

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

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Number 2

**ALL'S QUIET
on the
LEGISLATIVE FRONT**

The General Court is so embroiled in budgetary matters that no action on other legislation is being taken at this time or is anticipated to be taken until this Fall.

After Labor Day the MGC will publish an advisory on pending legislation as well as a more extensive newsletter with program and research information.

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A PROCLAMATION

On May eighth Governor Weld issued, at the behest of the MGC, a proclamation proclaiming the week of May 12th through May 18th as FAMILY HISTORY WEEK IN MASSACHUSETTS. Its purpose was to draw attention to the Commonwealth's abundance of historical records and its pre-eminent place as a resource for family history research.

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PLEASE WRITE!!!!

Please send news of your society/association to the Editor so that we can publicize what is happening in the genealogical community. We are your liaison with other societies & associations. We need your input. Please communicate. Tell us what you're doing, when and where you hold meetings, it doesn't have to be finely polished, cleverly composed or of world shaking significance - just the basic ingredients. We'll polish it up; correct spelling and grammar, after all that's why we're called "editors", that's our job.

MGC ANNUAL MEETING

A very successful, well attended annual meeting was held at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' facility in Waltham on May 4th.

James Owens, Director of the National Archives for the New England region gave an update of the new wing and remodeling to be done at the regional Archive facility in Waltham. Construction is scheduled to begin October 1st and will be completed for opening in the late spring of 1992. The micro film collection will be temporarily housed at the adjacent Corps of Engineers facility. He went on to describe the new National Archives building at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. A six story building of 1,700,000 sq. ft., with a staff of over 600, to open in June of 1993.

William Milhomme, Reference Supervisor, Massachusetts State Archives, gave an over view of the collections at the Archives with a very enlightening description of some of the more unusual records. Since 1657 town clerks have been required to send copies of vital records to the state so that researchers may find records at the Archives that are no longer in the possession of the towns (provided that the clerks complied with the law).

David C. Dearborn, Reference Librarian, NEHGS, described the various urban records and especially the city directories that can be a rich source of information for genealogical research. Many of these directories started publication in the later decades of the 18th century (Philadelphia 1785, NYC 1786, and Boston 1789). Although there is a considerable volume of such records, the lack of indexes often makes for very long and tedious searches.

MGC
Officers and Directors

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | William H. Schoeffler |
| Vice President | David C. Dearborn |
| Secretary | John S. Fipphen |
| Treasurer | Shirley Pizziferri |
| Director of Civil Records | Shirley M. Barnes |
| Director of Programs | Shiela Fitzpatrick |
| Director of Publicity | |
| Director of Research | Richard A. Haskell |
| Director of Ways and Means | |

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DUES DUE

It's that time of year again so we are making this "kinder and gentler" reminder to "DO IT NOW!"

Please note on the mailing label below on this page the **expiration date** of your membership. Our subscription "year" runs from August 1st to July 31st so nearly all memberships are now due to be renewed.

Please take a minute to fill in the accompanying membership form and return it with your check to the treasurer.

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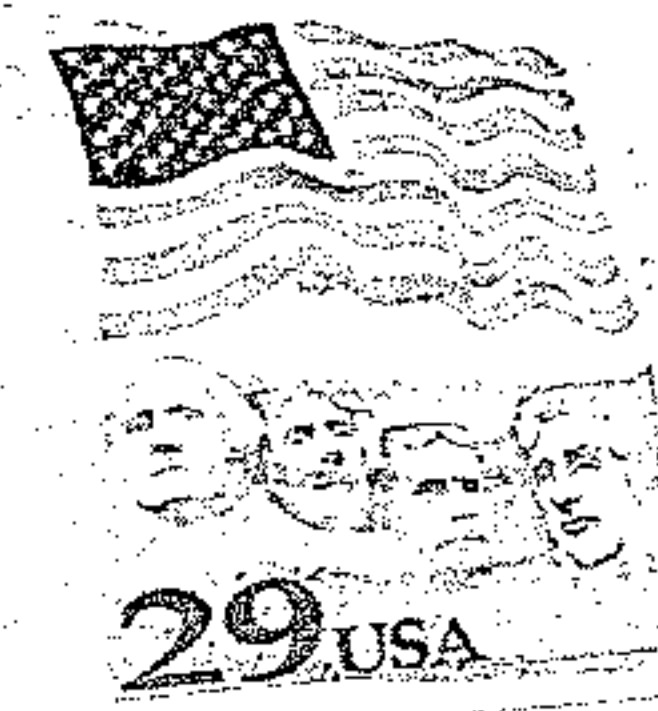
If you are receiving this on behalf of an organization please see that it gets to the attention of the officer responsible for renewing and making out checks. Thank you.

PLEASE. DO IT NOW!

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NEW OFFICERS

Katherine "Kay" Westcott has been chosen President to succeed Bill Schoeffler and Gratia Mahoney, Secretary to succeed John Fipphen. The other officers were chosen to continue in their present positions. The new officers will assume their duties on August 1st.

Kay is a graduate of Eureka College in Eureka, IL, with a BS in Ed and earned her MS in Library and Information Science at Simmons. She is a past president of MASOG and is currently the Librarian for that Society. She has been employed as a Librarian at the Framingham Public Library and presently holds the position of Reference Librarian at the Watertown Public Library where she specializes in genealogy and local history. Kay edited the publication, *Massachusetts Sources*, and has authored the work manuals at both the Framingham and Watertown Libraries.



EXP 07/31/91

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