



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume III, Number 2

June 1986

The IGI is here !

The MGS and the Darien Library have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of the IGI (International Genealogical Index) which has been on order for a number of months. It is finally here and ready for use by researchers.

The IGI is an index to names found in computerized files of the Genealogical Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS).

The 1984 edition of the IGI (formerly the Computer File Index (CFI)) includes more than 88 million names from records of over 90 countries. At this point, we have only purchased those microfiche cards for the United States and Canada. The names on these cards are for deceased persons only, mostly for periods from the early 1500's (1600's for this continent) to about 1875.

The IGI is published on microfiche. Each microfiche contains 357 pages, or frames, with up to 62 names per page. The IGI is updated and reprinted periodically so a researcher should always check the edition date (on the top of the microfiche) if the name being researched had not been found on previous editions.

If you have not previously used the IGI the library staff is there to help. An instruction booklet is also available to make your research simpler. If you are looking for persons in countries other than the U.S. and Canada, the LDS Library in New Canaan has the rest of the Index.

The IGI is a great addition to our research aids and we are very lucky to be one of the few places in the area to have such easy access to it.

Those who have no pride in the deeds of a remote ancestry will hardly be likely to accomplish anything worthy to be remembered by a remote posterity.

-Macaulay

GENEALOGICAL SUPPLY CATALOG

If any MGS members are interested, the Editor has a copy of the Genealogical Supply Catalog from Genealogy Unlimited, Inc. of 789 So. Buffalo Grove Rd., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089. They carry guide books for genealogical research in the U.S., England, Scandinavia and Continental Europe (particularly Germany), genealogical forms and books for recording information, maps (modern and historical), archival quality protection supplies, and they make copies of old photographs. I have ordered from them and found the service to be quick. If you wish your own free catalog, write to the address above.

CAUSES OF DEATH - MISSOURI STYLE

These causes of death were listed on Missouri death certificates found by a researcher:

1. Died suddenly - nothing seriously wrong.
2. Went to bed feeling well - woke up dead.
3. Worn out.
4. Don't know - never been fatally ill before.
5. Don't know - died without the aid of a physician.
6. Blow on the head with an axe -
Contributory cause, another man's wife.

(reprinted in "Cornsilk", quarterly of the Genealogical Society of DeKalb Co., IL, Vol. 4, No. 1, p. 3.)

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.

AMERICAN FRENCH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

For any of our members with French ancestry, the American French Genealogical Society, formed in February 1978, may just be the answer. This non-profit genealogical and historical society's purpose is "to discover, study and preserve our rich Franco-American heritage through assisting our members in discovering their ancestors and the daily events that shaped their, and consequently, our lives. The Society is actively involved in extracting, collating, and publishing of Franco-American vital statistics, parish registers, burial records and other datum consistent with the purposes of the Society."

The Society's resources include a library which consists of more than 1,000 volumes of repertoires (Marriage indexes for the Province of Quebec, U.S., etc.), genealogies, biographies, and histories of Franco-Americans. They also have an active resource development program designed to gather and collate Franco-American data, consisting of a Vital Statistics File, Vertical Files of news media, Pedigree Files and Obituary Files. The Society also holds monthly meetings with speakers, an annual 2-day conference each April, weekly research sessions and publishes a quarterly publication entitled "Je Me Souviens".

Membership in the American French Genealogical Society is \$10 Individual, \$15 Family and \$150 Life. The Library is located at 151 Fountain St., Pawtucket, RI 02861 (easy exit 29 off I-95). Address all correspondence to the Society to P.O. Box 2113, Pawtucket, RI 02861.

Relatively Speaking

When speaking of our ancestry,
 my mother's eyes would shine;
 And proudly she would tell us all:
 "You're of the Tudor line."

But father with a smile would say,
 "While bearing that in mind,
 You keep your eyes on goals ahead,
 not those that lie behind.

"You have a noble ancestry,
 but all are dead and gone.
 'Tis you who have to prove your worth,
 not those who've journeyed on.

"And back along that Tudor line,
 'tis sorry truth I state,
 There may be some you can't approve,
 and even some you'd hate.

"The way to prove your ancestry
 is what you are yourself,
 Not by the charted family tree
 in books upon the shelf.

"So try to be an ancestor,
 within the time allowed,
 Of whom your children's children
 in the future can be proud."

-Anonymous

MORE ON MAINE CEMETERIES

(This article was sent in by Carl Moses, one of our members involved in Maine genealogical research. It was originally printed in the "Just Looking Around with Clyde Richards" column in the "Eastern Gaazette", March 20, 1986.)

OLD CEMETERIES Part II

Along the way concerning old cemeteries. Would you believe that a single Maine community has 186 documented cemeteries - both public and private? Or that a small Maine County has 814 such recordings? Both of these surprising facts are actual and accurate. Do keep in mind though that these include family burial plots.

The Maine Old Cemetery Association has accomplished a great deal in the nearly seventeen years of its organization and moves steadily forward in its efforts with our past records and preservation of same.

The MOCA has since 1970 copied and filed in permanent binders thousands of gravestone inscriptions. Arranged by county, town and cemetery, this information is available for use in the Genealogical Section of the Maine State Library in Augusta and microfilmed records are available through some libraries and for interested individuals at modest fees.

To give a more graphic illustration of the extent of this group's work, let's parade some brief statistics. The Association's so-called Series One closed in September of 1980 and contained over 10,500 pages of cemetery data while continued work through December of 1982 added roughly another 7000 pages to the bulging ledgers. And the work has gone on since for a remarkable effort.

Some of us with direct ties to the Revolutionary War are impressed by the fact that this group, through the efforts of over 200 researchers, collected and recorded all available information on over 7500 Revolutionary War veterans who had lived in Maine before, during, or after the war. This information is also available through some public libraries and several historical agencies throughout the state. If you've ever had even a remote connection with any type of research you'll realize that research notes are quite often more revealing or

complete than edited results. Many research notes covering this on-going project are currently available at the Special Collections Department in the University of Maine's Fogler Library at Orono.

Up until late last fall, the MOCA had documented some 814 cemeteries in small York County and it was the Town of York itself that listed those 186 such spots. And those connected with the Association feel that even in that small county much work remains to be done.

The greatest need for verification and assistance in locating and recording this important data now seems to be north to Aroostook County and expanded data covering Piscataquis County. Recent figures indicated text from 12 cemeteries in Dover-Foxcroft covered some 220 pages in the organization's ledgers with far less from Dexter area at the time.

It's interesting to note the impetus given by the MOCA to various historical, civic, religious and municipal groups in caring for and maintaining records on neglected or sometimes lost old cemeteries across the state.

Some thirty-five years ago, it was a revelation to scan those old markers and stones at Dexter's Green Cemetery. Old and certainly battered by years of weather but not entirely neglected, these grounds were an intriguing view to a past not completely forgotten.

We're indebted to Miss Katherine W. Trickey, current Editor of the Maine Old Cemetery Association for a great deal of information on a little known group accomplishing a tremendous ongoing project. This association meets three times each year at various locations throughout the state and devotes the day-long sessions to local histories, local cemeteries, legislation and obviously preservation. This valued organization welcomes new members willing to participate in stated activities. An interest in membership should be addressed to P.O. Box 324, Augusta, ME 04330.

They who never look back to their ancestors will never look forward to posterity.

-Burke

A CONNECTICUT YANKEE
by Jane C. Merchant

"Captain James Chamberlain was a man of large stature (being six feet in his stockings and weighing over 250 pounds avoir-dupois), of fine appearance, and well known throughout the Colony and State of Connecticut". This description of my great, great, great, great grandfather appears in The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Conn. 1635-1891 (Henry R. Stiles. Hartford. Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co. 1892. p. 742). This was James Chamberlain of East Windsor, formerly of Coventry and Tolland, Conn. Who could fail to be intrigued by such a personable sounding ancestor? In order to "know" him better I made a trip up to East Windsor, for some research into land and church records which, in addition to his biography in Dr. Stiles' "Ancient Windsor" and other sources noted, will serve as the portrait of this Connecticut Yankee.

James Chamberlain was born 11 February 1734 in Mansfield, Conn., the third child of Joseph and Mary () Chamberlain. The family shortly moved to Tolland. James became a farmer and soon owned considerable property in Coventry, where he married Abigail (Boynton) Palmer, a widow, daughter of Zachariah Boynton of that town, 27 January 1757. He employed several of his nephews and hired Rufus Cleveland of Canterbury, Conn. to manage his farm (later, after the Revolution, Rufus became his son-in-law, when he wed Mary, the Chamberlain's eldest child).

In 1722, James acquired property along the Connecticut River in Tolland ("Ancient Windsor", p. 504), which included the deed to a ferry, which he continued in operation to and from Hartford.

When the call to arms come in 1776, James Chamberlain, already having a commission as a Captain of a "troop of horse" (Conn. Archives, Rev. War, XV) of the 22nd Connecticut Regiment, "being in command of said troops, was ordered to march them to New York to join General Washington, where, August 20, 1776, he joined Col. Samuel Chapman's Regiment. His troops numbered 30 men; was in New York during the landing of the British, the Battle of Long Island, and the retreat thro. Westchester." (ibid.). A further comment about Chamberlain was

his petition to the Connecticut Assembly for reimbursement to his private funds, which he used "to pay his soldiers' wages, for transportation, etc." He had received only £50 marching money, from the State" (ibid.). This was in January 1783. Apparently the State of Connecticut was hard up, because it wasn't until he entered a second petition in May 1786, that he was repaid.

Before the war, James Chamberlain had served a term in the State Assembly (in 1775). He returned for yet two more terms after his discharge from service, in 1781 and 1782. (He was not a member when he filed his petitions.) 1782 was also the year he moved to East Windsor and, with his only son, James, Jr., went into business at Warehouse Point; their firm being known as Chamberlain & Sons (this included a son-in-law), dealt with merchantile shipping. With Joseph Hilliard, husband of his daughter, Naomi, he constructed a vessel known as a "coaster", shipping goods to Charleston, S.C. from Warehouse Point. (This part of East Windsor was so named for the large storage warehouses where shipments from various parts arrived and were later made ready for transshipment up the Connecticut River via the Windsor Locks, to Springfield and other towns north on the river.)

With an eye to the opportunities opening up after the war, Capt. Chamberlain bought land of Elijah Chapman of Tolland, located in Barkhamsted, Litchfield County, in 1783. In 1788 he conveyed 50 acres of it to Rufus and Mary (Chamberlain) Cleveland "in consideration of the love and good will and natural affection I have and bear toward Rufus and Mary" (Land Record, I-171, Barkhamsted). This is where the young couple started their farm. In 1795, Rufus bought the remaining acreage of the Chamberlain land (46 acres) for £115 (Land Record, 3-160). When the young couple moved to Barkhamsted they took two of their three young children, leaving son, Oren, to be raised by his grandparents. Oren remained with them in East Windsor until 1807. In 1806, just prior to his wedding to Esther Allen of Enfield, Conn. he received 2 acres and a dwelling from his grandfather (deed dated April 1806).

Besides the ability to make the most of change and opportunity, James was also a man with a sense of duty toward his

community. Among the land deeds I found at the little Town Hall of Bound Brook, where the vital records of Windsor are kept, was a deed transferring some of his land to the town of East Windsor for an academy. Known as The Academy on East Windsor Hill, it was established in 1800. According to Stiles' History of Ancient Windsor, the teachers chosen were Yale graduates qualified to teach English literature and Greek and Latin ("the Classics"). Oren Cleveland attended the Academy, and later taught there, beginning a career in teaching that lasted for the next 15 years.

A further and more profound change in the Captain's life occurred due to his growing dissatisfaction with the Congregationalism of that time. With General Jenks, William C. Warner, and others of like mind in Windsor, he helped organize a church parish for worship according to the Anglican faith of the mother church in England. They petitioned the Episcopal Church in Hartford for a minister, and the Rev. Menzies Raynor of Christ Church, Hartford, became their pastor. On October 11, 1802, the Parish of St. John's Episcopal Church was established. It stands today on East Main Street, Warehouse Point. The present rector's wife, Mrs. Peet, showed me the early records of St. John's, which state that James Chamberlain and Solomon Ellsworth were elected to serve as Wardens on the vestry - appointed in 1802.

Sometime in 1809 Captain James and Abigail Chamberlain moved to Amherst to be with their son, James, Jr. By this time, the Captain was 75 and had lived a full life. He died there 28 April 1812,

aged 78. His wife died two years later, 5 March 1814. She was 85. Buried alongside them, in West Cemetery in Amherst, is their son James, who died at age 47, 22 February 1814.

In Windsor, James Chamberlain had been known as a peacemaker: "he was often selected as an arbitrator or umpire to settle differences; belligerent parties would end their quarrels, agreeing to leave the dispute to 'Cap'n Chamberlain', as he was familiarly known" (The Genealogy of Benjamin Cleveland. Horace Gillette Cleveland. Chicago. 1879. also Stiles' History of Ancient Windsor.).

James Chamberlain possessed that spirit of "rugged individualism" and "Yankee know-how" we Americans admire, but, also, a magnanimous spirit we think of as the "American Spirit" - a sense of duty toward his country, his family, his community and his church. On his gravestone is carved:

"The Memory of the Just is Blessed".
Perhaps his epitaph says it best.



"SURE, LEROY HAS A FAMILY TREE....
IN FACT SOME OF THEM STILL LIVE IN IT."

I am (We are) interested in joining the membership of the Middlesex Genealogical Society.

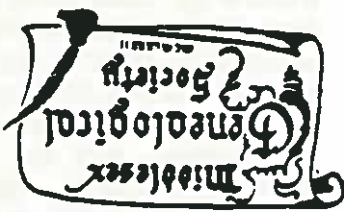
NAME _____ (last) _____ (first - both names for a couple)
ADDRESS _____ (street) _____ (town or city) _____ (zip)
CLASSIFICATION: Single (\$10/yr.) _____ PHONE _____
(circle one) Couple/Family (\$15/yr.) Yes, my company will match my amount.

Mail form and check, made payable to Middlesex Genealogical Society, to:

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

Mrs. Janet G. Jainschigg
25 Thomasina Lane
P.O. Box 906
Darien, CT 06820

45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820



GIVE THE UNITED WAY