



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

Volume II, Number 3

September 1985

NEXT MEETING --- Wednesday, September 25, 1985

8:00 p.m. at the Darien Library

Gary Wait, Catalogue Librarian at the Connecticut Historical Society Library will speak on how to "Preserve Your Family Heritage".

Refreshments will be served following the program. Bring a friend.

### FROM THE EDITOR...

Now that we are all back from our summer vacations (which hopefully yielded some added genealogical bonuses) our membership should be ready to go and get involved with the society's projects. There are many places you are needed - as Saturday morning volunteers, to give suggestions and other input to the Board and Program committee, and to send in articles, problems, queries, "anything" related to genealogy for the Newsletter. Remember, we can't make this organization run without everyone making an effort to help in some way, no matter how small it may seem. So, let's hear from you all!

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### GENES IN GENEALOGY

(This excerpt on genealogy was taken from a letter from Louis E. Jones of Lombard, Ill to our President, Robert Fatherley.)

The search for my genes started from scratch, I was not raised near my relatives. Now, after tracing and proving out, and disproving mythical lineages, I know thousands of ancestors, who double each generation back in geometric progression or procession, a fascinating experience in

itself, I still cannot provide a definite answer to the question about genes.

My fourth year of college was all graduate work in mathematics and physics at the University of Chicago. On the advice of the head of the Zoology Department at the University, ... I gave equal importance to the female and male ancestry. Dr. Allee said we each have some 40 genes or undivided determinants which are passed down in statistically equal quantities from each generation back, an average of 20 from each of one's parents, 10 from each grandparent, 5 from each great-grandparent, back to where for every generation, there are only 40 individuals, male or female, from whom you have gotten your genes.

If we know our grandchildren and our grandparents, each one of us is intimately acquainted with at least five generations. Within the time-memory span of two people, ten generations back we each had over 1,000 ancestors. Twenty generations back, about 500 years ago, provided there were no cousin marriages, within the time-memory span of four people, we had one million ancestors. The chance of inheriting a gene from an individual in that generation is about 4/10ths of 1 percent. Thirty generations back, or within the time-span memory of six people, with no cousin marriages, our ancestors numbered more than the total population of the world. This means we are all closely related and can say "hello cousin" to almost anyone we know.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## OFFICERS:

President: Robert E. Fatherley  
 Vice-President: Leo J. Dunphy  
 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 (10-12) 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

New England Historic & Genealogical Soc.:  
 Jane C. Merchant

Historical Society of Old Newbury:  
 Norman Adams

New York Genealogical & Biographical Soc.:  
 Carol Larsen

Pottstown (PA) Historical Society:  
 Florence E. Wyland

Sons of the American Revolution:  
 Robert E. Fatherley  
 Philip H. Cass  
 Carl K. Moses  
 Philip A. Morehouse  
 Thomas Jay Kemp

Friends of the Old Yellow Meeting House,  
 Imlystown, NJ:  
 Robert E. Fatherley

Order of Founders & Patriots:  
 Philip H. Cass  
 Robert E. Fatherley  
 Thomas Jay Kemp

Berks Co., PA, Genealogical Society:  
 Marie Z. Pierce

If there are more persons who belong to other societies which might be of interest to MGS members, please let the Editor know so the information can be published in future newsletters.

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MORE "OTHER SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS"

Please add these names of MGS members who are also members of other genealogical and historical societies to the list which was published in the June 1985 Newsletter.

National Society of Mayflower Descendants:  
 Philip H. Cass  
 Thomas Jay Kemp

National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution:  
 Lois D. Hofmann  
 Constance Johnson

Pennsylvania Genealogical Society:  
 Nicki Hollander (Director)

CAN YOU HELP?

Marie Pierce would appreciate any help with the following problems:

I have been trying to trace an ancestor in France. I believe I have the correct town and have written to the Mayor twice, first in English and later I had someone write in French. Both times I enclosed IRCs. No reply. Is there a central bureau of records in France that might help?

Also, is there any method of reading a badly worn tombstone? Perhaps a special time of day to photograph it? I tried rubbing with a crayon without success.

GOOD DEEDS

by Norman Adams

There are occasionally chances for a genealogist to do a good deed, and I don't have in mind helping old folks across the street. Even though old folks are vital when it comes to learning family history.

These days the likelihood is that our children and those after them will not live in the same place that we do, any more than most of us live where we were born. The result of our increasing mobility is an increase in orphaned genealogical material, left somewhere in an attic or cellar, or maybe in a storage warehouse. Often the buyer of the house or the executor of the estate is devoid of interest in genealogy and just throws all that useless old stuff out! Even if someone is interested, and even if he or she suspects there is or will be somebody desperately needing it, how much space or time can be devoted to stuff belonging to some unrelated place and some unrelated family?

As a practical matter, the answer has to be - not much. However the golden rule applies here as in so many aspects of life - do unto others as you would have them do unto you. The right thing to do is to try to get that stuff to where it belongs. It isn't usually much of a problem how to pack and ship it - it's the question of where to send it. How to figure that out without a lot of hassle? That's where the MGS can help.

Many of our members are also members of genealogical or historical societies centered elsewhere. For example, among our members are members of societies in New York, New Jersey, Texas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Utah, and in several other states, including, of course, Connecticut. (See past issues for these names.) Furthermore, some of our members play or have played active roles in such other organizations. Nicki Hollander, one of our directors, is also a director of the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and Janet Jainschigg, our Program Chairperson, is President of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies. So the best kind of help is provided by linkages already in existence between various MGS members and members of other genealogical and historical societies.

If such direct connections can't be identified or don't exist, then we can fall back on less personal methods. The

genealogical societies and historical societies are all listed and described in regularly updated directories which are available in the area. It is usually possible to identify an appropriate group in a particular area - a genealogical society, for example - which is willing and qualified to receive and care for materials which have genealogical importance in that area.

So, if you come across an unknown and unrelated "somebody else's treasure" of family history moldering in a corner of your attic or cellar - call on your MGS. Maybe we can do a genealogical good deed and free up some space at the same time.

(Editor's note: If anyone has any historical material (papers, photos, etc.) which they would like to see given to a society or organization where it will be appreciated and cared for, please contact Norman Adams at 762-5263 (Wilton). He will be happy to give advice or handle the transaction for you. I hope our membership will make use of this service to make sure all personally unwanted, but historically-useful, "treasures" are placed in the hands of persons who can recognize their worth and care for them properly. Why not go through your accumulations of family memorabilia today - before it gets thrown away by someone who thinks it is worthless because it has no meaning for them!)

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A GENEALOGICAL HINT...

How many times have you been doing research in a library which had closed stacks, requiring you to fill out an individual call slip for each book you wanted? And each one of those call slips asked for your name and address, wasting valuable time. To make this process easier, why not invest in a rubber stamp with your name and address already printed on it. They are readily and cheaply available. Miles Kimball even carries a pocket-sized version with ink pad. This item can be a God-send when you are faced with filling out a lot of call slips (they're also great for identifying all your genealogy charts and family group sheets, should they be lost or if you wish to send them to other researchers).

SURNAMES

These members are working on the following surnames and welcome anyone with knowledge of, or interest in, these families to contact them.

PIERCE, ALLENBACK, McALLISTER, RUNYON, MCGUIRE, MAHER, BOYLE, MOORE, LANIGAN, IRWIN, ZELLER, LANGHIRT, KELLER, MAGNER, CONNOLLY, DONOHUE, ROCK, OWENS.

--Marie Z. Pierce, 9 Tanglewood Trail, Darien, CT 06820.

BATES, WYLAND, RUTTER, POTTS, EWING, PIERCE, COATS, MINOR.

--Florence E. Wyland, 228 Westport Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.

LARSEN, MYERS, ALLEN, MOORE, HUTCHCROFT, GRANNAMAN, HARPER, MEADOWS, SKINNER, SMITH, BECKMAN, COOKE, SCOTT, ROBINSON, FARIS, CAMPBELL, MALCOLM, FERGUSON, HAYWARD, MINTON, HARE, KITCHEL, FARRAND, JENNINGS, BALLEW, MINITREE, HEREFORD, SHORT, RUPE/ROUP, UTTER, LYCAN, SMART, ELLIOTT/ELLIOT, WILLETTS, COLBORN, WORTMAN, LYNN, ASHERCRAFT, VanVOORHEES, SICKLES, EVANS, HALE, THOMAS, JONES, BOLTON, GARARD, CORBLEY, HICKLEBERRY, KIMBALL, MINNES.

--Carol Larsen, 525 Brookside Rd., New Canaan, CT 06840.

ALEXANDER, HANCE, SLOAN, PHELPS.

--Norman Adams, 5 Wilton Acres, Wilton, CT 06897.

TUCKER (NY,CT), BUSH, CATHCART (SC), GREEN (England), GLMENDORF, TAILER (NYC), CHAMBERLAIN (CT), PENNINGTON (MD).

--Jane C. Merchant, 8 LaForge Rd., Darien, CT 06820.

SHANNO, AHLBARN, KREITZBERGER/KREUZBERG.

--Karen K. Polett, Blueberry Lane, Darien,

KELLY, BAKER.

--Vigee H. Drosch, 21 LaForge Rd., Darien, CT 06820.

PRATT, LÜCKING DAHLIN, CHURCH, BLODGETT.

--Myron & Constance Johnson, 62 Brookside Rd., Darien, CT 06820.

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He who rescues from oblivion interesting historical facts is beneficial to posterity as well as to his contemporaries.

-Dr. Ferson

LOST AT SEA

by Jane C. Merchant

Several years ago, I came across two quite dramatic accounts in a family genealogy - each concerning a husband reported lost at sea. Of course in the early days of sailing ships, there were many such tragedies, but what made these two instances unusual was that the reports turned out to be untrue, and the consequences produced some curious twists of fate.

The first story related the romantic courtship and marriage of Mary Hammond of Montvale, Conn. to Captain Jeremiah Vallett of Enfield, Conn. He was a sea captain with his own vessel. After their marriage and the birth of a son, Jeremiah, the good captain, leaving his little family well-provided with necessities in their house, kissed them goodbye, and set off on a voyage, promising to return in six months. Months and years passed, and the sad little wife was resigned to be a widow. In the meantime, Thomas Adams, a young ship's carpenter, was begging Mary to marry him. Finally, after her "late" husband's affairs were put in order, she accepted Adam's proposal and they were married. They then settled down in the comfortable house provided her by her first husband.

To quote from the genealogy: "Everything was going on swimmingly, when to the consternation of all, Captain Vallett, himself, appeared at the door of his former domicile and the unexpected surprise may be better imagined than described. A consultation was held without delay with the good minister who had tied the second knot, and a magistrate of law as legal counselor to effect an amicable arrangement. It was decided that the wife should choose which husband she preferred, and unhesitatingly she chose Thomas Adams. Her choice may have been influenced by past experience: a land-lubber on shore is more dependable than the best sailor afloat". Whether it was love, experience, or both, Mary and her "chosen" were asked by Captain Vallett to vacate his house and move to another town. His son would remain with him.

So the Adams couple moved to Warehouse Point, East Windsor, Conn. where Thomas pursued his trade, and later become owner of a public house. He died in 1767, aged

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"Lost at Sea" con't

49. Five children were born in East Windsor - their eldest, Mary, would one day marry Moses Allen of Enfield and their eleventh child, Esther Allen, became my great, great grandmother, the wife of Oren Cleveland (they married in 1806).

The second sea story is one of those "stranger than fiction" tales, but is based upon corroborated facts. Phoebe Cleveland, the aunt of Oren Cleveland and daughter of Benjamin Cleveland of Canterbury, Conn., married Ephraim Pearson of nearby Ellington on 22 Feb. 1779. A trader in livestock, Pearson took his wife up to Manchester, Vt. to live. After eight years there they had raised four children. One fall day in 1787, Ephraim left his family, and in the company of several others, took a "drove" of swine to Boston to sell, expecting to return in a fortnight. However, the prices in Boston were so low, that he decided to sail with his stock for Halifax, where he heard he could do better. The genealogy then states: "Adverse gales drove the ship off course; it was captured by a Spanish privateer, and Pearson was taken to Algiers and sold into slavery. Nine years elapsed before he could escape. He arrived eventually in Savannah, Ga. His wife, after waiting his return for seven years, mourned him as dead, and remarried (Timothy O'Brien of Manchester). Ephraim learned of this from his brother and exacted a pledge that his whereabouts not be revealed until after his death. The pledge was honored, and his wife knew nothing until Ephraim's death in 1804. He remained in Savannah and never remarried."

A rather touching "rememberance" was added to this story by his granddaughter, Phoebe Cleveland Barnard, daughter of Pearson's only son, Jacob, born the year before he left on his ill-fated trip to Boston. Jacob, after learning of his father's dreadful experience and self-imposed exile from his children and his past, forever after signed himself "Ephraim Jacob Pearson" to perpetuate his father's name and memory.

Captain Vallett and Ephraim Pearson, survivors - not "lost at sea", returned to find their past life of love and dreams a closed chapter. But for their wives, remarriage was the only possible choice

when all hope was gone. And if Mary Vallett had not married Thomas Adams, I would not be here writing their story!

Source: The Genealogy of Benjamin Cleveland. Horace Gillette Cleveland, compiler. Chicago. 1877. Pp. 209-211 (Adams-Vallette-Allen), pp. 66-72 (Pease Cleveland).

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#### NYGBS PROGRAM

During the month of October the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is sponsoring its Fall Educational Program entitled "Library Resources You May Have Missed". This is a series of lectures which will consider some of the major genealogical libraries, with emphasis on lesser-known and little-used resources, special collections, new materials and how one may secure information from them.

The schedule is: Oct. 2, The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society Library; Oct. 9, The New England Historic Genealogical Society and other collections in the Boston area; Oct. 16, Library of the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; Oct. 23, The New York Historical Society's Collections and The New York Public Library; and Oct. 30, The National Archives, Library of Congress and the D.A.R. Library, Washington, D.C. These Wednesday lectures are held from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Society's Auditorium, 122 East 58th St., New York. Cost is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members and registrations should be returned no later than Sept. 27, 1985.

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#### GENEALOGY CLUB OF AMERICA

We received a brochure from the Genealogy Club of America which has been in existence for 15 years. They offer a 25% discount on research and lineage surveys, forms, charts and other related supplies, free ancestral queries (one per issue), a discount on any printing of family materials and discounts on genealogy tours. Also, they offer a subscription to GENEALOGY DIGEST, a quarterly publication. Dues are \$18/year, \$30/2 years. The address is: The Genealogy Club of America, 420 South 425 West, Bountiful, Utah 84010.

MGS MEMBERSHIP LIST (as of Sept. 1985)

- Adams, Norman & Florence; 5 Wilton Acres, Wilton, CT 06897.
- Ashman, Margaret L.; 11 Davis Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Banks, Jean; 10 Indian Spring Rd., Rowayton, CT 06853.
- Bartlett, Ray H. & Dorothy; 15 Hillside Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- Bell, Robert C.; 528 Main St., New Canaan, CT 06840.
- Berry, John & Louise; 41 Chester St., Stamford, CT 06905.
- Blain, R. Geoffrey; 33 Indian Rock Rd., Stamford, CT 06903.
- Block, Frank E. & Anne B.; 7 Hathaway Common, New Canaan 06840.
- Blodgett, Robert Bell & Marilyn Frank; 554 Riviera Dr., Naples, FL 33940.
- Boyd, Terry; 22 Hillcrest Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- Brage, Carl & Barbara; 495 Sagamore Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801.
- Butterick-Gooley, Kathleen; 185 Noroton Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- Cass, Philip H.; Revonah Woods - 216 West Lane, Stamford, CT 06905.
- Clarendon, Grace Whitney; 70 Brookside Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Cushman, George T. & Mary F.; Box 527, Norwalk, CT 06852.
- Daniels, Edward P., Jr.; 10 McLaren Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Dekker, Helen T.; 12 Partridge Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Droesch, Vigeo; 21 LaForge Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Dunphy, Marcelle L.; 10 Hamilton Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Ellsley, Robert R. & Beverly J.; 87 Redcoat Rd., Westport, CT 06880.
- Evans, Robin; 21 Revere Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Farwell, Fred W.; 6 Pasture Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Fatherley, Robert E. & Emeline; 9 Point O'Woods South, Darien, CT 06820.
- Freedman, Mary; 51 Schuyler Ave., Stamford, CT 06902.
- Gainer, Elizabeth; 112 Camp Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- Gross, Raymond H.; 32 Hillside Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- Hart, Frederick C., Jr.; 424 Route 147, Middlefield, CT 06455.
- Hauck, William; 129 Old Highway, Wilton, CT 06897.
- Hoff, Henry B.; 67 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016.
- Hofmann, Charles E. & Lois D.; 31 Stephanie Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Hollander, Doris W. (Nicki); 204 Rowayton Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853.
- Holmes, David Bartlett; 74 West Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- Howe, Robert E. & Dorothy S.; 17 Sherry Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Iler, Margaret; 610 Williamson Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047.
- Jainschigg, Janet G.; P.O. Box 906, Darien, CT 06820.
- Jerige, Walter C.; 9 Edelweiss Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Johnson, J. Myron; 62 Brookside Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Kellogg, Alvah; 19 Bluff Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853.
- Kemp, Thomas Jay; P.O. Box 4050, Stamford, CT 06907.
- Kleinbans, Elizabeth; 190 Scribner Ave., Norwalk, CT 06854.
- La France, Nancy; 96 Valley Rd., Westport, CT 06880.
- Larsen, Carol; 525 Brookside Rd., New Canaan, CT 06840.
- Lemons, Charles & Virginia; 35 Holly Ln., Darien, CT 06820.
- Lester, Herbert & Carol; 34 Edgerton St., Darien, CT 06820.
- Lunden, Carol; Lakeside Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- MacCraken, Constable & Harriet; 630 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan, CT 06840.
- Makovsky, Catherine; 204 West Ave., Darien, CT 06820.
- McElrath, George; 8 East Trail, Darien, CT 06820.
- McLean, Louise H.; 27 Sunset Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Merchant, Jane Cleveland; 8 LaForge Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Montgomery, Marshall & Prudence I.; 32 Prides Crossing, New Canaan, CT 06840.
- Morehouse, Philip A.; 18 Morehouse Dr., Darien, CT 06820.
- Morgan, Edwin; 16652 Fruit Ridge Rd., Kent City, MI 49330.
- Moses, Carl K. & Helyn R.; 4 Glenwood Dr., Darien, CT 06820.
- Muehlberg, J.R. (Dick) & Helen; 25 Point O'Woods Rd., Darien, CT 06820.
- Mulock, Edwin & Neville; 20 Plymouth Rd., Darien, CT 06820.

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Members con't.

Newing, Suzanne Davidson; 200 Aran Hill Rd., Fairfield, CT 06430.  
 Pierce, Edwin & Marie; 9 Tanglewood Trail, Darien, CT 06820.  
 Polett, David & Karen; Blueberry Ln., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Radmall, Grant M.; 12 Evergreen Meadow In., New Canaan, CT 06840.  
 Riith, Robert A.; 8 Hillcrest Ave., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Ross, J. Robert & Betty; Salem Straits, Darien, CT 06820.  
 Scharmer, Ida T.; 257 Noroton Ave., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Sheldon, Marianne Weber; 3 Revere Rd., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Sibiskie, Paul & Carol M.; 7 Erie Court, Norwalk, CT 06851.  
 Smith, Raymond A.; 4 Kilmer Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.  
 Street, Gladys D.; 10 Five Mile River Rd., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Sullivan, Jacqueline; 12 W. Brother Dr., Greenwich, CT 06830.  
 Thompson, Luther F. & Myrtle S.; 16 West Elm St., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Wallace, Anna Lawson; 12 Silver Lakes Dr., Darien, CT 06820.  
 Wentworth, Donald E. & Theresa; 12 Timber In., Stamford, CT 06905.  
 Wolfe, Valentine J.; 50 Purdy Road East, Norwalk, CT 06850.  
 Worden, Lauralee; 201 Highview Ave., Apt. F-1, Stamford, CT 06907.  
 Wyland, Alan & Florence; 228 Westport Rd., Wilton, CT 06897.  
 Yates, Stephen Van Ness & Sherrill; 6 Edgerton St., Darien, CT 06820.

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WE DO NOT ENDORSE...

The Editor would like to remind MGS members that whatever magazines, clubs, organizations, lecture series, etc. are mentioned in this Newsletter are not endorsed or promoted by the Society. They are mentioned herein for the information and education of our members of what is available to them in the way of genealogy research aids and resources. If you do have a problem with anything mentioned in the Newsletter, please let the Editor know so that can also be mentioned.

GENEALOGY BY THE BUSLOAD

The NEW YORK TIMES on Sunday, March 24, 1985 had a delightful article in its Travel section. It dealt with the "heritage business" of taking surname tours to areas of interest in Ireland.

Many people from the United States, Canada and Australia are feeling the urge to get back to "the old home sod", so to speak, and are using specially designed tours to do it with. Surname tours take persons with the same last name and travel to the areas in Ireland which that particular clan is associated with. The guides "steep themselves in the history and oddities of the family name for each of the tours they escort" and try and involve the people in Ireland with the same surname to become involved with the group. "We try to bring as many people together from as many different places as possible, which means that at times there will be reunions with long lost relatives. We're finding that people with the same name have a different sort of a time, much different than buying a regular package tour, because of the camaraderie, the common bond and the friendships made."

Three agencies, Halbert's Heritage Travel of Bath, OH, McShea Travel of Rockville, MD and Gaffney Heritage Tours of Oaklawn, IL, were listed in the article as being reliable in this business. Prices for the various tours were also given. Persons interested in this type of vacation should direct their inquiries there. This seems to be becoming a popular way to "return to your Irish roots" since Halberts anticipated taking "between 3,000 and 4,000 people on reunion trips" this year and their company has only been arranging these tours for three years!

As one man on one of the tours said, "I know it sounds sort of hokey, but the people seemed to merge into one big family and they got very emotional at times over the theme 'This is Ireland and this is home'."

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It is a revered thing to see an ancient castle not in decay; how much more to behold an ancient family which have stood the waves and weathers of time.

-Bacon

## IRISH-AMERICAN GENEALOGY

For those of our readers with Irish-American ancestors, I urge them to read the article by Marie E. Daly in the July 1985 issue of THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC & GENEALOGICAL REGISTER entitled, "Sources of Irish-American Genealogy in New England". It should be an invaluable aid to those, especially, who have not yet identified the place of origin of their immigrant ancestor.

As Ms. Daley states, "Problems in finding Irish ancestors arise due to several factors. Many Irish surnames are very common and the Irish tended to cluster in major cities, so that identifying individuals may be difficult. In the nineteenth century, many Irish Americans were among the lowest strata of society, and were regarded with attitudes ranging from tolerance to hostility. Newspapers seldom reported the marriage or death of a poor Irishman unless the story had some sensational aspect, since few could pay for a regular insertion. Likewise, poor people were less likely to generate records of probate or land transactions. Also most nineteenth-century government documents, such as census schedules and vital records, merely list the country of origin for immigrants, rather than specific locales. Even for such inclusive records as naturalization petitions, many indicate no more detail than the country of birth."

She then goes on to write about the sources which researchers should be sure to examine, beginning with passenger arrival lists, the first record that an immigrant from Ireland could create. Since after arrival, the Roman Catholic Church was "the major force for continuity and cohesion in the Irish community", she goes on to examine diocese records, sacramental records, cemetery records, church-related orphanages and gravestone inscriptions. Newspapers, such as the BOSTON PILOT, are important sources, especially "Missing Friends" advertisements and Repeal Society membership lists, which are both being compiled for use by researchers. Court records and industrial and business records are also discussed.

There are a number of organizations which can help the researcher of Irish ancestry. Ms. Daley finishes with, "Researchers have maligned Irish genealogy as a frustrating pursuit in which informative records are few. However, a

substantial amount of information has yet to be collected and published, and the author calls upon genealogists and local historians across the country to participate in this process."

(Editor's note: The NEHGR can be found in some local libraries. I know for certain the Darien Historical Society, Ferguson Library and the New Canaan Historical Society subscribe.)

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## TRACING YOUR EUROPEAN ANCESTRY

(This is a reprint of a short article in the July 1985 issue of TRAVEL & LEISURE.)

The opening last year of the Historic Emigration Office in Hamburg, Germany, is important news for the many travelers interested in tracing their ancestry. Hamburg was a major port of embarkation for all of northern Europe in the years 1850 through 1914 - it is estimated that more than 5 million emigrants sailed during these years. Their departures were recorded on ships' passenger lists, which, incredibly, have all been preserved and now transferred to microfilm.

All the emigration office needs to go about its work is your ancestor's name (the office is quite used to dealing with spelling variations) and the approximate year of emigration. If you visit the office personally, this search will take about an hour, enough time to wander through the adjoining maritime museum. If you send your request by mail, processing takes up to three months. So far, the office has handled over 2,000 inquiries; more than 40 percent have been fruitful. The charge is \$30, whether or not the search pans out. If it does succeed, you are given a handsome scroll with all the particulars - ancestor's name, age, profession, marital status, number of children, city of origin and, of course, date of departure, name of ship and its destination.

Address: Historic Emigration Office, Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte, 24 Holstenwall, 2000 Hamburg 36, West Germany. If you plan a personal visit, the office is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 2 to 5 P.M.





45 Old Kings Highway North  
Darien, CT 06820

