



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume III, Number 3

September 1986

In Search of English Surnames

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1986

2:00 p.m. in the FERGUSON LIBRARY AUDITORIUM, Stamford, CT

(Parking is available in the Caldor parking garage next door to the library. The entrance is on Summer Street. Fee charged.)

The Middlesex Genealogical Society's September meeting will be a joint one with the Stamford Genealogical Society, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists and the Westchester Genealogical Society.

The featured speaker will be GEORGE REDMONDS, Ph.D., of England, who is a professional genealogist and one of the world's foremost authorities on English surnames. He will speak on the use of surnames to trace and locate ancestors when standard references fail.

In addition to the talk by Dr. Redmonds, JAMES EDWARD BOLLES of Norwalk, an art director, designer, illustrator and amateur genealogist, will present "What's His Name", an animated cartoon which he wrote, illustrated and produced.

All are welcome. Bring a friend!

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

September is here again - too soon for many of us. I hope all of you have had a chance to visit the Darien Library to see, and hopefully use, the new International Genealogical Index (IGI) which came in last month. If the response is good perhaps we can expand it to include other countries besides the U.S. and Canada. Mary Freedman reported that every time she passes the Business Room, someone is in there using the IGI.

I also hope that as you all go out to do research in other libraries and use various sources you will keep your eyes open for articles, notices of meetings or new genealogical-related organizations - anything other members of the MGS might be interested in hearing about which I can

put in the Newsletter. Remember, I need input from YOU!

The Veterans Cemetery Project is all ready for the printer and, when the funding for it comes through, will be published as an Occasional Paper by the MGS. Nikki Hollander, Jane Merchant and Ruth and Grant Radmall are to be commended on all the time and work they put into this publication. And it's not even finished - this is just the first installment! Personally, I think this is such a worthwhile source of genealogical information that I plan on buying several copies to donate to libraries I feel should have this information.

The MGS is growing! Our resources are expanding and with the addition to the library, our space should hopefully

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MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Officers:

President: Robert E. Fatherley
 Vice President: Doris W. Hollander
 Secretary: Ray H. Bartlett
 Treasurer: George T. Cushman

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 a.m.-noon) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter.

Annual memberships are \$10 Individual and \$15 Couple or Family.

The Newsletter is published in March, June, September and December. We welcome original articles and notices of genealogical interest. The Editor is Marianne W. Sheldon.

Address all correspondence to the Society and the Newsletter to:
 Middlesex Genealogical Society
 45 Old Kings Highway North
 Darien, CT 06820.

INDIANA ANCESTORS?

If you have ancestors who lived for any time in Indiana, LINES AND TIMES will search their own genealogical library for your surname. For information and fees send a large SASE to:

LINES and TIMES
 3205 W. Woodbridge Drive
 Muncie, IN 47304.

(Editor's note: Please remember that the MGS Newsletter does not endorse any products or services mentioned in it. These are things we feel might be of interest to our readers but we often have no idea of how good the product or service is.

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expand. I do urge all of you to go over to the Ferguson Library in Stamford to see the new Stamford Room where their genealogical collection is now housed. It is beautiful. Their reference materials are now all together in a separate, quiet area with desks, wing chairs for reading and lots of space. They also have quite a good collection of materials for genealogists in many areas, not just locally.

As a last note - even though it is a bit early I want to remind all of our members about the Washington's Birthday Luncheon in February. It will be held at the Silvermine Tavern again and, along with being a good way to meet other MGS members, is also a remembrance celebration of those good friends and members who are no longer with us. So, do make plans now to join us - we had a lovely time last year.

Marianne Sheldon

RELATED TO POCAHONTAS?

Every American schoolchild has heard of the story of Pocahontas, the Indian princess who saved the life of Captain John Smith. But how many of you know that she eventually married one of the English settlers, John Rolfe, had children and eventually died in England after becoming one of the toasts of English society?

The Pocahontas Trails Genealogical Society has been organized for those who are known descendants of Pocahontas, those doing research to determine descendancy and others just interested in Pocahontas. There are many surnames with a tie-in to Pocahontas. Just a few are: Bolling, Bernard, Branch, Bland, Cabell, Dandridge, Eldridge, Field, Fleming, Gay, Grayson, Harrison, Lewis, Meade, Murray, Page, Poythress, Randolph, Robertson, Tazewell and West.

The Society publishes a quarterly and queries are free to members. Dues are \$10 annually. For more information write to Pearl Bullock, 3628 Cherokee Lane, Modesto, CA 95354.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

by Jane C. Merchant

"What's in a name?" - Juliet's famous question which she hoped would persuade Romeo because "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet" - why all the fuss about Montagus and Capulets? When it comes to first names, however, there is no doubt that parents take a name which they bestow upon their offspring very seriously!

Tracing family lines back into the 17th century, through family Bible records or town lists of births and marriages in New England among the devout Puritans, it is not hard to discover a positive passion for obscure Biblical names. In some of the lists of Canterbury, Conn., beginning with 1698 through 1796, it is like reading the Old Testament with its endless "begats": Isaac, Josiah, Moses, Aaron, Eleazer, Elkanah, Bethabra and Eliphaz, are but a few of the names of males, while among the female births and marriage records we find Zipporah, Kezia, Katurah (this name also appears as masculine), Abial, Azubah, Asena and Jerusha, with, of course, plenty of the more commonly known Ruths, Rebeccas, Naomis, etc.

Another fashion in names, which also seems to be quite quaintly New England, is naming children for "virtues" - and this often leads to confusion in genealogy research, as the same name will appear in a family as either masculine or feminine. For instance, Experience turns up in the Canterbury marriage list of females; she married a man named Jabez Holmes (1749) - but Experience is also the name of the husband of a woman named Remberance. The date of 1749 seems to be significant, because this was the time of a great revival of stricter piety known as the "Great Awakening" - and in its wake, there are many girls named Submit, Charity, Prudence, Patience, Thankful, etc. A curious one is Deliverance, who named her son Deliverance (her husband was a nice familiar Edward, but son Deliverance married a Thankful). Waitstill and Hopesstill appear as male names and one daughter in the list of births was (hopefully?) named Wealthy. Let us hope the Protestant Work Ethic brought her its just reward.

While the above lists of names are a

reflection of the piety of the Puritans, this is not to say there were not many of what we think of as "usual" first names - and indeed there is a pattern in the family choice of them which is explained by Angus Baxter (member of The Society of Genealogists in London, England and author of In Search of Your British and Irish Roots, 1982, MacMillan of Canada) which was popular in England from about 1700-1845 and was often followed by American families. In this "system" we find that the first son is named for his paternal grandfather, the second son for his mother's father, the third son for the father, the fourth son for the mother's brother. The first daughter was named for her paternal grandmother, the second daughter for the mother's mother, the third daughter for the mother, the fourth daughter for the mother's sister, and so on. It is interesting to run down a list of children born to a couple of eighteenth century ancestors to see if this pattern seems to fit.

The nineteenth century seems to be much more creative in its fashion for names. There had occurred in England a great revival of interest in classical Rome and Greece, reflected in the architecture of the times, the furniture of Adams and Sheraton, and in names! This was all eventually copied over here and we find many boys named Virgil, Homer, Horace, Alexander, Hector and the like, while Minerva, Diana, Lucretia, Theodosia, Diadema and Electa were popular names for girls. America was also recognizing her great men and, with hopes for producing yet another Henry Clay, John Jay, Patrick Henry (you can supply your own continuation of this list), these names appear in many a family genealogy.

Of course, the romantic Victorians, whose stamp was also made on the American consciousness, gave names like Pearl, Flora, Coral and Violet to their daughters while sons became known as Lancelot, Percival, Arthur (honoring Tennyson as much as his inspiration for reviving the Knights of the Table Round). Another fashion was for double first names, those that ripple off your tongue, like Mary Maria, Henrietta Rosalie, Cora Eveline, or the more sober-sounding Edward Henry, George Albert, Charles Luther - these were often combinations of family first names.

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One of my great-great grandmothers was named for both parents - she was called Henrianna. My husband's mother was named Amanda Roberta (her father, of course, was Robert).

Obviously Juliet's remark about the rose could never have applied to the choice of a first name. We may be somewhat bemused by those old-fashioned influences of religion, passing fads or fancies, or even just a good old passion for preserving a family given name, but let's not forget that in the twentieth century, children have been named for movie stars, trendy people and other celebrities. Who knows there may be more than a few Rambos baptised this year!

"ORPHAN" PLACEMENT UPDATE

by Norman Adams

In the March '86 issue of the MGS quarterly newsletter I presented an interim report on progress in getting two "orphan" Everest items to suitable homes. I am happy to report that these items are now in the hands of appreciative, responsible recipients.

To recapitulate, two items, each exhibiting the surname "Everest" were presented to the MGS in the winter of 1985/86 with the hope and expectation that the Society could find a suitable repository for each of these two items. The only known history of these items was that they were acquired as a single package some years ago. While both contain names of various Everests, neither has any reference to any person named in the other item. Therefore, research was needed to find the exact connection of the two items.

The first item is a pension form, dated 10 May 1879, indicating that a U.S. pension is payable to Abby G. Everest as the "mother of William C. Everest who was a Corporal, Co. C, 12th Reg't, Connecticut Vols". The second item is the will of "Eunice Everest of Cornwall in Litchfield County, and State of Connecticut", dated 4 September 1837.

The pension form has been given to the Windsor Historical Society, Inc., Windsor, Conn. The will has been given to the Cornwall Historical Society, Inc., Cornwall, Conn. Each of the two items is accompanied by a photocopy of the other and a copy of a report detailing our findings (which are given below in a condensed version of the report).

Conclusions about the Everest items

It turns out that both items are closely linked to the same man, Rev. Cornelius Bradford Everest, a Congregational clergyman who was born in Cornwall, Conn. on 14 March 1789 (Ref. 6) and who died on 29 March 1870 (8,9). The pension form relates to the payment to the widow of Cornelius Bradford Everest of a pension for the war service (2) of his son and the will is that of the mother of Cornelius Bradford Everest.

An interesting, but confusing, aspect of the Everest family history is that there were at least two relevant Daniel Everests and at least three relevant Eunice Everests all alive around 1800. There was a couple, Daniel and Eunice (to be unambiguous I will call her "mother Eunice") Everest, her maiden name unknown, who had 8 children (1). These children were born in the years 1775 through 1792. Among these children were a Daniel and a Eunice, who were twins, and Cornelius Bradford Everest, b born 14 March 1789, who became the Congregational clergyman. To compound the confusion the twin Daniel married a Eunice Steward of Milton Society 3 November 1813.

The will clearly is written by mother Eunice. She names four of her children. Each of the four can be identified in International Genealogical Index (IGI) data (1). One of these children is Cornelius Bradford Everest, who is named both an heir and the executor of the will. The will is dated just one year prior to mother Eunice's death on 6 September 1838, at age 84. She was therefore 83 when she signed this will, which is consistent with the shakiness of her signature.

The pension form clearly relates to the son and to the wife of Cornelius Bradford Everest. Church records (7)

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show that Cornelius had a son, William Cleveland Everest, who was baptized 23 October 1831, that the maiden name of Cornelius's wife was Abigail Gold and that on many occasions her name was given as Abby. Her headstone inscription (8) names her "Abby Gold Everest" and gives her dates as 28 January 1798 and 7 July 1885. Abby was alive (and a widow) on 10 May 1879, the date on which the pension form was signed.

Accounts of the church-related aspects of the career of Cornelius appear in each of two published works (5,10) and those two accounts are generally consistent with the dates and events detailed in the church records. According to all sources, he was in Windsor at the time of the 1850 U.S. Census. Church records show that he married Abigail Gold in 1817 and that they had at least six children: Harriet, Cornelius, Mary, William, Henry and Martha, probably in that order. There is no doubt that the family listed in the 1850 Census (3,4) as family 183 in dwelling 181 in Windsor was Cornelius, his wife Abby, his daughters Mary and Martha, and another person (an 8 year old girl) of unknown relationship. Similarly, the census entry for family 264 in dwelling 259 naming William C. Everest is clearly the entry for Cornelius's son, William Cleveland Everest.

I assume that the baptism of each of Cornelius's children occurred within a few months of its birth. On this basis the ages of the four Everests in the census data for family 183 are reasonably consistent with other information. Martha was baptized 3 March 1837 and the census reports her age as 12 in 1850, which is 1 year younger than suggested by the baptism date. Mary was baptized 12 September 1823 and the census reports her age as 26. These two data appear consistent. Abby was born 28 January 1798 and the census reports her age as 52. These two data are consistent. Cornelius was born 14 March 1789 and the census reports his age as 61. These two data are consistent. Cornelius's son, William Cleveland Everest, was baptized 23 October 1831. The census data for family 264 reports his age as 19. If his baptism was delayed until several months after his birth, these two data are

consistent. If he was baptized soon after birth, the census age is 1 year too old.

References:

1. International Genealogical Index (IGI), published and updated periodically by the Genealogical Society of Utah.
2. Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the Rebellion. Prepared by the Connecticut Adjutant-General's office. Hartford, CT, 1889.
3. Connecticut 1850 Census Index. Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc. Ronald Vern Jackson and Gary Ronald Teeples, editors.
4. U.S. Census of 1850. Connecticut.
5. Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Connecticut. General Assembly of Congregational Churches. New Haven. William L. Kingsley. 1861. pp. 309,349, 458,466,510.
6. The Barbour Collection at the Conn. State Library.
7. The Church Records Index at the Conn. State Library.
8. The Headstone Inscriptions collection at the Conn. State Library.
9. The Index to Death Notices and Cemetery Records at the Conn. State Library.
10. The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut: Including East Windsor, South Windsor, Bloomfield, Windsor Locks, and Ellington, 1635-1891. Vol. I. Revised Edition. Henry Reed Stiles. Hartford, CT. Case, Lockwood & Brainard. 1891-92. pp. 299-300.

Editor's Note: I'm sure all of us have accumulated at least one or two items of genealogical or historical interest which is of no use to us, but, because we know it could be important to someone we dare not throw it out. Many things have traveled far from their origins in our mobile society. In getting these items back to their "roots," persons doing research on a particular family will be more likely to connect with important family things "lost" over a few generations. Photos, personal records, Bible records, obscure genealogies printed for just a few family members - all of these could be just the thing someone is desperate to find - and you have it hidden away in your attic, unused and unwanted! Let's make an effort, through Norman Adams, to get these things to wherever they can be of help to a fellow researcher. Write Norman at: 5 Wilton Acres, Wilton, CT 06897.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAINE...

With the articles we've been publishing recently on Maine research and the MOCA (Maine Old Cemetery Association) there may be some of you who are planning a trip to the Maine State Library in Augusta to do some research. **CALL THE LIBRARY FIRST!** We understand that the Library has been closed indefinitely due to an asbestos problem. Perhaps the staff can figure out some other way for you to get the information you need, so see if you can make your arrangements before getting there.

'HERITAGE BOOK': FAMILY HISTORY OR PHONE BOOK?

by Larry Reibstein, Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

(This is a reprint from THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, November 4, 1985, p. 27. It was submitted by Henry B. Hoff, a MGS member and noted genealogist, to warn about some of the unscrupulous people working through genealogical "deals". Be sure about the reputations and quality of work before investing money in unknown genealogists and products.)

Curious about her ancestry, Mildred Apitz was eager to buy when a postcard arrived offering the "Apitz Family Heritage Book."

"I thought they would actually trace this particular name - it is unusual - and where it came from and what happened to the family in the U.S.," recalls Mrs. Apitz, who lives in Topeka, Kan.

But when the book arrived, she says, it contained a few pages listing other people named Apitz - but not even her son or daughter - and blank space to draw her family tree. "It didn't give me any names I didn't already know," she says.

Last year at least 10 million people got similar postcards urging them to pay \$29.85 for a "Family Heritage Book" from Beatrice Bayley Inc., based in Sterling, Pa. How many bought one isn't known. But law-enforcement authorities say that many takers quickly discovered that the book contains not their lineage but simply a list of people with the same last names.

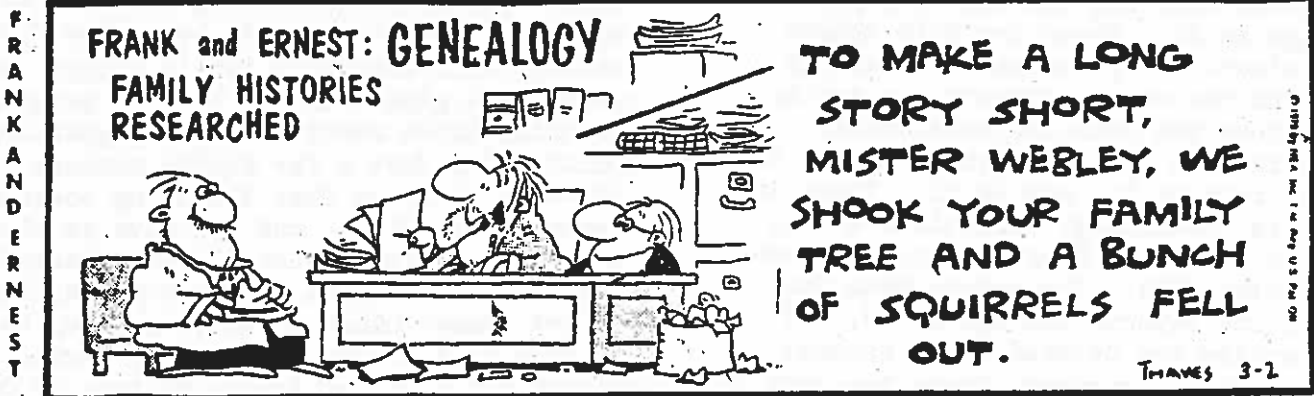
"I'm a genealogist, and there's no genealogy in that book," snaps Elizabeth White. "This is like a telephone book."

That same conclusion has sparked investigations and complaints by the U.S. Postal Inspector and state officials in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Similar investigations took place in 1980.

What raises consumers' expectations, investigators say, is the personalized postcard. "It gives people the impression that their book is about their specific family...when in fact it's a general genealogy guidebook" unrelated to a particular family, says Barbara W. Tuerkheimer, a Wisconsin assistant attorney general.

William P. Rice, for instance, a Chicago artist and amateur genealogist, says he had hoped the book would provide information on a Virginia branch of his family. After all, the postcard promised to guide him "through the discovery and documentation of your personal and family heritage," and assured him that "thousands

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LOVE
GIVE
THE
LITTLE
WHITE
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