



# MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

<http://www.massgencouncil.org>

## Member Organizations

American-French Genealogical Society

Billerica Friends of Genealogy

Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society

Descendants of Whaling Masters

Essex Society of Genealogists

Friends of the Silvio O. Conte Archives

The Genealogical Roundtable

Greater Boston Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists

The Irish Ancestral Research Association

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists

The Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Plymouth County Genealogists

The Waltham Historical Society

## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S DESK

*By Daphnah Sage, MGC Vice-President*

At the moment, we seem to be in a calm before the storm, with no new activities brewing on Beacon Hill to limit access to vital records. Nevertheless, your MGC representatives are keeping watch there and will inform you of any changes.

If you hear of any legislative or administrative actions affecting genealogical research in Massachusetts or elsewhere, let us know so that we can monitor those events. Watching how others protect access to vital records helps us manage matters here.

Please remember to have a volunteer from your society attend our Board meetings. Your input helps guide the MGC, since we are an umbrella organization for all Massachusetts societies with an interest in genealogy.

I urge you to attend our yearly seminar and annual meeting on March 31, 2004. We are holding it at a very convenient location on Rt.128/I-95 in Waltham. The nationally respected expert Helen Leary will guide us through some very interesting research techniques. For details, see this newsletter (pages 3 to 5).

## WHAT'S NEW IN MASSACHUSETT'S RESEARCH

The **Massachusetts Archives** is now open on the second and fourth Saturdays **only** of each month (9 am to 3 pm); the weekday schedule is unchanged (9 am to 5 pm).

The **New England Historic Genealogical Society** is now open on Sunday afternoons (except December): noon to 5 pm. A successful summer trial encouraged the Society to make this a permanent schedule change.

*(cont'd. on Page 6)*

## MGC BOARD 2003-2004

### OFFICERS

President: Bernard J. Couming

Vice-President: Daphnah Sage

Treasurer: Peter Viles

Secretary: Sandra Gambone

### DIRECTORS

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Asst. Newsletter: Georgie Hallock

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Publicity: Bobby Lyman

Ways & Means: Sheila FitzPatrick

The **Massachusetts Genealogical Council** is dedicated to serving the interests of the state's genealogical community. Founded in 1980, the Council's stated aim is to develop and promote the study and exchange of ideas among persons and organizations interested in the pursuit of genealogy. Its programs and activities are designed to complement those of the many genealogical and hereditary societies throughout the state and to provide a statewide forum for genealogists.

One of the Council's leading functions is to represent the concerns of genealogists in the halls

of state and local government. The Council monitors the activities of agencies that bear on genealogical interests and testifies at hearings and other forums of government. The Council promotes the preservation and publication of state and local records and also provides information about them. It guards the rights of all researchers' access to public records and educates genealogists about the proper use and preservation of these records.

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC) is composed of both Individual and Organization Members. Individual members receive the newsletter, participate in activities organized by the MGC, and may attend the Annual Meeting and Seminar at a discounted member-only rate. All Organization Members receive the newsletter. Organization Members of groups based in Massachusetts are encouraged to send a delegate to the quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors. Delegates are voting members of the Board.

Membership in the Council is open to any person or organization interested in its activities upon payment of dues. The membership year runs from 1 January through 31 December. Dues are: Individual \$7.50, Organization \$10.00, Sponsor \$15.00. Note: Dues are NOT tax-deductible.

The MGC Board meets four times a year. Meetings are open to all interested genealogists, and we welcome your participation. Massachusetts genealogical organizations are urged to send a representative to these meetings. Meetings are scheduled for November 15, 2003, January 3, 2004, March 6, 2004, and May 2, 2004, at the National Archives in Waltham, from 1 to 4 pm.

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## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM INTERNET FRAUD

Be aware that fraudulent emails target customers of many high-profile companies. These emails may ask you to submit sensitive personal information with the intent to steal that information from you. These crimes are common – and require your vigilance. Here are some tips to help you protect yourself:

- **Never** send your password, credit card number, secret word, or PIN in an email.
- When you receive an email that directs you to a Web page asking for your personal information, please **use caution**. The email may direct you to a Web site that looks as though it is from a legitimate company with which you do business, but in reality the site has been created by a criminal to steal your personal information. A link may show one Web address – but direct you to another. You should always type the Web address directly into the address bar rather than clicking the link.
- If you think you have already submitted sensitive information in response to a fraudulent email, please contact your bank and/or credit card company immediately.

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council is proud  
to present a full day seminar by renowned  
genealogist and noted educator

# ***HELEN LEARY***

*Certified Genealogist, Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists,  
Fellow of the National Genealogical Society*

**Helen F. M. Leary, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS**, has been active in the field of genealogy for more than twenty-five years and a professional genealogist since 1978. She is a Certified Genealogist, Certified Genealogical Lecturer, Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, and a Fellow of the National Genealogical Society (and received its Award of Merit in 1987). She is past-president of the Board for Certification of Genealogists (and recipient of its Award for Outstanding Service in 2002) and has held numerous other elective offices in the field: trustee of the Association for Professional Genealogists (and recipient of its Graham T. Smallwood Award in 2003), and many others.

As a member of the adjunct faculty of the Samford University Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (and recipient of its Outstanding Alumni Award in 1996), she lectures on advanced methodology and is Course Coordinator for Level 5-A: Genealogy as a Profession and Level 5-B: Genealogical Writing. She has also contributed chapters to *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians* and articles to genealogical and historical periodicals, including the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, and *The American Genealogist*, among others.

Mrs. Leary speaks with authority, accuracy, and humor about a wide range of genealogical and historical topics. She is a well-known and highly respected lecturer, often appearing at national conferences, regional and local seminars, and historical symposia. Drawing on her years as a professional speaker, writer, and genealogical researcher, she presents a program that inspires, entertains, and informs her audience.

**Saturday**  
**March 27, 2004**

**Best Western Hotel**  
**Waltham, MA**

## ***PROGRAM***

### **8:00am-10:00am**

**Registration in the Grand Ballroom, Vendors Open, Refreshments (Coffee, Tea, Pastries)**

### **8:45am-9:30am**

**Massachusetts Genealogical Council Annual Meeting**

### **9:45am-10:45am**

**Is This the Same Man, or a Different One With the Same Name:** Proving that our ancestors are who we say they are is essential to proving that they are related to who we claim are their kinfolk. But sometimes everybody in the county has the same name (or at least it seems so to us). How do we separate them from each other, especially when there do not appear to be enough records to do it reliably?

### **11:00am-12:00pm**

**Time-Lines and Real Lives — Using Ancestor's Life Patterns to Find Their Parents:** Each event in an ancestor's life occurred at a specific place on the time line between his or her birth and death. Those occurrences form a pattern. Mrs. Leary describes how to chart the time-line, identify the patterns, and use them to find the ancestor's parents.

### **12:00am-2:30pm**

**Hot Buffet Lunch in the Terrace Dining Room** (included in the Registration Fee): Caesar Salad, meatballs, vegetable lasagna, pasta with chicken and broccoli, grilled vegetables, garlic bread, coffee or tea, dessert. [Please advise us of any special dietary requirements.]

Members of the **Association of Professional Genealogists** will be hosting the tables in the dining room. Bring your questions and be ready for a discussion with other interested genealogists. Possible topics include LDS records, Irish, Colonial New England, Jewish, Italian, etc. We welcome your suggestions; make a note on the registration form. Since it is a buffet, you can table-hop!

### **2:00pm-3:00pm**

**Our Ancestors' Voices — Getting the Records To Tell Us *Everything* They Know:** Seemingly minor details in a record can be of major importance in solving an otherwise insoluble genealogical problem. Mrs. Leary will discuss (and illustrate) techniques for getting more information from records than seems to be there.

### **3:15pm-4:15 pm**

**The Hemings-Jefferson Connection: A Genealogical Evaluation of the Evidence:** Sally Hemings, slave of Thomas Jefferson, is known to have had at least six children. Was their father Thomas Jefferson, another Jefferson, or a collection of unidentified Virginians? Impartial evaluation of **all** the evidence, including that derived from DNA comparisons among Hemings and Jefferson descendants (real and imagined), points inexorably to a single conclusion.

For more information on this exciting opportunity, see our website  
([www.massgencouncil.org](http://www.massgencouncil.org)) or write to us at: Massachusetts Genealogical Council,  
P.O. Box 5393, Cochranton, MA 01778-5393. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**IMPORTANT: Room Set-up**

The front of the Grand Ballroom will be set-up “classroom style” with long tables and chairs. The rear of the room will have only chairs. **The “classroom” rows will be reserved for the first 100 registrants.**

**HOTEL:** The Seminar will be held at the Best Western Hotel, 477 Totten Pond Rd., Waltham, ([http://www.bestwestern.com/prop\\_22009](http://www.bestwestern.com/prop_22009)). Rooms are available at \$79 (\$86.61 including tax and continental breakfast) per night from Thursday through Sunday. Rooms can sleep up to 4 people. The heated indoor pool is open until 10:00pm. Call 781-890-7800 or 1-877-852-4683 (toll free).

The hotel is located at exit 27A on Interstate 95 (aka Route 128), easily accessible from all directions. It is a 5-minute drive from the National Archives. Note that the New England Historic Genealogical Society library in Boston is now open on Sunday.

If you would like more detailed directions, or information on the local area, please email [seminar@massgencouncil.org](mailto:seminar@massgencouncil.org) or send a letter to the Local Arrangements Chair, Massachusetts Genealogical Council, P.O. Box 5393, Cochituate, MA 01778-5393.

**VENDORS:** We are working hard to make sure that there will be a good selection of vendors at the Seminar, focusing on genealogical reference materials, books, maps, tapes, CDs, etc. See our website for details.

**FRIDAY EVENING:** An informal dinner will be held in the hotel restaurant. Talking with your fellow genealogists is one of the primary benefits of a conference. Your friends and relatives may not care how you found great-aunt Gertrude’s death record, but **we** do!! Make a note on your registration form, and we will contact you with details. Registration materials will be available on Friday evening for guests staying at the hotel. ***See you there!***

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Individual Members of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council (paid for 2004) are entitled to register for the Seminar at a special rate. Annual dues are \$7.50, and you may join now. Please circle the correct option.*

**Membership**

I am a fully paid member for 2004:    yes/no  
I would like to join/renew MGC:       \$7.50

**Seminar Registration**

***Registrations must be received by 3/24/04.***

Early Registration (must be received by 2/29/04)

Member:                                 \$40  
Non-Member:                             \$50

**Registration (received 3/1 through 3/24/04)**

Member:                                 \$50  
Non-Member:                             \$60

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:**

Massachusetts Genealogical Council

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

**Cancellation Policy:** The Registration fee may be refunded up to 30 days before the event minus a \$5.00 administration fee. There will be **no** refund within 30 days of the event.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT'S NEW IN MASSACHUSETTS RESEARCH *(cont'd from page 1)*

**Ancestry** [<http://www.ancestry.com>] has added a new resource to their website: *Massachusetts Death Index, 1970 to 1998*. The website notes that "This information was originally accessed from the Massachusetts State Health Department." The index includes: Death Certificate Number, Death Place, Surname, Given Name, Date of Death, and Birthplace. However the birth places given in the index are wrong. Everyone appears to have been born in Becket or Fitchburg. Nevertheless, there is a good search feature. You may search by Firstname, Lastname, Keyword (or a combination of these categories) with exact or soundex spelling.

### COMPUTER WRESTLING

*By Georgie Hallock, Assistant Newsletter Editor*

There is a new game in town. It's a reality show called *Computer Wrestling*. You may not get much physical exercise, but it's a workout for your intellect. Are you a low-level computer person with a resistance to using the machine as a result of lack of knowledge? Are you frustrated by those around you who have greater skills than you do? Are you limiting yourself because you can't seem to make the machine behave? Welcome to the world in transition. I thought that when I had mastered several of the techniques for installing rolls of microfilm that I was ready for anything. Boy was I wrong!

I have always been an indifferent typist and an irreverent speller. Spell check has been a blessing. I now spell the word right, but use the wrong word. The editing process still is needed. Our machine likes read and reed. The information highway seems to have led me on to an entrance ramp when I really should be on an exit. I'm not ready to go there. The thought that there are family history records waiting for me has caused me to learn a very little bit about the machine. We - the machine and I - are bonded. I am learning to do what it tells me to do when I tell it what I want to do. I suffer from DWIM syndrome. DWIM stands for Do What I Mean.

Now any machine that needs to go to START so you can turn it off can't be all good. When a late night genealogy question comes up, it is nice to have a 24 hour friend to help look for you. The responses are typed, thus saving old tired eyes. The "user friendly" sites are neither. Some places on the internet are scary, but those places that want your money are very carefully designed to remove your funds from you.

Back in the old days, last century, I remember the belief that "any idiot can file". True, but when it takes a genius to retrieve the information, you have a problem. Today the odds are that the computer has filed the information and now you have to find it. It seems that I should be smarter than the machine, but that's a mistake too.

Currently I am learning to deal with the Massachusetts Great and General Court website. [<http://www.state.ma.us/legis>] There are all sorts of exciting buttons to push and lots of information about the legislature. Hey, Mr. Legislator, if you're thinking about legislating family history, I'm going to find you. I'm going to share the information with all of my "genie" friends. If I can close down my machine all by myself, imagine what I can do with help, and most of them are far more knowledgeable than I.



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## INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)

*By Chad Milliner*

*[Editor's Note: Chad Milliner ([cmilliner@byuualum.net](mailto:cmilliner@byuualum.net)), a genealogist based in Salt Lake City, contributed the following information to the APG (Association of Professional Genealogists) mailing list in March 2003. Mr. Milliner has given his permission for an edited version of his comments to appear in our newsletter. This information is important to your understanding of the source of the information that appears in the IGI microfiche, on the FamilySearch database, and on the various vital records series issued by the Church of Latter Day Saints. For a complete copy of this discussion, search the APG-L archives on Rootsweb (<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/APG/2003-03>). The thread was entitled "IGI and its sources".]*

Edward Steele's post [referring to the APG-L discussion] notes that the IGI used to have an entry citing an ancestor's Congregation Church record<sup>1</sup>. I strongly suspect that that particular entry is now part of the Vital Records Index set for North America, which is available at Family History Centers, the Family History Library, and which can be purchased. When the IGI was available on fiche only, it did contain some entries that are currently not in the online version [i.e., FamilySearch database]. There are two reasons that I am aware of for the entries being removed. Both of those reasons have to do with the original reason why the IGI was created.

In the 1950's, the Church [LDS] began a controlled program of extracting birth, christening, and marriage dates from vital and church records. In 1969, the Church replaced the Temple Records Index Bureau's card file with the IGI. From now on, the IGI would be the source to check to see if proxy ordinances had already been performed for a deceased relative. A problem was that the fiche version was updated only every four years, due to the expense of sending out thousands of massive fiche sets. Since the Church knew that a particular fiche set of the IGI would be in service for four years, they put in the IGI not only the names of those for whom proxy ordinances had been performed, but also names that had been extracted from the vital and church records that had not yet had proxy ordinances performed (those names were shown as CLEARED in the fiche version). By putting in these CLEARED names, the Church was letting members know that proxy ordinances for those people would be performed eventually and there was thus no need for the members doing research on their family lines to submit those names to the Church to be cleared.

Church volunteers were extracting names from vital and church records at a faster pace than the temples could handle. Hence, in each new fiche set of the IGI, there were more and more CLEARED names as a percentage of the total. When the Church switched to CD-ROM, it was decided to take out of the IGI the CLEARED names that were there as a result of controlled extraction from vital and church records. At the same time, the Church announced that the CLEARED names would be eventually part of a new database known as the Vital Records Index (VRI). Hence, to LDS Church members, the IGI can be thought of as "names of those for whom temple work has already been done". The various VRI datasets can be thought of as "names of those for whom temple work will eventually be done without any further action on my part". Names in the VRI make their way back into the IGI, but the IGI source is no longer the source of the original record, but is instead the temple record only.

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<sup>1</sup> Edward Steele:... "the baptism of my ancestor, Isaac Steele, is cited in the microfiche IGI, and the source for that information is given as the microfilm number for the LDS extractions of baptismal data from the Congregational Church in New Hartford, Connecticut. Now, when I examine the SAME data (the baptism of Isaac Steele) in the IGI on the Internet, the ONLY film numbers that I have ever been able to find as the "source" for this information are the LDS "sealings for the dead" records... Nowhere can I find the original LDS reference to their extractions of data from the Congregational Church in New Hartford."

## ACCESS TO RECORDS ISSUES OUTSIDE MASSACHUSETTS

The following articles are from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and are copyright 2003 by Richard W. Eastman. They are re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

### **Cemetery Off Limits To Cameras (10/14/3)**

In a rather bizarre story, security guards at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto refuse to let anyone photograph the tombstones. The reason? Supposedly it is "to protect the personal information on headstones, which are considered private property."

A young schoolgirl recently received an extreme lesson in civics when she attempted to photograph the tombstone of former Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King as part of her homework assignment. She was told that she would receive a \$150 fine.

Isn't that a bit extreme to protect personal information? Who needs the "protection?" Certainly not the deceased! You can read much more about this on the [Canada.com](http://Canada.com) Web site.

### **Your Death Certificate (10/6/03)**

I am not making this up. According to the Multnomah County, Oregon, Web site, "If you need a certified copy of your death certificate, you should contact the Certification Unit of the Oregon Center for Health Statistics."

I don't think I will write for my death certificate, but if you have a need to write for your own, look at: <http://www.co.multnomah.or.us/dbcs/FREDS/records/reference.shtml>

### **Genealogy Society to Sue Local Health District? (9/15/03)**

In a bizarre twist of logic, the Huron County (Ohio) General Health District has interpreted Ohio's new fee structure for ordering copies of birth and death certificates as meaning that those certificates should not be made available at all. Despite the new guideline specifically stating the fees for making such copies, the Huron County General Health District refuses to issue any certificates at all, at any price. Tim Hollinger, a board member, refuses to issue copies of these public domain records, citing concerns that they could fall into the hands of "terrorists, number one, or criminals." This is despite the fact that the laws clearly state that such information is public domain within the United States and cannot legally be withheld. In fact, the new Ohio law about fees clearly states under what conditions those records are to be released. Hollinger appears to be ignoring the law that he does not approve of.

OK, now here is where the story really gets bizarre: It seems that the Huron County Genealogical Society had a copy of those records on microfilm. In fact, microfilm copies of the records are available in many places. However, members of the county's General Health District "stormed" the local library and seized the Huron County Genealogical Society's copy of the microfilm. The Genealogical Society has asked for the return of the microfilm, but the General Health District has (so far) refused. Are all of us using the tools of "terrorists or criminals" in our genealogy research? Should this information be locked up? Should a new set of fees be used to justify illegal seizure of a non-profit society's property? Can public domain government data be withheld by local government officials? You can read more about this strange misinterpretation of Ohio's new fee structure at: [http://www.morningjournal.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1699&dept\\_id=46371&newsid=10153455&PAG=461&rft=9](http://www.morningjournal.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1699&dept_id=46371&newsid=10153455&PAG=461&rft=9)



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## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

### National Archives in Waltham Offers Genealogical Workshops

The National Archives-Northeast Region is offering free genealogical workshops during the fall of 2003. Most of the workshops are beginner level, although a few are aimed at all levels of researcher, and one is intermediate. Participants will learn what they need to know in order to locate records as well as what one might expect to find in the records.

The workshops will be offered at the Regional Archives building, located at 380 Trapelo Road in Waltham, MA, according to the following schedule. Workshops marked with an asterisk (\*) are followed by an optional behind-the-scenes tour of the archives.

October 30, 6:30 pm      Clues in US Census Records  
November 4, 2:00 pm      Census Tool Kit\*  
November 13, 6:30 pm      Canadian Border Crossings: The "St. Albans" records  
November 18, 2:00 pm      Records relating to African-American research available\*

Workshop and tour space is limited to 20 participants. Call (866) 406-2379 to register and for more details. There is no fee.

### Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy

The Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) has announced the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Students register for one of eight courses of study, each including twenty hours of classes and/or labs. In addition to classroom instruction, teachers may provide study and research assignments. A unique feature of the Institute lies in its close proximity to the Family History Library [5 minute walk], the largest and finest collection of genealogical records in the world.

DATES: January 12-16, 2004

LOCATION: Wyndham Hotel, Salt Lake City, Utah

COST: \$260 for UGA members, \$295 for non-members (additional fees for optional events) for registrations before November 30, 2003. Additional \$50 for late registration.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS: Wyndham Hotel (\$69 single, \$79 double, \$89 triple, \$99 quad)  
Call 1-800-553-0075 and identify the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy

WEBSITE: <http://www.infouga.org>

Classes will begin at 7:00 am on Monday, and conclude at 9:00 pm on Friday. Instructors include: Noel Barton, Kyle Betit, Karen Clifford, John Colletta, Natalie Cottrill, Pat Hatcher, Kathy Hinckley, Anne Leptich, Alan Mann, Kory Meyerink, Elizabeth Shown Mills, George Ott, Jimmy Parker, Dwight Radford, Geoffrey Rasmussen, Gordon Remington, David Rencher, James Warren, Paul Warren, Judith Eccles Wight and others. Optional evening classes are available.

Course 1: American Records and Research: Focus on Families

Course 2: Mid-Atlantic Research

Course 3: Irish Research

Course 4: Scandinavian Research

Course 5: Advanced Migration Studies

Course 6: Cutting Edge Internet Research

Course 7: Becoming a Successful Professional

Course 8: Producing a Quality Family History

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

**Newsletter:** If you have information, notices, etc., that you would like included in the MGC Newsletter, please send them to the Newsletter Editor, Massachusetts Genealogical Council, P.O. Box 5393, Cochituate, MA 01778-5393 or email [editor@massgencouncil.org](mailto:editor@massgencouncil.org).

### Table of Contents

Vice-President's Column.....	1
Member Organizations .....	1
Massachusetts Research .....	1/6
MGC Officers/Directors.....	2
Internet Fraud .....	2
2004 Meeting Information .....	3-5
Computer Wrestling Column.....	6
International Genealogical Index .	7
Access to Records Issues .....	8
Educational Opportunities .....	9

## MGC 2004 MEETING & EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2004

The MGC By-Laws require us to hold, at the minimum, an Annual Meeting of the Members and to conduct an Educational Seminar. For 2004, the Officers and Directors decided to make a very special speaker available to our members and guests:

### **Helen F.M. Leary, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS**

If you have never had a chance to attend a national genealogical conference, you have probably never had the privilege of hearing Mrs. Leary discuss the use of methodology in genealogical research. Our southern cousins don't always have the variety of records that we do in Massachusetts. They have instead focused on the methods needed to find and prove relationships. It is methodology that you need to find that elusive "lost" ancestor. Both NGS and FGS (national conferences) will be held in the West in 2004. For most of us, this will be our primary opportunity to hear a lecturer of Mrs. Leary's caliber in 2004. Don't miss it.

We are holding the seminar in a hotel in order to give our members the option of staying overnight, rather than driving early in the morning. The Best Western has been recently renovated. The rooms are comfortable and attractive (and very reasonably priced). We have already begun to talk to vendors. You will be pleased with the research materials that will be available for purchase. Genealogy conferences aren't just about the lectures; they are about the value of talking to your colleagues. Take advantage of this opportunity to make new contacts with other researchers; to share problems and find solutions; and to make friends in an informal setting. **Please join us.**