, and the Islands in Boston harbor; he reconnoitered the surrounding country, and finding the heights in Dorchester (now South Boston) unoccupied by British troops, and perceiving that cannon planted thereon would command the entrance to the port, determined to erect a fort in the following spring, as early as the frost would permit the excavation. In the course of the winter he ordered to be made on the neighboring farms a large amount of facines to expedite the building of the fort, which in the daytime must be immediately in the sight of the enemy; the facines were made of white birch poles without being deprived of the branches; many of them were growing on the land of my father Mr. James Boice in Milton, and as he was a zealous son of liberty, he willingly contributed. That the enemy might have no suspicion by intelligence from spies, where they were to be used, they were carted to Brookline at the place of disguise lying in a different direction from where they were to be

used: about the 12th of March 1776 numerous teams were ordered to the place of deposit, and at the close of the day to load and cart the same through Dorchester and over Dorchester Neck of land to the heights.

When they reached Dorchester the command of the teams was given to the care and direction of the said Boics, who attending the duty on horseback, took behind him me his youngest son then less than fourteen years to take care of the horse; when the father might have occasion to dismount and issue his orders. In passing through Dorchester great caution was taken that no teamster should speak aloud to his cattle; the facines were unloaded on the summit of the hill, without being discovered in Boston, although the writer could plainly see several of the Inhabitants open and shut their outer doors; then commenced the erection of the fortification which in the course of the night was so far completed as to mount about half a dozen cannon, without a movement on the height being perceived by the enemy.

On the dawn of the following morning the British army were surprised to behold a fort as if built by magic, and after taking a survey of the premises from their boats, a battle was determined upon, and an attack was to be made simultaneously from three points as follows; one detachment to cross over the cove in boats, where the South Boston bridge is now built. The second to pass over Boston neck through Roxbury and the third, but largest detachment was to pass in boats from Castle William to land on the southeast side of the heights. As a battle was anticipated by Washington, he called out the militia from the adjacent towns, which were numerous, in the meantime cannon of a larger caliber were mounted in the new fort, as many men employed through the day for preparation as could find room to labor; the apple trees in the vicinity were cut down and drawn around the foot of the hill, with the branches protruding out from the fort, to ambush the ranks of an approaching enemy; and another unusual mode of defence resorted to, viz: filling a great number of casks with earth and placing them on the bilges, at the top of the hill; that if the enemy should approach the checks were to be removed, when the casks would roll down on the approaching foe and break their ranks. The number of troops with a numerous band of Melitia for defence would have occassioned great slaughter in case of attack; but an Allwise Providence frustrated the plan of operation. After the British forces were located agreeably to the aforementioned plan of attack, a most violent storm arose, and so powerful was the wind that the boats from the Castle would be unable to battle the mighty tempest. Afer the storm subsided the British Commander thought the defence had become so powerful that he relinquished the intended attack: A parley ensued, and he made proposals of retreat, to surrender the town free from the intended destruction, in three days; the proposals were accepted by Washington: and the fleet and army left Boston harbour on the 17th March 1776, and never again returned to that place where the war had commenced.

The boy who had the care of his father's horse the two nights, struggling with the tempest when he was fourteen years old, now lives at eighty 3 to pen this little naritive.

The original of this letter is in the local history and genealogy department of the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield. Transcribed by the contributor, Mary Hoyt De Giorgis.



## QUERY SECTION

J. BRADLEY COOPER\*, EDITOR

### Some Thoughts on Queries

Every once in a while a query arrives in which the data are very nicely presented but there is no indication of what is desired. Rather than become involved in correspondence or refuse publication, the Queries Editor has taken the liberty to improvise a request based upon what appears to be the weakest area in the information submitted. This may well not elicit the response desired but it does make the published information available to readers. In the event the desired results have not been secured, the query should be resubmitted with the proper degree of specificity.

Some queries fall short of sufficient information to locate the subject within the proper time and space frames with reasonable accuracy. When and where was he or she born, when and where married, when and where did he or she die? For 200 years following the arrival of the Pilgrims, individuals were identified by but a single given or baptismal name. At the same time families clung to particular given names for generations. In my own lineage, there were three Thomas Coopers - grandfather, father, and son - living at the same time in Springfield, Massachusetts. At the same time, Thomas Coopers were also living in Boston and Hingham, Massachusetts, without known family connections.

In wording a query, every effort should be made to establish the identity of the person in question. Failing this, there is a great danger of receiving irrelevant or inappropriate data in the response. Where some of the information is missing or under search, auxiliary data should be substituted which may offset the deficiency. This may be data on children, on public service, religious activity or anything that helps place the person as living at a particular time and located in a particular place. This is one of the requirements in establishing identity.

### QUERIES

All locations are in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, unless otherwise noted.

84029

CANFIELD-SMITH

Mary Canfield born 12 January 1782, Sandisfield, daughter of

\* Mr. Cooper, 221 Holmes Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201, is a certified genealogist.

John and Deborah, married ca. 1801, Sandisfield, to Stephen Smith. Need parents, date and place of birth of Stephen and where Mary and Stephen are buried. Desire to correspond with descendants.

84030

## CANFIELD-BABBITT

Samuel Canfield, born 1734 in Danbury, Conn., died 1806, buried in Huxley Cemetery, New Marlborough; married as second wife ca. 1785 Abigail Babbitt, living in 1806 as she was in his will. Need any information about Abigail.

84031

## CANFIELD

Samuel Canfield, born 1710, died 1844, buried Huxley Cemetery, New Marlborough. Married as second wife Mary ---, who died 1788, age 73, also buried there. Need Mary's last name and any other information about her.

Jean Denison, P.O. Box 154, Ontario, NY 14519

84032

## LOVETT-BALLOU-TYLER-WHITMAN

Seek information on Mary Lovett, daughter of James Lovett and Hannah Tyler; married Nathaniel Ballou, 7 December 1716, Providence County, Rhode Island. Also need data on Nathaniel Ballou, son of James and Susanna Whitman, born 1687.

84033

## COLE-STAPLE-BOLES

Seek information on Mary Cole, first wife of Samuel Staple, married 1644 in Braintree, Norfolk County, no issue. Seek information on second wife Mary Boles born ca 1631 in Dedham, married 30 August 1652 in Braintree where five of their children were born.

Mycolinda Updegraf, P.O. Box 421, Dillard, OR 97432.

84034

## CHILSON-WHITE

Joseph Chilson married Patience White, daughter of John White and Sarah --- in Mendon. Need information on Joseph and Sarah.

84035

## CHILSON-GARNSEY-PORTER

Beriah Chilson married Patience Garnsey, daughter of Henry Garnsey and Elizabeth of Medway. They were in Uxbridge 1735 to 1755. Beriah died 24 May 1755/6 in Northampton and Patience married --- Knight 1758 and Thomas Porter in 1773. Need information on Beriah and Patience.

84036

## CHILSON-WRIGHT

Sary Freelove Chilson married Samuel Wright ca. 1765. Need information on both.

Shirley Tuck, 396 Grayling, New Hudson, MI 48165

84037

## WELLS-BRIGGS

Naomi (Wells) Briggs, born 30 March 1747 in Cranston, R.I. Need burial site and names of parents. supposedly she died ca. 1826 in Adams, Mass. She was the wife of Benjamin F. Briggs (1752-1839). They were Quakers.

Pamela Hall, 13216 S. W. 106 Street Circle, Miami, FL 33186

84038

## CLARK

Thomas Clark, born 6 January 1820 in Ireland, came to U.S. in

1851. Owned land in New Marlborough in 1860. Moved to Indiana, to Holly Springs, Mississippi, to Hartman, Arkansas. Need information on this family. When did they leave New Marlborough area?

84039

## SCHOEFLER-CLARK

Lewis Schoeffler, born Germany 25 December 1852, came to U.S. 1873, married Mary Clark. Where and when? He was living in Holly Springs, Miss., in 1878.

Virginia Willits, 2321 E. Eucalyptus, Enid OK 73701

84040

## WEST

William West, born Tolland, Conn., son of Abner and Mary Hatch West. At the 1790 census they were in Richmond; moved to Rensselaerville, N.Y., 1791/1792. Need name of wife, date of marriage, and other data on wife.

84041

## WEST

William West, son of Abner and Mary Hatch West; wife not known. Need date and place of birth of following children: Day Hubbard, Augustus or Augustine, Flavia, Harry, and possibly Matilda. All were born 1786-1792 in Berkshire County.

Ruth West Ward, 1901 South 5th Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105

84042

## SMITH-FENTON

Bethuel Smith of Williamstown married Mary Fenton of Braintree at Hatfield, 27 May 1778. Need information on Bethuel, parentage, and children.

84043

## SMITH-WELLS

James Smith born 28 April 1786, son of Bethuel and Mary Fenton, married in Cambridge, M.Y., 22 March 1807, Clarissa Wells, born 9 February 1786. Need information on Clarissa. Will answer all letters. No SASE necessary.

Beverly J. Olson, 1109 E. Larch, Box 514, Osburn, ID 83849

84044

## HUDDLESTONE-MENTOR-WELCH

Desire ancestry of Huldah Huddleston, born 1735-45, died after 1817, married Robert Mentor (1735-1817). Resided 1817 in Stephentown and in 1798 in Berlin, both in Rensselaer County, New York. In 1752 his family lived in Dover, Dutchess County, New York. Daughter Patience Mentor (1766-1827) married Ebenezer Welch (1766-1837) of Pownal, Vermont.

Ms. Ruth Ann Armstrong, P.O. Box 1165, Menlo Park, CA 94026

84045

## GORTON-DAVIS-ROBINSON-GREEN

John Gorton, son of John and second wife Susanna Davis, both buried in Hancock, married ca. 1805 Comfort Robinson, daughter of Caleb and Varty or Vartie Green, who died 29 June 1830 and is buried in Noah Ely Cemetery, Hancock. Where was John Gorton born? Where was he married to Comfort Robinson? Where was Comfort born and does anyone know anything about Caleb Robinson or Varty Green?

Virginia Gorton Bonne, 3371 Crystal Court, Coconut Grove, FL 33133

## AN INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

Readers are invited to contribute to Berkshire Genealogist. This is your journal and material from you will be welcomed.

Material for publication should have a Berkshire County connection or concern sources of research for those with Berkshire County ancestry. We particularly welcome abstracts or transcripts of difficult-to-locate records.

Send material for publication to the editor Marcia Eisenberg, Main Road, Tyringham, MA 01264.

## Some Types of Material Suitable for Publication

Articles on: a) an aspect of history which relates to Berkshire County inhabitants  
b) sources and methods of research in the genealogy of county individuals and families  
c) a genealogy of a Berkshire County family

Manuscripts: personal and family papers, including Bible records

Abstracts of archival material such as:

Cemetery transcriptions

Censuses

Church records of membership, baptism, burials, marriages, dismissals

City directory information

Land ownership records

Military and pension records

Probate records: guardianships, intestate estates, wills

School records

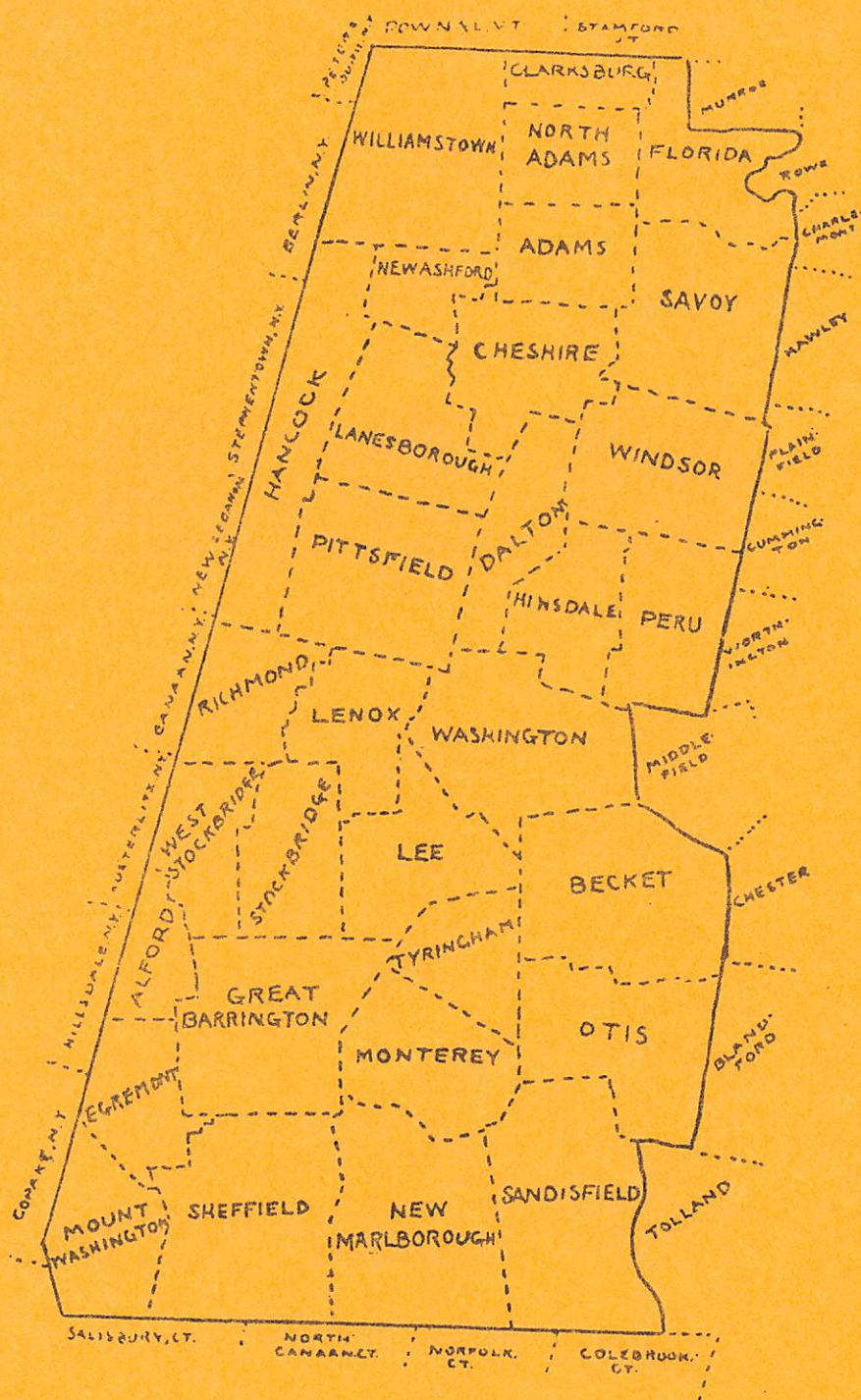
Tax lists which act as a substitute for the census

Abstracts should be for a complete record series. If an abstract is not complete, it should include all individuals within the pages abstracted.

Ancestor Tables: one ancestor table will be printed for the forebears of each member and for the member's spouse. It is assumed that a member's chart will have a Berkshire County connection.

Queries: will be printed for members on a space available basis. See the Query Section for directions.





BERKSHIRE COUNTY



BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 1437

PITTSFIELD, MA 01202

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