

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

Volume 11

Winter 1992

Number 1

**.... BOIL AND BUBBLE,
TOIL AND TROUBLE**

What's stirring in Ole Salem Village? Three hundred years after the "hysteria", as the witchcraft trials were referred to by the Puritans, we are going to see a new hysteria in 1992 but rather than the hanging of witches there will be a publicity hyped "resurrection" to promote histo-tourism for the city of Salem. Self proclaimed witches of the present, ever present politicians, public relations promoters, all facets of the "hospitality industry" (hotels, restaurants, gift shops, etc.), opportunists and entrepreneurs of all persuasions have banded together and are revving up to ensnare what promises to be an inundation of summer tourists to the North Shore.

Genealogists have a special interest in the hysteria as the finding of one of the Salem "witches" in a line of descent is a precious gem, just as valuable as finding a Mayflower ancestor. However, as a practical matter, how can a true genealogist concentrate on genealogical matters with all the commercial hoopla ricocheting off the walls? We have the answer! Come early and avoid the late rush! Come to Danvers, the original Salem Village, where the hysteria sprouted and bloomed. Come to the -

**Massachusetts
Genealogical
Council's
Annual Conference**

**MAY 2, 1992
at the
Peabody Institute
Sylvan Street
Danvers**

Featured speakers will be:

1. Richard Trask, Town of Danvers Archivist, and an officer in the Danvers Alarm List Company that owns and operates the Rebecca Nurse House, who will speak on "**Piecing the Historical Puzzle Together;**"
2. Stephen Herring, Chairman of the Framingham Historical Commission, former Curator of the Framingham Historical Society, and author of **South Middlesex: A New England Heritage**, who will speak on "**Salem to Salem End; the History of the Framingham Witchcraft Families;**" and
3. Enders A. Robinson, Professor at Tulsa University, Oklahoma, a descendant of Samuel Wardwell, one of the victims, and author of two works about the witchcraft trials, **The Devil Discovered and Nathaniel Hawthorne** and **The House of Seven Gables** which tell the stories of the Andover accused, who will speak on the "**Salem Witchcraft Genealogy.**"

Included in the conference is a tour of the Rebecca Nurse House, home of the first Salem witch who was hung in 1692, and a tour of the Danvers Archives.

Included with this issue of the newsletter is a program sheet with a map sketch of Danvers sites and a registration form. Please try to register before the conference so we can make adequate arrangements for refreshments and seating.

Mark it on your calendar -

**MAY 2, 1992
at
Danvers**

SENATE S 339: AN ACT TO TRANSFER CERTAIN BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH RECORD TO THE OFFICE OF THE STATE SECRETARY

Chapter 46 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding the following section: -

The commissioner of public health shall develop a plan with the secretary of the Commonwealth for the transfer to the state archives of all record copies of birth, marriage and deaths from 1900 through 1920 required to be maintained in said commissioner's office in accordance with section 28 of chapter 486 of the acts of 1976, along with all corrections to said records filed not later than 1920, and all copies of the indexes thereto. An extra copy of the microfilmed records may be retained by the department of public health if needed.

After transfer, the secretary of the Commonwealth shall be the official custodian of such copies and shall be responsible for the preservation thereof. Said copies and all original records of births, marriage and deaths for 1841 through 1920 in the offices of the city and town clerks throughout the Commonwealth shall be maintained as public records in accordance with Chapter 66 of the General Laws, notwithstanding any general or specific law to the contrary.

Copies of such public records are not required to be certified and may be marked "for genealogical purposes only" with the exception that only certified copies of birth records less than 80 years old may be issued. Until such time as the secretary of the Commonwealth is able to secure and transfer these records, the commissioner of public health shall allow public access to these records in accordance with the provisions of the above section as if said copies were still in his custody.

The commissioner of public health shall no later than December 31 of 1992, transfer to the secretary of the Commonwealth all record copies of birth, marriage and death, the indexes thereto, and the corrections to such record files no later than 1920 pursuant to section 13 of chapter 46 of

the General Laws as amended required to be maintained in the commissioner's office in accordance with Chapter 486 of the acts of 1976, shall be transferred to the secretary of the Commonwealth as part of the overall plan for the transfer and said commissioner shall no later than December 31 of every fifth succeeding year, transfer to the said Secretary the earliest five years of all record copies of birth, marriage and death the indexes thereto, and corrections to said records filed the same five years remaining in the custody of the commissioner in accordance with section 28 of chapter 486 of the Acts of 1976. All records that are part of the transfer plan, and the original records of birth death and marriage for the same time period maintained in the offices of the city and town clerks throughout the Commonwealth, shall be maintained as public records in accordance with chapter 66 of the General Laws notwithstanding any general or specific law to the contrary.

Copies of such public records are not required to be certified and may be marked "for genealogical purposes only," with the exception that only certified copies of birth records less than 80 years old may be issued.

-----§-----

**NEW HAMPSHIRE
GENEALOGY CONFERENCE**

The New Hampshire Society of Genealogists and The New England Historic Genealogical Society will co-sponsor a Joint Conference on New Hampshire Genealogy supported by the NEHGS Farrington Fund on Saturday, April 4, 1992 at the Sheraton Wayfarer Hotel Bedford, New Hampshire. The program will feature special topics on New Hampshire. Registration Special for all members of NHSOG or NEHGS \$20.00, if paid by March 15, 1992. \$24.00 for all others, or if paid after March 15. Registration deadline: March 30, 1992. Registration fee includes luncheon. For further information call NEHGS, 617 - 536 - 5740.

-----§-----

Thrift is a wonderful virtue - especially in ancestors.

DIRECTORY COLLECTIONS TEMPORARILY WITHDRAWN

by
David Dearborn

The Boston Public Library has closed public access to its city directory collections at its Roslindale and East Boston branches. Beginning in late December, the Library began moving the directories to the Charlestown Armory, where the collections from the two branches will be integrated and permanently stored. It has not yet been decided how, in the future, the public will have access to these volumes.

The city directories, an unparalleled source of genealogical information for those tracing 19th and 20th-century urban ancestors and relatives, were produced commercially by many small publishers, though over time, a few large companies such as R.L. Polk, Hill's, and Hudspeth's predominated. Published annually or biannually, they contain alphabetical lists of all adult inhabitants, giving occupation and home address. Twentieth-century directories also include wives' names with their husbands, and have cross indexes by street address. Usually included as well are fold-out maps showing streets and ward boundaries, and lists of public officials, churches, and societies.

In 1964, when the New England Historic Genealogical Society moved to its present location on Newbury Street in Boston, it deposited its non-New England directories (consisting of about 3,300 linear feet of shelf space) with the Boston Public Library, which has stored them since that time in the basement of the East Boston branch, where they have been directly accessible to researchers (the NEHGS still maintains a list of these directories). Spanning the time period from the late 19th century to 1964, these directories cover not only major cities, but medium and smaller ones as well, such as Bakersfield, Cal., Escanaba, Mich. and Muskogee, Okla. The directories formerly at Roslindale are actually owned by the Public Library and consist of non-current volumes from all over the country that were sent to Roslindale from the main Copley Square library when they became a few years old. Undoubtedly, there is some overlap between the two collections. The books in both collections are quite fragile and have been poorly housed for

many years. That the books have not deteriorated further is due in part to the fact that the collections have been little-known among genealogists.

For those interested in researching directories of the larger U.S. cities, the Boston Public Library's Microtext Department (at the main library in Copley Square) has on microfilm and microfiche the directories for the 72 largest cities from their beginning to 1935. In addition, the NEHGS still has its large collection of New England directories (some are being microfiched and are currently unavailable), and the Massachusetts State Library (in the State House, Boston) has a good collection of directories for the Commonwealth's cities.

-----§-----

STATE ARCHIVES: NATURALIZATION PAPERS

by
Shirley Pizziferri

Naturalization papers for Worcester County are now in the Archives and available for use. They cover the period from about 1837 to 1988 with the recent ones to follow. There is an alphabetical card index for the earliest ones. The records between 1920 and 1942 - 3 are indexed volumes. All indexes will have to be searched by the Archives staff and then record volumes will be brought to the researcher. There are no micro - films involved, however, the filming of the Bristol County Naturalization records is scheduled to start some time in February.

-----§-----

CD'S: COMPACT DISKS for Computer Users

The high density, compacted, data storage device known as the Compact Disk can hold 600MB of information. Information stored on these platters can be accessed in milliseconds by computers to which a CD drive is attached. Automated Archives Inc., University Plaza, 1160 S. State St., #230, Orem Utah 84058 is offering for sale CD disks with a variety of records on them - marriage, Social Security Death benefits, Census Indexes and other records of genealogical interest. For more information write to Diane M. Potter at the above address or call her at 800-222-3766.

1855 & 1865 STATE CENSUSES Charlestown, Concord, and Chelmsford

Ann S. Lainhart has issued a pre-publication notice for the 1855 and 1865 Massachusetts State Censuses for Charlestown, Concord, and Chelmsford.

Ann has been transcribing and publishing the Massachusetts State Censuses for six years and has very much enjoyed the project. She has received many nice comments from researchers who have found these volumes useful.

Ann has decided, though, that if she does not get enough in pre-publication sales to cover the cost of printing these four volumes, she will have to discontinue the project. Therefore, the pre-publication checks that are received will be held until the 31st of March. If at that time not enough are received then these uncashed checks will be returned to the senders.

These two state censuses are similar to the 1850 and 1860 Federal censuses in format and content. They have been transcribed in original order and an index has been added of heads of households and people of other surnames in the households.

The following will be available in April 1992:

1855 CHARLESTOWN, 500 pages, \$80.00
1865 CHARLESTOWN*, 600 pages, \$100.00
both of the above \$160.00
1855 & 1865 CONCORD, 120 pages, \$20.00
1855 & 1865 CHELMSFORD, 120 pages, \$20.00

* In 1865 the enumerators in part of Ward 1 and all of Wards 2 and 3 of 1865 Charlestown give specific town of birth for most people born in the United States and county of birth for many of those born in Ireland.

These volumes are soft bound with a comb binding. Unpunched and unbound copies are available if you are planning to have them hardbound. If you wish to order please use enclosed order form.

-----§-----

Insanity is heredity - you get it from your kids!

MARSHFIELD

A Town of Villages

1640 - 1990

A book celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the founding of Marshfield by Cynthia Hagar Krusell and Betty Magoun Bates.

This narrative history of Marshfield, Massachusetts, explores its nine villages-- Green Harbor, Brant Rock-Ocean Bluff, Rexhame, Marshfield, Centre Marshfield, Sea View, Marshfield Hills, North Marshfield - Two Mile, Standish -

from their early settlement to the present. This fascinating story covers 350 years of the town's development--its Pilgrim origin, the Revolutionary period, the era of Daniel Webster, the coming of summer resorts in the early twentieth century, and today's growth into a modern suburb. Some of the many surnames cited in the book are:

Ames, Baker, Bassett, Blackman, Bradford, Branch, Bourne, Carver, Chandler, Chillingworth, Clift, Damon, Dingley, Doggett, Doty, Eames, Ewell, Ford, Hall, Hatch, Harlow, Hewitt, Howland, Joyce, Keene, Little, Leonard, Lewis, Macomber, Magoun, Oakman, Peterson, Phillips, Prentice, Randall, Rogers, Sherman, Simmons, Sinnott, Smith, Snow, Sprague, Taylor, Thomas, Tilden, Trouant, Wales, Walker, Waterman, Webster, Weston, White, Williamson, Winslow

Included are family histories and house and property histories based on newly discovered material from diaries, letters, probates, and land records.

244 pages, fully illustrated with 144 half-tones, 8 pages of color plates, and maps of each village; detailed index along with reference notes and extensive bibliography.

Orders filled immediately! If you wish to order please use enclosed order form. For additional information call: 617-834-7329 or 617-834-8010

-----§-----

A youthful figure is what you get when you ask a woman her age.

Overweight: Living beyond your seams.

MGC
Officers and Directors

President	Katherine A. Gardner-Westcott
Vice President	David C. Dearborn
Secretary	Gratia Mahony
Treasurer	Shirley Pizziferri
Director of Civil Records	Shirley M. Barnes
Director of Programs	Shiela Fitzpatrick
Director of Publicity	Richard A. Haskell
Director of Research	
Director of Ways and Means	

-----§-----

MGC NEWSLETTER REPRINTS FOR SALE

Mass. Divorce Records: Where to Find Them by Roger D. Joslyn \$1.00

New England Naturalization Records Index by Roger D. Joslyn \$1.00

Records of Massachusetts Congregational Churches by Mary F. Morgan \$1.00

Civil Records: Massachusetts Updated 1988 by Melinde Lutz Sanborn \$1.00

Genealogical Research at the Boston Public Library by William Schoeffler \$1.50

Genealogical Research at the Boston Public Library: An Update of Microtext Holdings by Alice Kane \$1.00

The Home for Destitute Catholic Children by Ann S. Lainhart \$1.00

How to Join the Mayflower Society by Alicia Williams \$1.00

17th and 18th Century Massachusetts Court Records of the Supreme Judicial Court by Ann S. Lainhart \$1.50

Order from:

MGC Reprints
P. O. Box 5393
Cochituate, MA 01778

Please make check payable to Mass. Genealogical Council.

CALENDAR

by
Kay Sheldon

MARCH 7th East Bridgewater Public Library, 1 pm. Genealogical worksop, Plymouth Gen. Society

10th Auburn Public Library, Rte. 12, Auburn, MA, 7:30 pm. Roseanna Atwood-Foley "Preserving New England Gravestone Art" Worcester County Chapter NASOG

14th Belmont Public Library, Belmont, MA., 1:30 pm. "Censuses: 1790 - 1920", James Holmes and Robert Oliphant, Middlesex Chapter, MASOG

Falmouth Public Library, Falmouth, MA, 9:30 am "Workshop", View Heritage Quest video and/or episode 3 of Video "The Blood is Strong" Falmouth Genealogical Society James Library, West Street, Norwell, MA., 1:30 pm. "NEHGS Manuscript Collection", Scott A. Bartley. South Shore Genealogical Society.

18th New England Historic Genealogical Society. 101 Newbury St, Boston ,MA., 5:30 pm. "Pasturage, Tillage, Meadow and Woodlot: A History of Land Use and Its Value to Family Research," Cynthia Hager Krusell.

21st The Gallery, Glastonbury, CT, "Censuses and Current Release of the 1920 Census", James Owens of the National Archives, Waltham, MA. 11 am. Dinner meeting, reservations required.

Centre Church, Lynnfield, Noon social, 1 pm. lecture "Making Sense of Surveyer's records. Keys to New England Property Research Donald A. Wilson, land boundary consultant.

28th Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave, Worcester, MA. 10 -12 am. "Getting started. Up or Down my Family Tree" Kay Sheldon, 1st of 4 weekly sessions 1st and 2nd week basic genealogy, 3rd and 4th heraldry. Fee

APRIL 4th Sheraton Tara Wayfarer Inn, 121 S. River Road, Bedford, NH. Combined seminar New Hampshire - New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Higgins Armory Museum 100 Barber Ave, Worcester, MA, 10 am. "Getting started: Up or Down my Family Tree", Kay Sheldon second weekly session - basis genealogy. Fee

Old Bridgewater Historical Society, West Bridgewater, MA. "Holdings of the Society", Larry Connor. Research time available. Plymouth Soc. Gen.

11th First United Methodist Church, Brook & Water St, Framingham, MA, 8:30 am. to 4 pm. Genealogical workshop, 30 sessions, MASOG, fee non-members.

Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave, Worcester, MA., 10 am. - noon, "Heraldry, part 1", Linda Honan, Director of Education at the Museum.

Falmouth Public Library, Falmouth, MA., 9:30 am. "Gravestones", Daniel Goldman, Falmouth Gen. Soc.

Hampden Middle School, Hampden, ME., 9 am. All day Workshop. Maine Genealogical Society

18th Otis Library, Norwich, CT, 1 pm., "The Huguenot", Matthias Boissevin, CT Society Gen.

Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, MA , All day workshop. ESOG - Hopefully 1 pm. lecturer on French Canadian research

Higgins Armory Museum, 100 Barber Ave, Worcester, MA., 10 am. - noon, "Heraldry" - part 2, Linda Honan, Higgins Armory Museum

26th Pequot Public Library, Southport, CT., George Redmond

27th Plaza Ballroom, Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 4:00 pm. Reception, Annual Meeting 4:30 p.m., "Christian Names and Genealogy", George H. Redmonds. New England Historic Genealogical Society.

29th - May 2nd National Genealogical Society Conference, Jacksonville, Florida

MAY 2nd Peabody Institute of Danvers, (Public Library) Mass. Genealogical Council annual meeting, 1 - 4 pm, Richard Trask, Dr. Enders Robinson, Stephen Herring, all speaking on topics relating to the Witchcraft phenomena of 1692 and the families involved. Fee, includes 10 am tour of Rebecca Nourse house.

MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL
Richard A. Haskell, Editor
P. O. Box 5393
Cochituate, MA 01778

EXP 07/31/91

David C. Dearborn

1514 Beacon St., Apt. 55

Brookline, MA 02146