



Middlesex Genealogy Society

NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI No. 1

April 1989



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

On Wednesday, March 22, the Annual Meeting of the Middlesex Genealogical Society was held in the Darien Public Library. Before Henry Hoff's excellent program entitled *Yankees & Yorkers in Colonial Era*, our President, Doris (Nikki) Hollander, discussed the status of our ongoing projects.

The Cemetery Project, is a joint venture with the Darien Historical Society, to update the old records of the Darien and environ cemeteries. Our own Marianne Sheldon has been responsible for completing many of the cemeteries. After the stones have been checked, there will be a plan instituted to put the graveyards in order. Spring Grove will not be included in this plan as it has a caretaker. The Veterans Info is still being gathered. Upon completion, this information will become MGS Publication #2.

The MGS Room in the Darien Public Library is finished. We offer a special thanks to the Darien Public Library and Mary Freedman for giving us this space. Mary has shown such interest, tact and patience as our Library Liaison--thanks Mary! And a huge thanks to Tom Kemp. Without Tom, we would not have known what to do with the space once we got it. Tom has it all organized. We are very grateful for his time and expertise. New material for our room will be an ongoing project.

There has been so much interest in our MGS and Darien Historical Society trips that we have planned another for April 26th to New London/Old Lyme. See Page 5 for more info.

The Annual Washington Birthday Luncheon at the Silvermine Tavern was once again a great success. A special thanks to Bob Fatherley and Walter Jerige for their time and organizational skills.

Grant Radmall is currently conducting a project to have the original Middlesex Parish church and probate records microfilmed by the LDS Church. They will include Darien, Rowayton and parts of Stamford. This project should be underway later this spring.

And a thanks to Harold Rollins who has faithfully taped our meetings. These tapes can be found in the MGS Room at the Library.

There are many others out there who have helped keep our small genealogical society together. We will be eternally grateful to each and every one of you. Without your help, there would be no Middlesex Genealogical Society. **THANK YOU!**



South Carolina

Some Notes From South Carolina

by Jane C. Merchant

Ever since our move to Georgetown, South Carolina, almost a year and a half ago, I have been fascinated with the history of this little city in the Lowlands--the coastal region of the state--and from reading all I can about the history of South Carolina. I feel I have much to share, yet within the bounds of an article, I'll try not to be too long-winded (nor too stingy) with the wealth of genealogical and historical material which I have discovered is available.

After reading the excellent article on Research in North Carolina, published in last April's MGS Newsletter, I have for months been accumulating information on research material which for some of you may be of immediate value, while for the rest: file away, for you never know when an unexpected member of your family line may require a search of records in the Palmetto State!

Before I explain some of the problems involved in tracing a family here, especially one with a few gaps in the line of descent, I will list some of the prime sources of help to which you may write and what, in general, are the holdings in each:

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

Doris Hollander President
Janet Jainschigg Vice-President
Marianne Sheldon Secretary
George T. Cushman Treasurer
Robert Fatherley Pres. Emeritus

DIRECTORS

Norman Adams
Ray Bartlett
Grace Clarendon
Fred Farwell
Robert Fatherley
Mary Freedman
Raymond Gross
Henry Hoff
Thomas Kemp
Louise McLean
Grant Radmall
Sherrill Yates

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.

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

Sherrill S. Yates, Editor, 9 Wagon Rd, Bethel, CT 06801. Correspondence of the Society should be addressed to: Middlesex Genealogical Society, 45 Old Kings Highway North, Darien, CT 06820.

(Continued from Front Page)

South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, SC 29211

State & county histories & records, biographies, manuscripts, military records & engagements, documents, correspondence of famous historical figures, family histories.

South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208

This houses the Leonardo Area Collection - a collection of approximately 1,029 folders, compiled of genealogical information and records of 825 surnames. Material from local town and church records, family

records, and Bibles. The collection is on microfilm-57 rolls-35mm. For specific inquiry, write The Manuscript Curator of the South Caroliniana Library (address above).

South Carolina State Library, Columbia, SC 29201

Sources of information on libraries at other colleges and universities in the state. State and local histories.

South Carolina Historical Society, The Fireproof Building, Calhoun and Meeting Streets, Charleston, SC 29001

The Society has an excellent library, chiefly devoted to South Carolina history and genealogy, with a large collection of early manuscripts and diaries. It publishes a magazine 'The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, which like the NEHGS Register, is indexed annually; it also has a bi-monthly newsletter, 'The Carologue,' giving members information about meetings, workshops and trips; also a query column. Also, the Society has published an excellent source book: Local Family History in South Carolina - A Bibliography, compiled by Richard N. Cote, and published for the Society in 1981. This book is available to the public at local libraries (I was able to borrow a copy at the Georgetown Library), so I think it should be available to inter-library loan.

For a 'starter' on South Carolina history and genealogy, this book is a gem! To answer those all important questions like 'Where do I look for my' and 'How do I find...?' The book lists not only the addresses of principal State Libraries, but also where to find immigration lists, addresses of churches and libraries throughout the state, Patriotic societies - (local and state Chapter addresses), sources of genealogical holdings around the state, and some census records. Here is where we have a problem doing research in South Carolina. Many records were burned - some during the American Revolution, some by natural disaster (earthquakes and fires) - and, as in the case of Columbia and Sumter (the

town), the other locales, by the Army of General Sherman. Fortunately, Charleston was spared this last disaster to its records, so that the churches, such as the Episcopal Diocese Archives, the Huguenot Church and others in Charleston, listed in this book, would have records. The census records of many towns are also incomplete, which is another of the problems I alluded to, but this book is still a gold mine of information of what is available for research in South Carolina.

When we first moved here, we were fascinated by the continuous references to geographical divisions of the state: the 'Lowlands,' or 'Low Country' (where we live), the 'Midlands' and 'Up-Country' or 'Up-State.' Weather news on radio or TV is announced, giving attention to each area. People talk of going 'up country' to Columbia, Spartanburg, or Greenville. The 'Midlands' which corresponds to the Piedmont (foothills) of North Carolina, lies to the west of the dense pine forests and swamps that in the early days, before bulldozers, made road travel so impossible--this is the farm country of orchards, corn, cotton, peanuts, and other produce. 'Up-country' ascends to the Blue Ridge Mountains--rich land for orchards and dairies--but in the early days, requiring hardy pioneers. To this part of the State came settlers from Virginia and North Carolina, looking always for new land, which often they occupied not without many bloody fights with the Indians. These settlers were immigrants, in the early 18th century from Scotland, England, Germany and the Netherlands. They were dissenters--Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans. Their isolation from the Low Country was not only geographic, but also economic and ethnic. They were conservative and mistrustful of their fellow Carolinians to the southeast. Along the south east coast, the Low Country is land faced by many long winding rivers, a land of wetlands and marsh, ideal for growing rice and indigo, the two cash crops which made the plantation owners very

wealthy. The majority of these planters were English who had first settled in Barbados, the West Indies or Bahamas. They came to South Carolina with slaves to work the fields, as they had done in the islands. In 1662, Charles II had granted royal charters to those who styled themselves as Lords Proprietors. Their grants of land were enormous, extending from the boundaries of Virginia to Spanish Florida and from sea to sea. Originally Spain claimed and occupied the coast of Georgia and South Carolina. Ashley Cooper, later Lord Shaftsbury, founded the settlement of Charles Towne, bounded on either side by the two rivers which bear his name. Charleston harbor with its outer protective islands became the second most important, next to Savannah's harbor, in the South.

The French Huguenots, fleeing the great Protestant persecutions arrived in great numbers around 1685. Their skills in raising silkworms and vineyards for olives and grapes, made them welcome in the Low Country, and their wealth accrued along with the rice and indigo trade.

Separated from North Carolina, Lord Shaftsbury, with his friend, John Locke, drew up a constitution for South Carolina, in which there would be a House of Representatives for the people, but an Upper House of titled landholders, the Lords Proprietors, who would decide and govern. This plan did not succeed, and by mid 18th century, and up to the time of the Revolution, South Carolina became a republic. Its first elected president was John Rutledge of Charleston.

There was little attempt to maintain any contact with the immigrant settlers in the "up-country," except to regard them subject, when necessary to the laws of the republic. It was this sad state of affairs, coupled with fierce fighting with Indian tribes to the north, and the two diverse cultures, which contributed to a virtual state of civil war when the American Revolution began. The first battle in South Carolina, 10-21 November 1775, was at Ninety-Six (so named as it is 96 miles from Charleston), where

the Patriot Militia, under Major Andrew Williamson were besieged by Loyalist forces under Major Joseph Robinson. This was just the first of many bloody encounters, including one of the famous battles of the war--King's Mountain, when *one* British officer, Major Patrick Ferguson, led a force of 800 North and South Carolina Loyalists supported by his Provincial Rangers against an army of American Patriot militiamen from North and South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia. This ended in victory for the Americans, and according to histories was one of the turning points of the Revolution.

A more comprehensive explanation for the passions of loyalty to King or the Patriots' cause are the subjects of an excellent book *From Savannah to Yorktown - The American Revolution in the South*, by Henry Lumpkin (see bibliography). I hope this brief explanation of the geographical impact on the settlement and development of the state will convince you of the importance of knowing, or learning, where your ancestors settled. Knowing the county or region is basic to clues.

Bibliography

From Savannah to Yorktown - The American Revolution in the South, by Henry Lumpkin, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of South Carolina and Professor of Military History at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, published by Paragon House Publishers, New York, NY 10017, 1987 (paperback).

The Oxford Book of the American People, Samuel Eliot Morison, Vol. I, Oxford University Press, New York, NY 10019, 1965.



Mr. Fatherley Again Featured in Press

taken from *Nutmeg Gratings*
the January 1989 Newsletter of
The Society of Mayflower Descendants
in the State of Connecticut

We wish more of our members had the "in" Robert Fatherley seems to have with the Darien News-Review! A year ago he had published in that paper a Thanksgiving-time story "Boat People, Then and Now," telling of the hardships suffered in their voyage to freedom of the Pilgrims.

This year his story about the first Thanksgiving in 1621, plus accolades for Mayflower skipper Christopher Jones, was published by the Darien paper. In addition, the Stamford Advocate featured another Fatherley story about the hardships of the Mayflower voyage, and the Norwalk Hour interviewed him complete with picture. This story tells something about the four Pilgrims from whom he claims descent as well as the story of the voyage. Bob Fatherley is an active historian and leader in historical organizations in Fairfield County area.

"Any publicity is good publicity," says Fatherley. "At least it keeps the organization in the public eye."

CLHS Invites Individual Memberships

The Connecticut League of Historical Societies which was created to "stimulate activities of historical organizations, enrich knowledge of state history, and act as a clearinghouse for information" offers individual memberships to interested persons. A fee of \$10.00 may be sent to membership secretary Mrs. Joseph Kyc at 447 Main St., South Windsor, CT 06074. Primarily an organization of historical societies to which we belong collectively, this offers persons not now receiving bulletins and notices to do so. It meets four times yearly, and awards outstanding work by both organizations and individuals in historical fields with special recognition.



Recommended Reading

by Henry B. Hoff

There has long been a need for a book about genealogy, and *Applied Genealogy* by Eugene A. Stratton fills that need at last. Not a how-to guide, this 339-page book covers in detail many of the general aspects of U.S. genealogy and genealogical research. The author writes in a down-to-earth, conversational style that is easy to understand.

Some of the questions I am occasionally asked are answered in this book. For example, what are "genealogical credentials"? This is answered in Chapter 15, "The Organization of Genealogy," with the following subheadings:

- o Early Genealogical Societies in America
- o The Founding of The American Genealogist
- o More Genealogical Societies and Annual Conferences
- o Problems of Conferences
- o LDS Genealogical Activities
- o Accreditation and Certification of Genealogists
- o Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists
- o Other Fellows
- o Genealogical Coordinating Committee
- o Genealogical Institutes
- o Libraries, Publishers, and Booksellers

In these 17 pages he summarizes all the pertinent information you might want to know.

A crucial question is when is something "proved" for genealogical purposes [and beginners may be too stringent as well as too lax]. A good portion of the book deals with this very question--in Chapters 4 (Standards and Documentation, 5 (Whole-

Family Genealogy), 6 (The Name's the Same), 7 (Analyzing Evidence), and 8 (Indirect Evidence). To illustrate his points, the author provides many examples, mostly from his work on families of colonial New England or medieval England, his two main areas of interest.

In Chapter 10 he treats the role of hereditary societies, concentrating on the Mayflower Society of which he was formerly the Historian General. In Chapters 11 and 12 he discusses royal ancestry with up-to-date case studies. This is an area of particular interest and expertise of Mr. Stratton as he was formerly the Herald/Genealogist for the Descendants of the Illegitimate Sons and Daughters of the Kings of Britain, a little-known hereditary society.

Subjects treated in other chapters include computers, genetics and genealogical journals with references to the most current material on the subjects.

This book is essential reading for every genealogist, from beginner to experienced, as well as for the intelligent reader who is not necessarily interested in genealogy but wants to get an overview of the subject. Even if you are not interested in the same aspects of genealogy the author is, the insights of this prominent genealogist are invaluable.

Eugene Stratton is also the author of the highly-acclaimed *Plymouth Colony: Its History and People 1620-1691*, and of *Killing Cousins*, a just-released murder mystery with a genealogical theme.

To order any of these books, write to Ancestry, Inc., P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. The prices are:

<i>Applied Genealogy</i>	\$12.95 (softbound)
<i>Plymouth Colony</i>	\$15.95 (softbound)
	\$19.95 (hardbound)
<i>Killing Cousins</i>	\$16.50 (softbound)

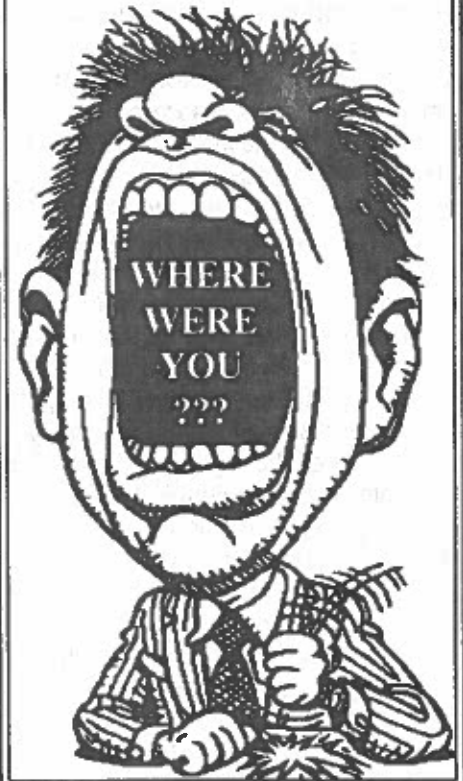
Add \$3.25 postage & handling for orders \$10-\$25, and \$.75 for the next \$25. You can ask to receive their free catalogue.



Grant Radmall teaches Genealogy Computer Course

On Wednesday night, March 29th, Grant taught a 2 hour computer course on the LDS Personal Ancestry File computer software. The evening was free to those interested. He took us through the basics of the software and then went on to cover all the advantages this program allows. The Family History Library at the LDS church in New Canaan is planning to have more of these evenings on genealogy issues. If you are interested in what is going on and when, call the Family History Library in New Canaan and leave your name and address. You will be notified of the next meeting.

THERE WERE ONLY TWENTY-EIGHT PEOPLE AT THE GENERAL MEETING!!!



A Hidden Resource at the Library of Congress

taken from the NGS Newsletter
Vol. 15, No. 2, Mar-Apr 1989
written by George Archer

In the Genealogy and Local History Room of the Library of Congress, next to the door leading to the stacks, are two file cabinets full of microfiche. The microfiche are the result of a project of the Microfilming Corporation of America (now University Microfilms International), 300 N. Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346.

Begun in 1982, UMI's Genealogy and Local History microfiche collection includes printed American genealogies, genealogical serials, printed primary source material, and local histories.

The labels on the file cabinet drawers follow the letter code assigned to each of the categories of the collection: G-Genealogy, GS-Genealogical Serials, LH-Local History, and PS-Primary Sources.

Access to individual entries is through a thirteen-part set of guides, still in progress with two or three published each year. Each booklet has two columns of entries arranged like card catalog entries in a library. A letter (or letters) and a number precede each entry, e.g., LH 55. The letters correspond to the four categories of the collection. The numbers are used on the corresponding sheets of microfiche and in the indexes at the back of each booklet.

Each guide has four alphabetical indexes: author, title, geographic, and name. The geographic index is arranged alphabetically by country and state and by subdivisions within states. The name index includes all names found on the title pages of the works included in the project, including name variants if listed on the title page.

The staff copies of parts 1-4 of the guide have annotated listings of the Library of Congress call numbers for those works held by the Library of Congress. A guesstimate is that only about 30 percent of the works in the project are in the Library of Congress.

As of 1988, the collection is strongest on Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. It is particularly strong on New York and Massachusetts works.



Salt Lake City Research Tour November 5-12, 1989

The New England Historic Genealogical Society invites you to join their Eleventh Annual Salt Lake City Research Tour. Spend a week with other genealogy enthusiasts as their Director Ralph J. Crandall and members of the NEHGS staff guide you through the world's largest collection of microfilm resources, housed at the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

The Tour will include accommodations for seven nights at the Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel, four group dinners, a sight-seeing tour, and lectures by the Family History Library staff (and NEHGS specialists) tailored to meet your needs.

COST OF TOUR

per person, transportation not included

Single: \$795

Double: \$610

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States presents

Journey into the Past

May 17-20, 1989

St. Paul, Minnesota

For an \$80 registration fee you get 4 days of seminars and lectures prepared by experts in the fields of genealogy, history, and ethnic research; access to nearly one hundred vendor and book displays; selected entertainment events; an invitation to the host society reception; hands-on demonstrations of the latest genealogy computer programs; and the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with more than 1,000 other folks who share your interest in family history.

The Radisson Hotel St. Paul and Holiday Inn Town Square are the official hotels. Each have set aside a block of rooms that will be available at discounted rates (\$55-\$59 single, \$59-\$69 double).

COASTLINE TREASURES TOUR NEW LONDON-OLD LYME

Sponsored by
Darien Historical Society
and
Middlesex Genealogical Society

Wednesday, April 26, 1989

The Lyman Allyn Museum
The Deshon-Allon House
Historic Old Lyme Inn
Florence Griswold Museum

Call 655-9233 for more info

NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Announced their
1989 "Come Home to New England"
to be held
June 25-July 2
and
August 20-26

Lectures are presented during the four mornings in the Society building, allowing ample time for personal research in the afternoons and evenings. Lodgings are within walking distance at Boston Park Plaza Hotel. If you prefer, there is also a B&B Inn list available. A harbor cruise is planned for Tuesday evening. For more information, contact NEHGS, 101 Newbury St, Boston, MA 02116.

STAMFORD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

is featuring
Gary Boyd Roberts
at their
annual meeting
on May 6th at 11 a.m.

Bush-Holley Barn
39 Strickland Road
Cos Cob, CT

Mr. Roberts will present a lecture entitled, "Find the Right Book. Find Your Ancestor" A buffet lunch follows when Mr. Roberts will consult with individuals on their research lines. Open to the public. Admission is \$6, includes lunch. Bring your charts! For more info, contact Meriwether Schmid, 637-0437.

Can You Name Your Eight Great-Grandparents?



The Genealogy Craze

taken from *World Press Review*,
November 1987
originally published in
The Economist of London

The first book of the Bible recites the genealogy of the patriarchs. The first chapter of St. Matthew's gospel gives the genealogy of Jesus. Even the Anglo-Saxon chronicle begins with the ancestry of the pagan Saxon chieftains. Today, tribes too primitive to be literate tell of their ancestors from memory.

This is genealogy of the first kind. Its object is proof of the legitimacy of power. Medieval European Kings claimed descent from Charlemagne--or even the Roman emperors--as one way of showing their right to the throne. And across Europe, aristocrats used their pedigrees to justify their local powers and their land holdings.

This led gradually to genealogy of the second kind--the quest by those made wealthy by trade, finance, or industry to show connection with the holders of inherited wealth and power. This was the mainspring of 19th- and early 20th-century genealogy. A good example of the result of such work is Castle Drogo in Devon, a fairy-tale palace built for a wealthy tea merchant called Drew who somehow managed to trace his bloodline back to a Saxon prince named Drogo.

A third kind of genealogy is thriving today. In Western societies with large, mobile populations, ordinary people are trying to make themselves seem a little less ordinary by finding out where they come from. Genealogical societies have sprung up all over the U.S., Europe, and Australia. Many books and articles are published on the subject, and there are "guilds of one-name studies" in Britain and America that organize get-togethers of families with unusual names.

Mobility and wealth have prompted curiosity in ordinary people about their roots. In past centuries, people lived out their lives in one place with parents, grandparents, and cousins either in the same village or over the hill. They did not need to wonder where they came from.

Things began to change in the 19th century, when vast numbers of people moved from the country into the cities, or emigrated to the New World. These emigrants lost touch with their roots. In the U.S., for example, a surprising number of people are unable to name all four of their grandparents, let alone their eight great-grandparents.

Around 750,000 people emigrated to America between 1607 and 1800. They were mostly English, followed by Scots, Irish, Germans, and smaller groups from other European countries. About 75,000 blacks came from Africa during that period, mostly as slaves.

The greatest migration in history took place between 1800 and 1914. During that period, some 28 million people migrated from Europe to America. What had begun as a trickle turned into a flood after 1840.

The fact that such big movements of people occurred relatively recently helps to explain why interest in genealogy of the third kind is gathering strength today. It takes about three generations before the descendants of immigrants start to show an interest in their ancestry. The parents and grandparents were more concerned with becoming part of their adopted homeland.

The first genealogical societies in America were formed in the 1840s. In 1850, U.S. census records were opened to the general public. This marked the beginning of the popular genealogy that has become so widespread today.

Interest reached a peak at the time of the bicentennial celebrations in 1976. This coincided with the televised version of Alex Haley's book *Roots*, the story of how a black American traced his ancestry back to the Kinte clan of Old Mali through a Moslem holy man who came from Mauritania. Genealogical societies were besieged with inquiries from both black and white Americans. Ten years later, the obsession shows no sign of abating.

Australia, too, has caught the bug. Nearly a third of Australia's population is descended from the 163,000 convicts who were transported from Britain between 1788 and the 1840s. The children and grandchildren of these convicts preferred to forget who their parents or grandparents were; there was still a slight stigma attached to convict descent.

But what the children or grandchildren wish to forget, the great-grandchildren wish to remember. There is a new pride, not so much of the convicts themselves, but in how much the family has achieved since then. One Australian woman proudly claims that 16 of her forebears were convicts. A recent book on the convict-settlers, *The Fatal Shore* by Robert Hughes, was a bestseller.

In Britain, genealogy of the second, snobbish kind blossomed in the mid-19th century. It thrived on social ambitions fostered by the industrial revolution. Researchers would be commissioned to provide bogus evidence of gentility in order to cover up undesirable connections and enhance marriage prospects. Until the end of World War II, genealogy had the reputation of being a shoddy business that attracted snobs and cranks. The clientele was paying for plausible fiction rather than reassuring truth, while the establishment was anxious to fend off the upstarts.

An element of snobbishness still lingers, but the genealogy business in now more down-to-earth. The average British visitor to the Society of Genealogists in London, which has nearly 10,000 members, tends to be like his American counterpart. He merely wishes to know who he is and which county and village his family came from.

Enthusiasm is spreading across Europe, even to communist countries such as Poland. In France, the *Centre d'Entraide Genealogique* has more than 900 members. Employees at the car company Peugeot and at the Banque de France have formed their own genealogical clubs.

In West Germany, genealogical societies receive 55,000 inquiries a year, a large proportion of them from the U.S. The German aristocracy is still a tightly knit community with its own genealogical clubs such as the Association of German Noblemen, but there has been a relative lack of interest in ancestor-hunting among the rest of the population. Some German genealogists think this is because of echoes of the Third Reich. During the 1930s, the Nazis collected civil, parish, and synagogue records to establish who was of "pure" blood and who was not. Germans were required to demonstrate four generations with no Jewish blood.

Interest in genealogy has revived only recently in Germany. The fairly even spread of prosperity has meant that the life style of the middle-class German is much like that of his neighbors. A country in which the third best-selling car is a Mercedes has a thirst for other ways of distinguishing neighbor from neighbor. Genealogy provides one such way.

Until World War II, genealogists made money by producing fraudulent family histories for those who wished to enhance their social status. Today, buying "background" is no longer a common practice, and genealogists have acquired respectability. They undertake thorough and accurate detective work for clients who wish to chart their family trees or to find rightful heirs.

As people have more leisure, many think it more interesting to do the research themselves. The work may involve searching through parish registers, census records, land deeds, and army records. For Americans this can be a particularly tortuous process because many immigrants had their surnames changed when they arrived at Ellis Island.

Some researchers are now using genealogical computer programs; there already are 60 available in the U.S. The Society of Genealogists in London is preparing its own.

In France genealogy can be lucrative if you are an heir-tracer. When a person dies intestate, a notary contacts a firm of heir-tracers and asks it to track down possible beneficiaries. If the tracers are successful, they claim 10 percent of the value of the inheritance.

In the U.S., genealogical businesses advertise in magazines and through the mails offering "complete" family histories for \$19.95 or an even "more complete" history for \$29.95. Serious genealogists deplore the sending of grossly inaccurate family trees to unsuspecting clients. A number of states have made these activities illegal.

What of the genealogists? Apart from those who are in the business for money, they are anxious to dispel the old image of being dry snobs, interested only in tracing ancient bloodlines. Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd, a British genealogist, thinks of himself as a "social historian" and sees his work as the pursuit of truth and therefore the antithesis of snobbery. Old-style genealogists still exist, however. Some even alter their pedigrees to match their pretensions.



The cheapest way to have your family tree traced is to run for public office.

OCUPSYSHUN - Cencus Taker:

"I am a cencus takers for the city of Bufflow. Our City has groan very fast in resent years & now in 1865, it has become a hard & time consuming job to count all the peephill. There are not many that con do this werk, as it is nessessarie to have an ejucashun, wich a lot of pursons still do not have. Another atribeart needed for this job is god spelling, for meny of the pephill to be counted can hardle speek inglish, let alon spel there names!"

*Genealogy begins as an interest,
Becomes a hobby;
Continues as an avocation,
Takes over as an obsession,
And in its last stages,
Is an incurable disease.*

A sign on the door in plain view as you enter the office of the County Clerk of Macon County, Bill Tangney, reads: "Have you hugged your County Clerk lately?"

(the above selections taken from *The Sunny Side of Genealogy*, Compiled by Fonda D. Baselt, 1988)





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



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