

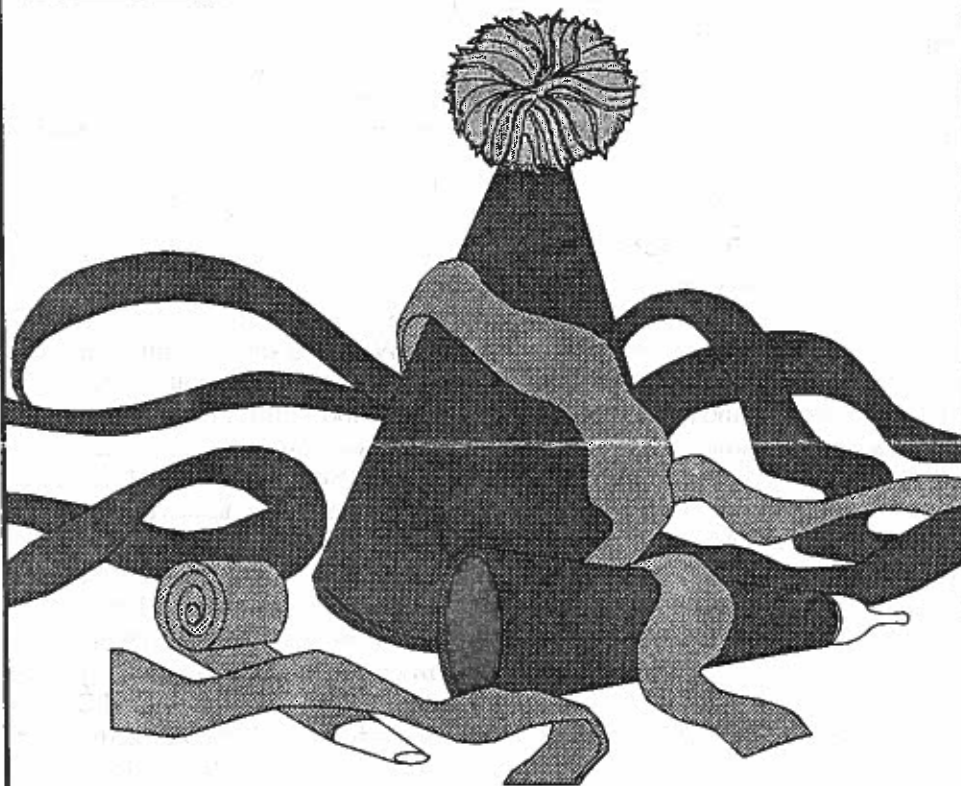


Middlesex Genealogy Society

NEWSLETTER VOL. V NO. 4

January 1989

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Middlesex Genealogy Society Meeting
Sunday, January 15, 1989
presents

Marjorie C. H. Renino
"Westchester County: From Patent and Manor
to the Platinum Mile"
2 p.m.; Darien Library

Ms. Renino is author of *The Guide to Genealogical Research for Westchester County* (1985), a member of the founding board of the Westchester County Genealogical Society and Director of VIA (Volunteers in Archives) of Westchester County.

Middlesex Genealogical Society and Darien Historical Society enjoys trip to Historic Deerfield, Massachusetts

by Janet Jainschigg

Our fall trip to Historic Deerfield, less than three hours and not many miles Northward, seemed to take our group into a different, earlier world. A small busload of us, all members of our MGS and the Historical Society, settled in to the old Inn on *The Street* (there's only one) and were welcomed by Director Donald Friary. Though clouds hid the surrounding hills, we could understand why the village had been built in this rich intervale. The impression deepened as we visited from house to ancient house and heard stories of the families who lived in them.

Next day, after enjoying exhibits of old silver and costumes, a special treat for us was an invitation to the private home of the former curator whose collection of antiques includes maritime items from the turn of the last century, even models of ocean liners, most unexpected in the Massachusetts hills!

An afternoon stop at the museum of local lore set us on our way homeward, refreshed enroute by cooling drinks, snacks and naps.

Our President, Nicki Hollander, who is also Trips Chairman for the Historical Society deserves a tip of our hat for the panache with which she wears both of hers.

P.S. Some one-day trips are on the planning board so watch for them.



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Janet Jainschigg	Vice-President
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The Middlesex Genealogical Society was established for the purpose of helping those interested in genealogy to pursue the investigation of their family heritage and to provide guidance in research to that end. The Society holds at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year, has established a Genealogy section at the Darien Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10-12) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$10/ Individual and \$15/Couple or Family.

Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcomed for the newsletter. Send to the Editor:

Sherrill S. Yates
9 Wagon Rd
Bethel, CT 06801.

Correspondence to the Society should be addressed to:

Middlesex Genealogical Society
45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820



Attempting Foreign Research (Dutch and German)

by Marianne Sheldon

Sooner or later almost everyone involved in tracing their family's history reaches the point where they must pursue a line back to another country. After quite a few years of postponing the inevitable, I finally "took heart in hand and ventured into that fearsome void"! Actually, I was very nervous about trying this and for some very good reasons. For one, I didn't have a strong knowledge of any of the languages of the countries I was interested in; for another, I had no idea what their records were like or where they were located; and finally, in some cases, I had only a vague idea of where my ancestors were actually from. However, excited about planning a family trip to Europe in the summer of 1987, I was determined to see some of the places my ancestors had lived and to try and do a little genealogical research if my family would let me.

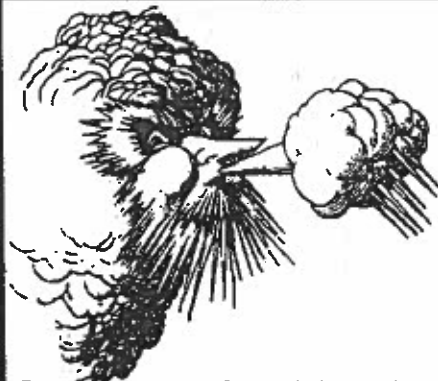
Since I have had three different experiences with three different places, let me separate them in this article. All three are European (the Netherlands and two areas of Germany). I am sure that others may have had different experiences, but perhaps what I have found may help someone else who is interested in attempting this kind of search.

NETHERLANDS

My mother is Dutch so my ancestry in Holland was much easier to start on. However, distance and the language barrier stopped me from pursuing it. A few years ago I got my mother to ask her relatives there for some information and my uncle got the bug! He started talking to other family members and searching records, collecting quite a lot of information. He would send me various materials which my mother would translate but as time went on I realized I wasn't getting all new information. He wasn't sure of what I already had, many of the records he sent me weren't actual photocopies but extracts of what he had found and he would have to stop on various lines because he didn't know where to search next. My Dutch lines (now also going back to Belgium and France) were fascinating and I wanted more actual data.

We had a small family reunion when we reached Holland but my uncle and I didn't have much time to compare notes (it's hard when no one else is really interested). I was able to fill in some new names and dates (but not getting any more copies of records I wanted). So, when I got home I decided to see what records the Mormon (LDS) church had, using my uncle's data as a base. My uncle didn't have access to these LDS records, he had to go directly to area repositories and town offices. I started with the church records for about ten towns. You really have to know your ancestor's religion because the churches in each town kept their own records. Civil registration didn't start until the 1800's.

The Dutch were meticulous record keepers and, as added pluses, wives always retain their maiden names and often people were identified with their father's names (i.e., Jan Cornelisz. Dirkzwager or Jan, son of Cornelis, Dirkzwager). I had a few problems - I ordered the film for Katwijk where one ancestor was born, but found there were two Katwijks, one "aan den Ijssel" and one "aan den Rhijn". Naturally I ordered the wrong one first because I



Contrary to popular opinion, winter is a great time. For genealogists, it is a time to settle in front of the fireplace with our pedigree charts strewn on the floor, trying to pick up the pieces and discover where we left off the last time we were forced to clean up our "mess"!

HAPPY HUNTING

didn't check my information carefully enough. It was also difficult to trace people because they would leave home to take jobs in a neighboring village and if a marriage record didn't specify where they were from, there was a serious problem finding their birth record. This is where the LDS International Genealogical Index (IGI) was helpful. If the particular individual was listed I could often trace the family line as it moved around. I was actually able to find information that my uncle had not found in Holland. My one exciting find was a marriage between a Hessen soldier ancestor and a girl whose father was in one of the Scottish regiments, both stationed in Holland in the 1770's. My uncle had no way of knowing with the information he had available to him that he had to look for this information in a Scottish church in Rotterdam! Now we branch off into two more countries!

BADEN

Because Germany wasn't unified until the late 1800's you must know at least the principality from which your German ancestors came. U.S. Census records, death records, naturalization records, etc. can all help. I happen to find my link in my immigrant ancestor's military pension file (he served in the Civil War) which I ordered from the National Archives. His wife had to prove she had legally married him so she submitted a copy and translation of their marriage record from Sackingen, Baden in 1842. Besides the date, it also gave me the names of the parents on both sides, where they were from and if the parents were deceased. I later discovered that Sackingen was a Catholic town and Schopfheim, where the bride came from, about 20 km. up the road, was a Protestant town. The family became Episcopalian when they came to the U.S.

I wrote to the Baden genealogical society before we left to see where the information I wanted was kept but they weren't much help. So I decided we would visit Sackingen on

our trip and see what we could find. We were all so pleased we did. We found Sackingen (now Bad Sackingen) to be a beautiful little town on the Rhine with a covered footbridge connecting it to Switzerland. A family story said that one of my immigrant ancestors swam across the Rhine to avoid being conscripted into the army and now I knew which one and could feel how desperate he must have been to leave a pregnant wife and three children and escape this way.

After first trying the town hall and finding the records didn't start until well after Johann Matt had left Sackingen, I was directed to St. Fridolin's Catholic Church next door on the village square (I don't think it has changed much in 130 years). It turned out to be probably the most beautiful church we saw on our entire trip - all Baroque painting and carved wood inside. The church offices were in a separate building and the secretary was wonderful, letting me go through the books freely and even photocopying all the records I wanted. I was only able to get a little info as the books were not indexed and the Old German script difficult. I was still able to get Johann's birth record and those of all his children, plus some of his siblings. Having the records translated when I got home was more difficult. I could only find a couple of people who were able to read Old German script (many modern Germans can't) and even they couldn't decipher certain words and names.

After Sackingen we drove up to Schopfheim and arrived at the church about 20 minutes before the office (and all the businesses in town) closed for their two hour lunch. The secretary quickly took me to the basement where the record books were kept and helped me find a number of the records I wanted which she photocopied for me. When I arrived home I found another package from her with more records she had found after I had left, including a page from the "Familien-Buch" (a genealogical record of all the parish families) showing my Bermeitinger family for several generations. Many churches have these books.

I have been ordering more records

but overseas research can be a long and expensive process. Each film (and sometimes a particular church will have quite a few) costs \$3.00 to order from Salt Lake and takes 2-4 weeks to arrive. Right now the New Canaan LDS library doesn't have a machine to photocopy microfiche or microfilm (they are expecting one within the month) so the records have to be copied in Salt Lake at \$.25 a page and about a month's wait. However, most countries (France is an exception) are well covered by the LDS church so just about anything you may think you would have to go to Europe to find is available here, too.

BAVARIA

My immigrant ancestor from Bavaria, George Weber, stated in his military pension application that he was born 20 June 1828 in the town of Grossteinhausen. I finally located it but found Grossteinhausen to be in Rhineland-Pfaltz. Only after learning a bit about the history of the area and visiting the map room at the New York Public Library did I realize that in 1828 Grossteinhausen had been part of Bavaria and just a few years earlier had been part of France. With the constant wars of the time many towns, especially in border areas, had multiple rulers in the space of just a few years. Gazetteers and old maps can often be the only way to find a town of origin, especially if the name has been changed or if it is now under a different government.

Since George Weber was a member of the Lutheran church in the U.S., we looked for the Protestant church when we visited Grossteinhausen. Unfortunately, it was closed and the pastor and his wife were away for the day. I got his address, though, and wrote him when we returned from our trip. I never received a reply (even though I had enclosed two international postal coupons and a self addressed envelope. When I checked the LDS library holdings I realized why - the records for that particular church only went back to 1869, 21 years after George had left. There were, how-

ever, Civil Registrations of Births, Marriages and Deaths going back to 1807 which I ordered. Luckily I found them to be indexed by year and I have now gone back another four generations using these. Now I had to try and figure out where the records earlier than 1807 were kept. This posed a problem. The Catholic church had them going back into the early 1600's but my family wasn't Catholic. Would they be registered there anyway since the town was so small? Also, the civil registrations from 1807-1815 were all in French - the area having been taken over by Napoleon's dealings with the German prices. Would the records prior to 1807 now be found under France? I decided to first look under the neighboring towns to see what kind of holdings they had and finally, under Hornbach, I found their Evangelical Church records also contained records for surrounding towns, one of which was Grossteinhausen. I now have these on order.

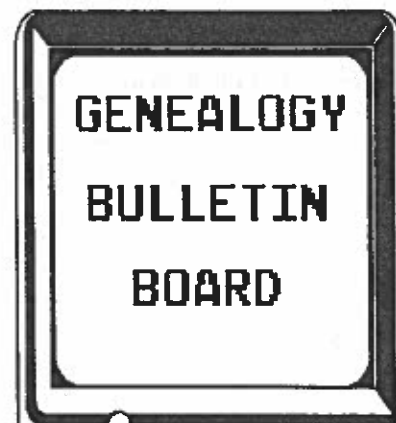
SUMMARY: Finding a new source of information or adding a new name to your family history is always an exciting event for a genealogist. I find it doubly so when you have done it in a foreign country. The problems are so much greater but the records are also greater. There are a few things to remember but research works much the same as in the U.S. Don't let the language intimidate you - records are basically written in the same format. First try to find the person's name (often underlined, written in large or bold letters, or found in the margins) and then try to separate the information into more manageable portions. Remember, most records also include a lot of data about the witnesses so don't get confused about whom the record is about. Keep a dictionary handy and try to have samples of how the letters of that time were formed (I have samples of Old German script with me since many of the letters do not resemble the way they are written today in any way). Another thing I found is that even though a person may be shown with one name in U.S.

records, he may have another one in European ones. For example, George Weber was given the name Johann George Weber at birth and another ancestress, Ottilia Bermeitingger was baptized Sophie Ottilia.

I have now located two Hessen lines and am in the process of whittling down the areas where I have to search for records for them. Also, I have to find out where the records for the Scottish regiments stationed in the Netherlands might be kept. This is probably the hardest part. Once you have found the records most of your work is done. So, don't be afraid and put off extending your search in another area of the world. It's probably not as difficult as you think it will be!



**MGS ANNUAL
WASHINGTON'S
BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON
Watch for a brochure
in your mail!**



MGS Members Offer Advantage of Local Computer Bulletin Board

Florence and Alan Wyland, using a modem and their computer, will be putting announcements regarding The Middlesex Genealogy Society meetings on a local computer bulletin board. The "Source of Magic" based in Ridgefield "echoes" around Connecticut to other computer boards and their users spreading our existence and activities far and wide. Genealogy is just one of many subjects covered by this particular bulletin board.

Anyone with a computer and a modem can belong and the price is right - free. If you would like to hear more about how this system works, what is available, how to set up your own, and how to make your own queries all around the country, call Alan or Florence at 762-3993. They are also offering to set up a demonstration workshop at their home in south Wilton if anyone is interested.



The Springfield (Massachusetts) Library and Museums Association transferred its Genealogy and Local History Department from the City Library to the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum (in Springfield) in November. Joseph Carvalho III, former supervisor of the contents was appointed Director of the Museum. The Genealogy and Local History Department at the City Library receives 37,750 inquiries (in person and by mail) each year.

This collection, which consists of 24,000 books, 25,000 microfilms, and 1,000 linear feet of other reference materials, will be accessible to the public free of charge at the museum. Associated staff people, including professional librarians and an archivist, will move with the collection. The Museum will be open mornings, evenings, and on Mondays, as well as weekends.

(NEHGS NEXUS, Vol. V, No. 5, page 157)

The 350th Anniversary of Taunton, Massachusetts, will be celebrated in 1989. The committee is conducting a survey of descendants of early Taunton settlers for a special publication. Descendants are asked to provide their lineage with vital statistics to the Taunton 350th Anniversary Committee, c/o Old Colony Historical Society, 66 Church Green, Taunton, MA 02780.

(NEHGS NEXUS, Vol. V, No. 5), pg 160.

The 1989 National Genealogical Society Conference promises a "Journey into Your Past". The conference will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, May 17-20. Two innovative aspects of the 1989 program will be a new Computer-Aided Genealogy Learning Center and a five-part Seminar for Educators, held on Saturday and designed for nongenealogists who want to integrate genealogical instruction into their curricula. The banquet speaker will be John Phillip Coletta. His topic will be "Our Ancestral Towns in Europe:

No Package Tours Available". Other programs of interest will include expert speakers on methodology and the three R's (regions, records, and repositories). Ethnic research will feature Minnesota's incredible diversity of peoples including Norwegian, Eastern European, Swedish, Welsh, Luxembourgers, German, Czech-Bohemian, Blacks, and Canadians.

For more information and a registration form, write the National Genealogical Society, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399

Elusive Records - Where To Find Them

Antique Week, Mon. Oct. 24, 1988



American-Indian: A comprehensive article titled "American-Indian Genealogical Research in the Midwest: Resources and Perspectives," by Stewart Rafert, appears in *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. The writer offers clear research assistance from background information to types of records--local, county and federal--and cites specific collection and how they can be accessed.

In identifying research problems, the writer addresses use of vital records; marriage, divorce, adoption and name changes; guardianship records (which "are an exciting source because they contain so many details of everyday life, from purchases of clothing to medical expenses to farm improvements") etc.

Published guides to records relating to American Indians are also described as are the Annuity, Allotment, and Claimspayment Rolls that must be examined at the National Archives in Washington.

In the Midwest, the Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archaeology at Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., is cited for its collections of the Ohio Valley-Great Lakes Ethnohistory Archives. Here are microfilms, papers, maps and books collected as exhibits in various land claims of Midwestern tribes before the Indian claims commissions -- "Virtually every source on Midwestern tribes is brought together..and indexed for easy use." A published guide to this collection is available for purchase from the Laboratory. Arrangements must be made in advance for using the archives, and it is advised that local resources be exhausted before applying to the archives for research privileges due to staff restrictions and other reasons.

(Single copies of the *Quarterly* cited are \$6. Information: NGS Quarterly, 4527 17th St. North, Arlington VA 22207-2363.)

Historical Society of Greenwich,
Stamford Historical Society,
and
Stamford Genealogical Society
are sponsoring
GENEALOGY SEMINARS '89
Two all-day seminars by nationally known speakers

**BASICS IN GENEALOGY:
A SEMINAR FOR BEGINNERS**
Saturday, January 28, 1989
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
at the
Stamford Historical Society

**TRACKING YOUR ANCESTORS:
MIGRATION PATTERNS, MAPS,
AND LAND RECORDS**
Saturday, February 25, 1989
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
at the
Christ Church, Greenwich

For further information,
call 329-1183

NOVA SCOTIA

(taken in part from The Nova Scotia 1988 Visitor's Guide)

In late October, I spent a week in Nova Scotia (my first trip there). I spent time in "The Land of Evangeline". A place, so the brochure goes, where quaint old fishing villages dot the shores "over the mountain" and charming country towns line the valley and basin below. Here the land and sea intermingle, the past lingers on in the present, and both French and English are at home.

"In this Acadian land, on the shores of the Basin Minas, distant, secluded and still, the little village of Grand Pre lay in the fruitful valley...Benedict Bellefontaine, the wealthiest farmer in Grand Pre, dwelt on these goodly acres, and with him, directing his household, gentle Evangeline lived, his child, and the pride of the village"

The epic poem *Evangeline*, composed by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow to commemorate the tragic expulsion of Nova Scotia's French settlers by the conquering British in 1755, symbolizes the tragedy of people separated from their loved ones as Evangeline was from her betrothed, Gabriel. This expulsion not only led to many Acadians resettling along the Atlantic and especially Louisiana, but opened farmlands to New England Planters, Loyalists escaping from the American Revolution in New England.

I also spent time, as any driven genealogist would, looking for genealogy material. I found the Public Archives a delightful place, complete with helpful people and well organized materials. Since I personally do not have ancestors from the area, I did not do research, but instead collected information to report to you.

The following information is taken in part from *Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia* by Julie Morris, a booklet published by the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, which can be ordered from them for \$2.95 postpaid. Also highly recommended is *Genealogical*

Research in Nova Scotia by Terrence M. Punch, Petheric Press, Nimbus Publishing Limited, P. O. Box 9301, Station A, Halifax, N.S. B3K 5N5. It is a small, 136 page, soft cover book, which costs (as I recall) less than \$10.

I found during my visit, that I had forgotten that there were strong ties that bound Nova Scotia with New England. Therefore, I thought it appropriate to begin with, what else, but . . .

A Brief History Lesson:

Samuel de Champlain and his fellow French colonists arrived in Nova Scotia in 1605 and established the first European settlement in Canada at Port-Royal. The French and native Indians, the Micmacs, lived peacefully together, but Port-Royal became a pivotal focus of French-English imperial rivalry - a clash of empires in the New World that was to last over 150 years.

During the 17th century, alone, its ownership changed hands three times. The briefest and most confusing occasion in this tumultuous history was from 1627 to 1632, when the scholarly courtier Sir William Alexander sought to plant a Scottish colony at Port-Royal as a counterpart to the rising New England and expanding New France. The main legacy of this unsuccessful attempt was the charter given to Sir William, by James VI of Scotland (who also was James I of England), granting him all of Acadia under the name of *Nova Scotia* - Latin for New Scotland.

It was after the regaining of Port-Royal in 1632, that the founding stock of about 40 families (soon to be known as Acadians) mastered the techniques for dyking and cultivating the lush tidal marshlands draining into the Bay of Fundy. Through natural increase, the Acadian population grew to 1400, by 1700, as the younger members of the Port-Royal community turned their now inherited skills and energies to dyking the marshlands of the Minas Basin - especially at Grand Pre. The almost continuous warfare resulted in the capture of Port-Royal, once again, by the British and under the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 the French ceded part of Acadia including almost all the Acadian settlements. Until the founding of Halifax, in 1749, British rule from

Port-Royal (renamed Annapolis Royal in honor of Queen Anne) was at best nominal. Halifax's settlement as a strategic counterpoise to the great French fortress at Louisbourg served to focus attention on the Acadian population, as great power rivalry intensified for what was to be the final struggle for empire in North America. In 1755 the British captured Fort Beausejour, thereby gaining control of the vital Isthmus of Chignecto. In the wake of this came the tragic deportation of the Acadians to the British American colonies along the Atlantic seaboard and to France. With peace, however, many Acadians were able to return; they settled along the coast of St. Mary's Bay, since known as the Acadian Shore.

Farmers from the increasingly overcrowded agricultural townships of New England were readily attracted to the vacated lands around the Bay of Fundy. These New England Planters, as they were called, established the townships of Falmouth, Cornwallis, Horton, Annapolis and Granville - stretching from the Minas Basin and along the Annapolis River to its mouth. They built their sturdy gambrel-roofed and timber-framed houses on upland plots overlooking expanses of reclaimed marshland. Their family farms, like those of the Acadians, were largely self-sufficient producing a variety of grains, meat, milk and garden produce. Families made their own maple sugar, tallow and soap, as well as much of their woolen and linen cloth.

The American Revolution produced the last great wave of immigration to the agricultural heartland. The Loyalists (those who remained loyal to Great Britain during the revolution) arrived by the thousands in 1783 and 1784. As most good lands were already occupied in the Minas Basin area, they settled largely in Aylesford, Annapolis and Granville townships. Their beautiful churches, such as the exquisite St. Mary's near Ayles-ford, are still lovingly cared for and are visible reminders of their faith and skilled craftsmanship.

**PUBLIC ARCHIVES
OF NOVA SCOTIA
(P.A.N.S.)**

**6016 University Avenue
Halifax, N.S. B3H 1W4**

It was not until about 50 years ago that Nova Scotia obtained a proper building to house the Archives. From 1930 to 1979, materials were housed in the Chase Building on the Dalhousie University campus. In 1979, the Archives was moved to a specially designed building featuring the use of solar energy in heating and lighting, as well as climate control for storage of perishable materials.

**SOURCES USEFUL TO THE
GENEALOGISTS:**

Vital statistics include the birth, marriage and death records. Vital statistics information may be obtained from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and from church registers and censuses. All records after 1906 may be obtained from the Department of Vital Statistics, 1753 Hollis Street, Halifax, N.S. The cost of service is \$5.00.

The Province of Nova Scotia did not keep birth, death and marriage records prior to 1864; although there are marriage bonds (index available) existing before 1864; they are not as informative as the later marriage certificates, which contain the names of the parents of the bride and groom as well as the date and place of the marriage, age, residence, occupation, and religious denomination.

In regards to the birth and death registry, no records were kept from 1877 to 1907 due to difficulties in the financing of officers to maintain the records. Birth Registrations, in particular, are very informative in that they list the individual's birthdate, sex, the names of the parents, as well as, the parents' marriage date and location. Unfortunately, the Death Registrations are not as informative as the Births and Marriages for they only list the date of death, the cause of death and *sometimes* the name of the next of kin. There are indexes for each of the

eighteen counties available on microfilm for the Registry of Marriages (1864-c.1908-16) and for the Registry of Births and Deaths (1864-1876).

Church registers are an alternative source for vital statistical information. Although parents' names are not always listed and generally the registers are unindexed, they contain the records of baptisms, marriages and burials. The amount of information varies with the denomination and the Baptist Records in particular are scarce. It should be noted that church records cannot be photocopied, and that some church registers, particularly those belonging to the Anglican Church, may not be examined without the written permission of the minister or priest of the specific church or parish.

Township records listed land transactions, cattle marks, births, deaths and marriages. New England settlers were accustomed to keeping these records and continued when they settled in townships in Nova Scotia. They sometimes listed children born in New England before they emigrated to Nova Scotia, and continued this practice for generations after the 1820's. The following is a list of Township Records available at the Public Archives:

Annapolis (1783-1856), Argyle (1702-1913), Aylesford (1792-1855), Barrington (1764-1958), Barronsfield (1755-1837), Chester (1762-1824), Cornwallis (1760-1874), Douglas (1784-1880), Falmouth (1747-1941), Fort Lawrence, Cumberland County (1766-1891), Granville (1720-1933), Guysborough (Manchester) (1782-1869), Horton (1751-1889), Londonderry (c. 1780-1858), Maccan, Nappan, Elysian Fields and Franklin Manor: Beausejour Museum (1755-1837), Newport (1752-1858), Onslow (1761-mid 1880's), Parrsboro (1760-1882), Rawdon (1810-1897), River Philip: Cumberland County (1793-1928), mainly 1820-1860), Sackville (now New Brunswick) (1748-1871), Southhampton (1761-1967), St. Mary's River, Guysborough County (1807-1867), Truro (1770-1853), Westchester (1782-1970), Wilmot (1749-1894), Windsor (1761-1819), Yarmouth (1760-1811).

Census records prior to 1871 list the head of the household and the ages of the family members whereas those for 1871 and 1881 include all the members of the household by name as well as sex, age, religion, origin, occupation and marital status. Again, it should be noted that census records after 1861 cannot be photocopied due to copyright laws.

Land papers may contain such information as your ancestor's residence in Nova Scotia, occupation, and former residence. The names of the family members, length of time spent at the previous residence and origin are sometimes mentioned as well. Land records may include such documents as petitions, warrants of survey, grants of land from the Crown, and the registration of land purchase transactions between individuals or parties who had previously bought or been granted land (Registry of Deeds). Land Grants contain information pertaining to the description of the property, which may include a map or a plan of the land being granted. There is an alphabetical index for land grants on microfilm available at the Public Archives. A deed contains information similar to that of the land grant. There is an alphabetical index on microfilm arranged by country, which is helpful in following the movements of your ancestors in Nova Scotia.

In addition to land papers, one may examine a *series of topographical township maps*, for the eighteen counties in Nova Scotia, which were published by A.F. Church & Co. of Halifax. Within each county, the location of most houses with the names of the head of household is shown. The county maps were published approximately in the following years: Halifax in 1865; Pictou 1867; Digby and Yarmouth 1870; Hants 1871; Kings 1872; Cumberland 1873; Colchester 1874; Annapolis and Guysborough 1876; Cape Breton 1877; Antigonish 1879; Shelburne 1882; Lunenburg, Inverness, Richmond and Victoria between 1883 and 1887; and Queen's in 1888. To purchase copies, write to the Depart-

ment of Lands and Forests, 1747
Granville Street, P. O. Box 798,
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2TP.

Probate Court records are divided into two basic groups; wills and estate papers. Wills consist of ledgers into which individual wills were transcribed following the death of a person. There are alphabetically, chronologically arranged indexes available at the Public Archives for most counties in Nova Scotia. Wills provide basic information concerning heirs, the disposition of property and an indication of material wealth.

A majority of people did not leave wills and there was no Probate Court intervention when the estates were small and the disposition of property uncomplicated. However, the Probate Court did regulate estate settlements if a person died without a will, leaving considerable property or litigious heirs; these details were filed in the estate papers. Again, indexes are not always available and, in many cases, the estate papers are alphabetically arranged within a certain time period. The estate papers provide inventories of real and personal properties, documents concerning litigation, papers detailing involved settlements, etc.

Loyalist Claims Audit Office #13 (A.O.13) may be valuable to genealogists in that they provide details concerning: the family, property, occupation of claimant, military service, name of former residence and present location at the time of the claim. The records are in the Public Record Office in London and the Library of Congress in Washington. The P.A.N.S. has microfilm copies of A.O.13, *Loyalist Claims for 1780-1835* and there is an index available on the first reel of the collection.

The Audit Office Series of the British Government, A.O.12 and A.O.13, contain evidence in support of Loyalists' claims for losses sustained in the American Revolution. For further information about these claims please consult: *Archives Report, Province of Ontario, 1904* and N. Callahan, *Flight from the Republic, The Tories of the American Revolution*, Ch. 6.

IMMIGRATION AND PASSENGER LISTS:

Immigration records are virtually non-existent until about 1867 when the federal government assumed responsibility for this field. Microfilm records for the port of Halifax exist for the period 1881 to 1899 but the researchers must know the name of the ship and year of arrival in order to make use of this source. For the pre-Confederation period J.S. Martell, *Immigration to and Emigration from Nova Scotia, 1815-1838* will provide a concise background to the problems associated with immigration records for Nova Scotia.

Locating one's ancestors on a passenger list is a rare occurrence. Few lists have survived. Lists relating to Nova Scotia which may have been identified can be found recorded in RG 18, pp. 149-157, of the *Inventory of Manuscripts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1976*. The third floor card file - "Miscellaneous -- Passenger Lists" will provide the researcher with up-to-date information on any lists unearthed since 1976.

NEWSPAPERS:

There is a comprehensive collection of Nova Scotian newspapers at the Public Archives. The earliest Newspaper to be printed in Canada was the *Halifax Gazette* which appeared in 1752. Because Halifax was a small town of less than 5,000 people current events within the community were common knowledge to its inhabitants. In the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, vital statistics were published only for prominent government officials, merchants, and British military personnel. Birth notices did not become common until the 1890's and the newspaper in which an obituary appeared was influenced by the political or religious persuasion of the family. The *British Colonist* and the *Morning Herald* supported the Conservative party while the *Acadian Recorder*, *Novascotian*, and *Morning Chronicle* upheld the Liberal cause. The *Colonial Churchman* and *Church Work* were published by Anglicans, and the *Christian Messenger* by Baptists, the *Provincial Wesleyan* by Methodists, and the *Presbyterian Witness* by the Presbyterians.

Obituaries in the nineteenth century newspapers were usually only death notices which provided the names of the deceased, age, and place of residence. Seldom did they give the names of parents, brothers and sisters, or offspring. Marriage notices provided the same sparse information.

Gertrude E. N. Pratt's *A survey and Listing of Nova Scotia Newspapers 1752-1957 with particular reference to the period before 1867* lists the various newspapers which were published in Nova Scotia. Part III provides an alphabetical listing by community of the various newspapers and their history. In Part IV the author lists the institutions in which copies of those newspapers may be located.

PRINTED SOURCES:

The Public Archives has collected a fair amount of information concerning: Acadians; Germans; Swiss and French Protestants who settled around Lunenburg in 1753; Irish; Scots; Yorkshire Immigrants; Pre-Loyalist settlers, Planters, and Loyalists; and Blacks in Nova Scotia. These aids may be useful in providing the social, historical, and geographical background for these emigrants where one may discover their origin and reasons for immigrating, as well as, the early history of a family or group from a particular geographical area.

THE GENEALOGY COMMITTEE:

The Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society was founded in 1878 and its Genealogical Committee was organized in 1971. This committee, which is composed of volunteers, does not have a genealogical library nor is it able to conduct personal research for other genealogists. The Committee published a newsletter every season and features Family Bible entries, a bulletin board of genealogical news, readers' queries and replies to queries, correction to errors in printed works, news of the committee and book reviews. For information write: Genealogical Committee, Box 895, Armdale, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3L 4K5.

PUBLICATIONS:

Write to Publications, Box 895,
Armdale, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Can-
ada B3L 4K5 for

Publication No. 1: *Nova Scotia Vital
Statistics from Newspapers 1813-1822*
\$11.00.

Publication No. 2: *A Catalogue of
Published Genealogies of Nova Scotia
Families* \$7.00.

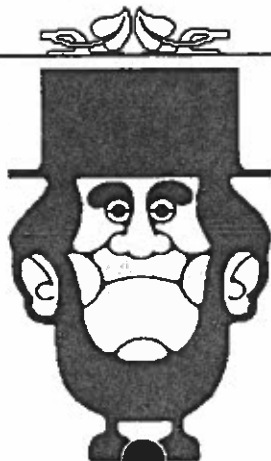
Publication No. 3: *Nova Scotia Vital
Statistics from Newspapers 1823-1828*
\$12.00.

Write to Loyalists, 57 Primrose St.,
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, KB3A 4C65
for:

Publication No. 4: *Loyalist & Land
Settlement in Nova Scotia - now indexed*
(189 pages). \$9.75.

Publication No. 5: *Nova Scotia Vital
Statistics from Newspapers 1769-1812*
(no price listed).

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES: The
P.A.N.S. will answer most inquiries
dealing with Nova Scotia Family
History, but the public *must* provide
the following information: all pos-
sible names, dates, local residence
and the most likely religious denomi-
nation. The queries must be concise,
dealing with one family or individual
at a time. The initial fee for out of
province queries is \$2. Photocopy
orders must include \$2 for mailing
and postage. There is only one
person processing genealogical
inquires. For extensive research
projects, there is a list of researchers
available to do research for an hourly
fee.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
February 12th

ANCESTRY

by Josephine Powell Segal

When first I began my search to see
What I could learn of my Ancestry,
They seemed to me so far away
As if they had lived in Caesar's day;
But my interest grew and great pains I
took

To find my own in each history's book.
As their names and deeds came to the
light

The ages vanished like mists of the night;
As they came so near I seemed to see
My beloved, forgotten Ancestry.

Now I have them with me with their
powdered hair,
Wearing beruffled shirts, so debonair;
Their pleated coats and flowered vests,
The signet rings with their jeweled crests;
The satin breeches that fit so tight,
Begemmed knee clasps shining bright;
Long silk stocking and polished shoe
With their buckles of brightened silver, too;
They seem so near and dear to me,
My new found friends, my Ancestry.
"That like thine elders so thou mightest
behold
Thy children many, famous, stout and
bold."

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS ARE?

Bumper Sticker

People are what they are because they
have come out of what was
---Carl Sandburg

To know where I come from is one of
the greatest longings of the human
heart. More than genealogical data,
we seek in the lives of those who went
before us the meaning of our lives.
---Ardis Whitman

Genealogy is like potato salad - When
you share it with others, it's a picnic....

Genealogists are the only people I
know who read books back to front...

(The Sunny Side of Genealogy, Compiled
by Fonda D. Baselt, Genealogical Publish-
ing Co., 1988)



Genealogy Pox

Warning: Very contagious to adults!
Symptoms: Continual complaint of a
need for names, dates and
places. The patient has a blank
expression and strange far-
away look in the eyes. They are
sometimes deaf to their spouse
and children, and tend to
mumble to themselves. They
have no taste for work of any
kind, except for feverishly
looking through records at
libraries and courthouses. They
have a compulsion to write
letters, and get angry at the
mailman when he doesn't leave
mail. They frequent strange
places, such as cemeteries, ruins
and remote country areas.

Treatment: Medication is useless.
Disease is not fatal, but gets
progressively worse. Patient
should attend genealogy work-
shops, subscribe to genealogy
magazines and newsletters, and
be given a quiet corner in the
house where he or she may be
alone.

Remarks: The unusual nature of this
disease is...the sicker the patient
gets, the more he, or she, enjoys
it!

(The Connecticut Nutmegger, Vol. 21, No. 3,
Dec. 1988, pg 502)

Bureau of Land Management Announces Automation Project

(taken in part from NGS Newsletter, Vol. 14,
No. 6, 1988

by Margaret M. Redmond, Executive Director)

In October, 1988, the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, in Alexandria, VA announced a "Preserving America's Heritage" project. Under this project, nine million General Land Office records dating back to 1788 will be automated. These records will then be easily accessible to the public and will preserve the original documents.

These records include all public land surveys and transactions in the thirteen public-land states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. These land records contain survey field notes, which were prepared by the surveyor and describe the survey work and may include the names of settlers living in the survey area. Other records include township plats and patents (deeds) that were issued in the thirteen eastern public-land states. General Land Office tract books are included and contain records of patents and other statements of title such as railroad grants, swamp grants, school grants, Indian allotments, and private land claims. All in all, records on file cover some 7.5 million land transactions involving over a billion acres of present or former public domain land.

These records will be preserved by taking the old books apart, laminating the pages and rebinding them. The automation involves using optical scanners, scanning the original records onto computer disks, making the entire document accessible on a computer monitor or printer. Thus, when calling up a record, what you see is the original record, not an abstract or hand copied record.

The records will also be indexed on a database by entering the name

of the person to whom the patent was granted, the state in which it was granted and other pertinent information.

The automated records will be accessible through all of the offices of the Bureau of Land Management. The project is expected to take about four years. It is hoped that by 1993 there will be in operation an automated Land Information System.



CENSUS HINTS

AntiqueWeek Mon., Oct. 31, 1988

The 1820-1830 Wisconsin federal census records are found with those of Michigan.

The 1860 Nevada census records are included with those of Utah.

The 1860 Wyoming census lists are included with those of Nebraska.

The 1860 Colorado enumerations are found with those of Kansas.

Christian Co., IL G.S., June 1988; Chicago G.S. Newsletter Sept. 1988.

Elusive Records -- Where To Find Them

AntiqueWeek, Mon., Dec. 5, 1988

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City Area

The Oklahoma Historical Society and The Metropolitan Library System are major repositories for research information in the Oklahoma City area.

The Oklahoma Historical Society, Wiley Post Historical Building, 2100 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and houses the collec-

tion of the Oklahoma Genealogical Society. They have professional genealogists on staff. Questions requiring extensive research cannot be answered by mail. Staff will check indexed Oklahoma material in response to a specific question. A full name, approximate date and place of residence is needed. Costs for photocopying or making prints from microfilm will be billed to the inquirer plus a charge of \$1.50 for postage. A legal size SASE should be sent with each inquiry. Interlibrary loan service is not available. The library does have city directories going back to 1889.

The Metropolitan Library System, 131 Dean A. McGee Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73102 is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; from 9 to 9 on Tuesday; and 9 to 5 on Friday and Saturday. This library houses the genealogy collection of the City-County Public Library. Reference librarians will answer questions on a limited basis (\$1 fee at time of writing plus other costs).

Oklahoma began keeping birth and death records statewide in 1908, but registration was not mandatory until 1917, and the state did not meet the federal standard of 90 percent reporting until 1928. Extant records are held by Division of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, P.O. Box 53551, N.E. 10th and Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK, 73152. Certified copies are \$5 with large SASE, requested on "Application for Search and Certified Copy" only. Earliest marriage records in Oklahoma prior to statehood usually date from 1890 (no centralized collection). Since 1907 marriage records have been kept by the county clerk of the county where the marriage took place. — SEARCH, Vol. 8, No. 3.



**Genealogy:
You MUST Do It
MY Way!
OR ELSE!!!**



Is Genealogy Becoming Too Rigid?

In the National Genealogical Society September-October 1988 Newsletter, Virginia Easley DeMarce, President of the Society, (not to mention holding a PhD in History), wrote a column under the heading "Thinking About Genealogy". In this article, she brought up a concern that there is a growing tendency to take genealogy "solemnly" (not seriously). She does not question that genealogy should be taken seriously and "deserves accurate research, thorough documentation, and a conscientious effort to place the family in its historical context."

She is concerned, however, that our push for quality and high standards may reach a level where "credentialism" will discourage beginners. She does not question that professional genealogists, those who make a living doing research, should have high accreditation standards. Nor does she question that thorough research with proper documentation should be taught and encouraged at all levels. However, she feels that for the hobby genealogist, genealogy should continue to be fun and the field of genealogy should continue to be an open door policy for all to enter.

In the NGS Quarterly, September 1988, there appeared an article entitled "Computers and Genealogical Scholarship: Have the Twain Yet Met?" by Marsha Hoffman Rising, C.G., Co-Chairman of the NGS Instructor Development Committee, serves on the faculty of Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical

Research, sits on the board of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. This article was taken from an address of the same title presented by her at the 1988 NGS annual conference in Biloxi, MS.

The article was written to point out the inadequacies of the existing computer software in assisting "good scholarship". It is a good article for the serious computer aided genealogist and she makes the point that the software has not quite met the need. By the very nature of the study of genealogy, and the nature of what it takes to program a computer to do what we as computer/genealogists would like for it to do, the task is mind boggling. But that is not the issue of my article. Ms. Rising's forceful request for "genealogical scholarship" even among the "new students" goes back to the question of "are we getting too solemn?"

She uses Webster's definition of a scholar as "one who by long, systematic study has gained a high degree of mastery in one or more of the academic disciplines; one who has gained the knowledge in some special field along with accuracy and skill in investigation and powers of critical analysis in the interpretation of such knowledge." Sounds ominous, don't you think?

Then the NGS Newsletter, Vol. 14, No. 6, November-December 1988 arrives with *Thinking About Genealogy: Part II, Comments and Further Thoughts* and a response written by Michael Burgess, Publisher, Burgo Press; Librarian, California State University, San Bernardino, San Bernardino, California. Mr. Burgess, who incidentally, agrees with Ms. DeMarce and takes exception with Ms. Rising's rigidity, also brings up the point that maybe the audience should be considered. That while the "scholarly standards for an article published in the NGS Quarterly should naturally be high, with copious footnoting and a detailed exegesis of the family structure; but the readers of the Quarterly are either professionals or dedicated amateurs, with broad experience in genealogical interpretation, and the articles themselves are intended to

provide solid (and highly visible) bases for future research on families with roots usually antedating the American Revolution", "most published genealogical monographs are intended for a broader and more popular audience--other members of the family". Mr. Burgess questions whether Aunt Gertrude would really find the genealogy as interesting with hundreds or thousands of footnotes interspersed among the basic pedigrees and family charts. It doesn't mean it shouldn't be fully documented, but it isn't always necessary to share every bit of info every time you share a pedigree.

He also points out that "we must never forget in our meanderings through history that all family relationships are uncertain to one degree or another. Our continuing effort must be to make these connections more evident than not, but to do so in a way that is unobtrusive, educational, and (most importantly!) fun." AMEN!



GENEALOGY SECTION OF DARIEN PUBLIC LIBRARY MAKES PROGRESS!!!

Darien Public Library's renovation is almost complete and our Genealogy Section is being moved to a new area. With Tom Kemp in charge of set-up and acquisitions and Mary Freedman's staff busy computer cataloguing, it appears that it will be any day now! So keep track and visit the library soon.

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY



MORE WILL LIVE
THE MORE YOU GIVE
HEART FUND



Middlesex Genealogy Society
45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820



Patricia M. Flowers
31 Brushy Hill Road
Darien, CT 06820