

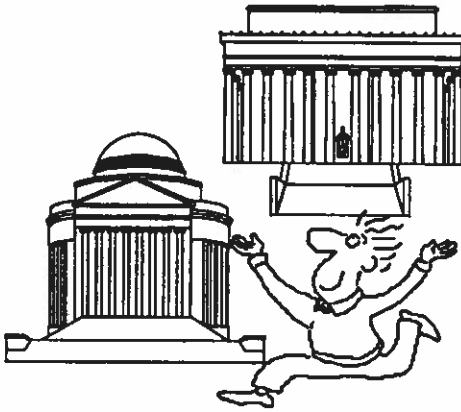


Middlesex Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. V, No. 2

July 1988



EDITOR CAVORTS IN WASHINGTON

During the latter part of June (when I should have been getting this newsletter out), I took advantage of an opportunity to attend a three day Newsletter Design Seminar in Washington, D.C.

The Seminar was informative and stimulating. Unfortunately for you, I will be trying out all sorts of fun things on you and this poor newsletter in future issues. I invite you throughout this ordeal to comment freely to me anytime you feel the urge.

Of course, having the opportunity to be in D.C. and be among all those records caused me great delight!

Since I did not get out of "class" until after 5 (and it was 103 degrees), I would race to my room, throw on casual clothes,

skip dinner and catch the Metro to the Archives. I was delighted to find that the Yellow Line on the Metro was across the street from my hotel and stopped across the street from the National Archives. What a wonderful, hassle-free way to travel. Each evening, I descended upon the 4th floor Research Room and began a much needed (and too often neglected) systematic search of ancestor after ancestor starting with the 1910 census records and working my way back. I had done a great deal of "spot checking" before, but would skip the ancestors I had information on due to the never ending lack of adequate time!

Working feverishly until they kicked me out at 9:45 p.m., I would leave hungry and tired but happy with my efforts, catch the Metro back to my hotel and gleefully pour over my findings.

So, I hope you all will forgive me for my eternally late newsletters. I assure you that it isn't because I am sitting watching soaps and eating chocolate bonbons! Do have a wonderful summer, keep working on your research (summer is a great time to dust cobwebs off old cemeteries, but watch out for the poison ivy) and we all hope to have a great genealogically productive new year in the fall.

May Trip to Winterthur Museum and Gardens

by Janet Jainschigg



ut of the fog and drizzle of early morning, forty-two mem-

bers of the Darien Historical and Middlesex Genealogical Societies set forth to explore the wonders of Delaware. Into the sunshine we travelled to the gardens at Longwood for a refreshing lunch.

Then off to explore the superb collections from foxgloves to orchids, under their domes of glass. Next we travelled to the famous old mill on the Brandywine to view the Wyeth paintings. On this day and throughout the visit we had the extra pleasure of being led by Nikki Hollander's friend, a long-experienced guide at Winterthur, Jane Anderson.

The Hotel DuPont, newly refurbished and gilded, was our home for a night. Next day in dazzling sunshine, the group set off to be first at the door of fabulous Winterthur. The treasures Francis DuPont had collected there were even more fascinating than we had expected and only the call of lunch and the gift shop lured us away.

To crown all, our own special tram-ride through vistas of azaleas, magnolias and rhododendrons, brought us to our bus, our picnic baskets and the road home.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

President: Doris Hollander
Vice-Pres: Janet Jainschigg
Secretary: Marianne Sheldon
Treasurer: George T. Cushman
Editor: Sherrill S. Yates
Pres. 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 (10-12) 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 should be addressed to:

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

Computer To Trace Immigrants!

taken from Danbury News-Times,
June 10, 1988

The estimated 100 million Americans whose relatives passed through Ellis Island will be able to trace their roots through a computerized family history center, officials said at a ceremony yesterday.

"They, in fact, will learn for the first time how they became

Americans," said Philip Lax, president of the Ellis Island Restoration Commission. "Never before has such an extensive pool of genealogical information been so readily available to the public."

On hand to help launch the project were 105 year old Mary Kelly Stevenson of Manchester, Conn., the oldest living American to immigrate through Ellis Island, and Margaret O'Connell Middleton, 72, of Tucson, Ariz., whose mother, Annie Moore of Cork County, Ireland, was the first immigrant processed there.

"I always loved America," said Mrs. Stevenson, whose sprightliness earned gasps of appreciation from the crowd.

Middleton presented a \$10 bill to the commission, symbolizing the \$10 gold piece her mother--then 15 years old--received on Jan. 1, 1893, to commemorate the opening of Ellis Island.

"You gave my mother \$10. So this will help you," said Mrs. Middleton, whose gift marked the beginning of a \$25 million fundraising campaign to finance the family history center.

The plan is to feed 5 million names a year into the computer, for a total of 17 million, said Lax. The goal is to open the Ellis Island Family History Center during the monument's June 1992 centennial. The island's renovated Great Hall is to reopen in the fall of 1989.

By using a simple computer for 10 to 12 minutes, visitors will be able to glean information from original ship manifests: where relatives came from, how old they were, who traveled with them, where they were going and what possessions they carried.

A special program is being developed to track immigrants whose names were changed or spelled phonetically by immigration officials.



Kemp Wins Chair-Elect of National Library Council

Thomas J. Kemp, Assistant Director of the Pequot Library in Southport, CT, has been elected Chair-Elect of the Council of National Library & Information Associations at its Annual Meeting in New York City, May 6th. The Council represents some 20 national library associations and since 1942 has worked to set national library policy and to improve library service.

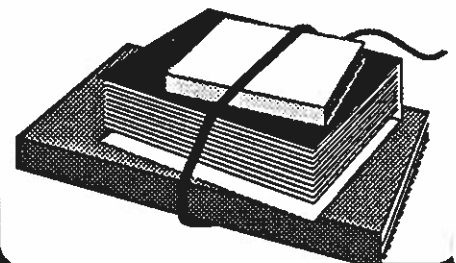
Mr. Kemp has worked in genealogy for the past 22 years and is the author of 14 reference works. His latest book, *Vital Records Handbook*, was published in April by Genealogical Publishing Co.

Pequot Library Holds Annual Book Sale

July 29 - August 2

75,000 books

starting at 9 a.m. each day





Vermont

Genealogical Research in Vermont State Capital

by Sherrill Yates

In April, I had the opportunity to spend a day researching in Montpelier, Vermont at the State Capital. Equipped with instructions I had already requested and received from the Public Records Division and a map of Vermont, I had no trouble finding my way around and, in fact, was able to park adjacent to both locations I visited (an unheard of convenience in most state capitals!).

Vermont's Vital Records: (births, deaths, marriages, divorces) from 1760 - 1954; land, probate and town records to about 1850 are located at 6 Baldwin Street which is about a block from the state capital building. They are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, however, they close their doors (and throw you out at lunch).

To make requests by mail, send SASE. They will check a maximum of two events in Vital Records, but in land, probate, etc., research is limited to 15 min.

For personal research, the "Vital Records" have been hand written onto 3x5 cards and inter-

filed in alphabetical and chronological order under the surname within four periods. (I kept having the feeling that these were NOT the actual vital records since they have been copied on these cards. However, I quickly found that the Public Records Division regards these cards as THE vital records.) They are plainly marked, numbered and color-tagged:

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| 1760-1870 | white |
| 1870-1908 | green |
| 1909-1941 | orange |
| 1942-1954 | red |

Within each drawer, the cards are also color-coded. White cards are births, blue cards are deaths, orange cards are cemetery records, yellow cards are marriages. Marriage records are cross-indexed under both the groom and the bride. Some birth and death records have no given names and are filed before any other cards directly after the surname header.

Vermont Historical Society Library: 109 State Street, Montpelier, contains the published state and local histories, genealogies and periodicals. It also contains published military service records and pension lists, manuscripts and maps. It is located in the Pavilion Office Building located right in front and to the right (while facing) the State Capital. Unfortunately, it was originally housed in the Vermont Statehouse which burned in 1857. The library's entire collection before that date was lost.

I spent about 5 hours in the library. I would definitely recommend that if you are going, ask for a tour and discussion of where you might find what you are looking for. I did not feel that the library was very well organized and kept

finding things on the shelves categorized in different ways than I would expect. Not being a librarian, I never really discovered what it was, but I was glad I had very few names to research. Also there was minimal staff and when I wanted a photocopy of something, I had to wait for the high school help to come in and do it (even though it was only 3 pages). I did finally find a gentleman (volunteer) who helped me by pointing out a couple of excellent works that the "tour guide" had failed to mention. Of course, as always, that was about 30 minutes before I had to leave. I had the feeling as I left the library that there was probably a great deal of information I could have used housed in this building, however, locating it would probably take weeks or months. It is a feeling I have had before after spending several frustrating hours in an unorganized library. I can never be quite sure if it is from my stupidity or their lack of organization. Maybe a little of both.

They do have a manuscript index called the Brigham Index in a separate card file. It refers to several volumes of descriptive text to be studied before requesting the actual manuscript.

Vermont Dept of Libraries: Law and Document Unit, 111 State Street contains the Federal Census of Vermont, 1790-1910, newspapers, Vermontiana, including state and local histories, and government documents.

Veterans Affairs: 118 State Street, has military service records - revolutionary war to present, including some cemetery records.



RESEARCH SOURCES TO KEEP YOU BUSY THIS SUMMER!

(taken from the CT Society of Genealogists, March-April, 1988 Newsletter)

The Washington State Vital Records Office: has established a toll free line to provide information on requests for copies of birth, death and marriage records.

Call 1-800-551-0562

Illinois Research: The State of Illinois Historical Library will look up and copy obituaries for \$.25 each. Send person's name, date of death and county lived and/or buried. Enclose a SASE to:

Illinois State Historical Society Library
Old State Capital
Springfield, IL 62706

Massachusetts Military Archives: There is a Military Archive at the National Guard Depot in Natick, Mass. containing many old military records.

The National Archives

BOSTON BRANCH
380 Trapelo Road

Waltham, Massachusetts

The field archives branch has over 35,000 rolls of microfilm containing copies of documents located in the National Archives in Washington, DC. A significant number of these records and microfilm contain material of genealogical value. These include:

Census Records
Revolutionary War Pension
Bounty Land Warrants
Military Service Records
Naturalization Records
Passenger Arrival Lists

Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and 1st Saturday of each month.
(617) 647-8100.



New Hampshire Family Register

As a service to genealogists researching New Hampshire families, the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists maintains a Family Register covering individuals and families known to have resided in the Province or State prior to 1901. All interested genealogists are invited to participate by contributing data to the Register and/or receiving data from it.

A volunteer registrar maintains the material, updating it as additional data is acquired, and responds to queries regarding data already accumulated. A complete cross-index is maintained so that data on any individual named in the Register can be retrieved and used to respond to queries.

There is a small fee to cover postage and handling. For more information, write:

FAMILY REGISTER
18 Main Street
E. Rochester, NH 03867

Where to Write for Church Records:

American BAPTIST Hist. Society
1100 S. Goodman Street
Rochester, NY 14260

Historical Commission
Southern BAPTIST Convention
127 9th Avenue
Nashville, TN 37234

CONGREGATIONAL Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Theological Seminary
CONGREGATIONAL Historical Records
5757 University Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

(EPISCOPAL) Library & Archives of the Church Historical Society
606 Ratherview Place
Austin, TX 78767

FRIENDS Historical Library
Swathmore College
Swathmore, PA 19081

Archives of LUTHERAN Church in America
Lutheran School of Theology
1100 E. 55th Street
Chicago, IL 60615

Archives of American LUTHERAN Church
Wartburg Theological Seminary
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, IA 52001

Commission on Archives & History of the United METHODIST Church
36 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940

PRESBYTERIAN Historical Society
United Presbyterian Church United States
P. O. Box 847
Montreat, NC 28757

GERMAN REFORM
Phil Schaff Memorial Library
Lancaster, PA 17603

EVANGELICAL & REFORM
Eden Archives
Eden Theological Seminary
475 E. Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, MO 63119

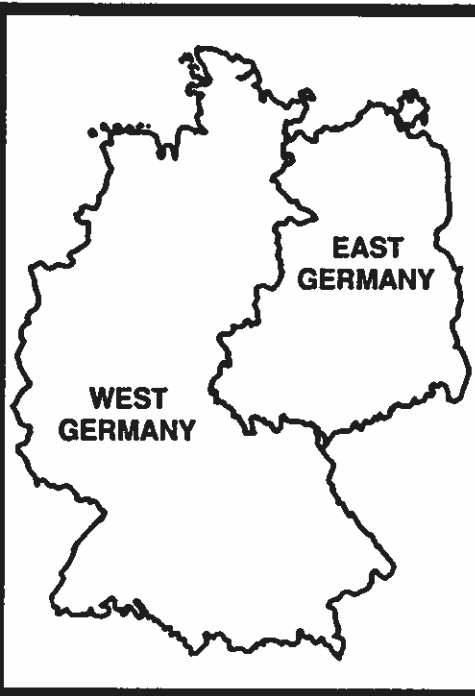
Researching Your German Ancestors

(Excerpts from the German Genealogical Society of America Bulletin, Vol II, No. 2, Feb., 1988, their Membership Application Form, and an article entitled "The German Genealogical Society of America" in the National Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol 13, No. 5, dated Sept-Oct 1987.)

The first organized group of German immigrants to the New World arrived in Philadelphia on 6 October 1683. Over the next 300 years some 7 million Germans left their homeland to start anew in America. Substantial numbers settled in Canada and in Latin America. The vast majority, however, settled in the United States, where German-Americans now form the largest single non-English ethnic group. The 1980 federal census revealed almost 52 million Americans, some 29 percent of the country's population, claimed German ancestry.

The German Genealogical Society of America (GGSA) was started in September 1986 and now has over 875 members throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. They offer a monthly Bulletin, Quarterly, Seminars and Workshops and a Library specifically suited to the needs of researchers tracing their German roots with computerized databases of surnames and their immigrant ancestors soon to be published. For more information, write:

German Genealogical Society of America
P. O. Box 291818
Los Angeles, California 90029



German Names: The suffixes of German names can give clues to their home regions:

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| bach | Southwest Germany |
| ingen | Wurtemberg, Baden |
| burg | used throughout |
| inski | Upper Silesia |
| haaus | Westphalia |
| reuth | Bavaria |
| ecke | Hessen, Thuringia |
| ski/zke | East Pomerania |

For further information, see "Encyclopedia of German-American Research" by Clifford Neal. (taken from CT Society of Genealogists, May-June 1988 Newsletter.)



To My Ancestors

*I see you toiling down the tedious years,
You bearded, bent, and gaunt old pioneers.
Sowing and reaping; sowing once again,
In patience, for an unborn race of men.*

*I see you struggling in the wilderness
Where failure meant starvation and success.
A cabin in a clearing, rough hewn, rude.
Garments of homespun, and the humblest food.*

*Tradition scarcely tells me whence you came
I only know a few of you by name;
I only know you lived and multiplied,
Quite profligate in progeny, and died.*

*Yet in my heart, I know that most of you
Were strong and steadfast, and that one or two
At least, had weaknesses that still may be,
Traced in the trend of ativistic me.*

*One I am sure, was blessed with Irish wit;
(I'm thankful that he transmitted some of it)
That helped him dodge Dame Troubles
swiftest dart
And meet misfortune with a merry heart.*

*One was a rather worthless weight I fear,
Who, when the bluebird whistled spring is near,
Forsook his plow, a shiftless, sluggard one,
And roamed the whole woods alone with rod
and gun.*

*And one a gentle dreamer was, I know,
Who lured by shadows, let the substance go.
Twas he who dared the raging Western sea,
I'm glad he handed down his dreams to me.*

Author unknown: from Detroit Society for Genealogy





Middlesex Genealogical Society
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Darien, CT 06820

