SIMSBURY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1994

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

VOL. 1 NO. 3

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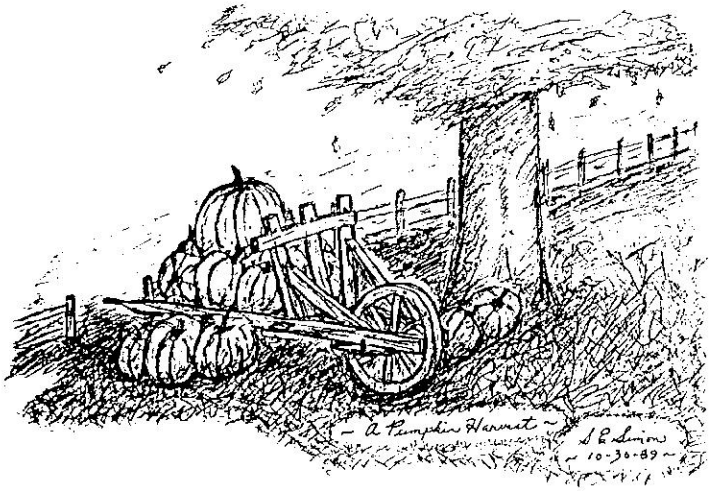
Autumn leaves behind a productive, successful summer. Many resources have been added. Visitors from California, Florida, Idaho, Texas, Utah, and Japan came to use our research facilities. We have also received queries from all over the country and Canada. In addition, our computer has proven to be a helpful tool to several people interested in storing their family data. Come in and see us.

Stephen E. Simon

Stephen E. Simon
Librarian



MASSACHUSETTS SOURCES:
NEWLY ACQUIRED

Books:

Descendants of John Hutchins of Newbury and Haverhill, Massachusetts, by Edwin Colby Byam (donated by Dawn Hutchins Bobbryk).

1855 and 1865 Massachusetts State Censuses for South Reading, by Ann S. Lainhart (donated by Woodrow C. Perry).

1855 and 1865 Massachusetts State Censuses for Saugus, by Ann S. Lainhart (donated by Woodrow C. Perry).

1855 and 1865 Massachusetts State Censuses for Lynnfield and Manchester, by Ann S. Lainhart (donated by Woodrow C. Perry).

Massachusetts Militia Companies and Officers in the Lexington Alarm, edited by Charles E. Hambrick-Stowe and Donna D. Smerles (donated by Woodrow C. Perry).

Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars: 1755-1756, edited by K. David Goss and David Zarowin (donated by Woodrow C. Perry).

Vital Records of Gloucester, Mass. to the End of the Year 1849, Vol. III- Deaths, The Essex Institute.

Vital Records of Ipswich, Mass. to the End of the Year 1849, Vol I-Births, The Essex Institute.

Vital Records of Ipswich, Mass. to the End of the Year 1849, Vol. II-Marriages and Deaths, The Essex Institute.

Vital Records of Lynn, Mass. to the End of 1849, Vol. I-Births, The Essex Institute.

Vital Records of Lynn, Mass. to the End of 1849, Vol. II-Marriages and Deaths, The Essex Institute.

Vital Records of New Braintree, Mass. to 1850, by Henry Ernest Woods.

Marshfield: A Town of Villages, 1640-1990, by Cynthia Hagar Krusell and Betty Magoun Bates (donated by Donald and Betty Shaw).

Periodicals:

The Essex Genealogist, 1982-1994 (donated by Woodrow C. Perry).

Microfilm:

1850: Hampden County.

1920: Middlesex County (part).

NEW MICROFILM

Connecticut

Barbour Collection, Vital Records of Connecticut, General Name Index.

1870 Census: Hartford County (excluding the City of Hartford)

1880 Census: Hartford County (excluding the City of Hartford)

1910 Census: New Haven County

New York

1860 Census: Broome County

1870 Census: New York City (part of Ward 11)

New Jersey

1870 Census: City of Newark (part)

Vermont

1850 Census: Windham County

1870 Census: Windham County

Wisconsin

1920 Census: Dane County and Dodge County (part)

England

Yorkshire (East Riding): Bishop's Transcripts

Ashton/Bainton Parishes

North Dalton/South Dalton Parishes

Pocklington Parish

(donated by Paul W. Leak)

Canada

Ontario

1861 Census: Lennox & Addington

1871 Census: Addington

* WE HAVE NOW DOUBLED THE NUMBER OF REELS WE HAD IN MAY OF 1993!

ENGLISH RESEARCHERS MAY FIND "KELLEY'S DIRECTORY" HELPFUL

The May 1994 issue of "The American Philatelist", a publication of the American Philatelic Society (APS), contains an article regarding B. F. Stevens (born 2/19/1833, died 3/5/1902) by Ian Paton, a Cambridge University MA, which may be of interest to genealogists doing research in London, England. Specifically, the article refers to "The Annual Post Office directory for London", popularly known as "Kelley's Directory", the publisher. A set of these directories for every year from 1860 to 1912 is located in the Cambridge University Library. The largest section of the directories is a listing of every building showing who lived or worked there. For multi-occupancy, there is a list of all those at the address.

Mr. Paton notes that each volume was compiled the year before the one to which it relates. Thus midyear changes of personnel and addresses will not be recorded until the following year. For further information it is suggested that the Cambridge University Library be contacted. Reprints of the original article, "B. F. Stevens" can probably be obtained by writing the American Philatelic Society, National Headquarters, P. O. Box 8000, State College, Pa. 16803, attention Mr. Bill Welch, Editor.

MARRIAGE RECORDS IN ENGLAND: SOME RESEARCH PROBLEMS

Marriage records for members of churches other than the Church of England (Anglican) can cause problems for researchers. After the passage of the Hardwicke Marriage Act of 1754, only marriages conducted in the Anglican church were recognized under English law. Due to this legality, many nonconformists, as well as Roman Catholics, married in their own church and later in an Anglican church. This explains the existence of two marriage records for the same couple. In many cases, however, the record from the Anglican church is the only one that survives. It is important to check for the first record because it may contain more data than the second. For example, Roman Catholic registers contain the names of all four parents of the marrying couple. When General Registration commenced after July 1837, civil marriages helped to alleviate the problem.

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NEW ATLAS

We have recently purchased The Times Atlas of the World (9th ed.) with funds donated in the memory of Thomas J. Donohue (1921-1994). This is a valuable addition to our library and will be used extensively. Genealogists and historians need good atlases !

A METHOD WHICH MAY HELP IN IDENTIFYING AN EARLY ANCESTOR

In our May 1994 Newsletter, a method for defining your generation number was suggested, noting that there are approximately 33 years between each generation. This is only an average value and should not be construed as to the probable variation that may exist between generations in a specific family. The proposal was as follows:

Those born in 1868 thru 1900 would be generation 29 or 299 per your preference
Those born in 1901 thru 1933 would be generation 30 or 300 " " "
Those born in 1934 thru 1967 would be generation 31 or 301 " " "
Those born in 1968 thru 2000 would be geneartion 32 or 302 " " "

The primary purpose in assigning the proposed generation numbers was to establish a starting point for those of you working on your own genealogy, who were born in the last third of the 19th and all of the 20th century, etc. The next step is to determine the probable variation between each of your preceding generations of a specific family surname. This is helpful in isolating the birthdate of an early ancestor with a specific surname from numerous records of others with the same given and surname as your ancestor and in approximating probable birthdates of other of your ancestors of the designated surname.

There are several recognized statistical techniques which are helpful in estimating such a birthdate from other known data. About 20/25 years ago, with access to a computer mainframe, I evaluated about 4 of these techniques for several of my various family surnames. Of these, the simplest method, known as "Linear Regression", was clearly as acceptable as any of the others.

If you have a computer and the Lotus 1-2-3 or any other program with a Linear Regression file, the necessary calculations are quite simple and you should have no trouble inserting the required input data into the "DATA/REGRESSION" file. Unfortunately, we do not have this program installed in the library computer.

First it is most convenient to convert birthdates given in a day, month and year format into what may be called a decimalized year. For example, the date 15 April 1995 becomes 1995.288, That is, 15 April is the 90th day in 1995 which has a total of 365 days or 90 divided by 365 = 0.288, rounded off. We are currently working on a program which will make this calculation directly inserting the results into the Lotus 1-2-3 Regression program.

To illustrate the procedure, an example of the Regression calculation is attached. In the example, I manually calculated the birthdates shown using an approximate compensation for leap years. Also, instead of using my recently proposed generation number 300 for myself, I used my earlier number 30. The important output results are not affected.

From the output in the example, I wish to estimate the interval of time in which John Leak I of generation 25 was born. From the "Regression Output", multiply the "X Coefficient" = 36.19226 by the generation number = 25 and add the "Constant" = 830.8768. The result is the average year in which John Leak I and his direct relatives of that generation were probably born. That is:

$$36.19226 \times 25 + 830.8768 = 1735.683$$

From the input data, we note that several children were born within each of the known generations and it is probable that this was also the case in John Leak I's generation. We don't know how John Leak I may have ranked age-wise among his direct Leak relatives. It is therefore appropriate to apply a +/- variation to the above average birth year. The regression program notes the variation that existed for all the known generations used in the calculation and provides us with a very helpful tool to estimate the probable variation of birth year about the average year. On the printout, this is shown as the "Std. Err. of Y Est." = 7.360243, that is, the probable variation of birth years for any given generation.

The average year +/- the Std. Err. specifies the spread in birth years that we could expect 68.27% of the family to have been born within the designated generation. If we used +/- 2 x the Std. Err., that is, +/-14.720486 we would expect to find 95.45% of the generation of this family to have been born or +/- 3 x the Std. Err. = +/-22.080729 we would expect to find 99.73% or nearly all to have been born within a given generation. This data is based upon recognized Statistical procedures. The "R Squared " value = 0.97433 provides an indicator as to how closely the generation values and their respective variable birth years are correlated. The closer the "R Squared" value is to 1, the more closely the independent generation values are related to the dependent birth year values. In this example, a strong correlation exists between the two variables.

Therefore if I find a John Leak born between 1735.683 +/- 22.081 = 1713.602 to 1757.763 and no other John Leaks born during that period, I can be pretty certain that this is my Ancestor John Leak I. Further, if I find other Leaks born in this same location during this same time interval, I can consider they are some how directly related to John Leak I namely brothers, sisters or first cousins. We can similarly analyze earlier generations in the hopes of identifying John Leak I's ancestors.

If you do not have a copy of our May 1994 Newsletter, Stephen Simon our librarian will be glad to provide you with a copy of our earlier suggestion. Any comments or questions should be addressed to Paul W. Leak at the library or at 32 Sunset Hill Road, Simsbury, Conn. 06070.

(Note: Lotus 1-2-3 is a registered trade mark of the Lotus Development Corporation)

Linear Regression Estimate of Birth Dates by Generation
Surname: LEAK FILE0007.WK3

NAME	GENER.	DATE BORN	
John II	26	ca. 1763	1763.5
John III	27	1805 Aug. 29	1805.659
Mary Emma	28	1837 Sep. 20	1837.719
William Catton	28	1839 Nov.12	1839.863
Elizabeth Ann	28	1842 July 25	1842.563
Henry Barnard	28	1844 Jan. 19	1844.052
James Barnard	28	1846 Feb. 20	1846.139
Elira Ann	28	1848 Nov.30	1848.913
Elizabeth	28	1850 Nov.11	1850.861
Thomas John	28	1852 Mar. 30	1852.244
Sarah Emily	29	1870 Oct.6	1870.762
Lillian Jane	29	1873 Mar. 12	1873.795
Byron Spencer	29	1876 June 9	1876.438
George Franklin	29	1869 Dec.18	1869.962
Birdie Floeter	29	1872 May 18	1872.377
Roy Leighton	29	1875 May 21	1875.386
William Henry I	29	1880 May 16	1880.372
Nettie	29	1881 July 29	1881.574
Orville	29	1884 July 25	1884.563
Ethel	29	1890 June 15	1890.454
Andrew	29	1894 June 3	1894.421
Anna Louise	29	1896 Sep. 24	1896.73
Ethel Irene	29	1898 Apr. 21	1898.304
William George	30	1910 Jan. 26	1910.071
William John	30	1913 Mar. 15	1913.203
Bertha Louise	30	1905 June 9	1905.438
Virginia Merle	30	1909 Oct. 15	1909.787
Paul Wilson	30	1916 Apr.15	1916.287
Doris Neil	30	1918 Jan. 11	1918.03
William Henry II	30	1926 Feb.14	1926.123
Dorothy	30	1916 ?	1916.5
Edwin Andrew	30	1922 July 20	1922.549
Beth Kathleen	31	1946 Dec 26	1946.984
Linda Mary	31	1949 Oct. 25	1949.814
Muriel Elizabeth	31	1945 June 29	1945.492
Barbara Taylor	31	1948 Jan. 9	1948.025
Margaret Louise	31	1960 Apr. 21	1960.304
Anne Louise	31	1951 Apr.27	1951.32
Mary Jane	31	1953 Apr. 14	1953.285
John Thomas	31	1955 Nov.9	1955.855
William David	31	1959 July 11	1959.525

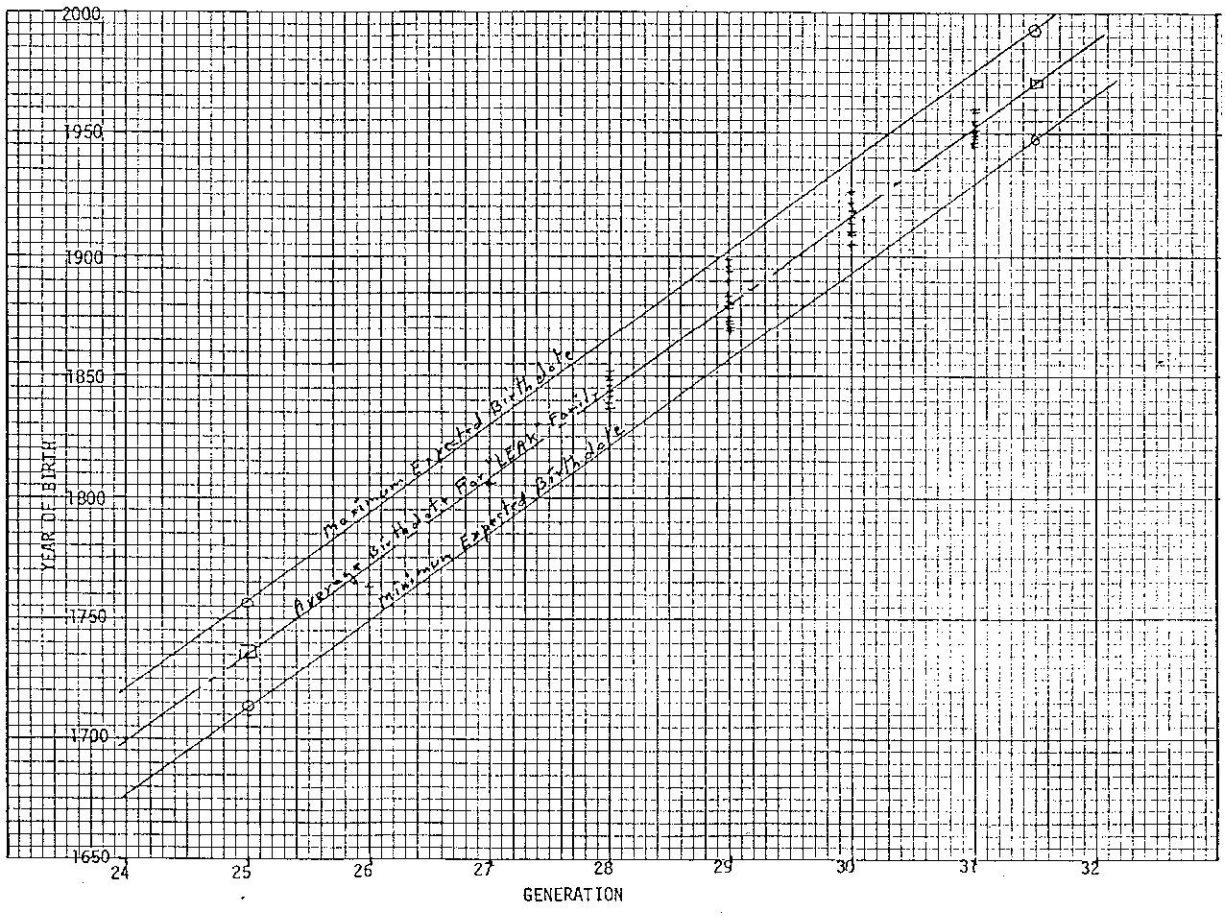
Regression Output

Constant		830.8768
Std Err of Y Est		7.360243
R Squared		0.97433
No. of Observations		41
Degrees of Freedom		39
X Coefficient(s)	36.19226	
Std Err of Coef.	0.940692	

INSTRUCTIONS

X Range: A:C6..A:C46
Y Range: A:F6..A:F46
OUtput: A:C50
Print Range: A:A1..A:O48
File: 0007.WK3

Created 1 Nov. 1993 by Paul W. Leak
Revised: 14 June 1994 Page 1 of 1



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749 Hopmeadow Street, P.O. Box 484
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* OPEN HOUSE & OPENING NIGHT *

SATURDAY, NOV. 26, 1994

OPEN HOUSE: 10:00-3:00

OPENING NIGHT: Details

Will Be Announced Soon-

* Check Your Newspapers! *