



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume IV, Number 1

March 1987

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This Newsletter has just started its fourth year with this issue. When I began it I wanted to open communication among the members of the MGS and to create a way for genealogical news items to reach people who might not otherwise learn of them. I think we are succeeding.

However, change is always good. I have given my input and ideas a chance and now it is time to give the Newsletter a fresh approach. Sherrill Yates will be taking over the job of Editor with the June issue (maybe she'll get it out more on schedule!). She has some great new ideas and I know you will like what she has planned for our quarterly.

I have really enjoyed putting out each edition but am looking forward to spending some more time on my own genealogy. Please send any news items, articles, ideas, research finds, etc. to Sherrill at 9 Wagon Road, Bethel, CT 06801. She will appreciate any input - and any help anyone wants to give!

ALEX HALEY ON GENEALOGY

(These excerpts were taken from a short news article on Alex Haley in the STAMFORD ADVOCATE, about his speech at this year's Black United Appeal Inc. fund-raising dinner in Kansas City, MO.)

Alex Haley, whose book ROOTS triggered a national interest in genealogy a decade ago, says Americans can find strength by studying their ancestors.

"I have come to realize that every one of you, whether brown, black, red or white, had forbears, and they were all praying that there would be a better

day," Haley said. "You can find strength in looking backward."

Asked what advice he would give to youth, Haley said: "Don't follow me. Make your own footsteps. Leave your own legacy."

GENEALOGICAL BEATITUDES

Blessed are the great-grandfathers who saved embarkation and citizenship papers,

For they tell when they came.

Blessed are great-grandmothers, who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters,

For these tell the story of their time.

Blessed are all grandfathers who filed every legal document,

For this provided the proof.

Blessed are grandmothers, who preserved family Bibles and diaries,

For this is our heritage.

Blessed are fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry,

For to some they are the only link to the past.

Blessed are mothers, who relate family tradition and legend to the family,

For one of her children will surely remember.

Blessed are relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data,

For to them we owe the family history.

Blessed is any family whose member strives for the preservation of records,

For theirs is a labor of love.

-Author Unknown

(Taken from minutes of the 1979 Convention of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington.)

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS:

President - Doris Hollander
 Vice President - Janet Jainschigg
 Secretary - Sherrill Yates
 Treasurer - George Cushman
 President Emeritus - Robert Fatherley

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.

NEW IGI AND CENSUS INDEX

We have just received the latest acquisitions in our growing collection of the International Genealogical Index (IGI). This is the one which covers all the counties of England but does not include London, which is quite large and must be ordered separately. The microfiche cards are not yet in their envelopes and are not available for use but should be very soon. This will enable anyone seeking English ancestors access to one of the largest collections of names, births and marriages in the world.

Another new acquisition is the 1890 New York Census Index for Veterans. This is also on microfiche and gives the

names of all veterans of the Civil War living in New York state in the year 1890. Since the 1890 U.S. Census was destroyed by fire this is an important source for researchers.

GRAVESTONES AND GENEALOGY

A Workshop for Genealogists has been included in the program for the 1987 Annual Conference and Meeting of the Association for Gravestone Studies. The workshop, which will be held at Amherst College on the morning of Saturday, June 27 will focus on the recording and interpretation of data from early gravestones. William Schoeffler, Pres. of the National Assoc. of Professional Genealogists, will speak on "A Genealogist's View of Cemeteries and Gravestone Transcriptions" and Laurel Gabel, AGS Research Coordinator, will discuss "How to Look at a Gravestone: 17th and 18th Century Gravestones and the Stories They Tell". In addition, demonstrations on how to rub a gravestone and how to photograph one will be given. The cost for this workshop is \$5.00, with registration closing on June 1. If you need a registration form, please contact Marianne Sheldon at 655-6637.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined since the list was published in the December Newsletter. We welcome them all to our society.

Birdsell, Catherine R., 37½ Morgan Ave.,
 Greenwich, CT 06831
 Case, Leslie and Goodway, Kevin, 7-B
 Hamilton Court, Stamford, CT 06902
 Cooper, Jay & Misty, 33 Searles Road,
 Darien, CT 06820
 Fatherley, Robert E., Jr. & Julie M.,
 9-A Point O'Woods Road So., Darien
 06820
 Fredericks, Shirley Peterson, Box 1678,
 Cedar Courts, Stamford, CT 06905
 Gernand, Catherine M., 154 Spring
 Street, Windsor Locks, CT 06096
 Kreusser, William A., 28 Bungalow Park,
 Stamford, CT 06902
 Sarr, Richard, 32 Casement Street,
 Darien, CT 06820
 Shaw, Maria V., 2 Juniper Road, Darien,
 CT 06820
 Stevens, Marybeth, 26 Waterside Terrace,
 Westport, CT 06880

JANUARY PROGRAM

Timothy F. Beard, formerly head librarian, Local History & Genealogy, New York Public Library and now Librarian at the Roxbury, Mass. Library in addition to being the current president of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, was the featured speaker at the MGS January meeting. His topic was "Finding Your Family Roots".

Tim told how he began his search for his own family roots. This was over 50 years ago and most of the people he could get information from are gone now. Since this is usually the case, we must go to other sources for our data. The four he gave were: (1) oral history, (2) family records which can usually be found around the house, (3) other records and (4) printed and manuscript genealogies.

Tim's interest in the beginning was to find out more about who he was named after. He was lucky since in his family everyone had been named for ancestors and he had a lot of information to begin with.

Most young people don't listen when the older members of the family talk about relatives and ancestors. As a consequence they really don't know anything about their family's past when they do become interested. By that time, most of the people who could tell them are dead.

Because Tim's family had the habit of naming children after ancestors on his father's side, he knew a lot about his paternal lineage. However, he had trouble with his mother's. There he ran into a problem which most genealogists face at one time or another - people who appear to be open about giving information but when the facts have to be checked either won't give anything specific or refuse to divulge anything close to them. This can be one of the most frustrating blocks in doing genealogy.

For Tim, no one could seem to pinpoint dates or other information - they just weren't forthcoming. When someone mentioned they thought his mother's father wasn't legitimate, his mother got very emotional so he held off on his search until after her death. At one point then he obtained her passport and found his mother had been born in a different year than he had been told. More information came out of writings in his uncle's

hymnal, all of which only served to complicate things further. The problems nearest us are usually the most difficult ones to solve. Eventually facts were yielded up but the frustration of knowing the information is there but not being able to put your fingers on it is known to all of us.

Vital records are often hard to get. New York state is a good example. They will not give out vital data unless at least 75 years have passed for a date of birth and 50 years for a marriage or death. Often clerks in certain towns will not give out any vital records at all. If anyone has any problems in the state of Connecticut they should contact the Connecticut Society of Genealogists who will try to help get the information.

Finally, Tim gave the names of a number of good source books for anyone working on their family history. The Directory of Historical Societies in the United States can help provide addresses to write for information. Then there is the Handy Book for Genealogists, Angus Baxter's In Search of Your European Roots and Founders of Early American Immigrants (newly revised). Some periodicals which could help are: THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST (TAG), the NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC & GENEALOGICAL REGISTER (NEHGR), THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER, THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY, and more. There are a number of good English periodicals, among which are FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE, the GENEALOGIST'S MAGAZINE, THE IRISH GENEALOGIST.

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is another good source, as are pamphlets put out by the government on census records. There is a wealth of helpful societies, books, periodicals and other sources out there for the researcher. You just have to look and not get discouraged because your family is not forthcoming with the information you need.

The ascendant hand is what I feel most strongly; I am bound in and in with my forebears...We are all nobly born; fortunate those who know it; blessed those who remember.

-Robert L. Stevenson
Letters II, p. 230

MARCH PROGRAM

The Annual Meeting of the MGS was held on March 18, 1987 with Joyce S. Pendry as the featured speaker on the topic, "What They Left Behind - Family and Local History Resources for the Generalist".

Joyce, who is an author, editor and lecturer, began her speech with a comical recitation on the "Tate" family, some examples of which were Dick Tate, Potent Tate, Hesi Tate and Vegi Tate. She then went on to her topic, saying that once we have progressed enough in our research to have acquired the "bare bones" of our genealogies and family ancestors, we then find ourselves thinking these were real people and deserve more than just a few dates and name places to document their existence. We wonder what type of people these ancestors were, where they lived, what they did, what type of community they lived in, etc. We begin to think more and more about being able to share our acquired knowledge of these persons with other family members, but we want to show them more than just charts and data. Our goal is to try and recreate their actual lives and times - to create a bond across the generations.

Where do we begin? Historians and genealogists use many of the same sources. The historians who wrote town and county histories used many of the same records you would research in seeking out your ancestors. Town histories will often provide not only information on what type of community it was, but will tell you about the founders, where the people came from, what brought them to the area, etc. Many even give genealogies for several generations of early town families, doing much of the work for you.

The records used by these town historians are usually those found in the particular town, county or state. These can include census records, tax lists, land records, probate records, maps, diaries, cemetery records, etc. It is a good idea to go there in person, if at all possible, to verify what compiled sources have already told you. Remember, you will never get as thorough a job done by others as you will do yourself. The personnel in these libraries and offices may be overworked and understaffed,

may not really know what records they have and/or where to find it and there may not be any indexes available. Only YOU will spend the time and effort to produce the best possible results.

"Mud Books" are the books published about towns, counties and states where people paid to have their biographies included in these "histories". Each person provided his own and his family's information. If you do find any of your ancestors, be sure, again, to verify everything with primary sources. The New York City Library, Chicago's Newberry Library and the Adams County, PA Library have large numbers of these books.

Also remember that local and state historical and genealogical libraries and societies will have their own publications. These usually reprint original sources (tax lists, diaries, Bible records, cemetery lists, to name a few) and provide articles about early life in the area, biographies of early settlers and new research being done on the area.

Do not overlook records such as tax lists. Joyce passed out a sample of a Stamford Tax List of 1811 in which we traced David How. We were able to see which area of Stamford he lived in, his poll tax, the number of oxen, cows, horses and sheep he owned, the number of flues in his house, how many and what type of acreage he owned, even the number of chairs, watches, clocks and ounces of silverplate he had. Since assessments were made according to professions and possessions, we could get a better idea of his place in the community of which he was a part.

Land records, probate records and other legal records also give insight into your ancestors' personal lives. If there was buying and selling of land, you can usually determine if the wife was able to write her name. Wives had to sign off on lands sold by their husbands.

Go to the local historical society, ask what is available and look at them yourself. Often you may receive more help and information this way than through a letter.

Old maps are a wonderful source. They were an art form, listing the actual build-

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MARCH PROGRAM continued

ings and who owned them, the residences and who lived there. City directories can provide important information for the last 100 years or so. They consist of alphabetic listings, addresses, working address and can give clues to family relationships and vital dates. New York City has close to 200 years worth of city directories and include a listing by street, alphabetically, where you can check the type of neighborhood (was it ethnic?).

Other types of records which can give insight into your family's lives - Grand Lists (replaced tax lists), school records (often have class lists, programs, courses taken, annual literary journals).

As mentioned before, see what the local historical societies have. Old photographs (portrait, showing activities of the time, working groups, school classes, etc.) might show some of your ancestors and will, at least, show the times they were a part of. Newspapers may yield information on your family but remember that this may be difficult if you do not have dates. Vertical files may hold clippings, photos or other information you want. Donors books (where someone in your family might have donated some gift to the society) should be searched. This item might have been a family heirloom, a costume, legal paper or some such thing.

Finally, TALK to the local historians and genealogists. They will often know a lot about the early families and may give you important clues and information not found in any published sources.

EUREKA!!!

All of us have, at some time or another, been faced with the problem of a family line which stops dead (no pun intended). No matter where we search for clues, absolutely no new information on the line can be uncovered and we are left with a nagging hole in our genealogy which may plague us for years. Then, suddenly, out of the blue - there it is! The name you had given up on stares you in the face, the adrenalin surges and the search is on again with a gusto!

I would like our members to share some of their experiences and their

"Eureka!" moments with the rest of us. Perhaps we can all learn some new tricks about what to do when there seems to be nothing more to do. These stories might also give us hope that we should never give up on those elusive ancestors. Whatever - send me your experiences. Share some of those genealogical frustrations and rewarding moments that only other genealogists can understand. Please send them to the Editor, 45 Old Kings Hwy. N., Darien, CT 06820.

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BATES BREAKTHROUGH

by Florence Bates Wyland

In my search for more of our Bates genealogy, we recently made an exciting breakthrough. Our son Clifford Wyland arrived for a whirlwind visit from Oregon and he and I did some serious digging. On the coldest, windiest day of February we set off for the Westchester County, NY Historical Library, located at the Community College in Valhalla.

Well, what a find! On the 3rd floor, in the back, was a treasury of genealogies of early families in New York. Among them was the "Families of the Colonial Town of Philipsburgh", by Grenville C. MacKenzie and "The Bates of Eastchester", by Aymar Embury II. We were so excited we could hardly contain ourselves, and our pens flew across the pads.

At last we were able to find the generations before our John Bates, married to Sarah Cornell of Eastchester, who died in 1825. There was our Bates' back to John Bates, one of the original settlers of Hempstead, Long Island, who was married to Martha ?; and their son John Bates, who died in 1729, married to Elizabeth ?; and their son John Bates, married to Catherine Griffin, who died in 1809; and their son Gilbert Bates, married to Sarah Gibbs, who died 1784; to my great, great grandparents, John Bates and Sarah Cornell (whose graves we found earlier in Eastchester, NY).

Armed with all this data, Cliff had plenty to do when he got home to Oregon and he's just written me that he "has made a chart and pinned it up on their living room wall." He and his wife, Amy (daughter of Myron & Connie Johnson, formerly of

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BATES BREAKTHROUGH continued

Brookside Rd., Darien), spent days and days re-reading the copies of documents, til "they were quite cross-eyed". They at last completed the family tree in its present flexible form (little square cut-outs for each name, pinned on the wall with straight pins). He reports, "We have well documented 144 direct ancestors on Mother's side (Bates & Pierce) of the family, as well as 43 on the Wylands of PA side (so far). That's direct only, not including all of their relatives! The chart is really quite impressive to see and it makes it much easier to reference from while researching. I believe I'm beginning to get a pretty good handle on the whole picture. I've pretty much digested all that's been sent so I'll be waiting for the latest tid-bits, mom!"

Well, you can see I still have my work cut out for me. This endless search for more and more ancestors is like a magnet drawing us on and on. There's no rest for us here in the East, as we have such a large reservoir of historical records to draw from. Cliff and Amy depend on our sending out every bit of information we find.

It's been fun and fulfilling to have our son and his wife take such an interest in their ancestors, as well as their three children who point with pride at the "chart on the wall". Part of me feels a sense of peace, knowing all my work and caring will be carried on in the next two generations, at least.

NEHGS BOOK LOAN SERVICE

The Darien Library and the MGS have been able to become a part of the Book Loan Service of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Anyone with any knowledge of the NEHGS knows how extensive their collections are. This service allows persons living outside the Boston area to have access to many of the books in their possession.

There are four catalogs on our shelves, giving the names of hundreds of books which can be ordered. When the items arrive you are given two weeks to use them. To order any of these books, see the Reference Librarian.

Besides belonging to the NEHGS circulating library, the Darien Library

can also obtain just about any book you might need through the inter-library loan network. I have received books from libraries as far away as upper New York state and Ohio in my requests. This certainly saves a lot of frustration and travel time when you need something which has a very localized appeal.

Stop by the library and look through the NEHGS catalogs. You will probably find quite a number of books you would like to use in your research - probably many you never would have known existed otherwise!

BOOK REVIEWS

We are starting a new feature in our Newsletter - reviews of books which we feel might be of interest to our members. If you are interested in obtaining any of them for your personal libraries, they can be ordered from:

The Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.
Dept. MGS
1001 N. Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202.

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IN SEARCH OF YOUR BRITISH & IRISH ROOTS
by Angus Baxter. 1982. 304 p. Paperback.
\$12.95. (Item #393)

This is a book for the person who wants to trace their ancestry back from the forefather who left either England or Ireland. Baxter shows how this can be done either by mail or in person by showing how to find and use the resources available. He explains the various types of records available, many of which the American researcher has not been exposed to before, and then shows how they may be helpful and where they can be found.

A large portion of the book concerns itself with the English counties. Each one lists addresses for local societies and county record offices, plus where the various parish records, wills, census data, marriage licences and other important records can be found, an invaluable source which has never before been compiled in one volume. The same

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BOOK REVIEWS continued

information has been assembled for Wales, Ireland, Scotland, The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

This book should be a part of every genealogist's collection who can trace his ancestry back to Great Britain. The search for one's ancestry does not stop once the immigrant ancestor has been found but continues on. This will certainly be made easier with Baxter's book to guide the researcher through unfamiliar territory.

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN NEW ENGLAND,
Ralph J. Crandall, Editor. 1984.
190 p. Hardcover. \$17.50. (Item #1185)

Six major articles previously published in THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL REGISTER between 1976 and 1982 comprise the text of this book. Each article deals with doing genealogical research in one of the six New England states. Complete descriptions of the records available, where they are located plus special collections, manuscript collections, lists of libraries and institutions which have additional materials for the genealogical researcher are all explained in these very concise articles.

Anyone who has New England ancestry would find this a useful tool in searching for information in this area of the country. The book is small enough to be taken along on research trips. Since each state is different in the way it maintains and makes available its records this guide will help the researcher know where to look, what to expect to find and why. It will make the search much simpler and less time-consuming.

*

AMERICAN ANCESTORS AND COUSINS OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES by Gary Boyd Roberts and William Addams Reitwiesner. 1984. 194 p. Hardcover. \$14.95. (Item # 4965)

When Lady Diana Frances Spencer became the Princess of Wales she brought to the British throne genealogical links to the United States and many famous Americans, past and present. Not only is the Princess one-eighth American, the granddaughter of a Harvard graduate, great-granddaughter of a member of Mrs. Astor's "400" and also a Wall Street millionaire,

but she has ancestors who lived in six of the original thirteen colonies, important kinsmen well-known in American history - and about 20 to 30 million living distant American cousins!

This well-indexed book gives the lineages of hundreds of persons related in some way to the Princess of Wales. I found several of my own ancestors listed among the hundreds of persons collected in the book and was even able to add a few new names which I had not discovered yet!

If you have any Strong, Hibbard, Newbold, Cogswell, Holton, Clapp, Waldo, Hart, Parke Morgan, Stanton, Avery, Lyman, Hunt, Tuttle, Denison or Huntington names among your ancestors you will probably find you are related to Princess Di. Anyone with at least several generations of American ancestry will find it worthwhile to check out this book. The chances are that you will probably find at least an ancestor or two.

PUBLICATIONS TO SHARE

Carl Moses, a MGS member with extensive Maine genealogical ties, has offered the use of two new acquisitions to anyone who would like to come to his home to examine them. He also has other sources which have been listed in previous Newsletters.

The two publications are:

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN BURRILL, 1609- .

Compiled by George B. Jacobs, Madison, ME, 1984. This is a photocopy of a 146 page handwritten manuscript.

HISTORY OF ST. ALBANS, MAINE, 1799-1981.

Compiled by Gladys M. Bigelow and Ruth M. Knowles, 1982. This is a hard-cover book of 262 pages. The first settler of St. Albans was Judah Hackett in 1800. By 1810 the Census listed following 22 men as heads of families: William Moor, Isachar Cook, Sam Grant, John Lyford, Asa Russell, Abraham Moor, Isaac Rowell, Samuel Moor, James Martin, Abel Hackett, Judah Hackett, John Smart, Paul Felker, Asa Wiggin, Joseph Watson, Willoby Cook, Luke Grover, Joseph Dearborn, James Palmer, Benjamin French, David Rowe and John Johnson. The total population in 1810 was 116.

If you are interested in using either of these two publications, please contact Carl Moses at 348-2525 to make arrangements.

SATURDAY MORNINGS AT THE LIBRARY

by Jane C. Merchant

As we approach summer with our last meeting held at the Pequot Library to conclude our 1986-87 activities, it seems a fitting time to report on the past year's Saturday morning genealogical workshops, which have been conducted on a regularly scheduled basis by four volunteers: Bob Fatherley, Grace Clarendon-Norman Adams and myself, with a few emergency "sit-ins" by Grant Radmall. With the exception of our Washington's Birthday Luncheon and the Pequot Library day, when we closed up shop to attend, our little office has been open every Saturday from 10 to noon at the Darien Library.

Thanks to some publicity in the Darien News-Review's Newcomers Edition and Cablevision News we acquired several new members. Mr. & Mrs. Jay W. Cooper came in for help with Pennsylvania ancestry and promptly joined up, as did Mr. William Kreusser, who came in with a fascinating tale of lineage in England and Germany. Other members who joined after "discovering" us were Mrs. Patricia Smith, at work on her Canadian family history, Ms. Alison Andrews and Mrs. Doris O'Brien. We have also enjoyed visits from genealogists who travel up from New Jersey on the trail of Connecticut ancestry, as well as our old members, who stop by to chat about - what else - genealogy!

Since we have purchased the International Genealogical Index (IGI) microfiche card files for the United States and have just added to it the IGI for England (except for London), we are now in a position to offer a very highly valued source of research. Those who have noted that we are still limited on our book-shelf space while awaiting the completion of the library's new addition, may be interested to know that at a recent seminar held at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) which I attended, I was delighted to hear Mr. Gary Boyd Roberts, Research Library Director, enthusiastically recommend two books which we have in our collection - The Source by Eakle and Cerny and The Genealogical Handbook for New England Research. These two books and Tom Kemp's The Connecticut Researcher's Handbook are excellent guides on where to

look for "clues" and how to get started on a search. Besides the Index for DAR Ancestors and Mayflower Families we also have the Mayflower Quarterlies and the NEHGS current Register quarterlies. Access also is possible to the Circulating Library of the NEHGS - we have the four volumes of the catalogue of that library on our shelves and books needed may be borrowed through our Darien Library Reference Department. For those who haven't visited our little office or bookshelves lately, these may excite your curiosity.

A very interesting genealogy has come our way as a gift - an unexpected reward for doing some research in answer to a query. Last summer, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Schmidt were vacationing in New Brunswick, Canada. They came upon many old grave-stones and other evidences that a number of Gorhams lived there since the Revolution. This led to inquiries of the Paul Gorhams of Edmonton, Alberta, friends of the Schmidts. Mr. Paul Gorham wrote to us asking if we could locate an ancestor, Nathaniel Gorham, believed to have been born in Stamford. Nathaniel, a Loyalist, was invited to leave in 1783.

Mr. Gorham's letter was turned over to me and with the help of Louise McLean's file on the Gorham family at the Darien Historical Society and a trip to the Stamford City Hall to check old church records, I was able to send him the dates he needed and proof that Nathaniel was of Middlesex Parish, the grandson of George Gorham who once owned a mill on Rings End Road by Gorham's Pond (part of the acreage he bought) and the nephew of Daniel Gorham who built the lovely old Gorham house alongside the Pond. Our correspondence lasted over several months (mail service to and from Alberta is not very swift) and he was delighted with some pictures my husband took of Daniel's house to send him as well.

After several months Mr. Gorham said he was sending a copy of his father's manuscript giving the entire Gorham lineage (which had been compiled with the help of an English cousin, the Rev. George Gorham) for the Darien Historical Society to add to their collection.

When I received the some-100 pages of manuscript, it was decided to photocopy them and so there is a bound copy of this

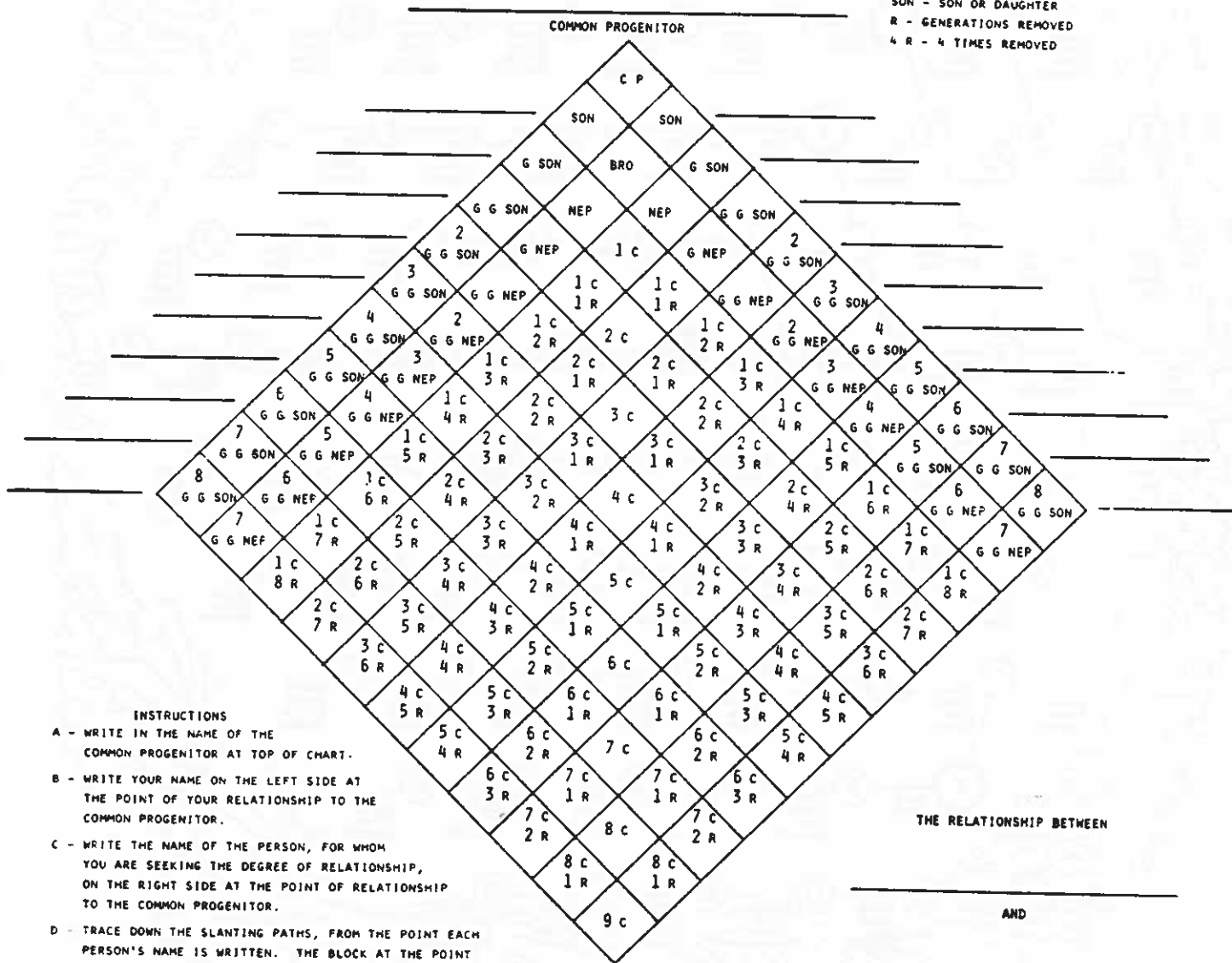
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RELATIONSHIPS

At the March meeting a question was raised about the correct terminology for various relationships among members of a family group (What is a cousin-once-removed, for example?).

For clarification I have reprinted two different charts which should help make these relationships clearer - I hope. Choose the one which seems simplest to you and save it for your files.

- ABBREVIATIONS**
- BRO - BROTHER OR SISTER
 - C - COUSIN
 - C P - COMMON PROGENITOR
 - G NEP GRAND NEPHEW OR NIECE
 - G G NEP GREAT GRAND NEPHEW OR NIECE
 - 2 G G - GREAT GREAT GRAND
 - 3 G G G - GREAT GREAT GREAT GRAND
 - G SON - GRAND SON OR DAUGHTER
 - SON - SON OR DAUGHTER
 - R - GENERATIONS REMOVED
 - 4 R - 4 TIMES REMOVED



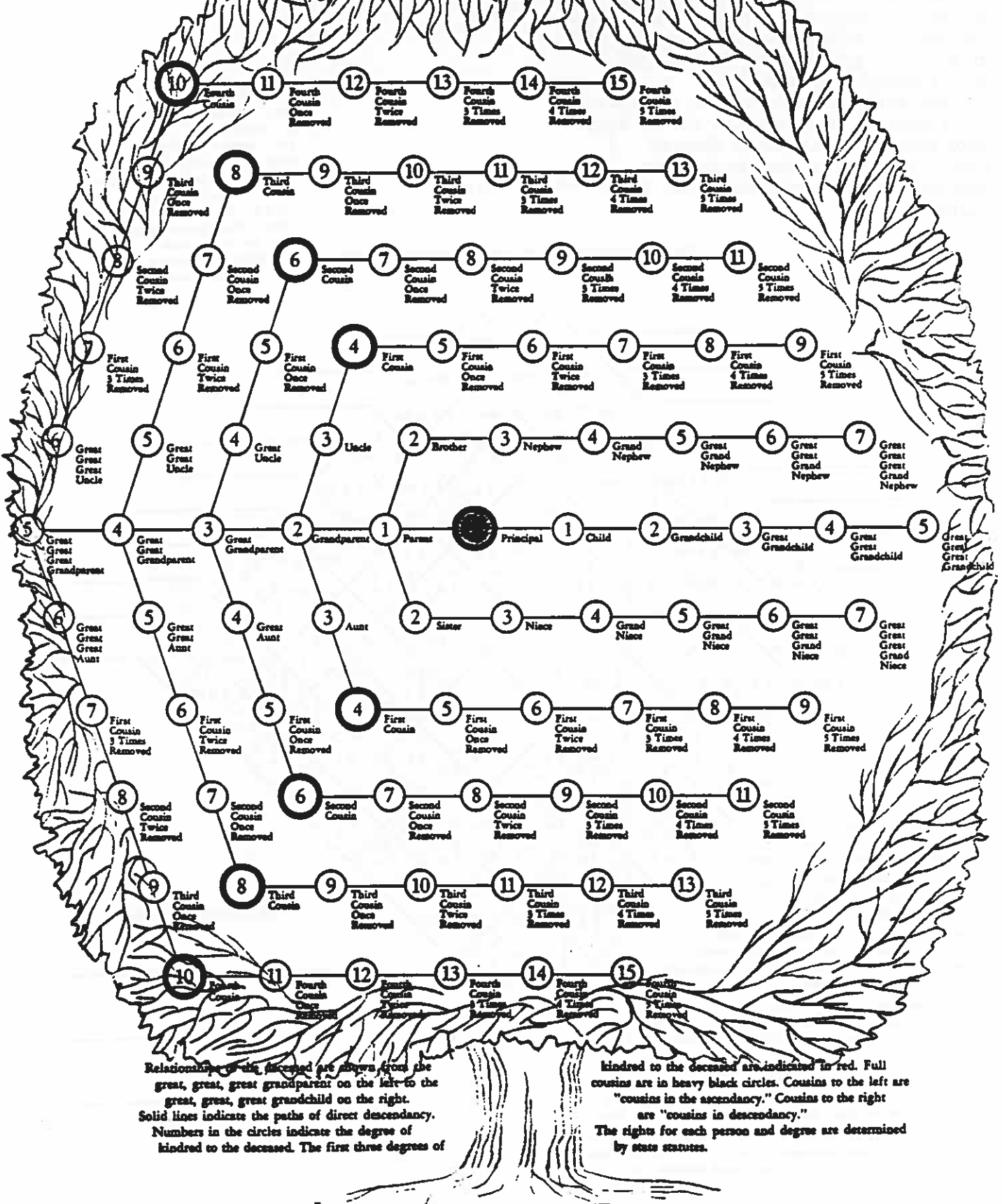
- INSTRUCTIONS**
- A - WRITE IN THE NAME OF THE COMMON PROGENITOR AT TOP OF CHART.
 - B - WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE LEFT SIDE AT THE POINT OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMON PROGENITOR.
 - C - WRITE THE NAME OF THE PERSON, FOR WHOM YOU ARE SEEKING THE DEGREE OF RELATIONSHIP, ON THE RIGHT SIDE AT THE POINT OF RELATIONSHIP TO THE COMMON PROGENITOR.
 - D - TRACE DOWN THE SLANTING PATHS, FROM THE POINT EACH PERSON'S NAME IS WRITTEN. THE BLOCK AT THE POINT WHERE THE TWO PATHS CROSS INDICATES THE RELATIONSHIP.

EXAMPLE -
 YOU ARE THE GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILD (4 G G SON).
 THE PERSON FOR WHOM YOU ARE SEEKING THE RELATIONSHIP IS
 THE GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GREAT GRANDCHILD (5 G G SON).
 FROM 4 G G SON, FOLLOWING THE PATHS, DOWNWARD TO THE RIGHT
 AND FROM 5 G G SON, DOWNWARD TO THE LEFT, IT WILL BE FOUND
 THAT THE PATHS CROSS AT 5TH COUSIN ONCE REMOVED (5C 1R).

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN _____
 AND _____
 IS _____

THE FAMILY TREE

Degrees of kindred according to the law



Relationships of the ascendant are shown from the great, great, great grandparent on the left to the great, great, great grandchild on the right. Solid lines indicate the paths of direct descent. Numbers in the circles indicate the degree of kindred to the deceased. The first three degrees of

kindred to the deceased are indicated in red. Full cousins are in heavy black circles. Cousins to the left are "cousins in the ascendancy." Cousins to the right are "cousins in descendancy." The rights for each person and degree are determined by state statutes.

SATURDAY MORNINGS continued

remarkable work by Raymond Gorham, a noted Canadian historian and antiquarian, now on our bookshelf at the Darien Library. The Gorham family begins with a lineage in Normandy ca 900 and recounts the story of 1066, with a Gorham accompanying William the Conqueror's invasion of England. The American line began with Ralph Gorham settling in Massachusetts in 1635. All the American and Canadian Gorhams descend from him.

Later I heard from Paul Gorham's cousin, Miss Beryla Gorham who lives in Saint John, New Brunswick. She had been receiving copies of all the material I had sent to him, including pictures of Daniel's house. She, too, wished to send some Gorham history she had compiled. So she sent me a book called "The Family Farm". This is the story of the farm and house which Nathaniel Gorham, the Loyalist who was banished from Middlesex Parish in 1783, built for himself and his wife, Mary (Whitney) Gorham, near Kingston, New Brunswick. A Gorham family has lived there for five generations. This book, which I gave, at her request, to the Darien Historical Society, will eventually be photocopied also for our shelves.

Knowing my interest, through our correspondence, in Loyalist families, Miss

Gorham also has sent me a little book by W.O. Raymond, who compiled the Winslow Papers. This is a reprint of Raymond's compilation of the journal and history of Kingston by Walter Bates, who also was exiled to the Maritimes in the Spring Fleet of 1783. Because it is more a history, not concerned with genealogy, I will give it to the Darien Historical Society, after first loaning it to any Bates family descendants who might like to borrow it.

I have recited this instance of correspondence, which is also a part of what I consider our Workshop can offer, because it demonstrates how rewarding this sharing of research can be for all concerned. What could be more fascinating to those of our ilk than to discover for someone a missing piece to a family puzzle? Whether by mail, or in discussion with those who drop by on a Saturday morning, I have found this to be a most delightful experience.

Because we have noticed in our "log" book that we had very few visitors over the past summer months, our Saturday office will not be open in June, July and August. Do come see us the first Saturday after Labor Day. And if you would like to volunteer for some Saturday morning "tour of duty", give me a call - 655-4342. Discover what fun it can be!



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

45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820

