

Middlesex Genealogical Society Newsletter

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 2

JUNE 1987

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

There have been many accomplishments of our new and thriving Society of which we can all be proud. We are, however, especially proud of our newsletter and its editor since our inception. Marianne Shelton has made us feel, through her newsletters, that we are indeed a Society with purpose. She has educated, informed, amused and prodded us on with her informative and beautifully done newsletters over the past three plus years (can you believe it has been that long?). We would like to thank Marianne for all she has done for us with her newsletters. I have grave doubts that I can even come close to her example, but will give it my best anyway.

I am sure you noticed immediately that the look of the newsletter is different. You can blame my husband for that. He brought home and put on our computer a new desk-top publishing software package called Pagemaker. I couldn't resist trying it out. I will, over the next few newsletters, try to perfect an interesting style, but please remember, I am just learning and you get to put up with my being 1) new at writing newsletters, and 2) new at desk-top publishing.

As you all know, indexes are very important to information gathering, i.e., genealogy. Therefore,

I have assembled an index of the articles that have appeared in our newsletters. I hope you will find it helpful.

During the Board's May Meeting, the following dates were set for our upcoming programs. Please mark your calendars now:

Tues., Sep. 15, 1987
Sat., Oct. 10, 1987
Wed., Dec. 02, 1987
Sun., Jan. 17, 1988
Wed., Mar. 16, 1988

Spring Fling - unscheduled

SEPTEMBER 15, 1987

Tentative trip to Philadelphia
Historical Society with Darien
Historical Society.

LOCAL LIBRARIES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

We are lucky to find ourselves in an area with numerous excellent libraries containing extensive genealogical information. I feel we tend to take them for granted and put off getting to them to do our genealogy work. Marianne has in the past given brief descriptions and personal comments about some of them, I will continue to do this with the hope that it will create both interest and the inspiration

to plan a trip to see for yourself. Once you get the habit, it will be hard to break!

Pequot Library is one of my favorites for several reasons. It is a very interesting and pleasant library to spend hours (if you wish) researching or wandering among the books, the new Assistant Librarian is our own MGS Director Thomas J. Kemp, and their collection is awe inspiring. The entire library can be considered an excellent source to help you find those missing links. The extensive genealogy material is found upstairs, the military records are downstairs and the biographies are on the main level.

Although the Pequot Library did not formally open until 1894, the

PEQUOT LIBRARY

720 Pequot Avenue
Southport, CT 06490
259-0346

building was built beginning in 1887 making this its centennial year. It was built and donated to the town of Southport by Mr. & Mrs. (Virginia Marquand Tompkins) Elbert B. Monroe. At Mr. Monroe's request, the library has, since its inception, specialized in collecting books on American history, with special emphasis on the New England states, their counties, towns and local genealogies. This program has been amplified to include the collecting of manuscripts, documents, autographs, etc. Of special interest are three beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows (well

worth the visit alone).

The following is a list of collections the library contains:

- An extensive collection of local histories, Americana, and general genealogy materials.
- Of special interest are the military unit histories including personal recollection books (mainly of the civil war) which are the soldiers' personal thoughts and memories of the war.
- Complete IGI (International Genealogy Index) from the Genealogical Society of Utah, containing more than 92 million names on more than 8,000 microfiche dating from the early 1500s to about 1875 for more than 90 countries. It is considered one of the most valuable tools for genealogical research available.
- A wall of travel books which are personal narratives dating back to the 1800s.
- 20,000+ biographies which in Tom's opinion are not used nearly enough as genealogy sources.
- 800 - 1,000 periodicals.
- Copies of local newspapers many dating back to their start.
- Early magazines, i.e., religious publications, church publications.
- A complete set of the New York City/City Directories dating

from the late 1700s to 1920.

- There are two Rare Book Rooms.

Tom Kemp has been giving monthly genealogy lectures of interest to both beginners and advanced researchers in the library's auditorium. As part of this series, they have held monthly field trips to such places as the National Archives Branch in Bayonne, NJ, and the New York Historical Society. I attended the lecture on June 10th and found it informal and enlightening. Tom encouraged personal questions and the audience participation was enthusiastic. Tom gave a brief talk on Indexes - How Good Are They? Some of the points he made were:

- The index is only as good as the indexer. The indexer is human and may have been having a bad day.
- Become acquainted with each individual index, (i.e., sometimes there are indexes within indexes).
- City Directories were often done by more than one company. If you don't find someone in one, check another.
- When checking church records for births, marriages & deaths, remember the church meeting records or minutes. They can prove invaluable.
- DAR Patriot Index is generally considered reliable but remember that not everyone who served in the revolution is in there. They

are only records of those whose descendants have been accepted into the DAR Society.

- The Index to Revolutionary War Pensions is similar. Someone had to have applied for the pension to be listed.
- Even the IGI only contains those records which have been indexed by the Mormon Church. If records have not yet been indexed, they will not appear in the IGI. It is an ongoing process.

CONSIDER PUBLISHING YOUR
GENEOLOGICAL RECORDS

Tom also stressed the need for you to seriously consider 'publishing' your genealogy records. You should not be concerned that every last item is found and filled in. Genealogy is a never ending 'unfinishedness'. By publishing, Tom suggests that you take your first Pedigree Sheet (Ancestor Charts), place behind it a Family Group Sheet for each couple, behind that add any general information about each family including pictures (labeled, of course), newspaper clippings, memorabilia. Then start over with the next Pedigree Sheet, etc., etc.

At the end, please include an index of alphabetized names. Most of us have this on index cards or listed somewhere for our own use. You know what it is like to pick up a book or manuscript and find no index. It makes the work almost useless unless you are blessed with lots of time (a luxury for most of us). So attach that to the back of your stack of papers. Take this

pile down to your local quick copy place and have them run off 25 or 50 or whatever copies. Take about 10 copies and have them bound (a surprisingly inexpensive undertaking - ask your local librarian for names and addresses of publishers). Send bound copies to the Library of Congress, the New York Public Library, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Allen County Indiana Genealogical Society Library, Newberry Library in Chicago, the LDS Church Historical and Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, and any library which would have a particular interest in your personal genealogy. Now take the remaining copies, put them in loose leaf binders and distribute them to interested family members. And don't forget the Darien Library.

And a final note on the Pequot Library:

Every summer Pequot has a gigantic booksale held picnic style under large tents in their front yard. It has long been a favorite of mine as I (for reasons unknown even to myself) love to collect old hard-back books especially if they have pictures on the front covers. Examples of my "finds" at this yearly booksale are Five Little Peppers and How They Grew, several Bobbsey Twins 1907 copyrighted, Cooper's Novels - Homeward Bound and Home as Found, April 1838, and an 1878 issue of Tales From Shakespeare to name a few, averaging about \$.50 each. This year they expect to have 75,000 books in 40 interesting and popular categories.

(In case you think you might not find anything of interest!!!) Prices start at \$.25.

They also have rare editions for much more, but if you are interested in real finds, you must be there on Friday at the beginning. They are usually housed in the auditorium instead of in the tents so head there first.

DIRECTIONS TO PEQUOT LIBRARY

North on I-95 to Exit 19. Turn right at first stop sign at end of ramp (Center Street). Go under railroad to first stop sign. Turn right onto Pequot Avenue (library will be on your right at end of block). For parking, turn right at first block (Westway Road). Turn right into library driveway which goes behind library. Park and walk around to front.

The sale opens Friday, July 31 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Prices will be double the amount marked in the books for that first day. Saturday and Sunday, the sale will open at 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and prices will be as marked. On Monday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., books will be half-priced, and on Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., books are FREE!

So come and enjoy and do it for a good cause, too.

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"Both the lineage and the certain sire from which I sprung, from me are hidden yet."

- Edmund Spenser, English Poet
Faerie Queen, 1552?-1599

**SOUTHERNERS: MAKING A PLACE FOR
FINDING THE PAST**

Southern Living, Jan. 1987

Anne S. Anderson is into "family" in a very big way. As founder and director of the L. W. Anderson Genealogical Library in Gulfport, the Mississippi native can tell you about her family, about a lot of other families, and about how to find out about your family.

She had been interested in genealogy for a long time, and in 1979 she began to trace her own family's "difficult lines," as she calls them. "I realized I couldn't do my genealogy from Gulfport, Mississippi, or New Orleans or Mobile." Her response was to change that. So in 1983, she started the library with four books in rented space.

**L. W. ANDERSON
GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY**

Gulfport, Mississippi

With the help of friends and other scholars, Anderson began collecting source books, such as wills, marriage records, deed books, and more. Now the library, which is named for her grandmother, contains nearly 40,000 books, plus microfilm records, and it occupies an old turn-of-the-century house at William Carey College on the Coast in Gulfport.

A small, young woman with blue eyes and short blond hair, Anderson speaks quickly and with an intensity. "So many people have the idea of a genealogist as being the little old lady with the bun on the back of her head and wearing tennis shoes. That's not the way genealogists are today. More often than not, they are educated people, professionals. You have to know

"I tend to think the skeletons in a family are really a lot of fun."

history, geography, mathematics, logistics. You've got to know statistics, naming patterns. You've got to know a little bit about a lot of things to be a very competent genealogist. I'm trying to educate the public to realize that genealogists are educated people."

Anderson holds annual seminars to help people learn more about genealogy and even personally helps many a patron with his or her search. "We usually start by sitting them down and asking them what they can tell us about themselves, their parents, and their grandparents. From there it's on to census reports and specific collections."

She always stresses accuracy--and reality--in her work. "You always find people who say, 'I go all the way back to Charlemagne.' That's a goody. We get that one all the time." She laughs. "Or if it's not royalty, it's an Indian princess. What people don't realize is

that, generally, nobles didn't come to America in the first place."

She points out, too, that people have been known to find out things they'd rather not know. One patron discovered that the ancestor who supposedly had his right ear bitten off in a raucous frontier fight actually had that ear cropped when he was branded for being a criminal.

Anderson gives a bright smile. "I tend to think the skeletons in a family are really a lot of fun." She points out how one lady she had located for a patron had birthed two of her husband's children well after his death and how another, according to the Federal Census, officially remained 40 years old for 30 years. She laughs again and throws up her hands. "If I had all whitewashed people in my family, it would be dull, very dull. Besides," she quips, "the infamous give it a little character."

"If I had all whitewashed people in my family, it would be dull, very dull."

Her L. W. Anderson Genealogical Library is an undeniable success. It already ranks in the top 10 of such libraries in the South. In 1985 it was given the National Genealogical Society Award of Merit for outstanding service. Plus, the library was selected over several other sites to host the society's 1988 national conference, which will attract genealogists from all over the world.

Still, she has grand plans. "I fully intend to grow. In fact, I won't stop until I'm No. 1. It will take some work. It will take some money and some time, but I think over the next 5 to 10 years I can do it." And with her determination, that's hard to doubt

NEW ENGLAND QUAKERS

The Quaker Yeoman is interested in contacting anyone with descent from or info pertaining to the 17th & 18th century New England Quakers. Very little is known or published on this subject. Gathered material will be published in The Quaker Yeoman at the request of many readers. Contact:

--James E. Bellarts, Ed. & Pub. of The Quaker Yeoman, 2330 SE Brookwood Ave, Suite #108, Hillsboro OR 97123 (503)640-2217

LEGER FAMILIES

Exchange of information is requested by a member of the Societe Genealogique Canadienne Francaise of Montreal. Information to include historical & genealogical matter for the following surname spellings: Legere, Legier, Ligir, Ligier, Ledger, St-Leger, St Ledger, Prieur, Parisien & Averty. He currently has 20,000 names gathered.

Contact -- Jean-Pierre Leger, C.P. 378, Succ. Longueuil, Longueuil Quebec, Canada J4K 5E6

COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND

The New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 536-5740 is sponsoring a genealogical Research Seminar entitled 'Come Home to New England' August 16-22. It will be a full week of genealogical research with expert guidance. The program, designed for any level, features an orientation day (Sunday), four mornings of lectures by accomplished professionals, afternoons and evenings for research in the library, tutorial sessions, and field trips to nearby repositories.

A Bed & Breakfast concept are available at the Katharine Gibbs School Dormitory, Zero Marlborough Street, a few blocks from the Society; luxury accommodations are offered at the Copley Plaza Hotel (cost extra). The seminar fee of \$695 includes tuition and materials, all tours and side trips, seven days bed and full breakfast, with an optional day at either end of the week, two banquet dinners and a \$150 tax-deductible donation to the Society's Challenge Fund. The tuition cost for commuters and Copley Plaza guests is \$550.00

He that wishes to be counted among the benefactors of posterity must add by his own toil to the acquisitions of his ancestry.

-RAMBLER

NOTE YOUR SOURCES

Any record you find, even though it was filled out at the time of the event, may contain errors. Obituaries often have facts mixed up. You may find great-aunt Florence listed in the census at the age of four as a male named Lawrence. The marriage license of Priscilla Coulter calls her Pauline. The date on a tombstone may not agree with that recorded in the family Bible.

The 1935 death certificate of Zachariah Taylor Shutes lists his parents as William Shutes and Sarah Severns. The informant was Zachariah's widow, who had never known her in-laws. Further research revealed the mother was actually Julia Ann Severns, who had died when her son was very young. This was proven by two contemporary records: the 1841 marriage license of William Shutes and Julia Ann Severns, and the 1877 estate file of Nye Severns, which names the seven children of his daughter Julia Ann Shutes, who had predeceased him in 1856.

When gathering material, always record the source of your information, so when contradictions crop up, you'll be able to recheck if

Tracing Your Family Tree
Steven Earl Coulter

Better Homes & Gardens

June, 1977

NAMES OF ARTICLES	ISSUE	DATE
A Genealogical Hint...	Vol II, No. 3	Sep 1985
A Little "Society Note" - 1892 by Jane C. Merchant	Vol I, No. 4	Dec 1984
A Tale of Two Gravestones by Jane C. Merchant	Vol I, No. 4	Dec 1984
Acadian Research	Vol I, No. 3	Sep 1984
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BOOK REVIEWS-American Ancestors and Cousins of the Princess of Wales	Vol IV, No. 1	Mar 1987
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Books Available for Use by Carl Moses	Vol II, No. 1	Mar 1985
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Did You Know...Directory of Historical Societies & Agencies	Vol I, No. 2	Jun 1984
Did You Know...Family Member Relationships Chart	Vol I, No. 4	Dec 1984
Did You Know...Julian to Gregorian Calendars in 1752	Vol I, No. 2	Jun 1984
Did You Know...MGS 1 of 3 genealogical societies in CT	Vol I, No. 3	Sep 1984
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45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820