



Middlesex Genealogical Society

FALL 1990

Vol VII, No. 3



On October 1, Charles Galbraith gave us an excellent talk entitled *Adventures in Irish Resources*.

There were over 80 people in attendance. It was a wonderful talk and gave us all inspiration for the coming year.

Our next meeting will be held Saturday, November 17, 1-3 p.m. It is a joint effort with the

Connecticut Ancestry Society of Stamford. Tom Kemp is coming up from Philadelphia to speak on *Major Resources You May Have Missed*. The meeting will be held in the Financial Center

Building, Elm & Tressor Blvd, Stamford. This is easy access off Exit 8 with underground parking from Tressor Blvd. There will be ample signs to point the way. Let's all turn out to welcome Tom back for a visit.

Our annual fall bus trip with the Darien Historical Society will be November 1st. It is a one day trip to visit the Bush Holley House in Greenwich. We will be treated to a film from the Smithsonian Museum and then tour the recently renovated Bush Holley House. After lunch at the Hyatt Regency, we will see the Elmer Livingston McRae exhibit at the Bruce Museum. Elmer McRae married one of the Bush daughters and they resided in the Bush Holley House for many years. The price is \$35 for members and \$37 for non members.

Our Saturday morning workshops have begun again. Norm Adams is in charge of this very successful project. The hours are 10 - 12 a.m. and someone will be in our Genealogy Room to answer questions, help with problems or just show you around and point out our recent acquisitions. These include many wonderful books given by Tom Kemp when he moved to Philadelphia and our recently acquired *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* (of England), edited by Cecil Humphery-Smith. Our library is growing. If you haven't seen it lately, please stop by and see for yourself. Also send down all your friends and neighbors who have expressed an interest in learning more about genealogy. Then, you will have someone new with whom to share your passion.

And last but not least, our continuation of the Spring Grove Cemetery Project is about 85% finished. All of the flat stones and family plots have been read with the help of the Boy Scouts. It is now in the hands of Grant Radmall for editing. Hopefully, it can be on your Christmas list! Also the Darien family cemetery project done by Marianne Sheldon in a joint venture with the Darien Historical Society is nearing completion. Marianne should be commended for spending so many hours in these numerous cemeteries fighting the elements, deer ticks and poison ivy! We all look forward to these finished projects.

One very sad note, we have lost Grant Radmall to Salt Lake City. He is a great worker for the cause of genealogy. His expertise will be sorely missed, but most importantly, we will just plain miss *him*. We wish him all the best and want to remind him to get that guest room ready -- for the Cause of Genealogy, of course!!!

So that is the beginning of another exciting season. Let's all turn out to the meetings for a great time, for sharing all our new finds and for getting help on our problems. Meantime, drag those projects out of the back closet where you stored them for the summer and get back to work on them. Keep those letters coming and going, and don't forget to include the SASE for courtesy and faster answers. The rewards are worth the effort!

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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 Public Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10-12) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$10/Individual and \$15/Couple or Family.

Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcomed for the newsletter. Send to the Editor:

Sherrill S. Yates
9 Wagon Rd
Bethel, CT 06801.

Correspondence to the Society :

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

Newsbreak!!!

Pilgrim Ship Became Barn in England

(This newsbreak taken from the
Plymouth County Genealogists Newslet-
ter, October, 1990.)



Three hundred fifty-nine years ago the MAYFLOWER, after a rough nine week voyage from England, made a safe landing in Plymouth, MA. How her passengers fared has been well recorded by history. The fate of the ship, however, remained a secret.

The MAYFLOWER made a second voyage, carrying slaves to the new world then disappeared for over three centuries. Interest in her whereabouts did not surface again until the 350th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing, and then our Bicentennial celebration.

It was noted that generations of residents of the small town of Jordons, England, have believed that a barn owned by the Society of Friends was built from the MAYFLOWER. Researchers who began investigating this tradition were amazed to find this little barn was indeed the ship that helped found a nation.

A bill of sale dated 1624 verified the sale of the MAYFLOWER for salvage to a Buckinghamshire farmer, William Russell. At the current rate of exchange, he paid \$384.00 for the hull of the ship. It was erected upside down on a foundation and has served her ensuing occupants as well as she served the Pilgrims.



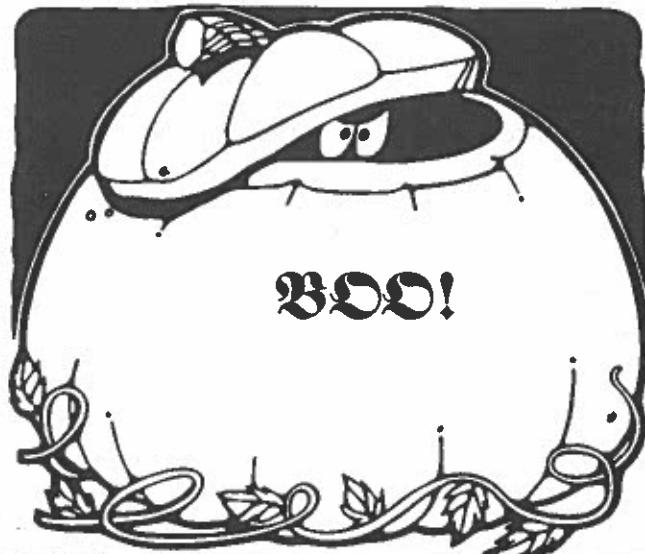
Genealogical Society of Vermont Announces Vermont Families in 1791

(taken from NEHGS NEXUS, Vol. VII, Nos. 3 & 4)

In honor of the Vermont Bicentennial (1791-1991) and its own twentieth anniversary, the Genealogical Society of Vermont (GSV) has undertaken *Vermont Families in 1791*, a reference book based on the first Federal census of Vermont, taken in 1791 when Vermont was admitted as the 14th state. According to project editor and NEHGS assistant curator Scott A. Bartley, the work was inspired by the Maine Genealogical Society's fine *Maine Families in 1791*, vol. 1 (1988), edited by Ruth Gray. If this first Vermont volume sparks sufficient interest, he noted, GSV may publish a continuing series.

Submissions are now being accepted. Entries must be of persons listed in *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Vermont* (1907), or must contain proof that the person

(continued on Page 23)



Pennsylvania Germans in Nova Scotia

by Florence E. Wyland

In 1766, a group of twenty Pennsylvania Dutch families from Philadelphia were gathered to form a group of settlers to go to the territory of Nova Scotia, (New Brunswick) Canada. The area would be on the Petitcodiac River, north of St. John, NB. This land was formerly owned by the Acadians who had been driven out by the English, and whose story is well told in the epic poem, *Evangeline*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The Pennsylvania company had been formed by John Hughes on behalf of Franklin & Company and was to back these folks as they ventured to this strange, new land. They signed a formal agreement with nine heads of families named: Matthias Sumner, Vallon, Tin Miller, Charles Jones, Heinrich Steif, Andrew Criner, Michold Lutz, Jacob Cline, Matthias Lenz and Jacob Treitz, guaranteeing their transport and titles to lands in the new townships.

Four of the families withdrew before the April sailing and the five remaining families sailed from Philadelphia. Sumner, Steif, Lutz and Treitz were German families. The Charles Jones family was Welsh.

Captain John Hall's vessel, a sloop, arrived at "The Bend" (now known as Moncton, NB) on 3 June 1766. This was at a sharp bend in the Petitcodiac River, where the world famous "tidal bore" occurs due to some of the highest tides in the world.

My ancestors are Heinrich Steif and his wife Rachel and family, whom I had no idea until recently, were originally from PA. Their arrival in Nova Scotia was full of hardships because of lack of logistical support, particularly clothing, working cattle and other essential supplies that were not being sent as promised. They lived mostly on "Herbs which they gathered in the marsh in the spring". The support they had been promised back in Philadelphia by John Hughes had collapsed and they found themselves entirely on their own in this wilderness.

My mother belonged to the Christian branch of the Steeves (Steif) family. They had seven sons when they landed on the shores of Panacadie Creek, Moncton Township. Jacob (then about 16), John, Christian, Henry, Lewis and Matthias, who was about 5.

Heinrich's original grant of land (Land Grant No. 260) was divided into blocks, and the western block of 1,159 acres went to Christian, (WRIGHT, E.C., 1945, p. 47. Cumberland County Records of 11 November 1780). Within a century much of this land was sold to incoming settlers. Maps of land holdings prepared in 1862 (National Map Collection, Archives, Ottawa, Canada) show several different spellings of the name. The family name was then spelled STEVES, had been STEIF and later changed to STEEVES, which it is today.

Descendency Chart

Steif, Henrich; b. ca. 1730, Philadelphia, PA;
d. 1778/80, New Brunswick, Canada;
m. Rachel, b. PA; d. New Brunswick, Canada.
Steif, Christian; b. 1753;
d. 1820, New Brunswick, Canada;
m. Trites, Rosanna (Cummings);
d. New Brunswick, Canada.
Steeves, Rachael, b. 1776;
d. 1859, Hillsborough, NB, Canada;
m. Colpitts, Rev. Robert, b. 1769, Selaby, England;
d. 1855, Norton, NB.
Colpitts, Ann; b. 1810, Dickie Mt., Norton, NB, Can.;
m. Pierce, John; b. 1810, Dickie Mt, Norton, NB,
Can.
Pierce, John Malachi; b. 1857 Dickie Mt., Norton, NB,
Can.; d. 1898, Dickie Mt., Norton, NB, Canada;
m. Ewing, Florence; b. 1859, Aylesford, Nova
Scotia, Canada; d. 1952, Norton, NB, Canada.
Pierce, Jessie, b. 1893, Dickie Mt, Norton, NB, Canada;
d. 1988, Manchester, CT, USA;
m. Bates, Walter C.; b. 1892, Great Neck, LI, NY;
d. 1980, Rowe, MA.

Reference: *William S. Hoar*, Steeves and Colpitts, Pioneers of The Upper Petitcodiac, Tangled Roots Press, Vancouver, Canada, 1988.

Wright, E. C., Samphire Greens, The Story of the Steeves. Author publication, Wolfville, NS, Canada, 1961.



Give Thanks



United States Research Outline

(excerpts from)

by Family History Library

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

LAND AND PROPERTY

The availability of land attracted many immigrants to America and encouraged westward expansion. Land ownership was generally recorded in an area as soon as settlers began to arrive. These important records sometimes exist when few other records are available. The Family History Library has an extensive collection of state and county land records.

Land records are primarily used to learn where an individual lived and when he lived there. They often reveal other family information, such as the name of a spouse, heir, other relatives, or neighbors. You may learn where a person lived previously, his occupation, if he had served in the military, if he was a naturalized citizen, and other clues for further research.

Government Land Grants

The Land Grant Process

Various royal, colonial, state, and federal governments established the first claims to land in what is now the United States. These governments have since sold or given much of this land to individuals. The person who obtains title to the land from the government receives a land grant. The process of receiving a land grant is sometimes referred to as "land-entry." Obtaining a grant of land from the government is the final step in a process that often resulted in the creation of several documents. The following is a general description of the documents that may have been created. Not all steps of the process may have been necessary, depending on local laws and customs.

The process generally began when a person seeking a grant submitted an *application* (*petition* or *memorial*) to the king or a governor, proprietor, or government office. He may have applied to purchase land or to receive it free as payment for military or other service. Various documents could have been submitted with the application, such as evidence of citizenship, military service, or prior claim to the land.

If the application was approved, a *warrant* was issued to the individual. The warrant was a certificate that authorized him to receive a certain amount of land. This was surrendered to the appropriate official or land office to request that a surveyor produce a *survey* (a written legal description of the location of the land).

Early surveys used a metes-and-bounds system. This system described physical features of the land, such as "north fifty rods from the creek" or S10° W38

rods to the red oak on hill." After 1785 many lands were described by a rectangular survey system, using ranges, townships, and sections, such as "NW1/4 of section 13, T2S R4W". (This example is read as "northwest quarter of section 13 of township 2 south, range 4 west). A township is a unit of land containing 36 sections. Each section is one square mile in area and contains 640 acres which can be divided into lots of various sizes.

To purchase land that had already been surveyed, a person may have simply selected an available lot or bid for it at a public auction. Available lots were sometimes distributed through lotteries. *Land lottery* records are available for some states.

A government official or land office then recorded the individual's name and the location of the land in *tract books* and on *plat maps*. Tract books record the written legal descriptions of all the lots within a township or given area. Tract books of the public domain states (see below) are arranged by sections within townships. Plats or plat books are maps of the lots within the tract.

The individual may have needed to complete certain other requirements, such as installments payments or a period of residency on the land, before he could actually obtain title to the land. Records of his completion of these requirements may have been kept in a *case file* along with his application. After all the requirements were completed, a *patent* or *final certificate* was issued to the individual. The patent (a first-title deed) secured the individual's title to the land. The individual could then sell or give the patent to someone else.

The government generally retained the survey notes, tract books, plat maps, case files, warrant books (records of warrants issued and surrendered), and the patent books (records of patents issued). The individual retained his copy of the patent.

Grants from Colonial Governments

Colonial governments (including England, Spain, Mexico, and France) issued land grants to settlers in areas that later became part of the United States. In the early colonies, a governor or proprietor could sell land or give it away to soldiers and settlers. Those who immigrated or brought a certain number of immigrants to a colony sometimes received "head-right" or similar grants of land as compensation for settling the colony.

Many of these records are now available at the appropriate state archives. The Family History Library has copies of many colonial land records and published indexes. These are described further in the state research outlines and are generally listed in the FHLC under [STATE] - LAND AND PROPERTY.

Grants from the Federal Government (Public Domain)

The *public domain* included most of the land west of the Appalachian Mountains that was obtained by the federal government. After the United States was established, some lands that had been claimed by the colonies were ceded to the federal government. The federal government also obtained land as a result of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the War with Mexico (1846-48), and other means.

Over the years, more than one billion acres have been transferred to private or state ownership through the types of grants described below. Approximately 25 million surveyed lots were eventually described in tract books. An estimated 6 1/2 to 7 million titles were granted to individuals and states.

To accomplish this massive distribution of land, the government needed to resolve Indian claims to the land and private claims by settlers already on the land (including those who had received grants from Spain, Mexico, or France). They also needed to encourage settlement of the open lands, reserve lands for military bounty, survey the land to provide a legal description, and establish a record-keeping system.

The Northwest Ordinance of 1785 was the first of over 300 laws to help accomplish these tasks. It established the rectangular survey system that divided most of the land in the public domain into townships and sections. Later laws established local land offices to distribute the land. These were under the direction of the General Land Office (GLO) in Washington, D.C. (now known as the Bureau of Land Management).

Types of Grants. The GLO distributed over 1,031,000,000 acres of the public domain lands:

- **Donation lands and cash or credit sales.** To encourage settlements of open lands, approximately 29 percent was sold very inexpensively for cash or credit (1800 to 1908) or donated to encourage settlements (1840s to 1903 in Florida, Oregon, and Washington).
- **Homestead grants.** Another 28 percent of the land was distributed after 1862 to homesteaders who could receive title to the land by residing on it and making improvements for five years (various laws modified these requirements). About 60 percent of those who applied for homestead land never completed the requirements to receive a patent to the land. However, their applications have generally been preserved in their case files, and these many contain helpful family information.
- **Grants to states.** Approximately 22 percent of the land was granted to the states, who, in turn, may have sold or leased it to individuals.
- **Grants to railroads and others.** Twelve percent was granted to railroad companies and others who also may have sold or leased it.

- **Military bounty lands.** Seven percent was distributed as military bounty land

- **Private land claims.** Two percent of the land was granted to individuals who could establish prior ownership or had titles previously granted by Spain, Mexico, or France. When new areas were acquired by the United States, special commissions or courts were appointed by the U.S. Congress to resolve these claims and report to Congress. Many claims were presented directly to Congress.

Obtaining the Case Files. The case files are the most helpful records for family history researchers. The files for the donation grants, cash and credit sales, homestead entries, military bounty land, and private land claims are at:

Washington National Records Center

4205 Suitland Road
Suitland, MD 20409
(in-person visits)

General Branch, Civil Archives Division

National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20409
(requests by mail)

Most of the case files have *not* been microfilmed, except for the Oregon and Washington donation lands and some of the private claims files. The Family History Library has copies of most of the records that are on microfilm (see the state research outlines for more information).

You can request photocopies of the original files at the National Records Center **if you can provide the legal description of the land.**

Obtaining a Legal Description of the Land. The legal description includes the township and range of the property. If you can also provide the number and date of the patent or final certificate and name of the land office that granted the land, the files can be found more quickly. You may be able to get the legal description from one of the following:

- **A deed, patent certificate,** or similar records in the family's possession.
- **County deed records and plat maps.** In some cases you will also find a reference to the original patent or tract.
- **Tract books.** If you know the general location of the land, you can search the tract books to obtain the legal description. The tractbooks are on 1,265 microfilms at the Family History Library. These are listed in the FHL Catalog under United States - Land and Property. Most state archives also have copies for their states.

The original tract books for all public-domain states east of the Mississippi River and the states bordering the Mississippi on the west are at the Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States Office, 350 South Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. The original books for the other states are at the National Archives branch that serves the state, and copies are at the BLM offices in Anchorage, Phoenix, Sacramento, Denver, Boise, Billings, Reno, Santa Fe, Portland, Salt Lake City, and Cheyenne. You can search these records yourself, or the staff at the BLM offices will search the tract books for you for a fee.

● **Federal plats.** These are another source for finding the legal description. They are often referred to as the "township plats." Most of these are available at the BLM offices above or at the National Archives--Cartographic Branch. Each state archives may also have microfilm copies for the state.

● **Indexes to the patent books.** The patent books are available at the BLM offices, and many state archives have copies. These can provide a legal description of the land, but you need either an index or the legal description to search the books. A few of the patent records are indexed. The BLM Eastern States Office (see address above under *tract books*) has an index to all patents issued after 30 June 1908. The Family History Library and the Eastern States Office have an incomplete card file that indexes pre-1908 patents issued in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, and Wisconsin. These are on 160 microfilms listed in the FHLC under UNITED STATES - LAND AND PROPERTY - INDEXES. The National Archives has a card index to pre-1908 patents issued in Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, Nevada, and Utah.

Private Land Claims. The original 1789 to 1908 case files of private land claims in parts of 15 states are at the Washington National Records Center (see address above). The files of some states have been micro-filmed and are available at state archives and at the Family History Library.

Many of the applications, petitions, and memorials presented to Congress from 1789 to 1837 have been published and indexed in classes VIII and IX of the *American State Papers* (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1832-61; FHL book 973 R2a; 1832-61 edition on FHL films 899,878-85). These papers are listed in the FHL Catalog under UNITED STATES - LAND AND PROPERTY. A combined index to the Gales and Seaton edition is Philip W. McMullin, ed., *Grassroots of America* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Gendex Corp., 1972; FHL book Ref 973 R2m; fiche 6051323) NOTE: This fiche is an "in-house fiche" at the New Canaan FHL.

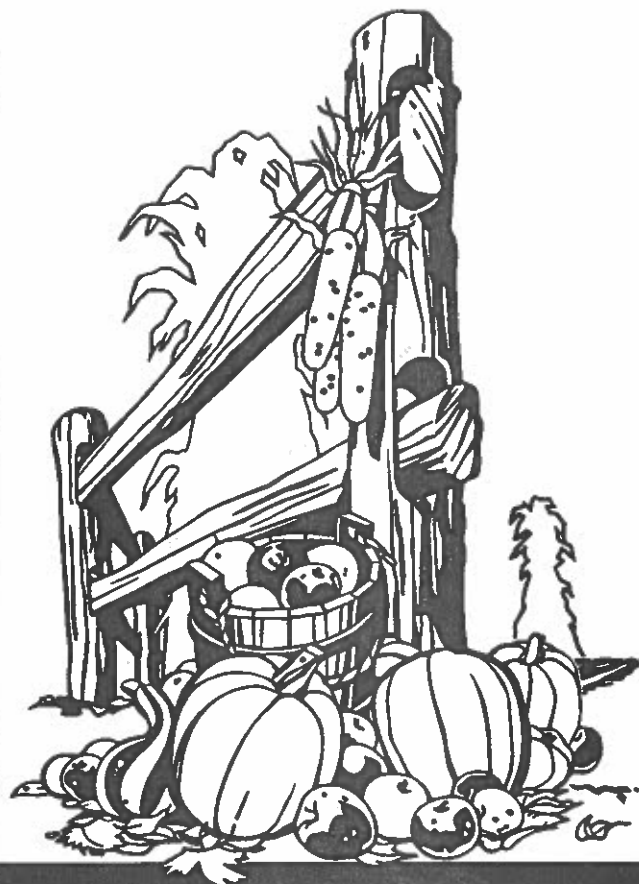
Indexes to land, pension, bounty land, and other claims presented to Congress from 1789 to 1909 are found in published summaries or digests (tables) at the National Archives and federal repository libraries (at major university libraries). The Family History Library has the digests for the House of Representatives for 1789 to 1871 (FHL films 899,874-77). These are listed in the FHLC under UNITED STATES - LAND AND PROPERTY.

Published Sources. Some societies, archives, and individuals have transcribed, indexed, and published portions of the federal land records, usually for a state or county. Those at the Family History Library are usually listed in the FHLC under the [STATE], or [COUNTY] - LAND AND PROPERTY.

Grants from States

The states also granted land. Twenty colonies and states did not cede the unclaimed land in their borders to the federal government when they became part of the United States. These states are known as *state-land states* and included the original 13 colonies and Hawaii, Kentucky, Maine, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, and West Virginia.

The states in the *public domain areas* who received grants of land from the federal government (as described above) also granted some of this land to individuals. ❀





Bureau of Land Management Seeks Volunteers

National Genealogical Society Newsletter
Vol. 16, No. 4 (1990)

The Eastern States Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has volunteer opportunities for students, retired persons, and others interested in BLM programs.

BLM is responsible for administering the federal land holdings commonly referred to as "public lands" and for leasing onshore mineral deposits underlying previously owned federal land.

BLM's Eastern States Office (ESO) is also the repository for millions of land records dating back to the 1700s that document the transfer of federal land to homesteading, railway companies, states, and townships.

Another responsibility of the ESO is a wild horse and burro adoption program. Wild horses and burros on BLM lands in the West are protected under law as a national heritage. Throughout the year, a select number of excess animals are rounded up and brought east to be "adopted" by people who want to give them a home.

All of these programs offer unique opportunities for volunteers, who can -

- Do original research, including land title searches, on the history of America's lands using historic documents;
- Conduct genealogical research using the vast repository of the nation's land records maintained by ESO;
- Gain exposure to a wide variety of computer equipment, including state-of-the-art optical disc technology;
- Help design marketing strategies or organize a photo contest for the Wild Horse and Burro Program;
- Help specialists manage a variety of mineral resources and lands throughout the eastern states.

For more information about the opportunities east of the Mississippi, call Janice Mosher at (703) 461-1509 or write for the new volunteer opportunities catalog to Volunteer Coordinator, ESO, 350 S. Pickett Street, Alexandria, VA 22304.

For information about volunteer opportunities west of the Mississippi River, contact Doug Blankenship at (202) 208-5261, or check your telephone book for a local BLM office. ❀

Genealogical Society of Vermont (continued from Page 18) should have been included, but was apparently missed in the 1791 federal census. If you believe the person was also counted in another state's 1790 census, please provide substantiating data.

Each entry must be thoroughly documented, with a short biography and list of all known children and spouses, birth, marriage and death dates and places for the couple, and births and spouses for their children. Please cite fully all documentation; the editor will standardize abbreviations. Each entry will end with the name and address of the submitter, unless you wish this information withheld. Submit entries to:

Genealogical Society of Vermont
Vermont Families Project
46 Chestnut Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

Below is a sample entry:

DOOLITTLE, Ephraim 14C 1-0-1-0-0
Shoreham Town, Addison County

[The above is the entry name in the census; page and column; family enumeration; town, and county - all from the 1907 printed version of Vermont's 1791 Federal census.]

EPHRAIM DOOLITTLE, son of Capt Samuel and Jane (WHEELER) DOOLITTLE, b 1725 Oct 29 Stafford CT (VR) and d 1807 Feb 08 Shoreham, VT (Gs, aged 86). Ephraim m int 1750 May 26 (*The Doolittle Family in America*, by William Frederick Doolittle, 1901-1907, pp 165-78, 296-98; hereafter *DFA*; no place or source listed) to SARAH MORTON, daughter of Lt Jonathan and Sarah (SMITH) MORTON. Sarah b 1725 Oct 12 Hatfield MA (VR) and d 1807 Sept 12 Shoreham VT (GS moved to Village Cemetery). They both were buried on their own land (now called the Doolittle farm), Shoreham VT; replacement DAR stones now mark their graves in this field.

Ephraim Doolittle lived in Palmer MA with his father's family and later moved to Worcester MA. He served as a captain in the French and Indian War. He was at the taking of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in 1759. He assisted General Stark in completing the military road from Charlestown NH to Crown Point NY. He acquired land in Addison, Bridport, Pittsford (where he owned nearly 1/3 of the land) and Shoreham VT. He obtained more land in Flamstead (likely Chester VT) and "Relham" NH [possible Pelham NH]. He may have lived in Pittsford VT, but returned to Worcester MA by 1763. In Worcester, he was politically active, holding various town offices; he was a representative to the General Court and an ardent whig (*DFA*).

Ephraim moved to nearby Petersham by 1771 where he is listed on the Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of that year. From Petersham, he continued his public life. He became colonel of the Minutemen of the county, serving at the Lexington Alarm with his son Joel (*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 1896-1908). He, his wife and the family of his children Sarah and Joel removed to Shoreham VT in 1783. Ephraim previously stayed briefly with other families from Worcester MA in 1766 and built a log house (*DFA*).

Their children born in Worcester MA (VR):

- i. Sarah b 1751 Jun 07, m John SMITH
- ii. Joel b 1752 Dec 08, m 1 Tabitha GOODWIN; m2 Mary (HALL) PARMALEE
- iii John b 1754 Jul 23, m Lucy DEAN
- iv Molly b 1757 Oct 31, d 1772 Dec 17 (bur Petersham MA)

Note: Ephraim, "Jr.," and Moses, listed in *DFA* as a son of Ephraim and Sarah (Morton) Doolittle, are now known not to belong to this family. The younger Ephraim was actually son of Samuel and Susannah Doolittle of Shoreham. Moses never came to Shoreham.

- Submitted by GSV Mem. #2546, Susan McIntire, Box 235, Shoreham, VT 05770



Keep Pictures and Records on Tape

by Frank W. Bouley
September 1987

(article supplied to Florence Wyland by Nellie Barber, Camduff, Sask., Canada)

I have been using an Apple II+ for seven years now and have files, biographies, and charts on over 1700 ancestors. Answers to queries are a snap; I just tell the computer to print it out while I have a cup of coffee. And for organizing and editing my material, there is no better method.

There is one drawback, however, and that is that I can not enter my large collection of pictures and photocopies of vital records. When digital processing gets a little better, I suppose that will solve the problem. I must wait and see.

This summer my wife and I went on a five week camping tour of the United States and purchased a Vidcam so we could have a video record of the trip. I managed to buy one with a very good Macro Lens for close

up work. While visiting my brother on the West Coast, I notices that he had an old tintype of my grandmother and her siblings when they were children. The photo was faded and only about three inches square. It was not easy to make out details. Needless to say, that is a picture my brother would not part with, so I tried an experiment. I mounted the picture on an easel and then took a tight close-up with the Vidcam, describing who the people were at the same time. When I played the tape back on my brother's VCR, using his 25" TV, I was delighted at the result. There was the tintype as large as the TV screen, and so clear that the people looked like they were about to come to life any second. I was able to see details that I had not noticed on the original.

Since arriving back home I have recorded my collection of pictures with marvelous results. I give a running verbal dialogue, describing everything about the picture while it is showing. I also record birth and death certificates and any other vital papers. If focused properly, the printing comes on my TV screen clearly and very easy to read.

When all the material is recorded, I play it back, keeping an index of the foot markers on the tape so that may forward to any picture or record I desire. I can make copies of this tape and sent them to relatives who do not have these pictures.

If you don't have a Vidcam, get one. It will become the right hand of the computer. You can take it to cemeteries and tape gravestones or family functions for a taped record of the meeting. One thing is important; make sure that any Vidcam you purchase has a good Macro Lens for close up work.

Although, like most of us, I am hoping to publish my family history, I am now thinking about making a taped version with pictures, charts, and even computer graphics for illustration. I will write a script and describe everything that is showing on the screen including little biographies.

Isn't technology wonderful!!! ❖



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

Application for Membership
Single (\$10) _____
Couple (\$15) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

The Newport Connection

by Jane Merchant

With the trip to Newport still fresh in the minds of those of you who were fortunate enough to go, and memorialized for the rest of us in the Newsletter, I thought that Newport's contribution to Georgetown, South Carolina and her history following the War of 1812 would make an interesting footnote to the account.

Several years ago, I wrote an article for the Newsletter, telling of our interest in a letter written by my husband's grandfather, Richard Oliver Bush to his children upon the occasion of his 69th birthday, in 1884. After stating that he was born in Newport, Rhode Island, Sept. 9, 1815, the son of Richard Bush, a native of Newport, he went on to say he had come to Georgetown in 1830, when he was fifteen, and before going into business for himself in 1835, he had clerked in the store of Congdon & Chace.

Only recently, I have learned that Peter Chace was Bush's brother-in-law. Peter Chace married Anne Bush, daughter of Richard Bush in 1820 in Newport. Presumably they came to Georgetown after 1820. William Congdon, whose family were from Newport, came to Georgetown, because of their interest in the coastal trade. Georgetown, which has one of the best harbours on the eastern seaboard, during the 19th century had a lively seaport, trading with Newport, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, in the North, as well as with the West Indies and Ports abroad. Chiefly exporting rice and indigo, and importing spices and molasses from the West Indies to trade up North.

Another Newporter who came to Georgetown was Benjamin Ingalls Hazard, who would become a partner of William Congdon after the Civil War. (Congdon left the South during that conflict.) Benjamin Hazard was also a relative of Richard Oliver Bush. Richard Bush, his father, married Hannah Hazard of the same family.

The point of all this is that these Yankees became the storekeepers -- the tradesmen of the town, in a community which was then dominated politically and socially by the rich planters -- and while the plantations would later suffer great hardships both due to the war and reconstruction period -- only to see their rice fields decimated by two savage hurricanes in the 1880s, this nucleus of town businesses somehow survived.

The Hazards, sent their son, Walter, to Princeton. He later came home to read law with a local eminent jurist, James Dozier, before hanging up his shingle -- the Congdon's son, George, became an Intendant (Mayor) of Georgetown, and one of its leading citi-

zens, and Richard Oliver Bush, entered public life after the war and served also as Intendant for several terms, and was a Probate Judge at the time he wrote his letter -- these men from Newport, all made contributions to their adopted city of Georgetown.

Aside from the commercial interests which brought a number of Rhode Islanders to Georgetown, and to Charleston, sixty miles to the south, there were also the trips made to Newport by the planters and their families to escape some of the long months of hot weather. Not only the planters, but also the owners of the stores, Congdon, Chace, Bush and Hazard, would seek out their Newport relatives to visit during the summers.

In the letter to his children, Richard Oliver Bush wrote that in 1849 he went north to marry Caroline Almy, the daughter of Captain Samuel Almy of Newport. Some of their children were born in Newport, some in Georgetown. She died in 1864, so the above mentioned letter, was not being written to her children, now grown, moved away or dead, but was written to the children of his second wife, a Southerner, Margaret Lester Barnes of Sumter, SC. All of these children also moved away from Georgetown. It took another generation to bring a grandson back, my husband, William Alfred Merchant!

Bibliography: *A History of Georgetown County*, by George C. Rogers, Jr., University of South Carolina Press, 1970. ♣

How Far Back Do We Go?

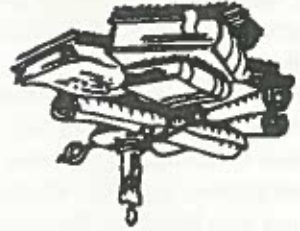
A young member of the Hereditary Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors sent to its publication a condensed article from Knight-Ridder Newspapers Science Column, Question: "How far back in a family can one go before the probability of sharing common genes with that remote generation become negligible?"

Answer: "Your chance of sharing a particular gene with a particular ancestor falls off by one-half with each generation. Genes are contained in 46 chromosomes, 23 from each parent, which means you have a 50% chance of inheriting a particular gene from either parent; 25% from a grandparent; 12% from a great-grandparent; and if you go back seven generations, the chance of sharing any particular gene would be only 0.8%". So much for science--we all like to feel we inherited some small part of the outstanding attributes of our Pilgrim ancestors. ♣



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