

Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIV, No. 1

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

February 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we proceed through the winter months, we may find our local research sources more difficult to get to, but I can assure you that the real excitement is doing just that. It may be that we cannot walk through cemeteries with as much ease as in the summer, but there are other, just as exciting places to go. The past two months have opened some new doors in historical societies and newspaper archives, that have netted some great information, given us some new clues, and sent us off in new directions. I hope that each of you have had some of these rich experiences.

The National Archives holds a great many records that could help each of us to obtain that thrill of discovery when a fact or clue comes to light. The latest news is that NARA and the Genealogical Society of Utah have teamed up to digitize Pension Applications of the widows of Civil War Union soldiers. These digitized records will provide an opportunity to obtain valuable information on affidavits, depositions of witnesses, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, and also pages from family bibles. The pilot program will make available 3,150 pension files. After the pilot program, 1,280,000 more Civil War and Widows files will be digitized and also indexed. These digitized records will be available free through www.familysearch.org and in National Archives facilities.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies has redesigned their Website for Records Preservation & Access. This site will keep us all up-to-date on what is happening in the legislative world to records and to our right to access them. The site will provide us with a listing of the state liaisons who monitor their states' legislation and provide information should a crisis occur. The site also has a blog where anyone can make an announcement about state or national legislation, post comments, or add anything of interest to genealogists regarding records access and preservation. The Website

can be found at www.fgs.org/rapc/index.php

Do you have the spirit of volunteering? Here are three opportunities:

- 1 Volunteer to assist the patrons of Darien Library get started tracing their ancestors. To do this, send to me at lrskooter@optonline.net your name, telephone number and e-mail address, and we will add you to the list of MGS members that will help.
- 2 Sign up as a volunteer with Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) at www.raogk.org This is a little more work, but can be very rewarding.
- 3 As suggested in my September letter, log on to www.familysearchindexing.org and sign up to input a small segment of the index for newly digitized FamilySearch records. It's easy to do, and you will be helping every genealogist on the planet.

Family research continues to be exciting, and your board of directors is here to help keep your excitement at a high level. Let's keep digging. The folks from the past are waiting for us to include them in our family histories.

Lloyd Sturges Jr. ■

17 MAY ANNUAL MEETING

There will be a short business meeting before the program presentation at our 17 May meeting. It will not take long, but there are a couple of things that need the membership's attention. First, we need to elect directors to the board, and we hope that some of you will consider serving MGS in this way. If you are interested, please let us know.

Also, as you know, the board has been considering the possibility of changing the society's name because of the confusion that arises from the existence of Middlesex Counties in both Connecticut and Massachusetts. It is not a simple process. You will be brought up to date. ■

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2007-2008 OFFICERS

Lloyd Sturges Jr.	President
Robert E. Kenyon III	Vice President
Dale Pollart	Treasurer
Joan Rinaldi	Secretary

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William Atkinson
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Virginia Banerjee
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Kathy O'Farrell
Marianne Sheldon

Donna Moughty	Past President
Charles Scribner	Librarian
Dorothy Shillinglaw	Newsletter Editor

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 Darien Library and publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494). Annual membership dues are \$20 per individual and \$25 per couple or family.

Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1111
Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

Homepage: <http://mgs.darien.org>

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, PROGRAM ROOM
AT DARIEN LIBRARY. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND!**

NOTE 15 MARCH PROGRAM CHANGE: There has been a last-minute cancelation by the speaker originally scheduled for this date. MGS board member Virginia Banerjee has graciously agreed to substitute. If you have heard Virginia before, you will be anxious to attend.

VIRGINIA BANERJEE is a professional family historian with 40 years experience. She is a member of the MGS board and a member of the *Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council*. Virginia is also a member of the board of the *Frisbie/Frisbee Family Association*. She has documented ancestry on both sides of her family. Virginia recently completed a major archival project at the Connecticut State Library and Archives. She teaches and lectures frequently at local, regional and national levels, and has been published by several genealogical societies.

15 MARCH 2008. KEEPSAKES will be presented by **VIRGINIA BANERJEE**. Enjoy a costumed "show and tell" program illustrated with items from Virginia's collection. Most of us have things that have been saved—family things, such as photos, trinkets, toys, letters, books, and more. Who saved it? And why? Woven into the program is guidance about identification and preservation. Genealogy is more than names and dates. It is the things and stories that bring family history to life.

17 MAY 2008. RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSES—UNCOMMON SOURCES IN COMMON PLACES will be presented by **VIRGINIA BANERJEE**. Common places can yield uncommon sources and records often missed. This program focuses on the "rest of the material" in repositories that we use all the time and is illustrated with finds from Virginia's own research. ■

FOLLOWING FOOTSTEPS INTO THE PAST

Darien Library has on its shelves a recent book by Bill Griffeth entitled *By Faith Alone* (280.4097). Bill Griffeth became interested in genealogy when he received from a cousin a family tree that identified one of their mutual ancestors as Mary Towne Estey who was executed in Salem in 1692 as a witch. Intrigued, he went back through the records himself and visited Massachusetts, England, Holland, New York City (where he lives), New Jersey, Nebraska, and Kansas tracing the footsteps of his ancestors—traveling more than 10,000 miles in the process. If you have any interest in Puritans, Pilgrims, Plymouth, Salem witchcraft trials, immigration, migration, homesteading, or religious developments in Europe and the U.S., you will enjoy this book. ■

MY MOORE PROBLEMS

by Marianne Sheldon

Every once in a while you need that slap on the wrist for making assumptions in your genealogical research! For years I had attempted to establish the parentage of my brother-in-law's great-grandfather, and, even though I had a lot of information, I couldn't get back any farther on his elusive Moore line than his great-grandfather. The answers, when they finally emerged, had a surprising twist.

My brother-in-law's family came from Lowell, Massachusetts—a large factory town that brought Irish, French-Canadians and early Maine settlers together in the second half of the 1800s to create his family. The Moore surname, which he, his father and grandfather carried, was handed down from his great-grandfather Frank A. Moore. Frank was born 22 October 1861 in Memphis, Tennessee, a very curious fact for a Northerner. Since birth registration was not required in Tennessee at the time, I have not found a civil record of Frank's birth, but the information given above has been found in several other primary sources.

Frank always went by the surname Moore and at the age of 9 in 1870 appeared in the census living in New Haven, Connecticut, in the household of William H. Moore, age 30, conductor of a horse car, and Mary E. Moore, age 26. By 1880 Frank was a lodger in a boarding house on Court Street in New Haven and working as a "rolling mill." On 2 May 1881 he married Nellie T. O'Neil, whose residence was the same boarding house that Frank had been enumerated in a year earlier.

Frank and Nellie lived in New Haven until at least 1886, showing up in city directories at various addresses. Their first son, William F. Moore, was born there 2 January 1883. By 1891 the family was living in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where two more children were born: Stanley Thomas (the birth record says Thomas Stanley) on 8 September 1893, and Mary Elizabeth. Frank was working at the American Rubber Co. as a rubber boot maker. The 1900 census shows that Frank and his family had moved to Boston, and he was listed there in city directories from 1903 to 1919. No trace of the family has been found in the 1910 census. In 1918 Frank was residing at the YMCA in Beloit, Wisconsin according to a letter written to him from the White House acknowledging receipt of a poem he wrote about the soldiers of World War I. His son Stanley registered for the draft in Beloit, but his older son, William, was living in Lowell. The 1920 census showed Frank as a lodger in Beloit and stated he was a widower. Frank and his wife, Nellie, however, were listed as a couple in Beloit city directories in 1922, 1924

and 1926. Frank died 20 May 1927 at Wisconsin General Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, and was buried in East Lawn Cemetery in Beloit. At the time of his death he resided in Beloit. His death certificate listed his parents' names as Jacob (the surname was difficult to read, but looked like "Oetil"), born in France, and Mary E. Smith, born in Ohio. Frank's obituary listed his wife, Nellie, his sons, William of Lowell and Stanley of Beloit, his daughter, May Moore, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a sister, Mrs. Alice Hansen of Rockford, Illinois.

I had always assumed that William H. Moore and Mary Elizabeth Moore were Frank's parents since he had been listed with them when he was 9 in the 1870 census for New Haven. (The 1870 census does not specify relationships to a head of household.) Frank's birthplace was listed as Tennessee in all documents relating to him. In various censuses he gave his father's place of birth as France, New York, or Michigan, but his mother's was always Ohio. At this point, I naturally began to research William H. Moore and his wife. When I was finally able to obtain William H. Moore's Civil War pension file, I found that he had been born in New York State, had served with Co. C, 8th New York Cavalry as commissary sergeant and had lost his right foot at the battle of Waynesboro, Virginia. He had married Mary Elizabeth Smith in New York City on 16 March 1868 (or 1867), and they had had only one child, William Thomas Moore who was born 24 December 1868 and died 28 August 1869 (verified by New Haven records). William served as Postmaster for the Fair Haven section of New Haven until his wife's death in 1907, after which he moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut, where he was enumerated as a boarder in the 1910 census. He then moved to Michigan in 1915 for a year or so and, eventually, ended up at the Fitch Home for Soldiers in Noroton Heights, Darien, Connecticut, where he died on 20 November 1920. Clearly, this could not be Frank A. Moore's father, but then how had Frank gotten the surname Moore?

Based on the information in Frank's death certificate, I realized that his mother, Mary E. Smith, must be the Mary Elizabeth Smith who married William H. Moore. If so, then Frank either assumed his stepfather's surname or was formally adopted. Either way, Frank was not originally a Moore! I couldn't find any information for a Jacob Oetil, and the name Mary Smith was too common to pinpoint. Neither showed up in Tennessee in 1860. Who were these people?

I went back to Frank's obituary and saw that there was a sister listed as one of the survivors. Since William H. and Mary Elizabeth Moore had only one child, this sister must have been from an earlier union of Mary's.

Rockford, Illinois, is very close to Beloit, Wisconsin—

just across the state line. I posted a query and was lucky enough to get a response from someone in Rockford who sent me the death information and an obituary for Alice Hansen. She had been born in Rockford in 1880 to Jacob and Emily Petit and had died there in 1974, leaving no issue. I went back to Frank's death certificate, and, sure enough, his father's name was Petit, not Oetil. The bad handwriting had thrown me off!

I now started to research Jacob Petit and Mary Elizabeth Smith in Rockford. It turned out that Jacob, born about 1829, had probably emigrated from France to the U.S. about 1854 and had been naturalized by 1900. (I haven't gotten those papers yet.) Mary was the daughter of Thomas S. Smith, a gunsmith born in Pennsylvania, and his wife, Brittanica Gossett, born in Ohio. In 1850 the Smith family was living in Worcester, Massachusetts, but by July 1860 was living in Rockford where Mary was enumerated in her parents' household as "Mary E. Peter," age 17 and married. No record of Jacob was found in the 1860 census, but he and Mary must have gone to Memphis by 1861 since Frank was born there in October. Jacob and Mary were probably divorced by 1867/1868 when Mary married William H. Moore in New York City, and the 1870 census shows that Jacob was married to Emily (surname unknown). Frank obviously knew who his father was, but why had William said in his pension file application that his wife's name at their marriage was Smith instead of Petit? According to the 1941 obituary for Frank's son Stanley, Stanley had moved to Illinois and married in Whiteside, near Rockford, in 1915. He and his family had then moved to Beloit. Then, about 1918, Frank suddenly appeared in Beloit. Was this because they had come out to be near Frank's half-sister in Rockford? When Jacob Petit died in 1903, his will left all of his estate to his daughter, Alice Hansen, or to any children she might have. If Alice and her children were already dead, then his property was to go to the children of his son, Frank A. Petit (the only time Frank's surname is not given as Moore), and if all of Frank's children were deceased, then Frank was to inherit.

Thomas and Brittanica Smith, Mary Elizabeth's parents, moved from Rockford to Newburyport, Massachusetts, by July 1870. About 1876 Thomas showed up in the New Haven city directories and was living in the same boarding house on Court Street as his grandson Frank in the 1880 census. Brittanica died sometime between 1870 and 1880, but no record of her death has yet been found. Mary's sister, Laura (Smith) (Rentz) Smith was also living in New Haven and Orange (West Haven), Connecticut, with her family, and there was a Charles Smith residing in New Haven who was probably her

brother. Frank's brother Stanley had no issue, and the descendents of his sister, May, who live in Beloit don't seem to know anything about this.

There are still lots of questions to be answered and more research to be done, but the difficult problem of Frank A. Moore's true parentage has been solved. Making assumptions—even with something as basic as expecting the same surname to carry over from one generation to the next—can prevent even a careful researcher from establishing the truth. ■

DONNA M. MOUGHTY



Donna Moughty
Sarasota, Fla.

Have you been suffering Moughty withdrawal symptoms since MGS past president Donna Moughty moved to Florida? Help is at hand. Visit Donna's Website at <http://www.moughty.com> and you will be able to keep up with her activities, check her speaking schedule before heading south to Florida, and read her new blog, which is full of genealogical insights and helpful information. ■

NEW BOOK BY FORMER MGS MEMBER EBEN W. GRAVES

After a decade of research, a new book by former MGS member Eben W. Graves has been published. Its title is *The Descendents of Henry Sewall (1576-1656) of Manchester and Coventry, England, and Newbury and Rowley, Massachusetts: The Family in England and the First Six Generations in North America*. It is considered to be the most extensive work yet compiled on this important New England family. The Sewall family has produced such luminaries as Massachusetts Chief Justice, witchcraft trial judge, and diarist Samuel Sewall; Dummer Sewall, an officer in the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars, and later justice of the Massachusetts Court of Common Pleas; abolitionist Rev. Samuel Joseph May and his niece, author Louisa May Alcott; and Henry Sewall, a Revolutionary War officer and a founder of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Congratulations Eben! ■

WORLD WAR I LETTERS FROM THE FRONT

The letters in question were written by Private William Henry Bonser Lamin (Harry Lamin) who lived in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, England, and served during 1917 and 1918 with the 9th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment. His service time was spent in the trenches on the Western Front and also on the Italian Front in the area of Montebelluna. The letters can be read at <http://www.wwar1.blogspot.com/>

Harry wrote often to a brother and a sister, and those letters are now in the possession of his grandson Bill Lamin who is publishing each letter on the above blog on the date it was written + 90 years. For example, Harry's letter to his brother, Jack, dated 18 February 1918, was posted to appear on the blog on the morning of 18 February 2008. If we want to know what happens to Harry, we must wait, as did his family, for his next letter to arrive. Sadly, Harry's letters to his wife have not survived.

Many of the letters have been scanned and appear just as they were written. They have not been edited, even though Bill Lamin has transcribed all of them so that they are easier to read. The misspellings and grammatical errors of the originals are still there, giving them a great sense of immediacy. Reading them, you experience with Harry the discomforts, dangers, terrors and boredom of his life on the front lines, just as he shared them with his brother and sister. You also learn a great deal about his family and develop some sense of what was going on back in England at the time. Helpfully, Bill Lamin has also transcribed relevant portions of the battalion's war diaries, which often clarify Harry's accounts.

Does Harry survive the war? We do not yet know. ■

COMMENTS SOUGHT BY NARA ON RESTORING DC AREA RESEARCH ROOM HOURS

From NARA:

"For public comment—NARA rule restoring DC area archival research room hours

"The National Archives and Records Administration published an interim final rule in the Federal Register on February 1, 2008, to restore the weekly evening and Saturday hours that the archival research rooms at the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, and the National Archives at College Park, MD are open.

"Comments on this rule will be accepted through March 17.

"To review the rule and make comments, please go to www.regulations.gov and type "NARA" in the Search box. The rule is titled Locations and Hours; Changes in NARA Research Room Hours. Additional information on the rule is provided below.

"The FY 2008 NARA Budget in the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2007 signed by President Bush on December 26, 2007, includes \$1.3 million to restore evening and Saturday hours in the research rooms in the National Archives Building and the National Archives at College Park (Archives II). Prior to October 1, 2006, these research rooms were open three evenings per week (Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) and every Saturday.

"Under this interim final rule, the research rooms will be open from 9 AM to 5 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday they will be open from 9 AM to 9 PM. We decided to make this adjustment to the previous schedule so that out-of-town researchers will have consecutive evenings along with Saturday to work.... We set the effective date of the new hours as April 14, 2008...."

This is a rare opportunity for you to express your wishes about an issue that concerns all of us. Please make your comments as directed above. ■

LIBRARY REPORT

by C. Scribner

After two postponements, we are still waiting to meet with the library staff concerning our location in the new library. Although there is a lot of time before the completion of the new building, we have been advised to explain our needs as early as possible.

Since our last meeting I have added the library catalogue numbers to our listing of books. All books with MGS or Ref followed by a number belong on the shelves assigned to Middlesex Genealogical Society by Darien Library. They have been checked in by the library and can be found on their computers. Also, the books are all considered reference books and are not to be removed from the library. A listing of the books by shelf can be found in a three-ring binder on shelf I, row III, marked "Genealogy Catalog."

The next job will be to inventory our filing cabinet, which is in complete disarray. We need to decide if enough material can be disposed of to continue using the present cabinet, or if we need to purchase a new one.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

National Archives and Records Administration Northeast Region is offering free programs at three locations:

New York City, 12th floor, 201 Varick St. Programs at this location run from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM on Tuesday afternoons.

- Using NARA's Online Databases, 11 March 2008.
- Using Microfilm Holdings of NARA-NY, 8 April.
- Using Military Records Online, 13 May.
- Hidden Treasures in New York Repositories, 10 June.

For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/> To register, e-mail newyorkarchives@nara.gov or telephone toll-free (866) 840-1752.

Waltham, Mass., 380 Trapelo Rd. Programs at this location run from 2 PM to 3:30 PM on Tuesdays. Behind-the-scenes tours of the archives precede the programs and run from 1:30-2 PM.

- Local History in Federal Records, 4 March.
- Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records, 8 April.
- Finding Your Ancestors in Maritime Federal Records, 6 May.
- Records Related to Military Service in the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries, 3 June.
- Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records, 8 July.
- Introduction to Genealogy, 5 Aug.

For more information and to register, e-mail waltham.archives@nara.gov or call (866) 406-2379.

Pittsfield, Mass., 10 Conte Drive.

- Beginning Your Genealogy Research at the National Archives, Thurs., 6 March, 6 PM, and Tues., 8 April, 2 PM, .
- Using Federal Census Records, Thurs., 13 March, 6 PM, and Tues., 15 April, 2 PM.
- Using Pre-1850 Censuses to Find Family Relationships, Tues., 18 March, 5 PM.
- Finding Family Information in Military Pensions, Tues., 22 April, 2 PM.
- Finding Family Migrations in Federal Records, Thurs., 27 March, 6 PM, and Tues., 29 April, 2 PM.
- Finding Italian Ancestors, Fri., 28 March, 10:30 AM and Fri., 4 April, 10:30 AM.
- Freedmen's Bureau Records, Thurs., 24 April, 2 PM.

For more details or to register, call (413) 236-3600 or e-mail: pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304, (800) 473-0060. 2008 NGS Conference and Family History Fair, Wed., 14

May to Sat., 17 May, which will be held in Kansas City MO. For registration and more information, visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT. **Treasuring Family History: German-American Roots** will be presented at 1 PM, Sun., 16 March, by Nancy Lister, a German-American genealogist who has been researching her German-American ancestors since 1956. Registration is suggested. Call (203) 259-1598. Charge for nonmembers is \$5.

Westchester County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10601, presents speakers on genealogical subjects on the second Saturday of each month at 10 AM (premeeting networking starts at 9:30 AM). Unless otherwise noted, meetings are at Aldersgate Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY (across from Mercy College on Route 9). A \$3 donation is asked of nonmembers. You can visit the society's website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>

- The Trail Our Ancestors Followed in Becoming Citizens, by Joseph Lieby. 8 March.
- Every Age has a Story to Tell, by Peter Savigny from Heirloom Biography. 12 April.
- The Story of Sybil Ludington—American Revolutionary War Hero—the Female Paul Revere, by Vincent D'Aquino. 10 May.
- An Object of Great Importance: the Hudson River During the American War for Independence, by Christopher DiPasquale. 14 June.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 122-126 E.58th St., New York, NY 10022; telephone 212-755-8532, Website <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/> NYG&B is offering tours to the Federal and NYC Municipal Archives and the Brooklyn Historical Society.

- **National Archives Northeast Region**, Tues., 4 March, 10 AM-1 PM. Patrick Connelly, Archivist, will provide an overview of a variety of underutilized textual and microfilm records available at NARA. Attendees will be assisted in their research by Roger Joslyn, FGBS, FASG, Leslie Corn, FGBS, and NARA staff.
- **New York City Municipal Archives**, Fri., 14 March, 1:30-4:30 PM. Leonora A. Gidlund, Director, will welcome registrants and Roger Joslyn, FGBS, FASG, will provide an introduction to the large assortment of vital records, city directories, photographs, voters' records, etc. The otherwise closed archives will then be available for assisted research.
- **Brooklyn Historical Society**, Wed., 19 March, 1-5 PM. Offered for the first time last year, the Brooklyn Historical Society's library is a wonderful resource for Brooklyn and western Long Island. Registrants will be

given a detailed orientation to the collection and time for research on their own.

You may attend any one or all of these programs. Individual programs cost \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers.

Registration can be accomplished by phone (212-755-8532, ext. 36), or online. Visit the NYG&B Website (see URL above), then click on "Store," and "Events."

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116, is offering a number of educational opportunities:

- **Massachusetts Archives Research Day**, Thurs., 27 March. This is a full-day program, running from 9 AM to 5 PM, at the Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point, Boston. Registration includes a 30-minute consultation with an NEHGS staff genealogist.
- **Spring Research Getaway**, a three-day program, Thurs., 10 April to Sat., 12 April, at 101 Newbury St. Featured speakers will be Marie E. Daly, David Allen Lambert, Judith Lucey and Gary Boyd Roberts.
- **Family History in England, Scotland, and Ireland**, Sat., 26 April, 9 AM to 5 PM, a comprehensive one-day seminar covering genealogical research in these areas. Speakers are Else Churchill, Marie Daly, and David Dearborn.
- **National Archives Research Day**, Thurs., 22 May, 9 AM to 4:30 PM, at 380 Trapelo Rd. in Waltham. (Note: Closing time is 9 PM on this day.) The Waltham facility holds records of the federal government produced in the region since 1790, including census records, Revolutionary War records for the entire U.S., passenger arrival records for the 19th and 20th centuries, including Canadian border crossings after 1895, and records of the field offices of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1865-1872. Among the many original records held here are naturalization records of the federal courts in New England, 1790-1991; and all such records of Connecticut state courts, 1790-1974. Surviving records of the Collectors of Customs, including crew lists and vessel documentation papers, are available, as are the records of the federal courts, 1790-ca. 1970, including federal bankruptcy case files. There will be time for personal research and consultation.
- **Quebec Research Tour**, Sun., 15 June to Sun., 22 June. Celebrate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec in Montreal, spending time at two unique Quebec repositories, the Société Généalogique Canadienne-Française (SGCF) and the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ). These collections include Dictionaries of French Canadian marriages, 1760-1935; print volumes of Quebec baptism, marriage and burial records, 1621-1799, index of

Catholic and non-Catholic marriages, 1731-1825; Quebec notarial records, 1608-1906; Montreal directories, 1842-1999; non-Catholic vital records, 1766-1899; land grant applications, 1890-1905; Quebec court records, 1897-1927; and parish census records, 1792-1850. There will be a cultural group field trip to Village Québécois d'Antan, a living history site recreating 18th century provincial life. Each participant will receive tutorials and one-on-one consultations. *Note:* NEHGS leaders of the tour are fluent in French.

For more information on any of these NEHGS programs, telephone (888) 286-3447, e-mail tours@nehgs.org or visit www.newenglandancestors.org

RootsMagic Family History Cruise 2008, Sun., 28 Sept. to Sun., 5 Oct., will leave Los Angeles, Cal., and sail to Cabo San Lucas, then on to Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. Speakers include Dick Eastman, Elizabeth Shown Mills, George G. Morgan, Diana Crisman Smith, and Gary M. Smith. For more information, visit the Website at <http://www.rootsmagic.com/cruise>

Genealogy Seminar at Sea, Sat., 25 Oct. to Sat., 1 Nov. Royal Caribbean's newest ship, *Liberty of the Seas*, will sail from Miami to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; Labadee, Haiti (private site maintained by cruise line); then back to Miami. While at sea there will be three days of genealogy presentations on a wide variety of subjects. Speakers include John Philip Colletta, Stephen J. Danko, Michael J. Leclerc, Paul Milner, George G. Morgan, MGS past president **Donna M. Moughty**, Laura G. Prescott, and Paula Stuart-Warren. For more information visit the Website at <http://www.genealogycruises.com/index.htm> or contact Cindy at Fly Away Travel: telephone (800) 837-0295; e-mail flyawayinc@aol.com

Irish Genealogy Cruise, Sat., 10 Jan. 2009 to Sun., 18 Jan., is being offered by **The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA)**, 2120 Commonwealth Ave., Auburndale, MA 02466-1909. Royal Caribbean's *Independence of the Seas* will sail from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., through the Eastern Caribbean and back to Fort Lauderdale. Presenters will include: Valerie Adams, from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast; Mary Ellen Grogan, TIARA, Boston; George Handran, Boston (expert on Griffith's Valuation); Michael J. Leclerc, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston; Gregory O'Connor, from the National Archives of Ireland, Dublin; and Eileen and Sean O'Duill, from Dublin. There will be two simultaneous tracks: Track 1, lectures on basic resources and techniques for Irish research; Track 2, more advanced topics for those with experience in using Irish records. *Note:* Unless already booked, registration by 1 April will secure one of the special group-rate cabins. For

more information, visit the TIARA web site at <http://www.tiara.ie> and click on "Trips." ■

COLONIAL SHIPS' LISTS—DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE THROUGH NARA 26 JANUARY 2008

MGS programs always seem to suggest unexplored routes to information not yet in hand. Casey Zahn's was no exception.

Pre-1820 passenger records can be very difficult to locate because before that year the federal government did not require ships' captains to present passenger lists to government officials on arrival in port. Ships' cargo manifests, however, were always written up and quite often contain a list of passengers aboard during the voyage. These have been scattered, but many have been published and indexes exist for some of them.

Casey considers it essential to create a timeline for any individual whose pre-1820 ocean crossing is the object of your search. When you have listed in sequence each bit of

information that you have about him or her, you will be able to narrow your search in time and place. Search old newspapers for names, as well as such things as naturalization oaths, indentures, and land grants.

Look for names of other members of the family. It is possible that your ancestor followed their route.

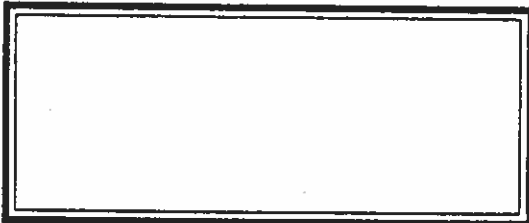
Transcribe carefully anything you can find. Otherwise you may miss some important nuggets of information.

NARA has published research guides that may be helpful. In addition, NARA has records of the U.S. Customs Service and other maritime records, such as Seamen's Protection Certificates, Seamen's Protection Certificate Applications, crew and ship lists.

There are museums and historical societies (e.g., Mystic Seaport, Peabody Essex, Mersey Maritime) that have Websites and hold records and publications of possible interest. They will usually copy material for you for a fee.

As always, leave no stone unturned. ■

**Deadline for next newsletter
22 April 2008**



MEETING
15 MARCH 2008
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