

SIMSBURY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER



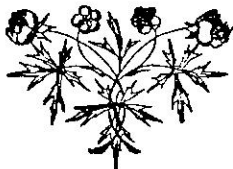
MAY 1994

749 Hopmeadow Street
P.O. Box 484
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070

VOL. 1 NO. 2

YOU'RE INVITED TO ... VISITING DAYS

On May 19, 20, and 21, the library will have visiting days for the general public. This will be during our regular hours: Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Coffee, cookies, and donuts will be served. Several of the trustees will be on hand to help. This is a "get acquainted" event. There is no charge. Bring your friends and relatives.



CONNECTICUT CENSUS
RECORDS

The following census records for Connecticut are available at the library:

- 1790: Book form with index.
- 1800: All counties on microfilm.
- 1810: " " " " .
- 1820: " " " " .
- 1830: " " " " .
- 1840: " " " " .
- 1850: " " " " .
- 1860: Hartford County only.
- 1870: City of New Haven only.
- 1880: New Haven County (part); City of New Haven, wards 1-5.
- 1900: Litchfield County; Middlesex County (part); New Haven County (part); City of New Haven; Tolland County (part); and Windham County.

More Connecticut reels will be added in the near future. If you have any suggestions, let us know.

JULIET COLLIER RESEARCH
FUND

The following books have been purchased through the generosity of the Juliet Collier Research Fund of the Abigail Phelps Chapter of the N.S.D.A.R.:

D.A.R. Patriot Index.

Index to the 1810 Census of Virginia, by Elizabeth Petty Bentley.

Early Pennsylvania Births: 1675-1875, compiled by Charles A. Fisher.

Long Island Source Records, selected and introduced by Henry B. Hoff.

The Pioneers of Massachusetts, by Charles Henry Pope.

WHAT GENERATION ARE YOU ?

About 25 years ago, following my father's death, I inherited his family records. He and his older brother had assembled a rather complete list of their ancestors. In doing so, they elected to designate their oldest known ancestor as "Generation I", the next "Generation II", etc. down to themselves as "Generation V". Thus, I considered myself as "Generation VI". But, following some further research, I discovered two older generations. Should I designate them as "Generation 0" and "Generation -I". This made little sense. Who wants to deal with Zeros and negative numbers?

Clearly a re-numbering is required. I'll make myself "Gen. 1", my parents "Gen 2", etc. But, suppose my children and grandchildren wish to take over where I left off. Do they become "Gen. 0" and "Gen. -1"? No better! Reconsider!

There are approximately 33 years between generations. At the time, I foresaw no possibility of getting back to earlier than 1,000 A. D. Therefore, I made myself "Gen. 30", my parents "Gen. 29", grandparents "Gen. 28", my children "Gen. 31" and grandchildren "Gen. 32", etc.

This has worked fine. But, a short while ago I learned that a few of my fellow "Genealogists" had found their way back to Charlemagne. One of them even "discovered" an ancestor who lived in 10 B. C. If I, or any of my descendants should be able to do that, everybody will have to be re-numbered. A new problem! What to do?

Aha! A solution! The re-numbering can be simplified as follows:

1. Change your own generation from "30" to "300".
2. Add a "9" between the first and last digits of all earlier generations.
Thus "29" becomes "299", "28" Becomes "298", etc.
3. Add a "0" between the first and last digits of all subsequent generations.
Thus "31" becomes "301" and "32" becomes "302", etc.

Thus no major re-numbering is required. Further, I can now get back to Adam and Eve, and if Darwin is right I can get back to my baboon ancestor who lived about 7900 B.C.

So far so good. I was born in 1916. Let's assume you were born in 1956. With a 40 year age difference, we are really not of the same generation. Considering that there are about 33 years between generations, thus about 3 generations per century, and I was born in about the first third of the 20th Century, why not divide each century into thirds. To avoid 1/3 increments, I propose, for example, the following:

1868 thru 1900, inclusive shall be generation 299
1901 thru 1933, inclusive shall be generation 300
1934 thru 1967, inclusive shall be generation 301
1968 thru 2000, inclusive shall be generation 302
ETC.

Thus, you would be generation 301.

Although, not precise, suppose in the distant past we were related, such a configuration would provide a better possibility for us to identify our common ancestor.

The above proposal is not copy protected and anyone so desiring is free to copy. If duplicated, please include my name and address, shown below, as comments of others will be appreciated. The comments of those reading this News Letter are especially important.

Paul W. Leak
32 Sunset Hill Road
Simsbury, Conn. 06070

RHODE ISLAND RESOURCES

The following Rhode Island materials were among a recent donation by Dorothy H. McCoy. They will be of great value to our collection.

Rhode Island Genealogical Register, 1980-1990, misc. issues.

Rhode Island 1777 Military Census.

Genealogies of Rhode Island Families.

Washington County, Rhode Island Births and Marriages from Gravestone Inscriptions.

Washington County, Rhode Island Births from Probate Records:1685-1860.

Washington County, Rhode Island Marriages from Probate Records:1685-1860.

East Greenwich and West Greenwich, Rhode Island Births from Probate, Grave, and Death Records: 1680-1860.

East Greenwich and West Greenwich, Rhode Island Marriages from Marriage, Probate, Grave, and Death Records.

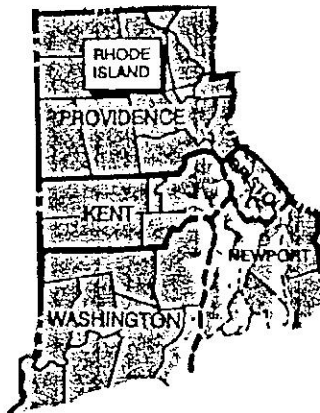
Washington County, Rhode Island Births, 1760-1860, from Death and Marriage Records. (and a supplement) (2 vol.)

Newport County, Rhode Island Marriages from Probate Records:1647-1860.

Births, 1590-1930, from Newport Burial Ground Inscriptions.

Newport County, Rhode Island Births, 1751-1860, from Death and Marriage Records. (2 vol.)

Mrs. McCoy has also donated numerous other books and periodicals relating to New England and New England families. We thank her for her kind gesture.



ENGLISH PARISH REGISTERS

Do you have English ancestors? If so, you will likely use parish registers in your search. In addition to the census records (1841, 1851, 1861, etc.) and the civil registrations (began in 1837), parish registers are an important source of family data.

Here is a brief history of the registers:

Theoretically the registers should date back to 1538 the year when Thomas Cromwell ordered each parish to keep a record of Christenings, Marriages and Burials. Unfortunately most records made as a result of this order were written on paper and most of them have not survived. An improvement took place in 1598 when parchment was used, but again few registers as old or older than this are now to be found. In many cases (perhaps most) a gap exists in the sequence of registers during the Interregnum or Commonwealth period, 1649-1660. Information contained in the registers varies in quality over the years and in accordance with the inclinations of the individual making the entry. Although the details given in some Parish Registers is inferior to that contained in official certificates it is often more convenient (and certainly much cheaper) to use parish registers as an alternative to civil certificates.

(from Sources of Shropshire
Genealogy, by S.C. Clifford)

Many of the original registers have been microfilmed by the Mormons. Our library has a listing of the reels that are available through the Family History Center in Bloomfield. Some registers are still in the hands of the clergyman of the parish. Others have been deposited with respective County Record Office. In addition, many of the registers have been transcribed and published in book form.

The information above refers to the Church of England records. Registers for Nonconformist and Roman Catholic churches are also available, but to a lesser degree. There is a Catholic Family History Society at 114 Mount Street, London W11 6AH ENGLAND.

Searching for your English ancestors in the old parish registers can be rewarding and educational. Don't give up. If you can't find them in one parish, try the adjacent ones. Good luck!

FROM THE RECORDS...

Below: Typical page from English Parish Register during the middle of the 17th century.

North Dalton, Yorkshire, England, 1661.

Next page: Typical page from English Parish Register used from about 1813 to the present.

Moreton Corbet, Shropshire, England, 1813.

Christnings in 9 years of our Lord 1661.

Francis Walbon ^{the} daughter of Edward Walbon was baptised
twenty eight day of April.
Susan Simpfon ^{the} daughter of Richard Simpfon was baptised
thirtieth day of June.
Catherine Sigston ^{the} daughter of John Sigston was baptised
fiftieth day of July.
William Will ^{the} son of William Will was baptised
the eight day of September.
William Doue ^{the} son of Robert Doue was baptised
ninth day of September.
John Swaby ^{the} son of Robert Swaby was baptised
fourth day of November.
Elizabeth Watton ^{the} daughter of Steven Watton was baptised
the eight day of December.
Anne ^{the} daughter of John Rud was baptised
the fifteenth day of December.
John Thompston ^{the} son of John Thompston was baptised
twenty third day of February.



BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of Moriton Corbet
 in the County of Salop in the Year 1813.

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1813. Feb. 23 rd No. 1.	Priscilla daughter of George & Martha	George	Dicken	St. Mary's Fishington in the parish of Middle -sex	Wine & Co. Merchant	Geo. Dicken Rector.
June 6 th No. 2.	Ann daughter of Ann	John	Swan's	Graston	Blacksmith	Geo. Dicken Rector.
June 13 th No. 3.	Thomas son of	Thomas	Swinerton	Graston	Carpenter	Geo. Dicken Rector.
Septem- ber 14 th No. 4.	Ann daughter of	William	Jewell	Moriton Mill	Miller	Geo. Dicken Rector.
Septem- ber 19 th No. 5.	Elizabeth daughter of	John	Lloyd	Graston	Labourer	Geo. Dicken Rector.
October 3 rd No. 6.	Jane daughter of	Edward	Richard	Graston Mill	Labourer	Geo. Dicken Rector.
October 3 rd No. 7.	Mary daughter of	Thomas	Wainwright	Birch Coppice	Labourer	Geo. Dicken Rector.
Nov ^r 7 th No. 8.	Mary daughter of	William	Brookes	Bradley Gate	Farmer	Geo. Dicken Rector.

COMPUTER

We are grateful to ITT of Hartford for their generous donation of one of their computers, monitor and a wide carriage printer. Software found in the computer as received by us has been deleted to preclude any copyrite infringements. We have installed "DOS-6.2" and "Word Perfect" version 5.1. We are also grateful to Mr Larson, manager of Computer Warehouse, 9 Lordship Rd., East Granby for giving us these programs at their cost and installing them into the computer at no charge.

In addition we have purchased "Personal Ancestral File" version 2.3, an excellent genealogical program developed by the Church of Latter Day Saints. This program will be installed shortly by a representative of the "Connecticut Valley P.A.F. Users Group". We anticipate that the "CVPAFUG" representative will demonstrate the program to us and provide some preliminary instructions regarding its use. Donald Shaw and Paul Leak have this program installed in their personal computers and regard it quite highly.

QUERY FORM

Abbreviations:

b. - birth bu. - buried
ba. - baptism m. - married
ch. - children pa. - parents
d. - death si. - sibling
 ca. - about

Submitted by:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Tel. #: _____
Member #: _____

Clip and send to: SGHRL
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