

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL**

Vol. 17 No. 4

ISSN 1041-2409

Fall-Winter 2000

**MGC CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED**

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council Executive Board is excited to announce that a terrific slate of speakers has again been obtained for our next annual meeting, Saturday **31 March 2000** at the Museum of Our National History in Lexington, MA. Speakers will include: Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FUGA, FASG on collateral kin; Helaine Davis, MLIS, Masonic Records; George B. Handran, JD, CG<sup>sm</sup> on the law as it relates to genealogical research; and Sandra Clunies, CG<sup>sm</sup> of Virginia on writing a family history as a lasting legacy. You will be receiving more information with this mailing.

**ELECTION**

At our annual conference an important order of business will be the election of officers for two-year terms. Volunteers are being sought to serve on the nominating committee. In addition to the usual offices, other positions include Archivist; Directors of: Civil Records, Programs, Publicity and Ways & Means. Finally the important position of Newsletter Editor needs to be filled. If you are contacted by one of the members of the nominating committee, please give serious thought to your answer.

**DUES ARE DUE**

*Included with this mailing is a renewal application for the year 2001. If it seems like you just received one, it was because we had fallen behind on the 2000 renewals. We thank you for your understanding.*

**CORRECTION**

In the last issue of the newsletter it was reported that the 1906-1910 vital records would be transferred to the Massachusetts Archives on 1 Jan 2001. The state statute actually allows them to make the transfer anytime during the 2001 calendar year.

**FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings are open to all interested genealogists. Please call (508) 460-0142 for further information if you plan to attend.

All Massachusetts Genealogical organizations are **URGED** to send a representative to these meetings.

The MGC board will meet on the following dates.

*Sunday, 4 March 2001            2:00 p.m.  
Waltham Public Library*

*Sunday, 20 May 2001            2:00 p.m.  
Place to be decided*

**FRAMINGHAM BOOK AVAILABLE**

Framingham's Tercentennial celebration ended with the release of Framingham's newest town history. *Framingham An American Town* was researched and written by Stephen W. Herring, the town's first official historian. A newcomer to Framingham in 1974, he served as the curator of the Framingham Historical Society from 1976 until 1989. Soon after he was named Chairman of the Framingham Historical Commission, a position he has held until this year. During his tenure, he has been proactive in the preservation of historical sites in town. He



is also the author of *South Middlesex: A New England Heritage*, a general illustrated history of the area. Spanning a period of nearly 400 years, *Framingham An American Town* is a 410 page, hard cover book that is written in a style that captures your attention and your imagination. Cosponsored by the Framingham Historical Society and the Framingham Tercentennial Commission, it is available for sale at the Society and the Framingham Town Clerk's Office.

### WHAT IS THE SOUNDIX?

The Soundex is a four-character code formed by the first letter of the surname, followed by three numbers. This code is based on the way a name sounds rather than the way it's spelled. This system began during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency, when his administration wanted to put people to work in government programs. The WPA prepared this between 1938 and 1940. The system was developed by Margaret K. Odell and Robert C. Russell in 1918.

The Soundex for the 1880 census was used for families with at least one child ten years of age or younger, but only for households having a child under 10. Thus any child born from 2 June 1869 to 1 June 1880 qualified the entire household to be Soundexed. It is believed that this was done because of the passing of the Social Security Act in 1935. The individuals enumerated in the 1880 Federal Census who would be eligible to apply for Social Security were 10 or younger. Many applicants were born before some states required registration of births. Since the government had to determine who was eligible for the benefits and needed verification or proof of their ages, they could use the Federal Census records if no birth record was available. Therefore, the Soundex was done for only those households with a child 10 years old or younger.

The 1930 Federal census schedules will be opened about 1 April 2002, as it will be 72 years since it was taken. April 1 was selected as the day of record for the 1930 federal census. They will be available at all regional archive facilities and open to the public after that date. There will be just under 2,700 rolls of microfilm. The WPA was shut down in 1942 because unemployment was not a problem and that ended the Soundexing of the census schedules. Therefore, only twelve southern states or part of those states were Soundexed.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

31 March 2001

ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR

MUSEUM OF OUR NATIONAL HERITAGE

Lexington, Massachusetts

### GENTECH COMING TO BOSTON

If you attended the NGS national conference in Providence you know how great a national genealogical conference can be. Plan now to attend GENTECH 2002 at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, 25-26 January 2002. GENTECH is a not-for-profit, educational society whose mission is bridging technology and genealogy through an annual conference. This will be the eleventh annual conference and the first in the Northeast. If you are interested in the 2-3 February 2001 GENTECH Conference in Dallas, Texas write to GENTECH, PO Box 140277, Irving, TX 75014-0277.



# MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

*The Massachusetts Genealogical Council acts as a frontline advocate to the genealogical community, monitoring legislation relating to vital records and working to ensure the public's right to access.*

## ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR

Museum of Our National Heritage, 33 Marrett Road (RT. 2A), Lexington

**Saturday, March 31, 2001**

9:00 to 9:30 Registration Desk and Refreshments

9:30 to 10:00 Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

10:00 to 10:15 Break and Vendor Booths

10:15 to 11:15 **“A SIBLING IS A SMALL, CRAWLING ANIMAL”: HELP AMONG THE COLLATERALS**  
by **Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FUGA, FASG** *Time to take the cure from “pedigree chart syndrome” and learn more about the sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives of your ancestors. You need to know about these other kin to properly define your ancestral families, and studying the “collaterals” solves many genealogical problems.*

11:15 to 11:30 Break and Vendor Booths

11:30 to 12:00 **MASONIC RECORDS: A RESOURCE FOR GENEALOGISTS** by **Helaine Davis, MLIS**  
*An overview of material of interest to genealogists in Masonic records, including items held in the Library at the Museum of Our National Heritage such as obituaries and portraits from proceedings, and information on other sources for Masonic records. On Saturday, Ms. Davis will open the Library for interested attendees. Space is limited. Sign-up at the Registration Desk on the day of the seminar.*

12:00 to 1:30 Lunch (included), Vendor Booths and the Museum are open (museum admission is free)

1:30 to 2:30 **THE LAW: KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL SKILL AS IT RELATES TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**  
by **George B. Handran, JD, CG<sup>SM</sup>** *A brief look at the various record sources available in the law library and in court houses where genealogical data is lurking and waiting to be discovered, particularly for early New England. An in-depth survey as to the original legal papers, their whereabouts, and the uses a genealogist can make of them.*

2:30 to 3:00 Break and Vendor Booths Open; Door Prizes will be awarded at 2:50

3:00 to 4:00 **WRITING THE FAMILY HISTORY: CREATIVE CONCEPTS FOR A LASTING LEGACY**  
by **Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG<sup>SM</sup>** *What makes your family history interesting to others outside the family? Take those names, dates and places and turn them into something memorable and readable by others. Explore the resources to bring those buried ancestors to life again!*

---

Please make checks payable to **Massachusetts Genealogical Council** and mail to  
**PO Box 5393, Cochituate, MA 01778-5393.**

---

### REGISTRATION for Massachusetts Genealogical Council Annual Meeting and Seminar

The cost, including lunch, is \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members.

Non-members may join at this time by sending \$27.50 (\$7.50 for 2001 individual annual membership dues plus the seminar admission price of \$20 for members).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_ Non-Member \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your sandwich choice: Turkey \_\_\_\_ Roast Beef \_\_\_\_ Tuna Fish \_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_

Deadline for registration is March 20, 2001.

Requests for refund of registration payment must be received by March 1, 2001.



### **DIRECTIONS BY CAR (free parking):**

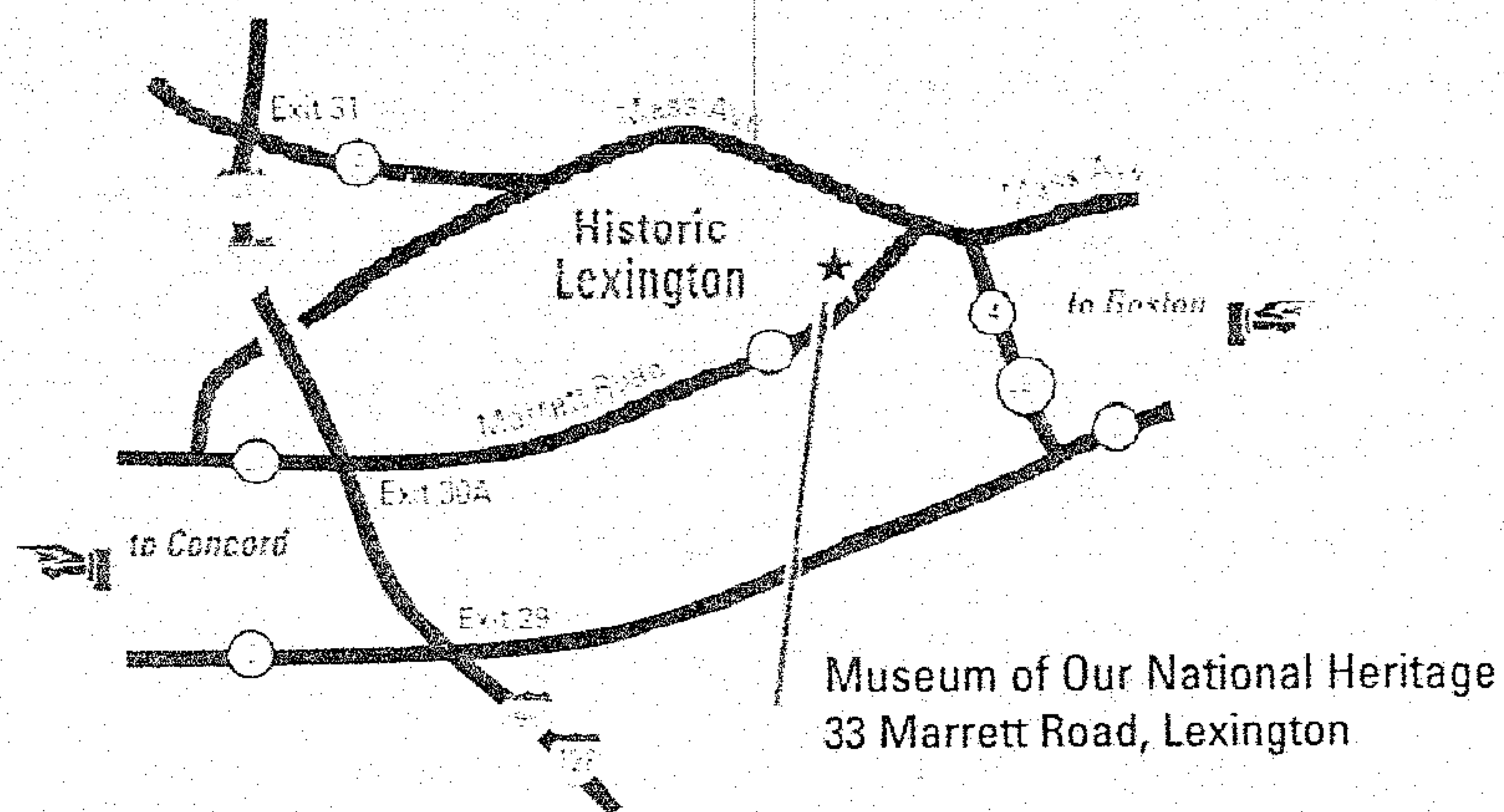
From Route 128/95 take exit 30A. This exit will take you onto 2A East (also known as Marrett Road). The Museum is approximately 3 miles from this exit on the left, with a brick entrance and large iron gates.

From 495 South take Route 128/95 North to exit 30A.

From 495 North take Route 93 South to Route 128/95 South to exit 30A.

From Route 2 take Waltham Street exit (reads Lexington Center). At lights take a right onto 2A exit and the museum will be on the left.

From Boston take Route 93 North to Route 128/95 South to exit 30A.



### **DIRECTIONS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:**

Take the MBTA Red Line to Alewife Station. Change to bus #62 or #76 to the Museum. The Museum is located at the intersection of Mass. Ave. (Route 4) and Route 2A West (33 Marrett Road).

**The Museum facility is fully accessible, and will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Museum admission is free.**

---

For more information, please call (508) 877-6484 or email [megrogan@ix.netcom.com](mailto:megrogan@ix.netcom.com)

**Your reservation will be confirmed.**

---

**SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES:** *CG<sup>SM</sup>*, Certified Genealogist, is a service mark of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, used under license by board-certified associates after periodic competency evaluations.

**Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FASG, FUGA** a full-time genealogist since 1978, is a former Trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, and current Vice President of the Genealogical Speakers Guild. He edited and compiled *The Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts*, and his articles have appeared in *The Register* (NEHGS), *NGS Quarterly*, *The American Genealogist*, and many others.

**Helaine Davis, MLIS** is the Public Services Librarian at the Van Gorden-Williams Library, Museum of Our National Heritage. The Library is a research facility focusing on records of American Freemasonry.

**George B. Handran, JD, CG<sup>SM</sup>** specializes in research in Essex County, Massachusetts and Ireland. He is a Trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists and Treasurer of the National Genealogical Society. His publications include *Townlands in Poor Law Unions* and articles in the *NGS Quarterly*, and *The Irish At Home and Abroad*. In 2001, he will be lecturing at the National Conferences of both NGS and FGS.

**Sandra MacLean Clunies, CG<sup>SM</sup>** is President of the National Institute of Genealogical Research (NIGR) Alumni Association, and a Director of GENTECH. She has lectured at several NGS National Conferences, won the NGS Family History Writing Contest in 1996, and has had numerous articles published in professional journals.

# MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

## 2001 Membership Application/Renewal

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_  
Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

### Dues

Individual (1 year)	\$7.50	_____
Sponsor (1 year)	\$15.00	_____
Organization (1 year)	\$10.00	_____

Name of Organizational Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

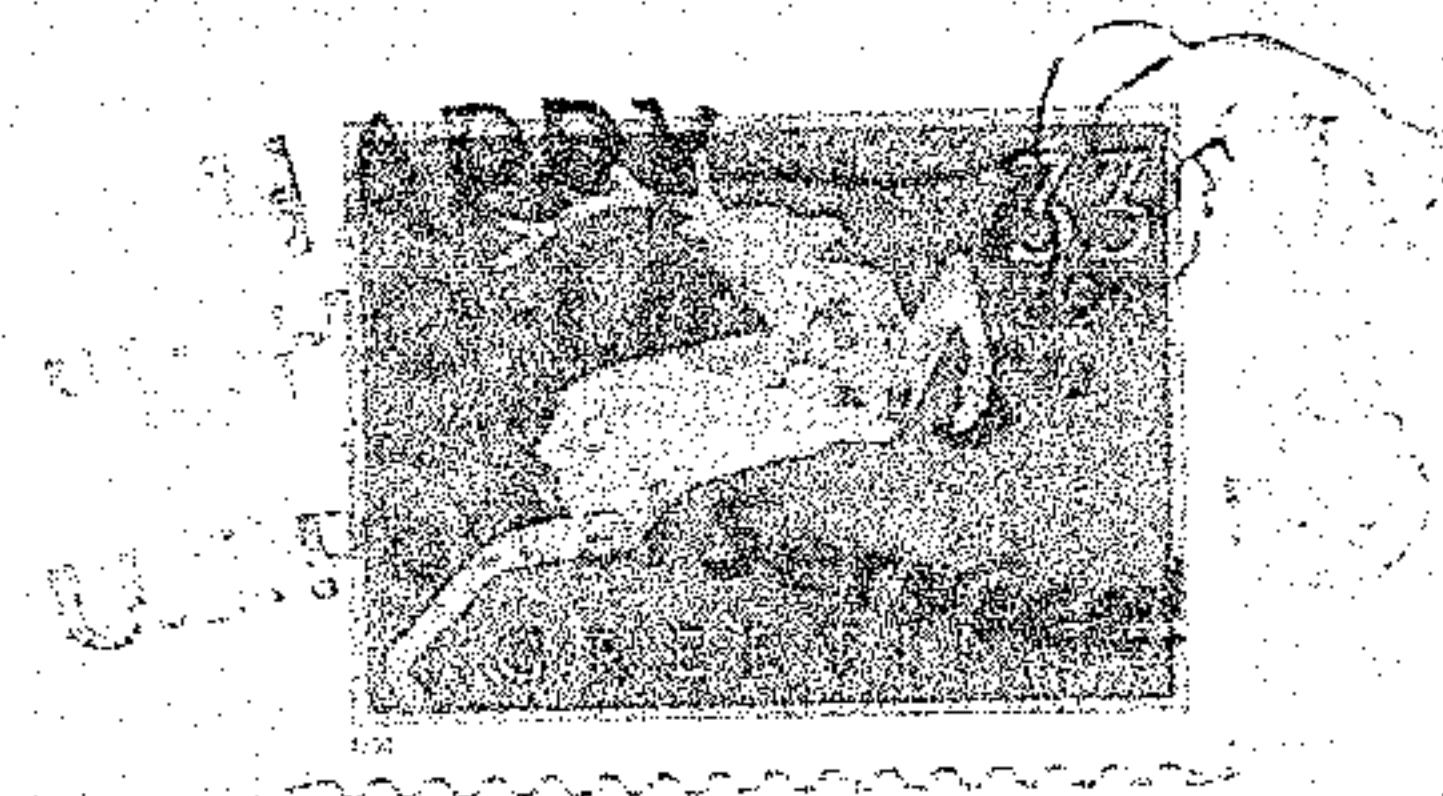
Please send this form with your check (made payable to *Massachusetts Genealogical Council*) to:

**Massachusetts Genealogical Council**  
**P. O. Box 5393**  
**Cochituate, MA 01778-5393**

*The Massachusetts Genealogical Council acts as a frontline advocate to the genealogical community, monitoring legislation relating to vital records and working to ensure the public's right to access.*



Massachusetts Genealogical Council  
PO Box 5393  
Cochituate, MA 01778-5393



David C. Dearborn  
PO Box 374  
Sharon, MA 02067-0374